

# Critic

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## FEATURES

**18 STUDENTS' SECRET PETS**

When it comes to Dunedin flat inspections, these forbidden furry friends do not exist. Kelsey takes to the streets of Dunedin to photograph your hidden companions.

BY **KELSEY FROST**

**22 DO YOU SEE ME?**

According to a 2013 disability report from Statistics New Zealand four percent of the population have visual impairments that affect their day-to-day lives. Kirsty talks to two blind students who have had to learn to navigate themselves in a society not built for them.

BY **KIRSTY GORDGE**

**26 DUMB WAYS TO DIET**

Whether they're a first year trying to shed that fresher five, or a 40-something hitting their midlife crisis, you find people starting diets everywhere. Unfortunately, most of these weight-losing, cancer-curing diets are full of shit.

BY **LAURA STARLING**

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## LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART

» YES, IT'S ANOTHER DISNEY REFERENCE.

Last week, in a space of 24 hours, *Critic* was accused of biased storytelling, untrue journalism and "censorship of the student voice". LOLs, it was one for the journal!

The accusations of biased storytelling and untrue journalism came from friends of the executive member called out in the BYO article last week, as well as a co-executive member. Apparently slapping staff at a family restaurant and stealing don't count as "violent" or "abusive". And the same executive member who said this claims to have witnessed the event sober. I think that says more about their morals than anything else. How obnoxious.

As for the "censorship", a private message between a *Critic* writer and a friend of the exec was posted as a comment to "prove" the "sub-par" journalism we do. The comment was deleted because it was a private message. It was actually just asking a hall resident if they would be *Critic*'s informer for hall shenanigans ... we could have resorted to installing secret cameras in the halls, but that seems a little invasive. We will continue to ask residents to be informers for us because when shit happens in your hall, whether it's hilarious stuff or severe bullying — both of which we get reports of — then *Critic* can call your hall out on it. It's literally our job to hold your university, your halls and your executive to account.

The censorship accusations were much like the NZ flag chat going on at the moment. Some buddies of the exec had managed to find an irrelevant point to focus on to detract from an actual issue. The actual issue with the executive is that, particularly when 80 percent of them are already good friends, they can

function without anyone really holding them accountable (except *Critic*). They could all do nothing and, providing they support each other, they could all continue to make sure everyone gets paid and keeps their titles.

There are people on the executive who do work hard and do awesome things, just like there are usually people in any team that shine. And for those who are a part of something good that maybe doesn't get the recognition you'd hope, or gets criticised more than you'd like, there's a thing you should be listening to: your heart.

It sounds romantic, but it isn't. When you're being criticised, "don't take it personally" is far easier said than done. When your heart is 100 percent in something, you do take it personally and there isn't anything wrong with this if you're doing it in the right way and not letting every comment just bring you down. If you're a moron and criticised for it, then taking it to heart will hopefully mean you won't be a moron in the same way next time.

Equally, you need to listen to your heart in order to decide who you're going to listen to. You shouldn't change your mind or go back on a decision just because some random is against you. Sometimes it might be many randoms. And sometimes it might be just your head up against you.

Be careful who you listen to and be gentle with yourself. If you can kick your ego out of the way, you'll know in your heart whether you should be listening to those voices or not.

Lots of love,

**JOSIE COCHRANE,**  
CRITIC EDITOR

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# Critic

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# Financial Stress Causing Depression and Anxiety

» SURVEY SHOWS WE'LL BE IN DEBT IN OUR FORTIES

BY LAURA MUNRO

**T**he New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) has released its 2014 Income and Expenditure Survey, which shows that students are in a worse position financially than when the last survey was done in 2010.

The survey found that housing costs across New Zealand have increased between \$5 and \$10 per week over the last four years. These costs, and other costs of living, are rising faster than the rate of inflation.

Housing support for students has been capped at \$40 per week since 2001. On the other hand, the accommodation supplement for low-income New Zealanders who are not students is up to \$145.

"This means there is no immediate financial incentive to move from a benefit to study, or from a low-paid job into a qualification that could potentially move someone out of poverty in the long term," the report argues. "Instead, potential students face the immediate impact of losing up to \$105 per week in their available funds."

Nationwide, the average cost of accommodation has risen from \$116 in 2004 to \$193 in 2014. In Dunedin, housing costs have generally sat below the national average. By 2015, however, 66 percent of student income was going towards rent alone. This has jumped from 50 percent in 2003. These figures exclude students living in halls, who pay an average of \$359.37 per week.

In 2010, the average university fees for students were \$6246. In 2014, this increased \$808 to \$7054. Between 2006 and 2015, non-tuition compulsory fees increased by 29 percent. The survey also found that of students not continuing their studies, 20 percent identified the cost of study as one of the reasons. "Cost is the leading cause for leaving study behind finishing their qualification or finding employment."

