

Critic

Est. 1925

ISSUE 19 // 10 AUG 2015
CRITIC.CO.NZ

EGYPT'S DREAM: THE PEACEFULNESS THAT'S KILLING THEM // PAGE 20

COMPASSION IN ACTION // PAGE 24

IMMORTALITY: THE ETERNAL SEARCH // PAGE 26



POLICE CALLED ON OUSA EXECUTIVE BYO // CAMPUS MURAL STARTS // DESIGN SCHOOL OVER // BOG BURNS // EXECRABLE
// NZUSA BILL ARRIVES // TASERS FOR POLICE // INTERNATIONAL NEWS // POLITICS // NEWS IN BRIEFS // SPORTS NEWS



FEATURES

18 EGYPT'S DREAM AND THE PEACE-FULLNESS THAT'S KILLING THEM

As we're dominated by headlines covering Syria, Iraq and ISIS, it is easy to forget that just a few years ago the Middle East held our attention for an entirely different reason.

BY JACE SMITH

22 COMPASSION IN ACTION

The next time you're lying in bed at night trying to get some sleep, take a moment and listen to your body. Every little cell that makes up your form – approximately 37.2 trillion of them – is unique to you, and each one helps keep you alive. But imagine if they stopped working?

BY LYDIA ADAMS

26 IMMORTALITY: THE ETERNAL SEARCH

In just about every culture, across the world and throughout time, humankind has invariably sought a single thing: eternal life.

BY AMBER ALLOTT

NEWS & OPINION

- 04** POLICE AT EXECUTIVE BYO
- 05** CAMPUS MURAL
- 06** NEWS
- 10** INTERNATIONAL
- 12** POLITICS
- 14** NEWS IN BRIEFS
- 16** SPORT

COLUMNS

- 39** LETTERS
- 42** UNZIPPING THE MYTHS
- 42** SCIENCE BITCHES
- 43** SCEPTIC SCHISM
- 43** BACK OF THE CLASS
- 44** SOMETHING CAME UP
- 44** DEAR ETHEL
- 45** ODT WATCH

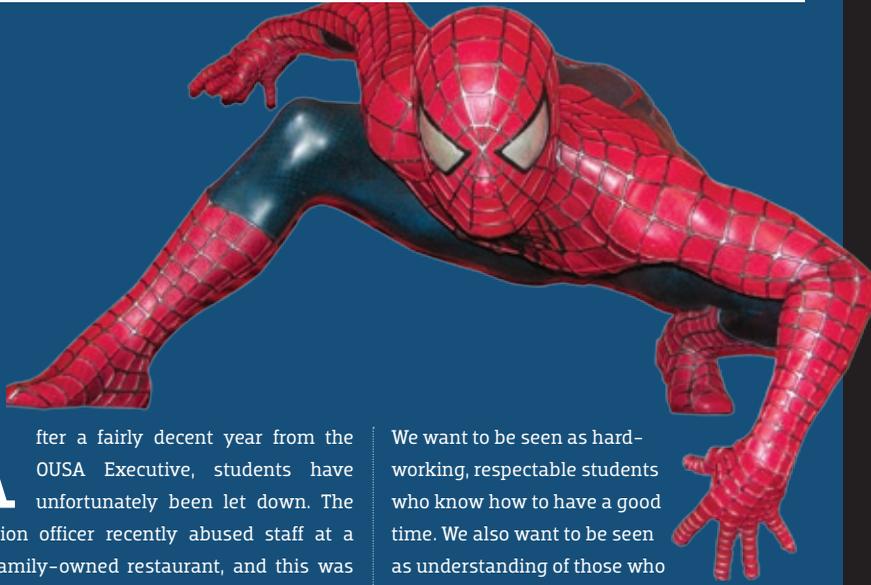
CULTURE

- 30** ART
- 31** FOOD
- 32** STAGE AND SCREENS
- 34** GAMES
- 35** BOOKS
- 36** MUSIC
- 40** LOVE IS BLIND



WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

» BENJAMIN PARKER WAS RIGHT



After a fairly decent year from the OUSA Executive, students have unfortunately been let down. The education officer recently abused staff at a local family-owned restaurant, and this was during an OUSA Executive BYO dinner. "It was the worst behaviour we've seen in twenty years here," the restaurant owners said. When making the booking, the executive were also warned not to misbehave because of the trouble they caused at a dinner last year. Although it was one member who became aggressive, the rest of the exec didn't do much to stop the student reputation that was being burnt either.

As a team representing 20,000 students, it was on all members of the executive to end the party.

Otago students got very upset this year about how the media portrays them. In fact, 3342 students signed a petition demanding that TVNZ apologise for how they portrayed students on the Sunday programme ... Sunday used a small group of students to make assumptions about the whole population. This group belonged to just one flat and in no way had students chosen these individuals to represent all of us.

The executive jumped on the bandwagon too, rightly so, saying how great most students are and that this portrayal by the media was unfair. In general, students don't get violent, abusive or embarrass fellow students. The student body elected this executive to prove this and to represent all students in the best possible way at all times.

We want to be seen as hard-working, respectable students who know how to have a good time. We also want to be seen as understanding of those who screw up and compassionate to those around us. The education officer let students down by being disrespectful and abusive to members of the Dunedin community. Some of the patrons were students, and the waitress who was forced to call the police was also a student at Otago — reporting on her own representatives.

But the whole executive also let us down. They were supposed to represent the students body and, hopefully, if we had a mate being abusive and clearly too drunk, we would stop the behaviour, even if that meant dragging our friend out ourselves. The executive should have set the expectations of how they want to behave as a team in public, whether it's at a formal occasion or at a casual BYO. Especially at BYOs — where students are trying to prove that we can handle being left to drink without draconian by-laws. If our nominated executive can't prove it, then what hope do we have?

Too often, executive members, past and present, forget the position of influence and responsibility they are in. They are the face of our students locally, nationally, and occasionally even on an international level. These are the students we voted to represent us. Team bonding over drinks is great, but represent us as the team we deserve, and the team we asked for.

JOSIE COCHRANE, CRITIC EDITOR

THE CRITIC TEAM

EDITOR JOSIE COCHRANE

TECH EDITOR KAT GILBERTSON

FEATURES DESIGNER CERI GIDDENS

NEWS EDITOR LAURA MUNRO

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR BRIDIE BOYD

CULTURE EDITOR LOU CALLISTER-BAKER

FEATURES EDITOR LAURA STARLING

SUB EDITOR MARY MCLAUGHLIN

CHIEF REPORTER JOE HIGHAM

NEWS TEAM

AMBER ALLOTT, MAGNUS WHYTE, OLIVER GASKELL, ANGUS SHAW, INDIA LIESHMAN, JESSICA THOMPSON CARR

SECTION EDITORS

BASTI MENKES, SOPHIE EDMONDS, MANDY TE, BRANDON JOHNSTONE, BRIDGET VOSBURGH, HENRY NAPIER, DANIEL LORMANS

CONTRIBUTORS

FINBARR NOBLE, DANIEL MUNRO, STEPH TAYLOR, SAM FRASER, EMILY JOHNSTON, LIAM HOFFMAN, JACE SMITH, LYDIA ADAMS, JESS TAYLOR, JAXON LANGLEY, ANDREW KWIATKOWSKI, MAYA DODD, GRETA MELVIN

DISTRIBUTOR MAX POCOCK

ONLINE CONTENT MANAGER

AMAN JAMWAL

ADVERTISING SALES

ELAINE BYRON,

RACHEL ENRIGHT, HANNA GRIFFIN

CONNECT

READ ONLINE

CRITIC.CO.NZ

ISSUU.COM/CRITIC_TE_AROHI

GET IN TOUCH

CRITIC@CRITIC.CO.NZ

FACEBOOK.COM/CRITICTEAROHI

TWEET: @CRITICTEAROHI

(03) 479 5335

P.O. BOX 1436, DUNEDIN

Critic

Critic is a member of the Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA).

Disclaimer: the views presented within this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, PMDL, or OUSA.

Press Council: people with a complaint against a magazine should first complain in writing to the Editor and then, if not satisfied with the response, complain to the Press Council. Complaints should be addressed to the Secretary, PO Box 10-879 The Terrace, Wellington.



Police Called to OUSA Executive BYO

» RESTAURANT STAFF ABUSED BY EDUCATION OFFICER

BY LAURA MUNRO

OUSA Education Officer Zachariah Al-Alami is not facing disciplinary action after he was forcibly removed from a Dunedin restaurant for violence towards staff. The incident occurred at an executive dinner on 23 July 2015.

The manager of the restaurant said issues began when Al-Alami attempted to steal a \$96 bottle of champagne that was sitting next to the till. The manager approached the table, and Al-Alami claimed he had purchased the wine beforehand: "he said it was his, [he said] he brought it himself," said the manager.

After a small disagreement, Al-Alami paid for the wine and "rather arrogantly" told the manager he would purchase a second one. He was initially declined due to being intoxicated, but was eventually allowed to buy the wine provided it was for the whole table.

Shortly afterwards, Al-Alami stood up and began "yelling profanities and swearing" at "the top of his lungs".

He was then asked to leave immediately, but refused. "He wouldn't leave, he started telling me 'fuck off, I don't care' ... and then he started slapping me in the face."

The manager attempted to grab Al-Alami and remove him, and the 61-year-old owner left the kitchen to help the manager. "He started doing the same thing to [him], saying 'fuck off, I don't give a shit.'" The owner was then also repeatedly slapped in the face. Both of the staff had their shirts ripped.

A waitress, who is a student at the University of Otago, called the police. Other staff are also students at the university.

Al-Alami was forced outside, but then re-entered the restaurant. The manager had to shout a separate table their \$148 bill after they assisted with his removal and encouraged the rest of the table to leave.

\$100 was added to the executive's bill in order to pay for the shirts that were ripped. The manager said President Paul Hunt originally refused, as he was unaware of what the cost was for. However, he eventually paid the full bill and the group left the restaurant.

A police spokesperson confirmed that police were called to the scene but no arrests were made. "Police are still liaising with the staff at [the restaurant] in regards to this incident and the events which occurred."

The morning after the incident, the restaurant's owner called the proctor about Al-Alami's behaviour. The proctor contacted Al-Alami the following week and no fine was imposed.

The restaurant said that due to prior incidents, the executive were warned when making their booking that they "had an issue with [OUSA's executive] last year" and were asked to be on their "best behaviour".

Hunt confirmed the warning had been given, and said "given that we were reminded about the need to behave, it is regrettable this incident occurred".

"Clearly some of the behaviour was unacceptable ... I've learned from the experience that I have to be much more mindful to keep an eye on all my team at social occasions."

Hunt said Al-Alami "visited the restaurant the day after the incident and delivered a written apology, and later apologised to the owner via telephone". He said the restaurant "accepted the apology".

Early this year after TVNZ's Sunday episode, "Party Central" aired, OUSA took a hard stance on how students were represented in the media.

OUSA has also been outspoken about the Dunedin Local Alcohol Policy, claiming it is safer for students to drink in supervised environments.

Dunedin restaurants recently signed up to a BYO accord that requires individuals to have only one bottle of wine between two people. The owners of the restaurant in question say this has made a "huge difference" to behaviour.

The restaurants' owners are husband and wife, and the wife says Al-Alami's behaviour is not an accurate representation of students, and that it is the minority who generally cause the issues.

"The university is the heartbeat of Dunedin, and we respect and value that, it keeps us all going" she said. "There's just always one that lets everyone down." ●



Street Art Begins on Castle Lecture Theatre

» CANADIAN ARTIST STARTS CAMPUS MURAL

BY JOE HIGHAM /

The work on a campus mural has begun. In collaboration with the University of Otago, OUSA has commissioned Canadian artist, Fluke, to work on a street art piece located on the outside of the Castle Lecture Theatres.

The work began on Tuesday 5 August, as part of a campus "beautification project" initiated in 2013.

The project's budget is approximately \$17,500, which includes "logistics and material costs, as well as artist fees, resource consent and promotional costs," says OUSA Events Manager Dan Hendra.

OUSA is contributing approximately \$4500, and the university has contributed \$13,000. The Dunedin Street Art Trust have provided assistance with the project too, as well as some local businesses, including Accessman and Gordon Harris Paints.

Fluke was chosen from a list of over 20 international artists, following "a voting system amongst OUSA staff and executives".

"He was chosen for his expertise on large-scale street art, and his aesthetics. His collective,

A'Shop, is world renowned, and bringing him to Dunedin to collaborate on this project opens doors for local and national artists." A'Shop, which includes eight artists based in Montreal, has worked on almost 100 pieces over the last five years.

Fluke produced the initial design but says it has had "many modifications" to ensure it reflects the student atmosphere and remains culturally sensitive. "It's a back and forth process," says Fluke.

Hendra says the mural will "encompass traditional Māori symbolism to tell a story honouring the history of Dunedin city and the University of Otago".

"Further inspiration for the design is the hongi, the act of sharing breath with another. The image represents shared breath and knowledge, as well as the commitment of treating a visitor as one of your own."

Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne said the project will "showcase our campus as a vibrant, dynamic and creative space for students, staff and visitors. It will also build upon our already strong bond with Dunedin city."

Hendra said the mural "builds upon our first commission piece in 2013 by Sean Duffel, who has now become well known across New Zealand". Duffel's piece is located on Ethel Benjamin Place next to the Student Support Centre.

Hendra adds, "Dunedin is a modern city that proudly respects its history, one that understands and honours its past and carries that pride forward into the future."

"By employing dual styles of paint work, both a modern graffiti style and traditional brush work, the act of painting this art piece also emphasises the coming together of the traditional and the contemporary."

Aside from the design, Fluke says the weather, "which is a huge challenge", and the campus traffic have added to complications. "But it's very similar to what we'd experience in a street art festival. It's almost as a live performance, so students can actually witness it."

Spectators are encouraged to watch Fluke and his colleague, Talia Carin, complete the work over the next two weeks. ●

No Miracle to Save Design Students

» PROTESTORS FIGHT FOR NOUGHT AS DEGREE PROSPECTS WORSEN

BY JOE HIGHAM

Students pursuing majors in Design for Technology and Clothing and Textiles have realised their courses will be phased out, according to class representative Ben Alder. The realisation came after a meeting between the Division of Sciences Pro-Vice Chancellor Keith Hunter and design school students.

Before the meeting on Friday 31 July, design students held a protest on the Union lawn. The protest eventuated as a last-ditch effort to save the condemned major subject. Alder revealed that, despite the protest, the conversation has changed to "how the university plan to teach out the remaining students".

At the protest, examples of students' work were displayed to showcase their abilities. There was also a petition, which received

just over 1300 signatures, 800 on paper and 500 online.

Design students understood that there was confusion about the major and created a booklet to explain how individual design students defined their course. The protesters handed it out in the hope it would inform people about the subject and what was at stake.

The students presented the department with a 16-page document outlining how valuable the department is. The submission also highlighted various feasible futures for the department, all to no avail.

The major is being phased out due to low equivalent full-time student (EFTS) numbers, and the department's current financial situation. According to Alder, the students hoped that their efforts would "be significant", but

"following the meeting with Keith [Hunter], we realised that it had been pretty much pointless, despite alternatives put forward by the students themselves".

Local and national media attended the protest, including Dunedin TV and 3 News. The media attention showed Alder that "there are people out there who also think the situation is unfair/uncalled for".

However, their fight is not over yet. Although it looks certain that the design major will be phased out, the students' focus has now changed. Alder said: "We, the class reps, along with the OUSA are planning to fight for the students' rights to finish their degrees as planned." ●

Bog Blazes, Students Spectate

» POPULAR BAR DAMAGED IN FIRE

BY INDIA LEISHMAN

Dunedin's popular Irish bar, The Bog, caught fire on Sunday 2 August 2015, capturing the attention of many residents in the area.

Imogen Braddock, a member of the public who watched the fire, described it as "quite frightening". By the time the fire was out, "a rather large crowd had built up to watch the firefighters," she said.

Although the full extent of the damage is not yet known, the fire left damage to both levels of the bar. According to Braddock, the first-floor office has been "completely gutted" as well as the ground floor, which has been left with significant water damage to the kitchen and bar area. It is believed that the first-floor

office was above the kitchen and bar.

Michael Harrison, a Dunedin fire investigator, said that so far no explanation had been found. "The fire investigators have completed the scene examination, but at this stage the fire is still deemed to be undetermined; however, the investigations are still ongoing."

Harrison said it is not unlikely for a fire to be deemed undetermined at this stage of an investigation. "It will remain this way until any outcome is revealed," he said.

He was unable to comment on how long the investigation would take as it would be determined by the amount of damage the building has undergone. Harrison said it could be a few days or up to a week before the

outcome is revealed.

The bar is located on the corner of London and George streets and is a favourite student haunt. The blaze erupted shortly before 7pm, with patrons being evacuated immediately. An alarm activation was set off and firefighters were at the scene within two minutes. Six firefighters battled the blaze. Four fire trucks and a ladder were required, enabling them to attack the blaze from above. The fire was under control within 20 minutes.

The day after the fire, The Bog thanked "everyone for all the support and concern" on their Facebook page. On 5 August, they posted to say that they would re-open from Friday 7 August at 5pm. ●



\$100 Graduation Portrait Session

- On Campus + 1 hr Studio Session
- Access to all digital photos from session



Benessere STUDIOS
HAIR • MAKEUP • PHOTOGRAPHY • CREATIVITY •



\$20 Full Body Spraytan
(Student Special)

black magic Tan

Book at benesserestudios@gmail.com | 0220710946 | www.benesserestudios.com



VP Role "Quite Prestigious", Says VP

BY BRIDIE BOYD /

This week's meeting started off with latest round of grants being agreed upon. The Table Tennis Association was affiliated.

President Paul Hunt put forward an executive restructure proposal for discussion. The proposal was for extending the vice-president position, which is currently 20 hours, to full time. Discussion centred on the rationale behind the potential decision, and agreement for its usefulness was not unanimous.

The proposal explains that the recent decline in student representation, for example with NZUSA and the University Council, needs addressing. Hunt argued that research and lobbying are "time consuming", but important for OUSA's achievements. He said part-time executive members are often more "pocket based" and have limited hours to allocate to

such tasks. This issue could be solved with another full-time position.

If the proposal were to pass, the full-time vice-president would take on the roles of the finance and campaigns officers, and these positions would be abolished.

A debate then began about whether a full-time position would be an executive or a general staff position. The majority of the executive were in favour of it being an executive role.

Education Officer Zachariah Al Alami asked who would take charge if a conflict were to occur between the president and the vice-president. Hunt agreed conflict was possible, but said "strong disagreement was part of democracy". Hunt said the president would always be the head of executive and would take charge if such situations arose.

Welfare Officer Payal Ramritu argued that since a full-time vice-president role would replace two part-time roles, student representation would be lost. Instead, Ramritu argued that a new full-time position should be a staff member, not an executive. This was also due to a staff member having more continuity, accountability and professionalism.

Concern was also raised that candidates would not run for vice-president, as the full-time role of president has the same hours and a better title. Current vice-president, Isaac Yu, modestly said the role is "quite prestigious" and looks great on a CV.

The meeting drew to a close with no agreements made, and the VP role is still a hot-button issue. If, in future, the executive is to decide on the proposal, a referendum will be held. ●

WORK USA

Exclusive 12 month visas to work in the USA for NZ students & recent grads!

Learn more by attending the **Work USA Expo at Otago Uni** on Sept 16th @ 6pm, with special guest the **US Consulate**.

Visit www.iep.org.nz or call **0800 443 769** to RSVP.



WORKING ADVENTURES WORLDWIDE



New Zealander Refused Amnesty Pardon

» "WE DON'T KNOW HOW HE IS COPING," SAYS FAMILY

BY BRIDIE BOYD

The Last week, Wellington man Phil Blackwood was denied pardon in Myanmar, despite 7000 other prisoners being released for a holiday amnesty.

Early this year, Blackwood was sentenced to two and a half years in prison after using an image of Buddha wearing headphones to promote drinks at his bar in Yangon. Shortly after Blackwood posted the advert on Facebook, he and two associates were jailed.

Blackwood, who is engaged with a young daughter, said he was extremely sorry for the advert and any offence it may have caused. Despite this, the judge in Blackwood's case said he "intentionally plotted to insult religious belief", which is illegal in Myanmar.

The man's father, Brian Blackwood, said it is "hard for [the family] knowing that Philip was found guilty of intentionally insulting religion".

"It was never meant to be insulting, and it definitely was not done to cause harm. Why would anyone choose to promote a restaurant or bar by intentionally insulting the religion of the clients it is trying to encourage to use the restaurant or bar?" he said.

Brian Blackwood said the family have not been able to communicate directly with their son: "We don't know how he is coping."

"He is not allowed to communicate with people outside the prison. He has only just



IMAGE: FACEBOOK

been allowed paper and pens to write letters, which are censored," he said. However, "he was strong the last time we saw him in prison some months ago, and trust he is still as stoic".

Blackwood's fiancée, Noemi, was set to visit him last Friday, but this was cancelled due to the mass pardons.

Three months ago, Blackwood's parents sent a letter to the president of Myanmar pleading for their son to be pardoned. The pair have not heard back, which Brian says is disappointing. "It is hard to have your hopes raised with the news of pardons, and have them dashed again. It is hard for me, and even harder for my wife and daughter to come to terms with."

When Blackwood was originally sentenced, he was given nothing but a wooden pallet to sleep on, a bucket of washing water and a hole in the ground. It took his family over 50 days to get their son a single blanket.

One of Blackwood's friends has opened a givealittle account for him, which has raised just under \$10,000 for his legal fees. On the page, friends and family have written to him in support.

"Phil has a heart of gold. By nature he is caring and kind. In no way did he mean any disrespect to anyone. Please let him come home, thoughts are with you Blackwood family," wrote one donor.

"We are blessed to have a son who has touched so many hearts and has had such a positive effect on those he has encountered," said Brian Blackwood.

Donations can be made to help Blackwood's case at:

givealittle.co.nz/cause/philblackwood ●

LOSE WEIGHT, DETOX, CONQUER STRESS & FEEL AMAZING!

FIRST TIMER SPECIAL

one week **\$20** | one month **\$68**

DUNEDIN'S ONLY HOT YOGA STUDIO est 2009

3 great yoga styles with highly experienced teachers:
BIKRAM YOGA | HOT FLOW YOGA | YIN YOGA

Visit **HOTYOGADUNEDIN.COM** for our schedule & more info • **33 St Andrew St, Dunedin**

Tasers Set to Shock the South

» AT LEAST IT'S NOT GUNS

BY JESSICA THOMPSON CARR

On Friday 31 July, the decision was made to equip police in the southern districts of New Zealand with tasers. The decision was made to provide extra protection and control for police.

Police Commissioner Mike Bush announced that "frontline police response staff will move to routine carriage of taser". Around 70 tasers are to be distributed to stations across Otago and Southland, including one for each duty section in Dunedin.

Inspector Jason Guthrie, area commander for Otago Coastal, said the decision was based on years of evidence, "including the feedback of our staff directly on the frontline".

"Since March 2010, evidence and research gathered by police shows the taser has been an extremely safe and effective 'tactical option' for our staff, with a subject injury rate of around one percent over the nearly five years."

Before Friday's announcement, tasers were carried in secure lockboxes in police vehicles. They will now be worn full time by officers while on duty.

Professor Mark Henaghan, University of Otago dean of law, argued that "tasers are a better option than using guns". However, "we are sadly moving closer to the USA model of policing".

"I don't blame the police, they didn't create the society. I prefer we not have to use tasers, but the reality is there are violent situations where protection is necessary."

Associate Professor Colin Gavaghan from the NZ Law Foundation Centre for Emerging Technologies highlighted a potential issue. "One concern I have is that tasers will come to be used not as a last resort to subdue violent or dangerous people, but as a means of enforcing compliance with police instructions."

Gavaghan said one complaint has been

upheld by the Independent Police Conduct Authority of New Zealand (IPCA), where "the officer applied the taser twice, once for a period of 13 seconds". This use was accepted, despite the fact that tasers should "instantaneously incapacitate the subject".

Another possible concern is that tasers will be overused on people from certain backgrounds. Previous trials have shown that tasers are more likely to be used on those from Māori or Pacifica backgrounds. According to Gavaghan, "[in] 2010–2012, 47 percent of the total uses were against Māori people. This despite the fact that they comprise only about 15 percent of the NZ population. Before making tasers more widely available, I would think we should be scrutinising those statistics a bit more closely."

The new tasers are expected to cost police an extra \$600,000 per year, nationwide. ●

OUSA Refuses to Pay Debt

» NOT A GREAT WEEK FOR THE CREW

BY LAURA MUNRO

OUSA has been sent an invoice for \$21,275 by the New Zealand Union of Students Associations (NZUSA) for the second half of its membership fee.

Late last year, the executive withdrew its membership of the association. The NZUSA constitution, however, requires a one-year withdrawal period in which members must still pay their \$45,000 fee. OUSA is only required to pay \$42,775 as it withdrew in November 2014 so it only has to pay membership until November of this year.

In an executive meeting in March, the OUSA executives decided they would not pay the second instalment of the fee, claiming there are "better uses of the money ... [paying the fee] blocks projects which are more beneficial to Otago students".

OUSA President Paul Hunt said the decision was made "so that the conversation about how to better represent students nationally would happen faster. NZUSA has been in this situation of uncertainty for years."

NZUSA President Rory McCourt said the association is "absolutely" prepared to take legal action if the fee is not paid. "We've said to our lawyer that we are prepared to engage them further if [OUSA] continue flout their contractual obligation."

McCourt said OUSA's actions have "lacked strategy and self awareness" and its decisions have "undermined OUSA's reputation in the eyes of other students' associations that [it] seeks to convince of its ideas about how to structure student voice nationally".

"[OUSA] seems to be just playing games and I think all of the other associations are a bit over it," said McCourt.

Hunt said he was expecting the invoice but was unsure if legal action would be taken: "I think that's yet to be seen."

Hunt said he met with McCourt recently to discuss "potential reforms to NZUSA" and different structures of representation. "We talked about different models, and he talked to us about what level of support each model would give."

Hunt said OUSA favours a "federation" model where different association presidents would meet to make decisions. Although this is just a "hypothetical" structure, NZUSA would no longer exist. ●

Vital Vaccine Victorious Against Virus

» EBOLA ERADICATION TRIAL PROVES EFFECTIVE

BY **ANGUS SHAW**

A new vaccine could bring an end to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. A vaccine trial against the deadly virus has proven enormously effective, with initial findings showing 100 percent efficacy in individuals.

WHO (the World Health Organization) called the findings a "game-changer" in the fight against Ebola. The findings were published in British journal, *The Lancet*.

Dr Margaret Chan, Director of WHO, said recognition ought to go to all who were involved in the trial. "The credit goes to the Guinean government, the people living in the communities and our partners in this project. An effective vaccine will be another very important tool for both current and future Ebola outbreaks."

Initially, the VSV-EBOV vaccine was produced by the Public Health Agency of Canada and then continued by pharmaceutical company Merck, which is based in New Jersey. The trial was sponsored by WHO.

Trials began this year in Guinea, using

a unique method of vaccinating known as "ring" vaccinating. A single patient is vaccinated, and their family, friends and neighbours are also vaccinated to provide a protective "ring" around them.

The trial on over 4000 people alternated between two methods. One group involved vaccinating the patient's ring of contacts at the same time as the patient, and the other group delayed vaccinating the patient's contacts for three weeks. This method allowed researchers to compare the two groups and quickly assess the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Protecting aid workers was vital for fighting Ebola successfully. To address this, a parallel trial was conducted on frontline workers.

Bertrand Dragez, head of Doctors Without Borders, called the results of the overall trial a "unique breakthrough".

"These people have worked tirelessly and put their lives at risk every day to take care of sick people. If the vaccine is effective, then we are

already protecting them from the virus."

Draguez hoped that with such an efficient vaccine, countries could immediately begin vaccinating workers. This would not only protect the workers but help break the train of transmission.

"Too many people have been dying from this extremely deadly disease, and it has been very frustrating for healthcare workers to feel so powerless against it."

Previously, no drugs or vaccines were effective against the virus. The lack contributed to the largest outbreak of Ebola in history, which began in Guinea in December 2013.

While the results are still preliminary, the authors of the study believe that the effectiveness of the vaccine will increase to between 75 and 100 percent. More conclusive evidence is needed to prove that the vaccination has the capacity to create herd immunity in populations.

The Guinean national regulatory authority and ethics review committee have already approved the continuation of the trial. ●

TPPA Negotiations Break Down

» BIG COUNTRIES BAIL DURING CRUCIAL TALKS

BY **OLIVER GASKELL**

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has suffered a major blow. Negotiations with Australia and other nations have broken down at the latest talks about the agreement.

The latest TPP talks, held in Hawaii at the end of July, were held back by a lack of consensus among the Pacific nations. New Zealand and Canada clashed over the dairy industry, while Australia and the United States disagreed over drug monopolies.

In the light of the recent issues, Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb was still confident that an agreement could be reached. "Australia has made some excellent progress, but unfortunately some difficult issues were not resolved," Robb said last Saturday in a statement to the Australian Associated Press.

Blame has been laid on many different nations for the breakdown of the agreements,

with Robb believing that "the big four economies" of the US, Canada, Japan and Mexico were responsible.

Robb said: "The sad thing is, 98% is concluded ... While we didn't quite get there, we are definitely on the cusp."

The main concerns among parties were cars, data protection, dairy and sugar.

However, Robb believes these concerns can be resolved, saying that "from my reading, the issues are not intractable and there remains a real determination to conclude the TPP among all parties."

In a recently released statement, Canadian Dairy Farmers president, Wally Smith, blamed New Zealand for delaying the latest set of talks by "not accepting what is on the table", saying "New Zealand is very obstinate".

New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser said at a press conference that "we will not be pushed

out of the agreement" and that other nations are trying to make "very large compromises".

Groser said he was disappointed with the outcome of the talks. Although "good progress" was made this week, "a number of challenging issues remain, including intellectual property and market access for dairy products".

Groser said that the government is working in the interests of New Zealanders and that it "will continue to work towards a successful conclusion. This is about getting the best possible deal for New Zealand, not a deal at any cost."

Michael Froman, trade representative for the US, was also confident that the deal would go on regardless of recent setbacks.

"We have made significant progress during the meetings," Froman said.

Current TPP talks are aimed at erasing tariffs and other barriers to trade and investment, as well as standardising trade rules. ●

MH370 Plane Wreckage Found

» MISSING MALAYSIAN PLANE PARTS WASHING UP ON ISLAND SHORES

BY INDIA LEISHMAN

The remnants of the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 have been found.

The plane is believed to have crashed into the Indian Ocean. This follows wreckage of the plane being washed up onto the French island of La Reunion.

Residents on the island spotted suitcases and what they believed was a plane seat on a local beach in May, but at the time believed it was only rubbish. It wasn't until a wing flap was found on 29 July that they began to question whether the debris was remains from the flight.

The wing flap was sent to a specialist laboratory in Toulouse, France, where

testing determined that it is part of the missing plane. A plastic component resembling a plane window was also found on Saint-Denis, a beach on the island.

John Page, an aircraft design expert at the University of New South Wales, said the discovery of the debris last week lead him to conclude the Boeing 777 is likely to have broken up as it hit the water.

"While the main body of the plane is likely to have sunk, small lightweight parts attached to the wings and tail may have floated free," he said.

The island of La Reunion is in the Indian Ocean, just east of Madagascar. Its positioning is completely off-course for MH370's

intended route.

For over a year, authorities have had no lead on what happened to the 239 people on board. For many families, this news brings mixed emotions.

Subithirai Nathan, whose mother was on board the plane, spoke of how many of the families are feeling. "Everybody is really anxious. No one is sleeping. Before this, a lot of us thought it would be good to find something and have closure. But in saying that, we would rather they're still alive somewhere."

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said he hoped the discovery would at least bring certainty to the victims' families, saying the burden they had faced was "unspeakable". ●

Bin Laden's Family Die in Suspicious Plane Crash

» BEWARE BIN LADEN AIRLINES

BY HENRY NAPIER

Three members of Osama bin Laden's family died in a plane crash in the English county of Hampshire on 31 July. The passengers were his stepmother Raja Bashir Hashem, 75, her daughter Sana bin Laden, 53, and his brother-in-law Zouheir Anuar Hashem, 56.

The family passed away, along with the Jordanian pilot, Mazen Salim Algasim, 58, when the private jet crashed into dozens of vehicles near the runway while attempting to land at Blackbushe Airport. It is not yet known how the victims died, but it is said that their bodies were incinerated as the plane burst into flames on impact from the crash. The plane was travelling from Milan to Hampshire.

The Saudi Arabian ambassador has expressed his condolences to the bin Laden family over the "great loss they have suffered".

Aviation experts are confused as to what caused the plane to crash. The plane was state of the art, and a frequent visitor to Blackbushe Airport. Furthermore, the pilot had over 25 years of flying experience, and the landing conditions were described as perfect. Flight monitoring software said that the jet was flying in an unusual pattern before it attempted to land.

Police are launching a joint investigation with the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB), and a preliminary hearing will be held on 3 September. However, the full hearing will

have to wait for at least another nine months, until the AAIB has completed its investigation.

Other members of the bin Laden family have died in plane crashes. In 1967, Osama bin Laden's father Mohammed bin Laden died in a crash in Saudi Arabia while on the way to wed his 23rd wife. His elder brother Salem also died in mysterious circumstances, accidentally flying a plane into power lines near San Antonio in Texas.

The bin Laden family had severed all ties with Osama bin Laden. His half-sister Sana was said to be a philanthropist, supporting local Saudi charities and orphanages, and had not be in contact with her brother for decades before his death. ●

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago

Studying health sciences?
Thought about a career in
midwifery?

We are currently accepting applications for our 2016 Bachelor of Midwifery programme.
Study in Dunedin or from one of our satellite campuses in Invercargill, Central Otago, Wellington, Palmerston North or Whanganui.
www.op.ac.nz/midwifery

Rumours Sparked Over Peters' Successor

» RON RIGHT ON THE MARK

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

Speculation over who may succeed NZ First leader Winston Peters was stirred during the party's conference last weekend. The annual conference took place in Rotorua, where a number of policies were announced in keynote speeches from Peters and fellow NZ First MPs.

The party leadership became embattled last month following a political coup led by MP Ron Mark against deputy leader Tracey Martin. Since ascending to the deputy leadership, Mark has been singled out as the most likely to take over from Winston Peters.

Otago lecturer and political commentator

Dr Bryce Edwards has suggested Mark as being the likely candidate for leader in his *New Zealand Herald* column.

"It's becoming clear that Ron Mark, who was recently elected deputy leader, is likely to succeed Peters when that day finally arrives. Mark has shown himself to be the only New Zealand First MP who comes even close to possessing the qualities that make Peters so enduring," wrote Edwards.

However, comments made by Peters have seemingly encouraged speculation over who will lead the party after the 70-year-old politician resigns. Former Labour MP and long-time

friend of Peters, Shane Jones, has been the subject of long-running rumours that he will be the one to succeed the leader.

So far, Peters has refused to confirm or deny Jones' potential involvement with the party. However, while speaking at the annual conference, Peters referred to Jones as "highly intelligent".

Rumours about Jones were sparked in March following Peters' victory in the Northland by-election. Jones was reportedly among the attendees of Peters' victory party held in Russell. ●

Republican Primary Kicks Off

» TRUMP LIKES WAR HEROES "WHO WEREN'T CAPTURED"

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

The Republican primary is now in full swing, with the first debate taking place on Monday last week. The debate, which is being called the "Voters First" forum, featured 14 Republican candidates who each spoke for seven minutes.

The primaries are held before the presidential election to select the candidates for each party. So far, 17 Republicans have announced their intention to run.

The "Voters First" debate was the first of many official events set to take place as part of the primary election. However, the first debate has been criticised as merely a prelude to a more traditional debate, scheduled for Thursday 6 August hosted by Fox News.

The forum was reportedly a response to the decision by Fox News to restrict its televised debate to 10 candidates based on national polling.

The Fox News debate has been highly anticipated following the controversial surge in support for business-tycoon-turned-hopeful-politician, Donald Trump. A recent poll from NBC and the *Wall Street Journal* shows Trump at 19 percent, 4 percent above nearest competitor, Scott Walker.

Trump has been the subject of recent



controversy over comments made about the military career of 2008 Republican presidential candidate and Arizona senator, John McCain.

McCain served in the navy during the Vietnam War, in which he was captured and held as a prisoner-of-war for five and a half years. McCain has been hailed as a war hero for his service history.

However, during a Q and A session, Trump attacked claims that McCain was a war hero by saying his capture was not heroic.

"He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured? I like people who weren't captured," argued Trump.

Trump is set to appear in the Fox News debate on Thursday despite rejecting an invitation to attend the "Voters First" forum last Monday.

Among the other 17 Republican candidates are former governor of Florida, Jeb Bush, Texas senator, Ted Cruz, and Arkansas governor, Mike Huckabee. ●

Opinion: The Media's Focus is All Wrong

» THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IS THE REAL PROBLEM

BY **KIRIO BIRKS** /

I've been living and studying in New Zealand for nearly two years. Over the past few months, I've seen a lot of heated discussion over John Key's attitude towards women, specifically highlighted in #ponytailgate.

In fact, as I'm writing this, news of John Key making a girl cry has just come across my screen. Stuff reports that the prime minister told a teenage girl that her "Maori language month" idea would be "boring". Key has evidently lacked tact in his recent social exchanges.

Meanwhile, Key's press team is more adept at putting a spin on his words than Federer can on his back-hand slice. Key's press team might just be why National pulled 47 percent of the vote last year.

However, I'm getting a little concerned for New Zealand. It seems that people, and the media, are spending far too much time worrying about these trivial incidents. Don't get me wrong, plenty of hot-button issues are involved here. Arguably, that Key even dared to repeatedly pull a young waitress's hair speaks to some of the subtle imbalances in relations between men and women, or between those in positions of power and the rest of us. I am not saying these aren't transgressions that highlight much more serious and insidious issues,

but in the world of politics, there are some far more important issues than hair-pulling and rude remarks.

The UK is dealing with much more serious issues. For example, Lord Sewel has just resigned after the Sun leaked a video of him literally railing cocaine off a pair of prostitutes. As if that weren't enough, on its own, to contrast to the smaller issues of "ponytailgate", the UK is also dealing with a suspected government-level paedophile ring, which only last week former UK prime minister, Sir Edward Heath, was reported to have been at the centre of. Heath is accused of sexually abusing young boys for a number of years.

Meanwhile, the Conservative government has absolutely no qualms about outlawing consensual sex acts (specifically those more inclined for female pleasure), quashing privacy at every turn and enforcing austerity measures that primarily target the poorer in British society.

On a scale of balance, one must ask which is worse: cocaine, hookers, draconian sex-negative laws and child rape or social ineptitude and ponytailgate?

If this sounds snarky, it's supposed to. What's truly disappointing, however, is that New Zealand really is facing some very important issues right now, issues that actually

belong in the media spotlight. As of yet, the New Zealand government has failed to answer questions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) with any real transparency. Furthermore, major news outlets have failed to call out the government on blatant contradictions in the official message.

Until the New Zealand government starts seeing the sort of scandals that the US, the UK, Australia and even Canada regularly see, there are better things than John Key's careless behaviour to focus on. It is true, without doubt, that we should notice that John Key's behaviour has not been acceptable. He has behaved in a way that deserves to be noticed. These matters should not be trivialised. But do not mistake gaining perspective for trivialisation, because for any social or political injustice that the PM's actions remind us of, we merely need to look abroad to see that these issues are being realised in their most extreme form by other countries.

Ultimately, we ought to look at the actions of the government, not merely one man. We ought to focus on the direction New Zealand is headed in. We ought to focus on what our government is going to do (or not do) for us. But most of all, we should probably heave a sigh of relief because, as bad as things seem, plenty of countries are in more dire situations. ●



MAD BUTCHER

BEST PRICE!
BEST QUALITY



Tegel
New Zealand's
favourite

FRESH
CHICKEN
DRUMSTICKS

ONLY
\$4.99
KILO

BEEF STEAK
MINCE

ONLY
\$8.99
KILO

BAG OF 20
PRECOOKED
BBQ SAUSAGES

ONLY
\$5

280 Andersons Bay Road, South Dunedin | P 03 455 6042 | F 03 455 6064 | M 027 228 9825 | mbdunedin@xtra.co.nz

NEW STORE: MOSGIEL MINI | 114 GORDON ROAD, MOSGIEL | T 489 8555

News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



World Watch

1 HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

The authorities in Vietnam's largest city have banned pets from its first pedestrian street. Nguyen Hue, a broad pedestrianised zone in central Ho Chi Minh City, opened to much fanfare at the end of April. But the local government has now issued a list of restrictions on what people can do there. As well as banning all pets, roller-skating is forbidden, as is sitting on picnic blankets and selling coffee along the street.

2 GRAZ, AUSTRIA

An Austrian tattoo artist has offered to give people free body art as long as the design has an anti-racism message. Alex Smoltschnik said he received 500 enquiries after posting a Facebook status offering the free tattoos to anyone who booked an appointment by a set date. Two hundred people subsequently signed up to get inked with an anti-racism message.

3 ICELAND

Farmers in Iceland are baffled by the unexplained deaths of thousands of the country's sheep. About 5000 sheep died this spring, and so far experts have been unable to work out why. One theory is that sulphur emitted during a recent volcanic eruption might be to blame. In the most extreme cases, farms lost up to 30 percent of stock.

4 TEXAS, UNITED STATES

A Texas man has been hit in the jaw by his own bullet after it ricocheted off an armadillo. The man fired three shots at the armadillo from his revolver, with one bullet bouncing off the shell and hitting him in the jaw. The armadillo has not been seen since, and its fate remains uncertain.

5 SERBIA

The head of Serbia's national lottery has resigned after a television graphic during a draw appeared to predict the winning number, triggering suspicion and outrage among impoverished Serbs. The draw dominated front pages, with many Serbs disappointed that their beloved lottery was not above the corruption that pervades much of Serbian life.

6 SAN FRANCISCO, UNITED STATES

San Francisco hopes to tackle the problem of public urination with a pee-repellent paint. "Ultra-Ever Dry" paint repels water, some oils and wet concrete, meaning that when a person urinates against an Ultra-Ever Dry wall, the urine bounces back. The paint is part of a pilot project by the city and involves nine of San Francisco's "usually urine-soaked walls".

7 CHINA

Chinese police are investigating whether two distillers in the southwestern region of Guangxi added Viagra to their liquor in the latest food-safety scare in China. Law enforcement officers have confiscated 5357 bottles of the suspected products, 1124kg of raw alcohol and a batch of white powder.

8 SWITZERLAND

Army helicopters have airlifted nearly 24,000 gallons of water to thirsty cows amid scorching temperatures in southern Switzerland. The area has nearly 20,000 cows, each of which needs between 22 and 33 gallons of water a day. Many are grazing on meadows as high as 4000 feet above sea level.

POPPA'S PIZZA
since 1975

\$50
VALUE OF \$70.50

Poppa's Flat Feed
**2 LARGE PIZZAS &
1 REGULAR PIZZA &
2 GARLIC BREADS**

Over the road from Uni Library, 74 Albany St - Ph: 477 0598

Poppa's - Mmmmm!

Grapevine



"Our climate is changing. It is changing in ways that threaten our economy, our security, and our health. This isn't opinion, it's fact backed up by decades of carefully collected data and overwhelming scientific consensus and it has serious implications for the way that we live now. We can see it, and we can feel it — hotter summers, rising sea levels, extreme weather events like stronger storms, deeper droughts and longer wildfire seasons."



President Barack Obama

In an effort to combat the rising threat posed by climate change, President Obama is slated to introduce sweeping changes to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the US by limiting the amount of carbon that can be released from power plants throughout the country. In a video posted to Facebook, Obama said there was a need for the new "Clean Power Plan". The plan will require a 32 percent cut from 2005 levels.

"Once you become involved, you remain addicted to the trade. It's a whole military hierarchy that's involved in both the distribution and production of methamphetamine. It's a big-time industry. Why would they close down a profitable industry if they can get away with it?"

Raphael Perl, author of a detailed 2007 Congressional report on North Korean illicit activity.

The wives of North Korean elites are supposedly turning to methamphetamine as a dieting tool. Though much of the isolated communist country contends daily with malnutrition, a report indicates that these women are increasingly using crystal meth to lose weight. North Korea became a major producer of meth for export in recent decades as part of an effort to collect currency.



"Our magical Shira was murdered because she was a happy 16-year-old — full of life and love — who came to express her support for her friends' rights to live as they choose. Bad things happen to good people ... The family expresses hope for less hatred and more tolerance."



Family of Shira Banki

A 16-year-old girl who was stabbed by a Jewish extremist during Jerusalem's annual gay pride has died from wounds she sustained during the attack. Shira Banki was one of six people stabbed at the festivities that saw around 5000 people celebrating their sexuality in central Jerusalem. The attacker, Yishai Shlissel, an ultra-Orthodox Jew, was arrested immediately after the attack.

"We honestly believe that people's lives, and the quality of their deaths, are truly at stake. We might talk about waiting a few days, a week, or even a month, as though it's not a big deal. But if you're suffering horribly, every hour can seem like an eternity."

Wanda Morris, CEO of Dying with Dignity

In February, Canada's Supreme Court unanimously struck down the federal laws that made it a crime for doctors to help their patients die. However, leading activists are now concerned their opportunity to have their say about the new law will be diminished due to the federal elections. The court's decision was a major blow to the Conservative government, which is now taking measures to slow down the process of turning it into law.



FACTS & FIGURES



Bible

means to drink often or noisily

0.3%

of solar energy from the Sahara is enough to power the whole of Europe.

Snakes

can see through their eyelids.

Kakorrhaphiophobia

Fear of failure.

Ikea

uses approximately 1% of the world's entire commercial supply of wood.

Infants

blink only once or twice in a minute, while adults average about 10 blinks.

A shrimp's heart

is in its head.



Back to Beijing: Part II

BY SPORTS EDITOR DANIEL LORMANS

Beijing will become the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics after the Chinese capital was awarded the right to host the 2022 Winter Olympics. The final result of the two-year candidacy process was confirmed at the 128th International Olympic Committee session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 31 July.

Beijing won a close final vote 44–40, edging out Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty, which had pledged it would be "Keeping it Real" according to its bid's official slogan. Almaty had a very attractive bid, with a self-proclaimed "real" and "honest" winter setting and a compact plan that meant all events could take place within a 50km radius of the city compared to Beijing's 250km. However, it was the more obscure technical categories of electrical, transport and communications infrastructure that clinched it for Beijing, which had a distinct advantage from 2008 as well as, ultimately, the financial power to pull the whole thing together.

With the recent corruption allegations and investigations surrounding FIFA and the selection of Russia and Qatar as hosts for the next two World Cups, it was inevitable that similar questions would be raised about Beijing being awarded another Olympics so soon after hosting in 2008. However, the bid does appear to have been part of China's long-term plan; its quest for the Olympics started all the way back with one of the narrowest IOC votes ever when Beijing lost 45–43 to Sydney in the final round of bidding for

the 2000 Summer Olympics.

It is not uncommon for cities to host more than once. Tokyo will host the next Summer Olympics in 2020 after hosting in 1964. Japan has also staged the Winter Olympics twice, in 1972 and 1998. South Korea hosted the Summer Olympics in Seoul in 1988 and will host the next Winter Olympics, scheduled for February 2018 in Pyeongchang. This will be the first of three consecutive Olympics to be held in Asia, with Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 following. Japan is also preparing for its Rugby World Cup in 2019, but there has already been a change of plans due to rising costs that mean the new Olympic stadium won't be ready in time for the World Cup final.

Other multiple hosts include Paris (1900 and 1924), with a further three winter games held around France. London hosted the most recent games in 2012, becoming the first city to host three Summer Olympics, starting with 1908 and 1948. Los Angeles hosted in 1932 and 1984, while the United States has also hosted another two Summer Olympics (St. Louis 1904 and Atlanta 1996) and four Winter Olympics. Athens hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and then again in 2004, although many consider the 2004 games a factor in the current financial crisis in Greece owing to the huge amount of debt the country undertook to host the games and because many of the new facilities are not in use.

A significant part of the Beijing 2008 infrastructure will be converted and reused for 2022, with the "Bird's Nest" national stadium hosting

the opening and closing ceremonies. The 2022 Winter Olympics have been given a \$4 billion budget, which will be about 10 percent of the reported budget it took to host in 2008. Compare that to reports showing that Russia spent up to \$50 billion to host the 2014 games in Sochi, although it is alleged some corruption was involved in that process.

The much lower cost targets are part of the IOC's plans for a more sustainable future for the Olympics. The committee is emphasising planning for the long-term legacy the games will leave, with lessons having been learned from Athens. IOC President Thomas Bach has also introduced simplified candidacy requirements that will open the bidding process up to a wider range of cities with more diverse bids such as joint hosting, something that Malaysia and Singapore are exploring.

Former IOC President Jacques Rogge attended the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand and spoke positively of New Zealand hosting an Olympic games in the future, most likely centred on Auckland. The hosting of the world's largest sporting event could be the inspiration for the large-scale transportation investment that Auckland will eventually need as it becomes a global city. Developers and politicians had plans to retire Eden Park in favour of a new stadium near the Auckland waterfront for the Rugby and Cricket World Cups, but a compromised upgrade to the aging Eden Park was decided on instead. An Olympics or a Commonwealth Games could be the next major event to justify a huge redevelopment programme.

The New Zealand Olympic Committee has spoken about a potential plan that could include Christchurch, serving as part of the long-term post-earthquake rejuvenation and modernisation of our second-largest city. Christchurch would be included as part of a bid to host the Winter Olympics alongside Queenstown and Wanaka, where many athletes from other nations train during their northern hemisphere summers.

The NZOC was frank about the South Island's transport infrastructure being a prohibiting factor, but if the hosting did eventually happen, it would be a rare visit to the southern hemisphere for the Olympics. Next year's Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will only be the third time the games have been held outside Asia, Europe or North America — Australia hosted in Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.

New Zealand 2042? Let's have a referendum on that. ●

Updates

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

FOOTBALL



Arsenal's 1-0 victory over Chelsea in the FA Community Shield was Arsene Wenger's first win over José Mourinho in 14 attempts. Mourinho subsequently tossed his runners-up medal into the crowd.

MOTORSPORT



Hayden Paddon crashed his Hyundai i20 out of the Finland Rally and has slipped to ninth place in the championship after an impressive second place in Italy.

BASKETBALL



After four years playing in Europe, former NZ Breaker Kirk Penney is returning to the ANBL, although it is with the Illawarra Hawks.

MMA



Ronda Rousey continues to dominate, winning her latest bantamweight title fight by KO in 34 seconds at UFC 190 in Brazil.

GOLF



Kiwi Lydia Ko went -8 to finish third in the recent Women's British Open, picking up a \$200,000 prize.

ITM CUP



Josh Dickson, Matt Faddes, Fa'asui Fuatai, Fletcher Smith, Gavin Stark, Kaide Whiting and Sam Sturgess have been selected in the Otago ITM Cup squad after helping University A to the Dunedin Premier Rugby title.

RUGBY



New Blues coach Tana Umaga is in talks about bringing former Blues and All Black play-maker Carlos Spencer back to the club in a coaching role.



Take time to play this winter.

Mackenzie Region
Your winter playground
www.mackenziewinter.co.nz

Lake Tekapo / Mt Cook / Twizel / Fairlie

Head up to Australasia's **biggest vertical drop** at Roundhill

Jump on a **tube** and slide down a **150m slope** at Tekapo Springs

Challenge yourself at **Dobson** in the **natural halfpipe**

Enjoy a glass of **wine** by the **fire** at the **Mt Cook Lodge**



& Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism



EGYPT'S DREAM



AND THE PEACEFULNESS THAT'S KILLING THEM

by Jace Smith

As the horrific events taking place in Syria and Iraq dominate headlines, and we're inundated with images of ISIS beheadings and bombs, it is easy to forget that just a few years ago the Middle East held our attention for an entirely different reason. Referred to in Western media outlets as the Arab Spring (or Awakening in the Arab world), the uprising that started with the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi in Tunisia and spread across the region, fueled primarily by economic concerns but also by frustration with political repression and social immobility, stunned the world. Many of us were awestruck by the mass protests in Egypt, which brought down the decades-spanning reign of former president Hosni Mubarak at the beginning of 2011 and were inspired by the country's landmark democratic elections in 2012, the first in its history.

As dictators fell from power following peaceful protests in Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen and demonstrators extracted concessions for political reform from leaders in Bahrain, Jordan and Morocco, the future of the Arab world looked brighter than it had in a long time. However, the passing of time has dampened much of the initial enthusiasm. More than four years later, commentators have often touted the (relative) success of Tunisia in its democratic transition and mourned the ruinous failures in Syria, Libya and Yemen, where peaceful protests eventually shifted into destructive civil wars in the face of regime brutality. But with the exception of regionally focused sources like Al Jazeera or Al

Ahram, which students here at Otago could reasonably be forgiven for not following, most outlets have been relatively silent on how the situation has developed in Egypt.

Life for Egyptians has been nowhere near as quiet as the headlines would have you believe. After the military coup that overthrew the country's first democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi, on 3 July 2013, the new government under interim president, Adly Mansour, and later president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi (a general and coup leader), has for all intents and purposes ended the Arab Awakening that brought hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic protestors to Tahrir Square four years ago. The same cabal of elite Egyptian Armed Forces (EAF) officers that once served under former president Mubarak is loyal to the new regime, which represents one of the most successful counter-revolutions in the Arab world.

What many leading media outlets have overlooked is the underlying generational struggle raging over Egypt's future, with older Egyptians overwhelmingly supportive of the government while the country's youth are more sceptical. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's data demonstrates that in the "election" that brought President Sisi to power in 2014, voter turnout was not only lower than 2012, but also heavily tilted toward older voters, while the masses of youth who led the revolution boycotted the vote. This is unsurprising. Since the 2013 coup, a crackdown of epic proportions has ended any semblance of political plurality as

young activists representing Islamist groups like the Muslim Brotherhood and secularist, liberal groups alike have found themselves the victims of police brutality far worse than anything experienced during the original uprising.

Allegations of mass arrests, arbitrary detentions, torture and rapidly worsening prison conditions are widespread, while former interior minister Mohammed Ibrahim's ridiculous denial that such activities have taken place highlights perfectly the attitude of the government in dealing with the youthful opposition. According to scholars at the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace, the death toll from political violence has reached over 3000 people since the coup (some estimates are lower, some higher — exact figures are hard to come by), with more than 17,000 injured in clashes and at least 20,000 activists detained or imprisoned (likely closer to 40,000), including over 1000 imprisoned and 49 dead in one day on the third anniversary of the uprising. A judge in Minya, a city on the Nile 150 miles south of Cairo, sentenced 529 people to death in a single day on 24 March 2014 after a single, hour-long hearing in which the defense lawyers were prevented from arguing their case. While all but 37 of these sentences were later commuted to life in prison at a new trial held on 28 April 2014, another 683 were sentenced to death on that occasion. On 16 May 2015, former president Morsi himself was sentenced to death, along with 105 others, in another ridiculously unfair mass trial. According to Aljazeera, two of those sentenced to death in May were already dead at the time the crimes of which they were convicted supposedly

occurred, while another has been in an Israeli prison since 1996, long before the alleged crimes.

It has become clear over the two years since the coup that there are no safe spaces for youthful dissent in Egypt; the nation's fiery student movements have been tamed through outright brutality. The Egyptian government reversed one of the original triumphs of the 2011 uprising by taking direct control of the appointment of university presidents and deans rather than allowing them to be elected, removing any sense of accountability on the part of university administrations. But despite laws banning protest, many student activists were undeterred, and demonstrations have continued on campuses nationwide. According to the Carnegie Endowment, at least 16 students were killed on campuses, while hundreds were arrested and hundreds more were expelled during the 2013–14 academic year. Most of the main public universities have outlawed or significantly restricted the rights of students to organise politically on campus and have brought in private security companies owned by figures seen as close to the government to restrict access and break up demonstrations before they even begin. Try to imagine some of the Capping Show stars spending five years in prison for making fun of John Key's ponytail antics, knowing that they faced torture and potentially even death while incarcerated, and you may be getting a bit closer to understanding the plight faced by Egypt's students.

A postgraduate student here at Otago, Yehya Hassan, participated in the original 2011 protests in Tahrir Square that toppled Mubarak while studying at Cairo University, and has friends who were imprisoned or killed after the coup. Yehya

recounted a chilling tale of the abuse faced by the families of activists killed in political demonstrations, a tragically common occurrence. His story focused on describing the aftermath of the now infamous Rabaa Massacre of 14 August 2013, in which security forces stormed two peaceful protest camps set up in Cairo by youthful supporters of Morsi, who opposed the coup removing him from office. Clashes ensued, and the death toll was anywhere between 800 to 1000 people, most of whom were teenagers, and according to Human Rights Watch constituted "one of the world's largest killing of demonstrators in a single day in recent history". Yehya discussed the government's response to the incident, in particular the treatment of the dead activists' families, who went to the morgue after the massacre to retrieve the bodies of their children. Rather than being allowed to retrieve their deceased and mourn in peace, they were instead permitted to have a proper burial only if they agreed to sign legal documents swearing that their relatives had committed suicide, thus relinquishing any right to pursue justice for the murder of their loved ones. Families were forced to choose between burying their loved ones and trying to bring those responsible to justice. This is sadly only one of the unenviable choices faced by Egyptians under the current regime's crackdown on dissent.

Some 16 Egyptian and foreign human rights organisations signed a letter on 12 February 2014, which brought attention to the ferocity of the crackdown and the authorities' seeming lack of concern about the damning allegations. One after another, activists have been brought before judges, often showing the courts physical evidence of their bruises and scars and demonstrating exactly what

happened during their time in custody. Meticulously describing the state of their captivity and the ruthless physical and psychological abuse they experienced, activists often found that judges wouldn't even allow their testimony to show up in the court records, striking it as irrelevant. An excerpt from the letter sent by the group of organisations provides a chilling description of what many hundreds if not thousands of young people are currently experiencing throughout prisons and police stations nationwide as the EAF tries to crush all dissent:

Al-Sayyed spoke in detail about the torture endured by many detainees who were arbitrarily arrested and taken to the Azbakiya police station. He said that a security force at the station put the known political activists in the room where the torture took place and blindfolded them, forcing them to listen to the screams of detainees who were being beaten and electrocuted. The activists were repeatedly told things like, "You revolutionaries are to blame for what's happening to these kids. If not for you, we would've let them go already, they'd already be home." More than one person who was returned to the detention room after torture claimed they had been sexually assaulted and electrocuted on various parts of their bodies.

These claims are supported by the quantity and diversity of the people reporting them, and Amnesty International compiled many details of the abuses in a report released in June of this year entitled *Generation Jail: Egypt's Youth Go from Protest to Prison*. Liberal and leftist forces within Egypt, which have a significant influence among the young and initially supported the coup that ousted the Islamist Morsi,

have since joined Islamist-oriented youth groups in condemning the government's assault on freedoms of speech, association and assembly that immediately followed the coup's success. Secular activists, politicians and journalists have also found themselves the targets of the government's ire even as they tried to defend their suffering Islamist counterparts from persecution. According to analysts at the Brookings Institution, the repeated abuse by, and the utter indifference of, the courts, prosecutors and National Council of Human Rights, which is supposed to fight these abuses but is controlled by EAF officers, is leading to a widespread political disillusionment among young Egyptians, a prospect that is tragic at best and dangerous at worst. Foreign and domestic journalists are under considerable pressure to not report on abuses. Examples of recent abuse abound, but the most disconcerting might be the courts' exceptionally cruel practice of putting activists on trial for the murder of their own friends and colleagues. In at least one case, these are the same friends who were shot to death during peaceful marches in front of the office of the High Court right before the surviving activists were arrested and imprisoned, cut off from their families, tortured and sexually assaulted or worse.

The brutality of the authorities and outsiders' indifference have contributed to the transformation of peaceful activist groups into more violent and radical organisations. Though the Muslim Brotherhood had refused to endorse the use of violence until very recently, other Islamists were not so patient, and groups that have sprung up like

"Molotov Against the Coup" and "Ajnad Misr" are advocating violence as the only remaining option for disillusioned youth tired of not fighting back. The Brotherhood itself finally succumbed to hopelessness and misery after army forces assassinated a dozen members in a raid at the end of June, with the movement officially giving up on a decades-old pledge of non-violence and calling for a revolt against the current president on the first of July this year. This, conversely perhaps, is a huge victory for the regime, which falsely branded its opponents terrorists and has now succeeded in killing enough of them to make the survivors into the very enemy it originally claimed to be fighting.

As an entire generation of young Egyptians have watched their hard-won achievements from nearly five years of unrest disappear, drowned in the blood of their friends and comrades, the idea of violent resistance is increasingly attractive. The compelling message of "fighting back" is spreading beyond Islamists, and at recent demonstrations the now-famous phrase that once adorned signs at practically every protest during the Uprising — "Our peacefulness is stronger than bullets" — was replaced by two other phrases that accurately capture the mood of young people in Egypt: "Our peacefulness has killed us" and the even more chilling "Our peacefulness is stronger with bullets". Egypt's dream, which brought hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life to the streets peacefully demanding a better future more than four years ago, has been transformed into a nightmare with no end in sight ■

“It has become clear over the two years since the coup that there are no safe spaces for youthful dissent in Egypt; the nation’s fiery student movements have been tamed through outright brutality.”



COMPASSION IN ACTION

by Lydia Adams

The next time you're lying in bed at night trying to get some sleep, take a moment and listen to your body. You'll hear the digestive gurgles, breath coming in and out of your chest, and perhaps the faint beating of your heart. Your body is amazing. Every little cell that makes up your form — approximately 37.2 trillion of them — is unique to you, and each little one helps keep you alive.

Now, imagine for a moment that maybe some of those cells don't work quite the way they're supposed to. Maybe you're missing a few vital little cells and need to find a replacement. Imagine that instead of lying in bed listening to the wonder of your body work to keep you alive, you're listening to the malfunctioning parts of you that are potentially going to kill you.

When it comes to saving another person's life, people tend to immediately think about great acts of heroism: "She pulled me out of oncoming traffic!" "I tripped and, I swear, if he hadn't caught me, I probably would have died falling down those stairs." "I was drowning, and if Charlie hadn't been such a keen-eyed lifeguard,

I wouldn't be here today." Acts such as these are extraordinary in every way, but for the regular non-heroic citizens of the world, there is a far simpler way to potentially save human lives.

Transplantation practices began in New Zealand during the 1940s, with the introduction of corneal grafting. The first organ to be successfully transplanted was a kidney during the 1960s and, around this time, heart-valve transplantation processes were also introduced. The first full heart transplantation happened in 1987, at Green Lane Hospital in Auckland. It wasn't until the 1990s that transplantation of skin, lungs, liver and pancreas began in New Zealand. Since then, organ donation and transplantation has continued, albeit a lot slower than our population requires.

New Zealand has one of the lowest rates of organ donation in the developed world. According to statistics from the Northland District Health Board, organ donor levels in New Zealand are low compared with Australia and the United Kingdom, with annual donations in 2013 at 8.7 organs per million people versus 13.5 and 16.4 respectively. In June, Health Minister Jonathan Coleman put forward

“

IT'S A FEW MINUTES OUT OF MY DAY EVERY MONTH, PLUS I GET JUICE AND BISCUITS DURING THE PROCESS.

the idea that New Zealand should consider a donor register, similar to the one Australia employs.

Michael Catterall, a third-year university student, is planning to donate his kidney in the summer of 2016. "It's been something I've wanted to do for a really long time," he says, but he only began organising himself properly after taking a philosophy paper in his first year of university that made him feel like donating would be the "moral" thing to do. After first contacting people about donating when he was 18, Catterall was told to wait a few years to mull it over and then come back if he was still sure. He did go back, and has found throughout the entire process that organ donation follows an "absolutely zero pressure policy" and that everyone involved wants to ensure people are donating of their own volition. Catterall has thus far had three psychological evaluations to make sure of this. "Most people would donate their kidney to a dying family member ... I personally feel that someone not being related to me isn't a strong enough reason to not save their life."

According to the Northland District Health Board, in 2012 there were 56 kidney, 34 liver, 13 lung, 12 heart and three pancreas transplantations in NZ. There is currently a long waiting list for organs, particularly kidneys (in excess of 500). Many of these people will die before an organ is available.

There is currently a long waiting list for organs, particularly kidneys (in excess of 500). Many of these people will die before an organ is available.

Catterall said that even with "family member in crisis" situations and death being both reasonably common in the grand scheme of things, there are always people outside of these scenarios needing functional organs. "It seems so sensible, a minor inconvenience to me and three to six weeks off work [for me to] save a life, and tens of thousands of dollars in dialysis." Catterall found that beginning the donation process was a little confusing at first — "maybe that's intentional [so they] only get serious inquiries, but a more structured system with a bit of public appeal would be an easy way to save lives and money".

In terms of public appeal, Jonah Lomu, who suffers from an uncommon kidney condition called nephrotic syndrome, had a kidney transplant in 2004. The organ in question was donated by ZM Radio DJ, Grant Kereama, and it served him well until it began to fail in 2011. The search began for another donor, and the interim time waiting meant thousands of dollars spent on regular dialysis treatment. Even with such a high profile New Zealander attempting to bring light to this issue, this country continues to be static in the face of rising donation requests nationwide.

Explanations for the lower rate of donation in New Zealand tend to focus on cultural reasons. Many Maori and Polynesian people tend to not favour the transplantation practice, even though they are more likely than other New Zealanders to need one (due to a disproportionate rate of renal disease).

Sometimes a person's own spirituality may cloud their judgment. Certain religions prohibit the removal of a person's organs after death (e.g. traditional Shinto), or, in the case of Jehovah's Witnesses, the transfer of blood from one person to another. This is particularly problematic for any members who experience accidents and require blood transfusions. The church will revoke the membership of anyone who participates in a blood transfusion — even to save a life.

The Vatican has stated in the past that it strongly supports organ donation, although it is less supportive of any transplants that use stem cells. This is because originally stem cells were obtained from miscarried/aborted embryos, but this is no longer true. Eastern Orthodox Christianity takes a similar view.

Hinduism and Buddhism have no specific rules regarding the donation of organs; instead, the decision is left to each individual's own conscience. Mainstream thinking in both religions, however, tends to view the act of organ donation as admirable and compassionate. Similarly, Islam supports organ donation; many Muslim people see it as charitable or required to preserve life.

Catterall has shown little hesitation in his quest to donate his kidney to someone who desperately needs it, and it seems that

AS A STUDENT WHO STRUGGLES TO PROPERLY FEED HERSELF, I WILL NOT BE COMPLAINING ABOUT THIS. ”

many people around his (Generation Y-ish) age feel similarly. "If I'm dead, I'm not using my organs. Why shouldn't someone else?" Thomas Norman is a third-year theatre studies student who has "donor" written on his driver's licence and says that he didn't think twice when ticking that little box on his licence application. "I almost feel like there's something slightly selfish about not declaring yourself a donor. Aren't you just letting yourself go to waste?" University students, as stereotypical as it may sound, tend to experience a shift toward more open-minded attitudes during their time in study, and perhaps it is during this period that we should be asking more questions about donation (organ and blood alike). As the organ donation process tends to require around three months of rest afterward, it is an option perhaps best considered before settling yourself into a full-time, full-year career.

Approximately 53 percent of New Zealand driver's licence holders have said "yes" to being classified as donors. This seems like a good figure, until you realise that, in the event of a person's death, the final say on whether or not their organs will be donated lies with the deceased person's family (or another executor). The time period after a person's death during which organs can be removed for donation is very short, leaving a small window for a person's family members to make the call on whether or not their kin's organs will be donated. Therein lies one of the biggest reasons why New Zealand has such a low rate of donation. Family members may not have been made clear of the deceased's donation wishes, and in the sadness of grief they choose to keep their person "whole".

One of the simplest ways a person can use what their body has given them to help others is by donating blood. Only four percent of New Zealanders currently donate, when up to three people's lives could be saved from a single donation. According to the New Zealand Blood Service, up to 3000 donations are required each and every week to meet our hospital needs.

Sarah Bolton donates blood every month, and she will enthusiastically encourage anyone who asks about it to do

the same. "My blood type is O- and my mother has the same. She donated from the time she was 25 through to 45, when she starting taking medication that meant she couldn't anymore." It was this dedication that inspired Bolton to start donating once her mother no longer could. With the most requested blood type on the planet, O- people are a valuable commodity. There are no restrictions on who can and cannot receive a blood transfusion from this type of blood. "It's a few minutes out of my day every month, plus I get juice and biscuits during the process. As a student who struggles to properly feed herself, I will not be complaining about this."

In terms of health risks, death during surgery sits at around a 0.03 percent risk. This is far lower than the risk of being in a road accident while driving in Auckland (which is 0.19 percent according to the Ministry of Transport). Kidney donors exist in a highly selective and necessarily healthy group and research is still conflicting as to whether there is significant long-term health effects.

It is illegal to pay anyone to donate their organs or blood to ensure there are genuinely altruistic reasons for donating. The only country where it is legal to donate a kidney is in Iran and Australia is close too having recently introduced the idea of offsetting lost wages from the hospitalisation period. They will pay the minimum wage for up to six weeks. However the ethics of paying people for donating organs is too much of an issue – do we want a society where the poor are a source of organs for those with the dollars?

If you're a donor, you need to make it clear. Tell your family, tell your friends; you don't need to go over the top with it, but at least say, "Hey, I just wanted to let you know that if anything bad were ever to happen to me, I'd like my organs to be donated to people who need them." Or at the very least, perhaps next time the New Zealand Blood Service swings by campus, you can drop in for a visit ■





IMMORTALITY

THE ETERNAL SEARCH

AMBER ALLOTT

In just about every culture, across the world and throughout time, humankind has invariably sought a single thing: eternal life. Ancient mythologies are strewn with tales of dashing heroes and cunning tricksters who achieve it, and with mystical artifacts that can bestow it. Historically, immortality has defined both the arts and the sciences. Immortality was the goal that drove alchemists to experimentation, and it has inspired writers and storytellers across the globe. To this day, it permeates the world of modern scientific discovery, and scientists from every field are constantly working towards that singular, lofty goal: cheating death.

In mythology, immortality belonged in the domain of the gods. Many pantheons didn't possess inherent immortality. Instead, it was achieved through the consumption of an assortment of magical fruits and beverages, usually reserved for the gods alone. The Greek gods drank ambrosia, believed by some scholars to be a type of honey. The devas of Hindu mythology had Amrita, or the nectar of immortality, which is brewed from the ocean itself. On the third day of the third lunar month, every thousand years, the Xian of Chinese mythology celebrate the "Feast of Peaches", a banquet dedicated to the peaches of immortality. And, of course, there are the golden apples that grant everlasting life to gods of the Norse pantheon, protected by their keeper, the goddess Idunn. Occasionally, one of the gods would see fit to bestow immortality upon a mortal by letting them partake in their forbidden

fruit, such as in the well-known story of Heracles. Usually, the mortal in question was a great and famous hero, making this method of immortality slightly out of reach of the average citizen.

With the food of the gods being ruled out as a source of eternal life, humans set about trying to create their own. One of the ultimate goals of both Chinese and western alchemy was trying to fabricate an "elixir of life", a potion that would allow people to live forever. This led, arguably, to the development of the first incarnation of the scientific method. Many Chinese emperors commissioned alchemists to seek the elixir, often with a great number of people and substantial resources at their disposal. According to a popular legend, an alchemist called Xu Fu, along with a thousand young men and women, was sent across the sea to discover the elixir and ended up discovering and settling in Japan instead. The basis of Chinese methods for developing the elixir of life involved the consumption of long-lasting or non-tarnishing metals and minerals, such as jade or gold, as well as sulfur, mercury and arsenic. Ironically, quite a few of these substances are toxic, and at least one emperor is confirmed to have died from ingesting lethal doses of them, while many are suspected to have.

Western alchemists were preoccupied with the creation of the philosopher's stone, a legendary substance capable of turning base metals into gold. It was also believed to be able to create an elixir of life, the reasoning being that as it was

capable of turning inferior metals, such as lead, to gold, believed to be the purest metal, it could possibly do the same with human flesh.

Turritopsis dohrnii, also known as the immortal jellyfish, is one of a very select list of organisms known to be biologically immortal. This means that although it can still die, usually by disease or predation, it is not susceptible to death by ageing. The species achieves this through a process called transdifferentiation. Basically, this means that while its cells are differentiating, or changing from one form to another, they are altered and turned into new types of cells. Therefore, when the mature jellyfish, the medusa, is faced with stress, either environmental or physical, or is at risk of succumbing to age or illness, it is capable of reverting quite rapidly to its juvenile form, the polyp. Inspired by the unique transdifferentiation method of these jellyfish, scientists have been researching ways that this process could be used to create stem cells in order to repair damaged human tissue. Potentially, this technology could be used to turn back the hands of time for humans, allowing us to reverse the process of ageing.

This is far from the only way in which modern scientists are endeavouring to create biological immortality in humans. Another method, in a seemingly direct homage to the alchemists and their elixir of life, is through the use of substances, both natural and artificial, that are known to increase the life expectancy of

an organism. One such substance is the enzyme, telomerase. Telomerase forms caps on the ends of chromosomes, which help to protect them from deterioration. The caps suffer wear and tear as we age, with the damage eventually leading to cell death. Researchers believe that increasing the amount of telomerase in the body could prevent this, and experiments at the Spanish National Cancer Centre on mice have shown that the animals which were genetically engineered to produce ten times the average level of telomerase lived up to fifty percent longer. The leader of the research team, Dr. María Blasco Marhuenda, told *New Scientist* magazine that the enzyme was capable of turning, "a normal, mortal cell into an immortal cell". She added, "I think it is very hard to extrapolate data from mouse ageing to human ageing." But she was optimistic that this approach could eventually be used to increase the human lifespan.

With the constant development of technology that has marked the twenty-first century, it was inevitable that at least some of this would be dedicated to the

quest for immortality. Several promising areas of research demonstrate the potential uses of technology in prolonging human life, ranging from nanotechnology, to "mind-uploading", to cryonics (think Fry in *Futurama*), to human cloning, to the transferral of human consciousness into new, robotic bodies.

Nanotechnology deals with dimensions less than 100 nanometres, with a particular focus on the manipulation of individual atoms or molecules. Robert Freitas, a senior research fellow at the Institute for Molecular Manufacturing in California and nanorobotics theorist, wrote a detailed technical study of a hypothetical medical nanorobot, called the respirocyte. Respirocytes are microscopic red blood cells that perform the same functions as real red blood cells, only with over two hundred times more efficiency. As red blood cells transport and store oxygen, then in theory, if an adult human were to replace all of their red blood cells with respirocytes, they would be able to survive a heart attack for several hours, enabling them to seek help. They could also dive underwater for hours

on a single breath, sprint for fifteen minutes without breathing and greatly reduce muscle fatigue. Freitas has also proposed microbivores, a nanorobotic white blood cell that could hunt and attack pathogens, bacteria and cancerous cells. He believes that nanotechnology will eventually make the human body a self-sustaining system, with the ability to live on indefinitely.

What can be defined as a cyborg is a little unclear, but having nanorobots replacing blood cells would almost certainly qualify, as would many of the other technological methods of life extension. What people would generally consider to be a cyborg, a human with mechanical implants or body parts, technically already exists, with organs having the potential to be replaced with robotic replacements or enhancements, such as pacemakers. Lately, an increasing amount of research has been devoted to taking this a little further, transferring consciousness into an entirely robotic replacement body. According to their website, the overarching goal of the 2045 Initiative, a community of researchers in the field of life extension,

“TO LIVE FOR ITS OWN SAKE IS TO NOT LIVE AT ALL.”

Mark Edmundson, University of Virginia

is "to create technologies enabling the transfer of an individual's personality to a more advanced non-biological carrier, and extending life, including to the point of immortality". The group's founder, Dmitry Itskov, first plans to create a robot capable of being controlled by a human brain, then to actually transplant a human brain into a robotic body and, finally, to eliminate any surgical procedures by uploading human consciousness straight into its new, entirely mechanised, body. Itskov aims to have all phases of his plan, the Avatar project, complete within the next thirty years, by 2045. As prosthetic limbs capable of being controlled by the human brain have already been developed, it looks like phase one could be a real possibility in the near future.

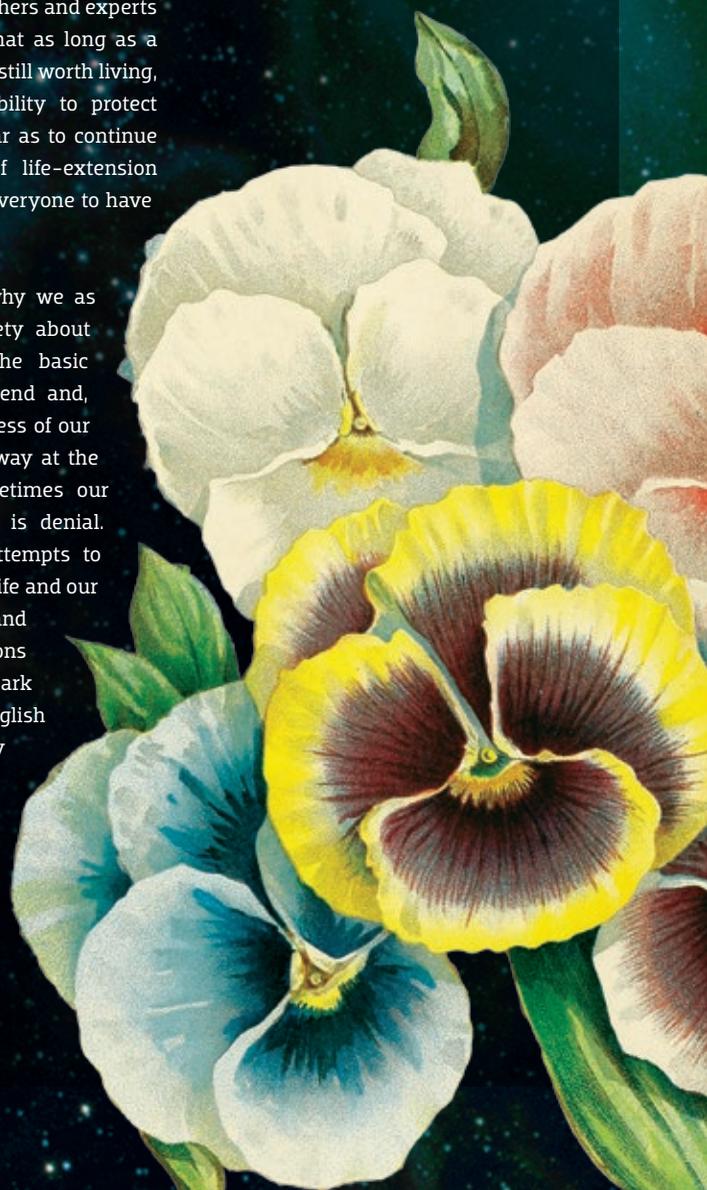
As for the next phases, researchers around the world have already made relevant breakthroughs. Interest in transferring human consciousness — our unique thoughts, memories, feelings, sensations and the individual awareness we have of them — has been going on for quite some time. Our consciousness exists within our neurons, or brain cells. When they fire in certain patterns, it causes the recollection of different memories, emotions and sensations. The OpenWorm organisation is dedicated to creating the first virtual organism in a computer, believing that in order to fully understand the human brain, we must first be able to comprehend a simple worm. You can't get much more simple than *Caenorhabditis elegans*, which has only 302 neurons, which are already thoroughly mapped and understood. Recently, its nervous system was successfully transplanted into a Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot. This was achieved by reverse-engineering its neural networks using computer software and using User Datagram Protocol packets which fire neurons in response to environmental stimuli so that the robot is able to react in a similar way to the living organism. One of OpenWorm's founders, Timothy Busbice, said in a recent interview with Gizmodo: "What we found is that rather than just random, crazy movements by the robot, it

actually responded to its environment in the same manner as the biological worm."

As clinical intervention makes biological immortality more and more of a possibility, it inevitably leads to a whole range of questions, ethical, medical, philosophical, religious and moral. Issues to consider include increased intensity of problems related to overpopulation, which would make radical life extension unethical. Other potential issues include the economic drain and social disparities that would arise, the nature of human personality over an extended period of time, and whether physical immortality would even be desirable. It is a common plot element in fiction to have immortal characters be rather angsty about the whole situation, which is perfectly understandable when you consider that they have watched everyone they love grow old and die. On the other hand, some philosophers and experts in medical ethics argue that as long as a person believes that life is still worth living, it is our moral responsibility to protect their life, even going so far as to continue with the development of life-extension programmes in order for everyone to have a choice.

It's easy to understand why we as humans experience anxiety about death. We all possess the basic knowledge that life will end and, with this constant awareness of our own mortality gnawing away at the back of our minds, sometimes our only defence mechanism is denial. Some argue that both attempts to engineer ways to prolong life and our obsession with health and fitness are manifestations of our fear of death. Mark Edmundson, an English professor at the University of Virginia, says to live for its own sake is to not live at all. "Since the beginning of time (or close), men and women have sought

immortality. They have sought to live as the gods do — eternally and in bliss," he writes. The difference between humans and the gods, in Edmundson's view, is that the gods were not content with merely being alive. "Gods live forever in order to make things, to create where there was nothing, and to enjoy the fruits of their creation." In this vein of thought, people should try to live as meaningfully as they can, rather than wanting to prolong life simply for the sake of continuing to exist. Wanting to live should inspire motivation and ambition, rather than being the end goal ■





LSD Lovin' with Jim Cooper

» BRETT MCDOWELLGALLERY | EXHIBITED 24 JULY – 13 AUGUST

BY JESS TAYLOR

On spotting the unassuming Brett McDowell Gallery on Dunedin's Dowling Street, there is no trace of the trippy wonders bursting behind the gallery's old wooden doors. The works beyond were crafted by a homegrown artistic hero, Jim Cooper, and come together in an exciting exhibition — Mine Mine Mind — on show at the gallery from 24 July to 13 August.

Cooper was born on the West Coast, but studied ceramics at Otago Polytechnic and later returned to the institution as a senior lecturer. Cooper is a talented sculptor and has made a

name for himself by creating slightly disfigured yet colourful and interesting sculptures of people and animals, most famously recreating in 3D the cover for the Beatles' album, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. While Cooper has his base in Sawyers Bay, he hasn't exhibited any of his works in Dunedin for around three and a half years because of his busy schedule, often taking six-month working stints in Taiwan. That is, until now.

Cooper has returned with a vengeance, straying from his tried and true sculpture work into new territory. The gallery curator at Brett

McDowell tells me Cooper likes to call these new works "sewings", which doesn't quite do them justice. Cooper's works are a swirling mass of colour and abstract shape, made up of painstakingly arranged strips of fabric he has attached to boards. The intricacy of the works up close is astounding. Cooper uses so many different patterns and colours that the viewer becomes deeply absorbed, almost lost in the work. Some of the "sewings" appear reminiscent of Aztec patterns, although a little wobblier and a whole lot brighter. Neon strips, velvet and patterned pieces are woven together in a maze, and although the finished result manages to refrain from being brash, these "sewings" appeal to both young and old. From afar, the works are like gargantuan children's drawings, intense visual experiences dominating the white walls of the gallery. They would be an adult's nightmare in any other scenario, but in here they are a sight to behold.

The works depict a range of subjects, and were strongly influenced by the swinging sixties and Cooper's own experiences of taking LSD. One piece is dedicated to musician Jimi Hendrix, another, "Cranford Street Snail", is dedicated to the street on which he first experimented with LSD. The first piece in the collection, "Day-glo Nazis", is one of his most interesting, featuring a trio of men emblazoned with swastikas. He even does a piece called "Bernina Man & Little Tongue", which alludes to the sewing machine he used to bring these pieces together.

Cooper is truly breaking new ground, and the gallery curator is quick to predict that we will see Cooper continue with this new style of work for years to come. It is clear that Cooper could take endless directions with this technique, and I look forward to what new works he'll undoubtedly pull out of the bag.

With contributions to the art world so vibrant, fresh and enchanting, the world could do with a whole lot more of Jim Cooper. ○

www.dunedin.art.museum

ART

DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY

free+30 THE OCTAGON+DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL DEPT.

ZINA SWANSON FOR LUCK

For Luck consists of a large site-specific tiled sculpture, reminiscent of bathroom décor, which provides the backdrop for several smaller sculptures and a series of works on paper. SHOWING NOW - ENDS 30 AUGUST





INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

FOR THE BROTH

- 1 **small whole** chicken, skin removed
- 2 chicken breasts (optional)
- 2 **large** onions, skinned and chopped in half
- 3cm of ginger, chopped into 0.5cm slices
- 4 **cloves** garlic
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 **whole** star anise
- 2 **tablespoons** coriander seeds
- 1 **teaspoon** fennel seeds (or ½ teaspoon ground fennel)
- 2 **teaspoons** salt
- ¼ **cup** fish sauce
- 2 **litres** hot water (or as much as you can fit in your slow cooker)

TOPPINGS

- 1 **packet (400g)** of rice noodles or flat noodles up to 5mm wide
- 4 bok choy, sliced in half lengthways
- 2 **cups** mung bean sprouts
- 1 **large handful** fresh coriander leaves
- 2 **red** chillis, sliced
- **half a** red onion, very thinly sliced
- 2 **stalks of** spring onion, sliced
- 1 **lime**, sliced into wedges



Pho Ga (Vietnamese Chicken Noodle Soup)

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

Pho, pronounced "fa" is a clear broth soup full of noodles, herbs, chilli and the meat of your choice. It is really healthy and has flavour enough to knock your socks off.

The broth is the most important part of this whole dish. Making your own really makes a difference but if you really CBF acquiring a whole chicken, then buy a good quality chicken stock and boil it away with the other broth ingredients for an hour or two.

METHOD

1. Start making the broth the day or night before. Take your whole chicken and break off the legs if need be in order to fit everything below the proposed water line in the slow cooker. Place your chicken in a large saucepan full of boiling water. Boil the chicken away for 5–10 minutes to remove the weird pinkish scum. Drain off this water, rinse the chicken, and place it in the slow cooker.
2. In a small frying pan with a splash of oil, fry the onion halves and slices of ginger flat side down until they start to char slightly. Flip the ginger slices halfway through too and add garlic. Once ever so slightly charred, place in the slow cooker with the chicken.
3. Add in all the spices and the salt, then top the cooker up with the boiling water (if you can't fit all two litres in, don't worry, you can add it later once you strain the stock).
4. Pop on the lid and leave to cook away on high overnight (so, 12 hours).
5. Once the cooking time is up, strain the contents of the slow cooker through a sieve and into a large bowl or container. Try to skim the fat off the top with a spoon or leave the stock to cool in the fridge then scoop off the fat once it has solidified.
6. Pick at the bones, removing as much meat as you can and shredding it into pieces as you go. Keep this meat stored in the fridge until you want to serve your pho.
7. Warm up your broth and your chicken meat (if you let it cool). Bring a small saucepan of water to the boil and cook your rice noodles for a few minutes until al dente. Strain the noodles and divide between the bowls. Bring another pan of water to the boil and cook the bok choy halves for a minute until they turn a bright green, then strain and place into the bowls alongside the noodles. Divide the chicken between the bowls before pouring over the broth. Make sure you add almost two cups to each bowl so that it comes up well above the noodles. Top each bowl with the mung bean sprouts, fresh coriander, chilli, red onion, spring onion and a squeeze or two of lime juice.



YOUR SATURDAY STARTS HERE...

**BACON BUTTIES, CREPES,
GOURMET PORRIDGE,
DETOX JUICES, &
FRESH FRUIT & VEGE.**

*Seasonal, local, healthy
& affordable*

**EVERY SATURDAY MORNING
DUNEDIN RAILWAY STATION**

www.otagofarmersmarket.co.nz



The Guest

» DIRECTED BY **ADAM WINGARD**



REVIEWED BY **JAXON LANGLEY**

In 2011, director Adam Wingard and writer Simon Barrett debuted their slasher film, *You're Next*. The pair have now returned with *The Guest* — a thriller film with gore and pitch-black humour that offers the audience a slightly different take on home invasions.

Following the death of the Petersens' eldest son, Caleb (Chris Harding), the family is struggling to cope with the pressures of everyday life. Having promised to look after

Caleb's family, his comrade and former soldier, David Collins (Dan Stevens), ventures to the Petersens' home and Mrs Petersen (Sheila Kelly) offers him a place to stay. During his time with the family, David becomes aware of the turmoil the family is experiencing. In an attempt to fix the family's troubles, David assumes the role of surrogate son and older brother figure in the household. Everyone in the family grows fond of David, except for

Anna (Maika Monroe), who, despite his efforts, becomes suspicious that he isn't as genuine as he appears. Learning more about David's past, Anna slowly realises that her family's lives are in more danger than she initially imagined.

The Guest is a generic thriller that draws clear inspiration from the 80s direction of John Carpenter, the man responsible for the *Halloween* franchise. While the film does play on tiresome genre conventions, its sharp writing and strong cast ensure that it is cleverly self-aware. In the role of the pretty boy anti-hero, Stevens is as charismatic as he is terrifying, and the actors who play the Petersens realistically capture the uncomfortable atmosphere that pervades their household. From the passive grieving mother to the father who binge drinks to cope, the constantly bullied teenage son and the reluctant teenage daughter who can't stand any of them, the actors convincingly fulfil and also deconstruct the archetypal, all-American family.

Although predictable and, at times, ridiculous, *The Guest* is deceptively intelligent, which makes for a thrilling 100 minutes. ○

Self/less

» DIRECTED BY **TARSEM SINGH**



REVIEWED BY **ANDREW KWIATKOWSKI**

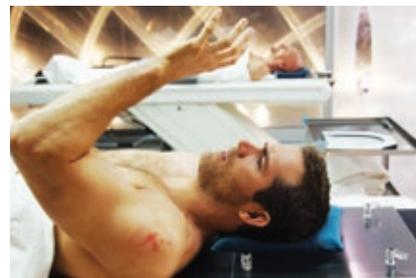
Disappointingly, it turns out that everything good in this movie was packed into the trailer.

Diagnosed with terminal cancer, Damian Hayes (Ben Kingsley) is directed to Professor Albright (Matthew Goode) who tells him about "shedding" — a medical procedure where your consciousness can be transferred to an artificial body. The only side effect of this procedure is vivid hallucinations, which Albright assures Damian can be reduced with prescribed medication. After going through with the procedure, Damian inadvertently steals the body of a younger, healthier family man, Mark Hale (Ryan Reynolds).

Forgetting to take his medication, the

protagonist's vivid hallucinations are of a woman and child in St. Louis. Damian questions Albright about the hallucinations and eventually travels to St. Louis. There, he meets Madeline (Natalie Martinez), who tells him that he is her dead husband. Realising that his body had once belonged to a real person, their lives are placed in danger as Albright's employees attempt to track them down.

The film's trailer appears to offer the audience a philosophical debate that asks, "is it okay to save your own life if you take someone else's?" Instead, *Self/less* focuses on the gimmick of the mind-transplanting machine and on trying to out-fox the evil black-suited men running it. It is not a story about complex characters



facing heartbreaking decisions, but about the MacGuffin itself. With its recycled science-fiction trope, films such as *The Island* and *Never Let Me Go* feature much more compelling retellings than *Self/less* does.

A scant fifteen minutes of Ben Kingsley's captivating performance is not enough. Ryan Reynolds makes no attempt to act like Kingsley's established character and, as a result, the film holds very little weight with the audience. *Self/less* offers us an underwhelming story made all the more dissatisfying by its initial promise. ●



KIWI HOSTING 2016

Are you interested in flatting in 2016 with International students from around the world?

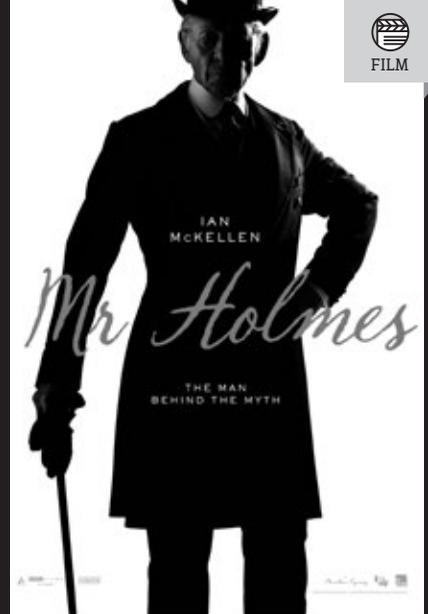
If you are - applications are now being accepted for Kiwi Hosting in 2016
Call into the Uni Flats Office @ 105 St David Street for an application pack

For further information: croisella.trengrove@otago.ac.nz | otago.ac.nz/uniflats

Mr Holmes

» DIRECTED BY **BILL CONDON**

REVIEWED BY **MAYA DODD**



In my mind, Benedict Cumberbatch will always be Sherlock Holmes. My utter love for Benedict Cumberbatch in this role made me a little sceptical of Ian McKellen's portrayal of Sherlock Holmes in *Mr. Holmes*, but his performance is worthy of recognition and, perhaps, even an Oscar.

Mr. Holmes brings to life director Bill Condon's imagined version of a retired Sherlock, who lives a solitary lifestyle with his housekeeper, her son and his own failing memory. The film follows Holmes as he endeavours to recall his final case — one that took place thirty-five years earlier and is the reason he has become a recluse. His housekeeper, Mrs Munro (Laura Linney), disapproves of Sherlock and his arrogant ways, while her son, Roger (Milo Parker), finds him intriguing. After discovering that Roger has broken into his study and read

his rendition of the final case, Holmes grows fond of Roger and a grandfather-grandson relationship develops between the pair.

Holmes' desire for prickly ash (a Japanese plant found only in the region of Hiroshima), his dire attempts to remember his final case, Mrs Munro's threat to leave for a more accommodating job elsewhere, and Roger's brush with death intertwine, create a riveting film. However, one disappointment was the director's discontinuous cinematic style. As the plot centres on Holmes writing the story of his final case, he often has a fountain pen in his hand. But as the shots move from his writing to his surroundings, the pen tends to magically appear in different places. This sloppiness detracts from the sentimentality of these scenes. Thankfully, McKellen's characterisation of the aged detective offers genuine

human emotion that allowed me to overlook the film's stylistic flaws.

McKellen's ability to switch seamlessly from an older to a younger version of Sherlock resulted in an admirably clear depiction of the two and, ultimately, *Mr. Holmes* owes its success to its main actor. ○



The Mafia Kills Only in Summer (La mafia uccide solo d'estate)

» DIRECTED BY **PIERFRANCESCO "PIF" DILIBERTO**

REVIEWED BY **GRETA MELVIN**

In *The Mafia Kills Only in Summer*, Pierfrancesco "Pif" Diliberto portrays Sicilian life from the 1970s to the 90s — a time when the Mafia, known as the Cosa Nostra, were fighting for supremacy against government officials. Despite this serious subject matter, this film is actually a black comedy and the Mafia activity is secondary to the main plot, which is about a romantic crush that spans more than a decade.

Set in Palermo, Sicily, the film is narrated

by an adult Arturo (Pif), who describes how he has been in love with Flora (Christiana Capotondi) since they were children. Taking the audience back in time to his conception, Arturo explains how the Mafia have played a role in his whole life. Reflecting back on his childhood, the film's main plot is set in motion when a younger Arturo (Alex Bisconti) falls in love with Flora (Ginevra Antona), a new student in his class. Channelling his idol, Giulio Andreotti, Arturo attempts to win Flora's

affection with a visit to the graveyard and the gift of an iris a day — a scheme that goes horribly, hilariously wrong. Before Arturo is finally able to profess his love, however, Flora announces that she is moving to Switzerland.

Reaching adulthood, Arturo works for television presenter, Jean Pierre (Maurizio Marchetti), as a piano accompanist. Despite being unsatisfied with his job and preferring to be a journalist, Arturo is randomly reunited with Flora on Jean Pierre's set. Now an assistant for politician Salvo Lima (Totò Borgese), his childhood crush has returned to Italy and even arranges for him to be the reporter for Lima's campaign. Not only does he jump at the opportunity to work as a journalist, he also attempts to rekindle an old flame. But with the Mafia still dominant in Palermo, his life is once again affected by their actions.

Although Flora's character seems to fall into the pothole of being a crutch for the male protagonist's development, Pif's ability to incorporate archival footage into the comedic plot involving Arturo's love for Flora creates an engaging balance between history, satire and romance. Pif's seamless infusion of humour and reality delivers an amusing story with a strong political message. ●



"ON MY BUSINESS CARD,
I AM A CORPORATE PRESIDENT.
IN MY MIND, I AM A GAME DEVELOPER.
BUT IN MY HEART, I AM A GAMER."

SATORU IWATA, 1959-2015

IMAGE of Mr Iwata: CC2.0 (flickr: Official GDC)

Gaming World Grieves Loss of Icon

» NINTENDO PRESIDENT, IWATA, DIES

BY BRANDON JOHNSTONE

In mid-July, gaming (and arguably wider pop culture) lost an icon and a hero. Satoru Iwata, president of Nintendo, passed away, on to the great Rainbow Road in the sky. Although corporate leaders die all the time, Iwata was an exemplary president, and his life and death warrant conversations about how passion can strengthen business, what makes an inspirational leader and what makes a great human.

Iwata earned some serious credibility over the course of his career by climbing the ranks of the gaming industry and quietly improving the gaming world as he went. Iwata began his career as a lowly unpaid intern for Commodore. That's the Commodore, creators of the Commodore 64, the highest selling model of home computer ever made. Being the geek he was, Iwata formed a coding and game-creation club with a group of friends ... a club that would grow to become HAL Laboratory, the games developer that created *EarthBound*, *Kirby* and, of course, *Super Smash Brothers*. HAL clearly had strong ties with Nintendo, to the point of Nintendo's then president advocating successfully for Iwata to become the president of HAL in the early '90s.

That relationship only grew stronger, and through it Iwata improved thousands of childhoods across the globe. While still working at

HAL in the late '90s, Iwata began assisting Nintendo with the *Pokemon* series. Not only did he allow for the inexpensive creation of *Pokemon Stadium*, Iwata is the sole reason that you can visit the entire Kanto region in *Pokemon Gold* and *Silver*. But wait, there's more — *Gold* and *Silver* were intended to be the final instalments in the *Pokemon* series, but the franchise continued due to the popularity of those games.

Eventually Nintendo could no longer handle the idea of not having Iwata on their payroll, and he was employed as the head of Nintendo's wide-reaching Corporate Planning Division in 2000. In spite of this, Iwata was known to work alongside those beneath his position, assisting in code-writing and ensuring that game development could be cheaper and quicker than ever before. It was this attitude and these accomplishments that led to Nintendo's then president, Yamauchi, stepping down in 2002 and leaving Iwata as the first ever Nintendo president to not be part of the Yamauchi family.

As president, Iwata led the company to many great victories through innovative gaming platforms such as the Nintendo DS and Wii, pioneering dual-screen gaming and reinventing motion controls. These successes led Iwata to be viewed as a great business president by allies and rivals alike. However, the man truly

became a great leader through his failures. He faced corporate failings head-on. In a virtually unheard of move, he sliced his own salary on two separate occasions both as an admission of guilt for the business's losses and to help Nintendo fight more competitively against rival systems.

Iwata's passion is the reason that Nintendo can create games that five and 50 year olds can both enjoy, games based on joy and wonderment rather than epic scale or microtransactions. And they still turn a profit while doing business in the same industry as titans like Sony and Microsoft. Rivals who, by the way, joined in grieving and sharing messages of sadness with their communities.

Satoru Iwata might just be the most universally adored figure in the gaming industry. He was a man who was impossible to hate, he genuinely cared about Nintendo's followers and he was adorably quirky (staring at bananas for no reason being his famous intro to the 2012 E3 conference). He would star in promotional material (search YouTube for "Iwata vs Reggie", thank me later) and deliver updates to fans himself through the video series *Nintendo Direct*.

This legend won't be forgotten any time soon.



On Immunity: An Inoculation

» WRITTEN BY **EULA BISS**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

On Immunity: An Inoculation, by Eula Biss, is the author's personal meditation on vaccinations and the web of subjects she connects to them, including disease, safety, motherhood and social responsibility. Biss looks at the metaphors and legends of immunity, the social ramifications of humanity's innate fear of contamination, and the distrust communities all over the world have towards their own governments. She makes more than one literary analysis of Bram Stoker's novel, *Dracula*. She examines the language of vaccination alongside concise presentations of the medical facts, and ultimately produces a philosophical conclusion about the interconnected state of humanity.

On Immunity is a fascinating book. Biss provides the reader with a huge selection of thought-provoking ideas. She switches from one subject to another with remarkable speed, which can be jarring, but she has given herself the task of taking a seemingly small subject and touching upon almost everything connected to it, from Greek myth to class snobbery. The resulting number of clearly expressed ideas, in what is quite a short book, is astonishing, as are the book's exhaustive

facts. The CIA, for example, used a fake vaccination campaign as part of its pursuit of Osama bin Laden, which resulted in actual vaccinators being murdered by the Taliban. The term "conscientious objector" began with people who objected to vaccinating their children, and only decades later was used for people who did not want to go to war. The etymology of vaccination comes from the Latin *vacca*, which means cow. Around 1898, "when smallpox arrived in Middlesboro, Kentucky, everyone in the black section of town who resisted vaccination was vaccinated at gunpoint".

Although Biss occasionally comes off as overly sympathetic to the anti-vaccination crowd, she does make valid points about their position. In making her case, Biss outlines examples of twentieth-century psychologists who liked to blame mothers for causing various illnesses. Schizophrenia was blamed on over-bearing mothers. Homosexuality was still considered a mental illness, and was also blamed on anxious mothers coddling their children. And autism was blamed on "refrigerator" mothers, who were cold and

heartless. Biss says "Those who went on to use Wakefield's inconclusive work to support the notion that vaccines cause autism are not guilty of ignorance or science denial so much as they are guilty of using weak science as it has always been used — to lend false credibility to an idea that we want to believe for other reasons." It is easy to see the temptation of an external cause for a mother who has been told that the reason her child is different from other children is because she didn't love her child correctly.



This does lead to a gap in Biss's wide range of topics. At one point she says, "Diversity is essential to the health of any ecosystem. But the language we use around racial diversity, particularly the word tolerance, tends to imply that other people

are essentially a nuisance, and disguises the fact that we need and depend on each other." But despite this pro-diversity statement, Biss never gets around to articulating the concept of neurodiversity and how being autistic might not be the worst thing ever. Many autistic people have found the anti-vaccination movement's constant squealings of horror about how autistic children should be prevented at any cost to be alarming and insulting. Biss never mentions this and, if this book was one's sole source of information on the subject, one could be misled to concluding that autism is as awful as polio.

Despite this negligence, Biss's clarity of thought is well worth experiencing. The sheer scale of subjects she manages to deal with is impressive. Paired with such a fascinating and contentious subject, *On Immunity: An Inoculation* will inject a wealth of information into your week. ●



START THE ADVENTURE



261 George St | 03 474 0146 | dunedin@stores.statravel.co.nz



Singles Reviews

» REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

New Tracks

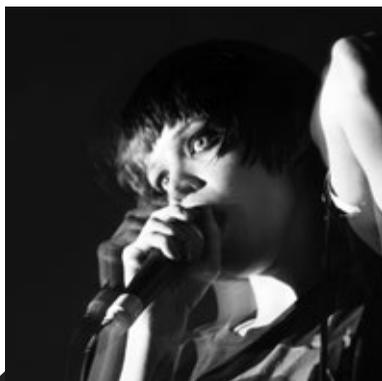


IMAGE: CC BY-NC 2.0 (flickr: Redheadwalking)

Alice Glass

"Stillborn"



Thundercat

"Them Changes"

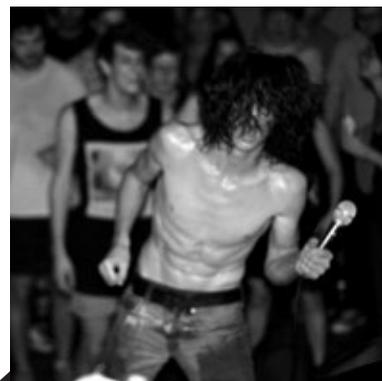


IMAGE: CC BY-NC 2.0 (flickr: Jimmy Morris)

Dope Body

"Old Grey"

After releasing a trilogy of stunning records together as Crystal Castles, musicians Alice Glass and Ethan Kath parted ways late last year. The immediate (and sexist) assumption was that Ethan was the true creative brawn while Alice's role was a superficial one, offering nothing more than her vocal talents and stage presence. As Alice's new single "Stillborn" proves, that supposition couldn't be further from the truth.

Released alongside "Stillborn" was a lengthy statement detailing the inspiration for the song, namely the abusive relationship Alice was trapped in earlier in her life. It is remarkable how well "Stillborn" translates a sense of imprisonment. It is driven by a morse-code pulse of pulverising synths, which pound against the walls of the song, demanding freedom. Alice's vocals are as haunting as ever as she seamlessly transitions between fury and fragility.

As much as I love Crystal Castles, "Stillborn" packs more of a sonic and emotional punch than 90 percent of their material. It seems most people underestimated Alice Glass. If "Stillborn" is anything to go by, she is a creative force that four walls cannot contain.

Stephen Bruner is an immensely talented bassist and singer from Los Angeles. Most of his career has seen him supplementing other people's music, including the jazztronica of Flying Lotus and the sonic sprawl of Kendrick Lamar's recent opus, *To Pimp a Butterfly*. It would appear, however, that Thundercat kicks just as much ass on his own.

"Them Changes" is a slinking, colourful track, hinged on a steady beat and a liquid bass groove. On this beguiling rhythmic foundation, dance a host of other features, including rich saxophones and Bruner's own velveteen voice. The cosmic swirl of "Them Changes" recalls the interstellar funk of George Clinton's legendary groups Parliament and Funkadelic, as well as some of the grooves on D'Angelo's massive comeback last year, *Black Messiah*. However, unlike the unashamedly old-school aesthetics of *Black Messiah*, "Them Changes" has a kaleidoscopic richness to it. Maybe all of those collaborations with Flying Lotus left their mark on Thundercat.

Inspect "Them Changes" closely, however, and you'll find a striking heartache at its core. Despondent lyrics that Thundercat sneaks in include "I can't find my heart" and the bold proclamation that he's a "heartless, broken mess". Ouch. Masterfully groovy and comprised of a dozen shifting layers, "Them Changes" is a conflicted puzzle you need to piece together.

Dope Body are a noisy Baltimore quartet signed to the Drag City record label. Contrasting with the rustic folk of label mates like Joanna Newsom and Faun Fables, Dope Body offer scrappy blasts of punk that evoke the grit and frustration of living in the city.

On their new song "Old Grey", Andrew Laumann spits lines about trash cans and sleeping in the streets as his bandmates tear through one of the fiercest grooves you're likely to hear this year.

In terms of influences, "Old Grey" makes more than a few nods and winks to other artists. The way Laumann yelps at the forefront of the song is reminiscent of the deranged style of David Yow, singer of The Jesus Lizard and Scratch Acid. The squalling riff of "Old Grey" is equal parts Alice in Chains grunge and the delicious pitch-shifting of Muse's "Citizen Erased".

If you've ever wondered what it's like to chew on rusted nails and broken glass, then take a bite out of "Old Grey".

Arcee

» ALBUM REVIEW

BY DANIEL MUNRO

Rona Wignall, aka Arcee, is a hip hop artist hailing from Dunedin. While studying a Bachelor of Music, Arcee also uses her talents on the mic as a rapper. Arcee is set to release her highly anticipated self-titled debut album this Friday,

Lyrics so often come second to beats and adlibs with hip hop these days. Arcee is definitely not following this degradation of the craft. Her lyrics are the focal point of her tracks and tell vivid stories with ease. The latest single of the album, "Rebound", is a prime example of her ability. The song expresses the limbo of a post-breakup period. Arcee portrays the emotions of a rebound and how you don't want hurt the person but inevitably will. "The songs on *The Arcee LP* are all about introducing Arcee and my life, hence the self-titled album," she says.

Arcee can go from a huge party track like "Go Hard" one minute and slow it right down with the likes of "Nightmares" the next. She's not a one-trick pony and neither is the producer, Daz. As Arcee herself put it: "He's a low-key genius when it comes to producing." His electronic beats perfectly accompany a 12 pack of Codys on a Thursday, while the laid-back tunes are more suited to Coronas and the beach.

The attitude Arcee brings to *The Arcee LP* is raw. "I've always said, don't shut down an idea unless you have a better one, I'm saying New Zealand needs a female MC that's world class." Arcee is definitely happy carrying the torch for female MCs in the country, but I also get the feeling she may give others the courage to try. Her boldness is astounding and in a genre dominated by males, Arcee holds her own.

The *Arcee LP* is set to be released this Friday and she's also throwing a huge release party to celebrate. "The release is an introduction, from Arcee to New Zealand. Let me say hello by throwing the biggest hip hop party in Dunedin this year."

On the whole, I am a huge fan of the album. Her story-telling ability and versatility are second to none. This release is one of many to come, and I look forward to watching her progress as an artist. If you are into hip hop, or a good time in general, I highly recommend a listen. ○



University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a **\$30 BOOK VOUCHER**
From the University Book Shop

Could replace some of the crap pages ay. Woo!

Dear Critic,

I think that you should have a regular 'Speaker of the Week' column. As a student magazine, it would be cool if you interviewed some of the guest speakers the university has. It would be nice if physics students could learn some geography, and gender studies students some maths. Don't regurgitate what they said in the lecture though, but actually find out some stuff about them to, like favorite food, future plans, Netflix habits etc.

It would be like an awesome, albeit academic, celeb interview column.

Cheers,
Can't get enough.

Things you know

Hi Critic,

I am deeply concerned that our universe has absorbed a parallel one. If you remember the BerenstEin bear, spelled with an E, then you remember the pre-absorption universe. It is now spelled BerenstAin, with an A, and all historical evidence shows this was always the spelling.

It is real I'm telling you!

Sincerely,
Mad Marcus



| | |
|--|--|
| PICKUP VALUE RANGE FROM \$4.99 <small>EACH PICK UP WITH 2015 STUDENT ID DUNEDIN NORTH ONLY</small> | PICKUP TRADITIONAL FROM \$8.99 <small>EACH PICK UP WITH 2015 STUDENT ID DUNEDIN NORTH ONLY</small> |
|--|--|

Domino's
DUNEDIN NORTH
736 GREAT KING ST

NOTICES

OUSA 2016 Executive Elections (all 10 positions) + Te Roopu Māori Executive
Nominations will be opening on **8th September** and closing on **15th September** Voting will take place electronically - **21-30 September 2015**. For further information contact secretary@ousa.org.nz

13 August 2015 // Otago Medical students will put down their stethoscopes to grace the **Re:Fuel**. With a **\$5 door charge**, a feature set from Dunedin's own 'Perfect Timing', and profits going to Canteen, Med Procasti-Jam has been diagnosed the most fun you can have! **Doors open at 7.30pm.**

All signs point to no.

Hi Critic,

Can you please put the Horoscopes back in, they were a great read!

Thank you
Lucy Clapcott

We thought so too!

Hey guys,

I just wanted to say this week's critic magazine front cover was so dope. Cheers to the one behind the art.

Felicity

Ladies, please contain your rivalry!

Dear Critic,

Unlike Sue, I do not have a gold card. Nor do I have an agenda.

However, I do have enough left in my account for the Grande Churros with the Chocolate sauce.

Who is winning now Sue?

Yours Faithfully
Non- Sue

Roast that coffee on some wood

Hey Critic,

Students have been pretty good lately. I feel kinda bummed about it to be honest, it is cold and rainy and no one is warming the streets with a good couch burning. The mid term lull has set in, the daily grind is no longer a coffee pun but a very real physical state. Come On guys, where is the sense of revolution?

Thanks,
Warming Wishes



LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 200 words or fewer. Deadline is Thursday at 5pm. Send letters to critic@critic.co.nz, post them to PO Box 1436, Dunedin, or drop into the Critic office. All letters must include full contact details, even if you don't want these printed. Letters of a serious nature directly addressing a specific person or group will not be published under a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances negotiated with the Editor. Critic reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline letters without explanation. We don't fix the spelling or grammar in letters. If a writer looks stupid, it's because they are.



SNAPS
@Criticmag

ERS 6

University Book Shop

Hope you see the irony?

LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a
\$30 BOOK VOUCHER
From the University Book Shop

Who even buys textbooks anymore?

Dear chainsaw people,



Research Study

ACL surgery and rehabilitation of the knee

Seeking men and women (aged 20 – 50) to participate in this study:

- Who have injured their ACL, and underwent reconstructive surgery between 2 to 15 years ago; or
- Uninjured participants, who have not had a knee injury that required health professional care

Participants will be required to complete two laboratory sessions (2 hours in total) and an interview (optional).

For more information contact the Clinical Research Administrator:
479 4979
clinicalresearch.physio@otago.ac.nz

This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee (Health). Reference: H15/034



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers for clinical comparison studies of market brand-leading drugs alongside generic formulations of those drugs, *if you fit this criteria;*

- ✓ Male or Female, between 18-55 years
- ✓ Have no medical condition
- ✓ Non-Smoker (for at least six months)
- ✓ Not on medication (excluding female contraception pill)
- ✓ Not taken any drugs of abuse

All participants will be remunerated for their time and inconvenience

CONTACT US TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:
CALL 0800 89 82 82 E-MAIL trials@zenithtechnology.co.nz
VISIT www.zenithtechnology.co.nz



Zenith Technology Corporation LTD
136 Frederick St • PO Box 1777 • Dunedin 9054 • New Zealand

This advertisement and all studies are approved by an ethics committee accredited by the Health Research Council of New Zealand



Love is blind

Critic's infamous blind date column brings you weekly shutdowns, hilariously mismatched pairs, and the occasional hookup. Each week, we lure two singletons to Di Lusso, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email critic@critic.co.nz. But be warned – if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a *Critic* writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

Daniel Desario

He shares a room with another guy, but impotence is his real problem.

I geared up for the night with the standard preparation, cheeky pre drinks and some quality banter with the flatmates. Once I'd had sufficient liquid courage, I decided to head to Di Lusso with the encouraging "don't be a fuckwit" farewell from the lads.

I figured getting there on time would give a good impression but after waiting for 15 minutes I tossed up the possibility that I would be that guy - the one that gets stood up. Luckily she finally turned up in a somewhat drunken stride. After sharing a "not bad at all" look with the bartender we ordered some drinks and got to it. Watching her try to keep her shit together at the start was rather entertaining but it took a few minutes to get the conversation flowing. After that it was smooth sailing. We covered all the exciting topics, sport, family, uni, drugs and even discovered a mutual dislike for health science.

Somehow we barely touched the platter and she was happy to avoid cocktails to help stretch the bar tab. She even agreed to switch from lemonade and vodka to CC and dry (GB). After downing a few more drinks we left Di Lusso and ventured to my flat. We walked in to find a few of the flatmates who were on a very similar level. This led to a game of beer pong, guys vs girls, which I'm not proud to admit that we almost lost. Once the flatmates went to sleep we drank some red wine and smoked some narcotics to the sensual sounds of Ne-Yo - a pretty romantic scene it was.

Like every normal 22 year old, I share a bedroom and, in showing a great lack of faith in me, my roommate decided to sleep in our room instead of at his girlfriends. So we headed to her place, which happened to be in the same complex that I lived in last year. What followed was some alcohol and marijuana-induced intercourse, which was supported by a strong case of whisky dick. Not to worry, we got there in the end.

The next morning we parted ways. I enjoyed some nostalgia bought on by the complex surroundings and embraced the hangover to come. Top quality girl, good chat and the looks to match.

Kim Kelly

Loves exercise and partying but says one is to the detriment of the other. We think she's not quite as familiar with partying as exercise.

I only have two hours of class on a Thursday. I had plenty of time to anticipate the date, yet I put it off to the last possible moment to even consider making myself presentable. I was maring in the kitchen seriously considering standing up the poor guy, so my flatmate forced me to throw back several shots of vodka in ten minutes before offering to drive me to the venue. We looped around the block going 5km thinking every lone male was a potential before I had to face my doom.

As I crossed the street to Di Lusso, I realised I had jelly legs thanks to alcohol (not nerves this time). He was sitting at the bar, all dark haired and stuff, but I can't tell you much about his face because I was so pissed at this point I didn't know what was up or down. I was seriously starting to question my life decisions, being unable to string an actual sentence together. The connection from my brain to my vocal cords appeared to have severed so as a result I looked like an awkward idiot. Moral of the story: don't drink so much in ten minutes.

When I finally was able to think semi-straight again, banter flowed. He was chatty, easy going and cute. Not my type but never say never. We retreated to his flat and after consumption of red wine, games of beer pong, and a few cones he told me someone was 'staying' in his room. I was pretty shit-faced so I offered the luxury of my bed. After breaking into my own flat, we took a wee tumble in the sheets. Unexpected but a rather satisfying end.

Cheers to all involved for a night I will laugh about for the rest of my life.

Yik Yak

When you block your ex on every social media site and he messages you on Trade Me **313**

To the really hot girl who just winked at me with both eyes, I'm down. **444**

I thought I made a new friend today until they said 'youse guys' and I had to leave the room immediately **129**

A girl said she'd go on a date with me if I downloaded breaking bad, good thing I'm using OU-Student we'll be dating when I'm 50 **111**

Apparently someone gets stabbed in London every 52 seconds. Poor guy **134**

My grandma just told me she wishes she never married my grandfather because he's diabetic and too difficult to live with. I'm diabetic. Good one grandma **51**

I find a Ducks opinion of me is very much influenced over whether or not I have bread. **215**

Not enjoying my job at dominos, but I really need the dough **63**

When you meet someone born in the 2000's and you're just thinking to yourself 'what the fuck.' **23**

We failed the flat inspection. Had to buy a mop. For the ceiling **364**

The nightly routine of: tinder, snapchat, facebook, clash of clans and yik yak **32**

Not sure whether it's harder to climb Mt Everest or climb out of the friendzone **50**

When Siri decides she wants to participate in lectures 🤖🤖 **258**

The fact that Mosgiel has a sign like the Hollywood one cracks me up every time I see it, it's just so optimistic. **41**

When you get a bucket from KFC and they give you extra spoons for your gravy assuming you're sharing. You couldn't be more wrong **115**

Being 3 days late and worrying I might be pregnant, even though for the last 2 years I've only slept with girls 😊 #justlesbianthings **125**

NZIFF

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

30 JULY – 16 AUGUST
NZIFF.CO.NZ

SEE FIVE FILMS OR MAKE FOUR FRIENDS.
FIVE-TRIP PASS \$60
ON SALE AT THE REGENT & RIALTO

OTAGO GLOBAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

This week is EXCHANGE WEEK!

EXCHANGE FAIR TODAY (Monday) at the Link

Tuesday-Friday: seminars in International, Archway West

Full programme :
otago.ac.nz/study/studentexchange
[fb.com/OtagoGlobalStudentExchange](https://www.facebook.com/OtagoGlobalStudentExchange)



Zombie Ants!

BY SAM FRASER



Anal

BY T. ANTRIC

Nature is weird. A recent discovery by a Japanese scientist has once again demonstrated this. After refuting prior knowledge, Masaru Hojo discovered something that could inspire a horror film script: ants that turn into obedient bodyguards after they receive secret signals from their caterpillar master.

The caterpillars of the Japanese Oakblue butterfly undergo metamorphosis wrapped inside the leaves of oak trees. As immobile and defenseless prey, the caterpillars recruit the help of ants to protect them. When the ants are offered secreted droplets of sugar, scientists have observed them attacking predatory spiders and wasps that come near the caterpillar.

This relationship between the caterpillars and ants was thought to be mutual, with both parties benefiting from the trade of services. However, Hojo started to notice peculiarities in these behaviors: the ants never seemed to return to their nests or hunt for food. In a zombie-esque state, they became fixated on guarding the caterpillar. In a series of lab tests, Hojo discovered that the ants that ate the sugar droplets became aggressive and would not return to their nests, while ants that did not eat the droplets continued to behave normally.

Hojo even witnessed communication between the caterpillar and the servant ants. Whenever the caterpillar turned its tentacles inside out, the ants would start to move around quickly and act more aggressively. This suggested that the caterpillar actually signalled to the ants to attack nearby predators. There are glandular cells near the caterpillar's tentacles — Hojo believes the caterpillar may secrete chemical signals to stimulate ant aggression. The aggression exhibited by the ants has been linked to the sugary droplets excreted by the caterpillar. Lower levels of dopamine, which controls movement and aggression in insects, was found in ants that had eaten the secretions compared to those that had not. However, the exact chemical compounds in the caterpillar's magic potion that turn these ants into obedient servants is yet to be discovered.

While mystery surrounds the exact science in this bizarre relationship, it may indicate that the mutual relationships observed in nature may not really be what they appear to be. In this instance, Hojo's research hints that the relationship may actually be manipulative parasitic behaviour.

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess. A prince won her heart, and they lived happily ever after. For a while, anyway. But it wasn't long, however, before the prince started pestering the princess for anal. "Everyone is doing it," he swore. "It feels so much better," he begged. "I'll go slow," he promised. Eventually, the princess gave in. (The prince and princess later broke up in a fiery ball of flames for unrelated reasons, if anyone was wondering. Said princess is now single. Hit me up.)

So, if you and your beau are ready to take the step in a relationship that's slightly more intimate than showing your ankle (the scandal!) and engage in anal sex, here's what you need to know.

If you/your partner wants to put something foreign in an anus, you need lube. If you remember one thing from this column, remember lube.

If fingers are going in anuses, buy some disposable latex gloves. If mouths are going near anuses, get some dental dams, or make one. (Do this by chopping off the end of a condom and then making a split right down the middle: voila, a square of latex, aka, a dental dam!) If penises are going in anuses, wear a condom. The risk of tearing and subsequent STD transmission is high. I know, none of this seems sexy or hot in the moment, but do you know what else isn't sexy or hot? STDs. Tearing. Poop on fingers. Seriously. Wear the damn gloves.

Not gonna lie, it hurts like a motherfucker if you don't take it slow — so prepare, and use roughly a gallon of lube. Use fingers or toys beforehand to loosen everything up. People with penises have their prostate gland located inside the anus and can feel huge pleasure when receiving anal sex (if done right), but people with vaginas do not. While some people do say that regardless of the lack of prostate they genuinely enjoy and derive pleasure from anal sex, most people I know tend to say it's just "meh".

So be careful, prepare, demand foreplay (orgasming before penetration is a great way to relax muscles and make everything hurt a little less) and take your time. Most of all, have fun!

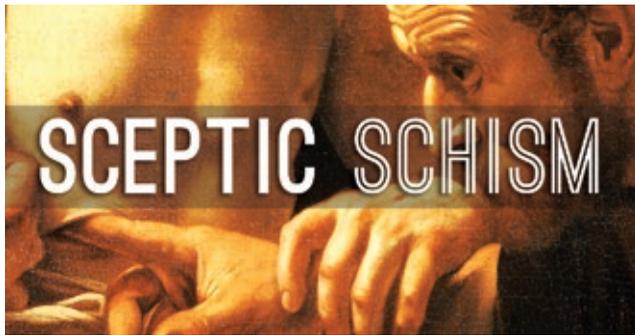


Dunedin's newest hair colour bar.
We dye - You dry.

T-Section \$30 | Full regrowth \$50
Hi-lights & Toner to disguise regrowth \$50 - \$70
Student discounts available. Pop on in!
Conditions apply



477 8676 | info@mumuhair.nz | www.mumuhair.nz | open 7 days



Correlation ≠ Causation

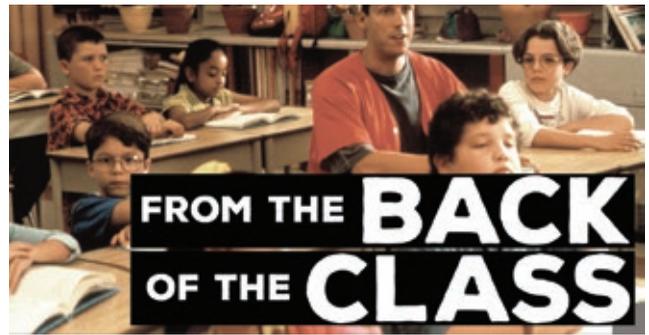
BY WEE DOUBT

Imagine you buy a new pair of assless rubber underpants (I'm not judging) and you wear them the day that you happen to get your dream job at the waterslide-testing and kitten-cuddling factory. On the same day, you get asked out by the guy from the Old Spice ads, and land a six-digit book deal based on your exceptionally good online arguing skills. You decide to credit your undies for your "good luck", and wear them every day until your bum is rubbed raw and you stink of deteriorating rubber. But you have made the mistake of believing that a coincidental thing is causing something unrelated. Your mistake is frightfully common.

The history of medicine is mostly a history of clueless people doing terrible things to the human body. Many ailments clear up on their own, and will heal themselves despite, not because of, all the things we try to fix them with. Mercury was used to treat gonorrhoea for decades, although it was ineffective and harmful. Bloodletting was used to treat pretty much everything until well into the nineteenth century, despite being terrible for anybody's general health. But it was survivable, and so it was used for centuries by well-meaning doctors who thought patients who recovered were benefitting from having the blood drained from their already weakened bodies.

If you and your community are desperate for rain and you sacrifice an animal, it is almost certain that it will rain at some point in the future after you do it. This does not mean your sacrifice caused the rain.

There is pretty good evidence that products for the prevention and treatment of the common cold are useless, yet we continue to buy millions of dollars worth of them every year. Anti-aging creams are basically expensive moisturisers with different names. I found a delightful website of "spurious correlations", which maps unrelated things against each other on graphs so it looks like they have a common cause. For example, "Number of people who drowned by falling into a pool" correlates with "Number of films Nicolas Cage appeared in", "Age of Miss America" correlates with "Murders by steam, hot vapours and hot objects," and "People who drowned after falling out of a fishing boat" correlates with "Marriage rate in Kentucky". Coincidences? Well who knows? Maybe don't get married in Kentucky, just in case.



Who Runs the World?

BY FINBARR NOBLE

If, like me, you are an avid reader of the Letters to the Editor page of the ODT, not only will you be aware of middle New Zealand's almost manic opposition to the concept of a cycle lane but also of another current affair that has the denizens of our fine province all riled up. A few weeks ago, a panel of local historians compiled a list of 17 "notable characters" from each of the last 17 decades of Dunedin's history. The list contained no women.

An all-lady list was also compiled and, as one of the historians Dr Page explained, herself repping the double X chromosome, there were historical reasons why the list ended up that way. Regardless, Ethel Benjamin — the bad bitch with a degree (to quote American wordsmith, J. Cole) — should have been on that initial list. Ethel Benjamin was New Zealand's first female law graduate, beginning her studies in 1893 when women weren't permitted to practise law. But institutionalised sexism ain't gonna stop Ethel because Ethel "had faith that a colony so liberal as our own would not long tolerate such purely artificial barriers" as sex or gender. She was correct. When she graduated from Otago in 1897, she became the second female lawyer in the British Empire, beaten at the post by that cheeky Canadian, Clara Brett Martin.

Ethel incidentally was also a total babe — a picture of her hangs in the Otago law library where she looks down, with an alluringly disapproving gaze, upon hungover law students struggling to comprehend what the fuck a trust is. She graduated with outstanding marks, which is more than I can say for my own law degree and I didn't even have to fight the patriarchy to get it. As such, she was asked, at the last minute, to speak on behalf of the graduates at their capping. Ethel said: "It was only yesterday that I was asked to undertake this pleasant task, and while deeply sensible to the compliment paid to me, I was somewhat diffident about taking so much upon myself at so short a notice. But I knew that little would be expected of me and even if I succeeded in talking nonsense, the charitable verdict would be, 'Oh well, it is all that can be expected of a woman.'" It was a different time.



THE OFFICIAL
DNA Gay Ski Week **2015**
 the largest
 gay and lesbian Winter Pride
 in the Southern hemisphere!
 29 AUGUST - 5 SEPTEMBER | QUEENSTOWN, NZ | WWW.GAYSKIWEEKQT.COM



Eye Infections

BY ISA ALCHEMIST

They haven't been crying, cutting onions or smoking weed – but you will want to stay clear once you know what's actually going on. The current outbreak of bacterial eye infections is causing fiery red eyes and embarrassing encounters throughout campus. The bacteria that cause the eye infection, conjunctivitis, can be frustratingly hardy and can live for at least 24 hours on surfaces such as human skin, stair rails, table tops or pillows. The bacterial infection is characterised by a creamy exudate that sticks to the eyelashes. A common source of infection is cosmetics, particularly mascara and eyeliner. The bacteria cling happily to the mascara wand. So don't share these commodities (boys, get your own!).

Viral eye infections typically have no exudate, but tend to look redder, be slightly painful, and may feel gritty. There is no recommended eye drop for this sort of infection, although pain relief such as ibuprofen and paracetamol may help significantly if you are attempting to study. Allergic conjunctivitis is usually characterised by itchiness as well as redness, and can be treated with an oral antihistamine tablet or antihistamine eye-drops. Identifying the source of the allergy can be problematic; besides the typical causes like grass, pollen or autumn leaves, another common culprit is perfume or deodorant.

You can get an antibiotic eye drop or ointment from a pharmacy after a consultation with a pharmacist. The ointment can be applied at night (but can slightly blur your vision). You must not wear contact lenses while treating the infection with drops or ointment.

Other infections you can attempt to cover up, but conjunctivitis often transforms your eyes into two red beacons warning everyone to take several steps away from you. But it is normal and can be quickly treated – put on some dark shades and head to the appropriate place to get it sorted.



Signing a Lease with Shit People

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

OUSA's Student Support Centre wants to help you with your issues: from dodgy flatmates to unfair grades, email your questions to ethel@critic.co.nz and she will respond to them for you each week, right here in Critic.

Dear Ethel,

A couple of months ago, I signed up for a flat with five other people from my hall. But now three of us hate the other three. We can't stand the thought of living with them for a whole year. What can we do?

EEK! We have a mantra here at Student Support: do not sign your lease half a year in advance; do not sign your lease half a year in advance.

There are a couple of options you could consider. Firstly, there's mediation. The idea of mediation is to provide a safe space where everyone can have their say and, potentially, clear the air and move forward in a different and more positive way. Mediation is voluntary of course, so all six of you would have to be willing to give it a go. There's a fabulous peer mediation programme here at Otago and you can find them at facebook.com/otagopeermediate.

The other option you have is to attempt to assign your lease to someone else. It's tricky to do this when you're still five months away from actually moving into the flat! But, you can try. The thing you need to keep in mind is that if you find someone to take over your rooms, all parties need to be in agreement. That means the landlord and the other three flatties that you no longer want to flat with have to agree (and sign).

Please don't even think about signing up somewhere else before you've legally extricated yourself from this lease. You could end up with two rents to pay! It is so important to take your time when signing a lease. There are more flats than there are renters at the moment, so you are in a good position to negotiate and find good-quality accommodation when you want it. You could even sign up a place at the end of January (there will be loads of places available) and save yourself a few weeks' rent. Shit happens and people you think you're gonna love forever turn into freaks. Sorry you're going through this and best of luck with getting out of it!

10% DISCOUNT

FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS & STAFF*

*EXCLUDES PRESCRIPTIONS



FB.COM/
ALBANYST
PHARMACY



WWW.ALBANYST.CO.NZ

27 ALBANY ST

PH. 477 5115

FAX. 477 0049

www.albanyst.co.nz



Fine for Porn

BY STEPH TAYLOR

Latching on catches on big

Keen for free coffee? Just make sure you're a breastfeeding mother and you get that all for free at the "Big Latch On", a breastfeeding event held at the Meridian recently.

Reaction to Facebook post leads to jail

That niggly old high school friend still bugging you on Facebook? Perhaps it might be better to just delete them rather than go to their home and verbally abuse them, as one Dunedin man did recently.

Surfing on taxi a criminal nuisance

In case you want to hire some light entertainment for your next flat party or 21st, hire "Johnny Danger: Entertainer". This loose guy was guilty of surfing on top of a taxi as it crossed the Auckland Harbour Bridge, and survived. Yup.

'Fine' on porn sites a scam

"The phone um ... auto-corrected my search wrong ... officer" is the line many Oamaru people have been using when consulting police officers about a scam in which people accessing adult content receive a message saying they have a "fine".



Food for Thought

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

As a student, I ate a lot of instant noodles. Carbohydrates are cheap. In one flat, we budgeted two packs of spaghetti between four for a meal. Filling, but not too pricey. If we had lentils on top — instead of mince — we could afford a recognisable cut of meat the next night. Unfortunately, budgets have got tighter still since I was a student.

More than twice as many students are in financial hardship compared to 2012 according to a NZUSA survey. The survey found that nearly 44 per cent of full-time students didn't have enough money to meet basic needs. It also reported that one in five students drops out of study for financial reasons, now the leading cause after finishing a course or finding a job.

Rising education costs restrict opportunity for many. The cost to students of tertiary education has continued to go up, but governments have not raised incomes commensurately.

Those with savings or sponsors access tertiary education. Those without do not. In part, the effect is direct; people from poorer families generally struggle to save when parents are demanding rent from them to meet bills or pay for the education of younger siblings. And in part it is a perception issue; people are generally nervous about borrowing. But research shows people from straitened backgrounds are more debt-averse than everyone else. This frequently contributes to the decision to opt for wages today rather than a salary tomorrow.

The best predictor of a student's level of tertiary achievement is their mother's level of education. The father's education is the second-best predictor, and that's followed by the influence of teachers and tertiary-educated mentors and relatives. Role modelling + debt-aversity = stacked odds against bright students from lower socio-economic backgrounds accessing tertiary education opportunities.

Education raises people out of poverty; it supports a better society. But even dry economists should embrace free education. The work of Nobel laureate economist James Heckman suggests it is efficient for governments to deliver full tertiary scholarships for all top students from lower socio-economic backgrounds — since personal gain for them and their families also represents an otherwise absent net gain in GDP for the country concerned.



Classic Banana Waffles - YUM!

Homemade Caramel + Fresh Bananas + Maple Syrup + Vanilla Ice cream on Cinnamon toasted Waffle

* For a limited time only

PIZZA BELLA 379 GEORGE ST (next to the Bog Irish Bar) OPEN 11:00 AM - LATE

[facebook.com/pizzabelladunedin](https://www.facebook.com/pizzabelladunedin)





MY FLAT, MY CASTLE

Critic's quest for the best flat in Dunedin

BY **SOPSY MALONE & PETRA STRAK**



This week on My Flat My Castle, we take a look at a group of lads who have taken up residence at the mildly more respectable (if that's even possible) end of Castle Street.

Living in what was previously known as "the cardboard box", for obvious reasons, the ZETA boys are typical Dunedin lads. Whether they know it or not, ZETA is actually a girls' sorority house in the States. The kind of girls you can bring home to your mum, but who can drink your dad under the table.

To their credit, we were kindly welcomed in by three of the four frat boys all in uniform (no, seriously, they actually have a flat tie). It's just too bad their flat was the equivalent of a small frozen turd with a chimney. When asked why they even considered living in such a hole, the boys said "coz it's \$97.50 a week". Despite this, they were nearly evicted for not paying their first month's rent.

The lads claim they are more than just the (poorly drawn) sign on the door. They claim to have a hit song, an adult film, and a whopping 78 likes on their Facebook page. Oh, they also made it on TV at Hyde Street for licking each other's faces. Topping all of these achievements, they have a ZETA shield, surrounded by Diesels, standing proudly in their living room.

For the brotherhood the boys claim to be, they are quick to throw each other under the bus. Apparently one is naked the majority of the time, and another, who we hope was fully clothed, crashed their neighbours' party and challenged them to a dance off. One evening, which eventuated in 500 upvotes on Yik Yak, a member of the flat went out on a drug run and didn't return for a week. Dear God.

When it comes to food, their philosophy is to always cook from scratch. On one occasion, one of the boys became overpowered by the green monster when trying to cook a pizza.

Once cooked (the flat mate, as well as the pizza), he began whispering to the pizza. He eventually ran and hid.

Overall, the lads had great chat. With a whopping 78 Facebook likes, this has to be expected. The only thing letting them down is the naked showers they share and the state they keep their flat in. This week, the boys have come in at 8.3 on the rating scale.

We suggest if you want to be part of the ZETA brotherhood next year (who could blame you), head to the boys' Facebook page where they are taking pledges for 2016. There are four already, so get in quick.

If you think you've got what it takes to be crowned the top flat in Dunedin, want your 15 minutes of fame and would like to be in with the chance for a sweet flat feed, email flat@critic.co.nz! ●

HARBOURSIDE GRILL
18 FRYATT ST

THE HOME OF YOUR NEXT FLAT FEAST
Serving Pizza, Pasta, Ribs, Steak & Seafood

HARBOURSIDE GRILL • www.harboursidedunedin.com
18 FRYATT ST, DUNEDIN

hsg grill Dunedin





What's the haps with ousa recreation

Quiz Wizz!

Congratulations to the "Norwegian Curling team", "The Spanish Inquisition" and "We Came for Pizza" for placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Rec Centre's quiz night a couple of weeks ago. It was an awesome evening and we learnt so much from you guys! For example, did you know that Madonna's first name is Cheryl? Or that Gryffindor is one of the houses in Game of Thrones?

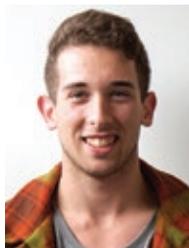


Photo Comp Winner

Congratulations to **Simon Engels** for winning our photography competition. We love your picture and think its such a great interpretation of "recreation" as a Scarfie.

Pew! Pew! Lasers!

Congrats also to **Nicholas Adams, David Van Der Hulst** and **Baylee Smith** who won first, second and third in the Recreation Laser Tag Tournament.



Zac's Reflections

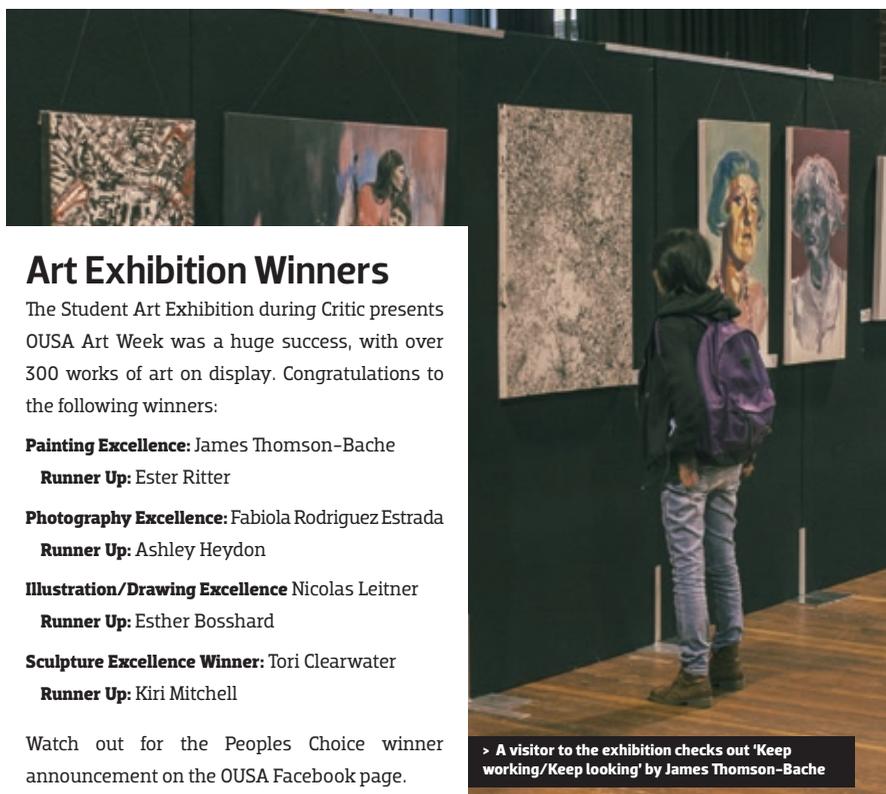
In light of the article in this issue about a BYO incident, this week I'd like to discuss restaurant etiquette.

Let's start with a case study. Me. I thought I would never be 'that' guy: the kind that causes a big scene at a restaurant. Obviously there was no denying what I did was wrong. You would think that, having already understood how hard it is to work in hospitality without drunk idiots everywhere, I'd be guaranteed not to act the way I did. I screwed up. For that I am very sorry.

Clearly in a position like mine, voted to represent the student body, I shouldn't have behaved the way I did. I would like to thank the staff at the restaurant for dealing with me like any good mate would, and giving me a bit of a wakeup call. They dealt with me perfectly. Next morning realising I was a bit of a muppet last night, I swallowed my pride, went straight to the restaurant as soon as they opened and apologised for my actions. I called the manager when he was on duty again and apologised to him.

So to sum up: staff, patrons, other members of the hospitality sector, and student body, I'm sorry.

Zachariah Roy Al-Alami
education@ousa.org.nz



Art Exhibition Winners

The Student Art Exhibition during Critic presents OUSA Art Week was a huge success, with over 300 works of art on display. Congratulations to the following winners:

Painting Excellence: James Thomson-Bache

Runner Up: Ester Ritter

Photography Excellence: Fabiola Rodriguez Estrada

Runner Up: Ashley Heydon

Illustration/Drawing Excellence Nicolas Leitner

Runner Up: Esther Bosshard

Sculpture Excellence Winner: Tori Clearwater

Runner Up: Kiri Mitchell

Watch out for the Peoples Choice winner announcement on the OUSA Facebook page.

> A visitor to the exhibition checks out 'Keep working/Keep looking' by James Thomson-Bache

POETRY COMPETITION

ENTRY: FREE!

THEME IS "NOSTALGIA", ENTRIES DUE 31 AUGUST

WIN! 1ST PLACE \$100, 2ND \$50, AND 3RD \$25

EMAIL ENTRIES TO MICHAELA@OUSA.ORG.NZ

MORE INFO AT BIT.LY/OUSATOURNAMENTS

* CONDITIONS APPLY

ENTER THE GREAT OTAGO UNIVERSITY

Bake Off

August 14 at the OUSA Recreation Centre

There's over \$500 in prizes to be won! More info at bit.ly/ousatournaments

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY



- ♥ Wireless internet
- ♥ Course reserve
- ♥ Friendly & helpful staff
- ♥ Māori & Pasifika resources
- ♥ Printing & copying
- ♥ Group study rooms
- ♥ Warm comfortable study spaces

LIBRARY HOURS...

**THERE'S AN APP
FOR THAT!**
bit.do/libhours



University
Library