The survey showed that 90 percent of students are now in at least one form of debt, and two

thirds have two or more forms of debt. In 2014, 28 percent of students were in credit card debt, a 10 percent increase from 2010.

Credit card debt and loan shark use have been found to be "on the rise" as students "try to bridge the gap between rising living costs and declining state and parental support".

Due to reduced government support, and parental support often being unavailable, there has been "a sharp increase in student working hours". Students now work an average of 14 hours per week, which is up from 12 hours per week four years ago.

As a result of the financial stress they are under, students' mental health is declining. From 2009 to 2014, counselling sessions for students rose by a quarter. The report attributes this to "stress and anxiety associated with the demands from study and paid work, future employment prospects, debt and immediate financial strain".

Of those surveyed, 56 percent said financial stress affects their study, and 66 percent worry about what they will owe once they have completed study. Those in lower socio-economic groups were found to be more stressed about their finances.

Almost half of students, 44 percent, reported that they do not have the income "to meet their basic needs". For students in their final year, one in six were "living in significant financial stress". This situation has worsened since 2012.

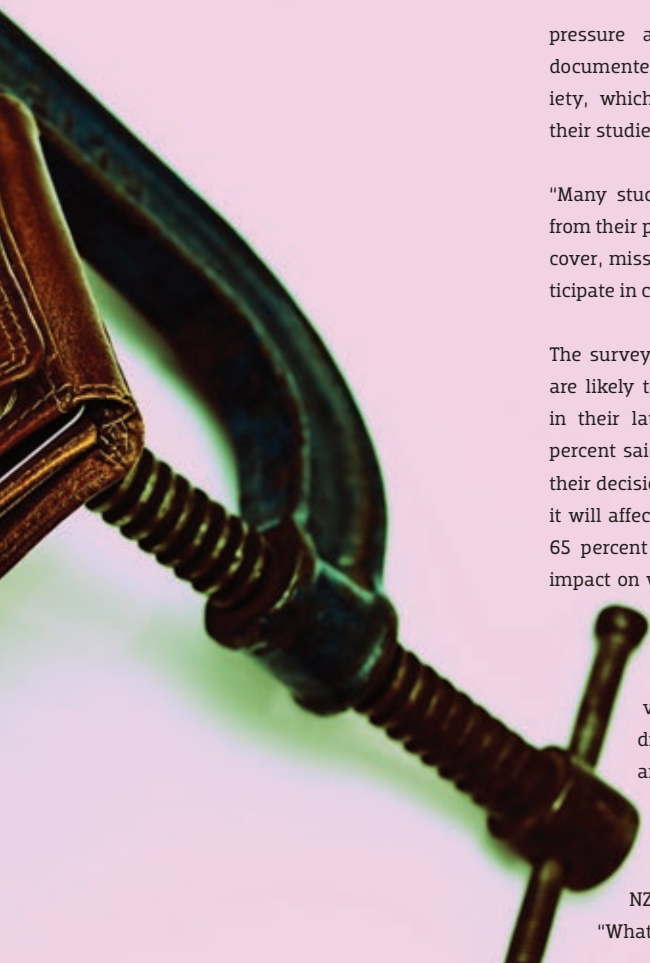
Dr Anne-Marie Brady, a professor of political science at the University of Canterbury, said: "Students are under massive financial



## WEEKLY LIVING EXPENDITURES 2004 - 2014

TYPE OF EXPENSE	2004	2007	2010	2014
Accommodation	\$116	\$142	\$136	\$193
Food	\$61	\$73	\$63	\$98
Living Expenses	\$40	\$47	\$35	\$56
Local Transport	\$32	\$38	\$35	\$44
General Bills	\$38	\$42	\$28	\$44
Personal Items	\$17	\$19	\$18	\$20
Childcare	\$59	\$55	\$62	\$99
Entertainment	\$36	\$37	\$34	\$35
Miscellaneous	\$30	\$45	\$32	\$45





pressure and more students are having documented cases of depression and anxiety, which is having a serious impact on their studies."

"Many students tell me they are exhausted from their paid jobs and they cut classes to recover, miss assignments, or do not fully participate in class," said Brady in a press release.

The survey estimates that students of today are likely to still be carrying their loan debt in their late forties. Of those surveyed, 36 percent said their loan debt is likely to affect their decision to have children, 70 percent said it will affect their ability to buy a house, and 65 percent said it would have a significant impact on whether or not they would undertake more study.

Just over one fifth of those surveyed said they will not have children until they are debt free, and another 20 percent said their loans will mean they wait longer before having children.

NZUSA President Rory McCourt said: "What this research shows is that toxic

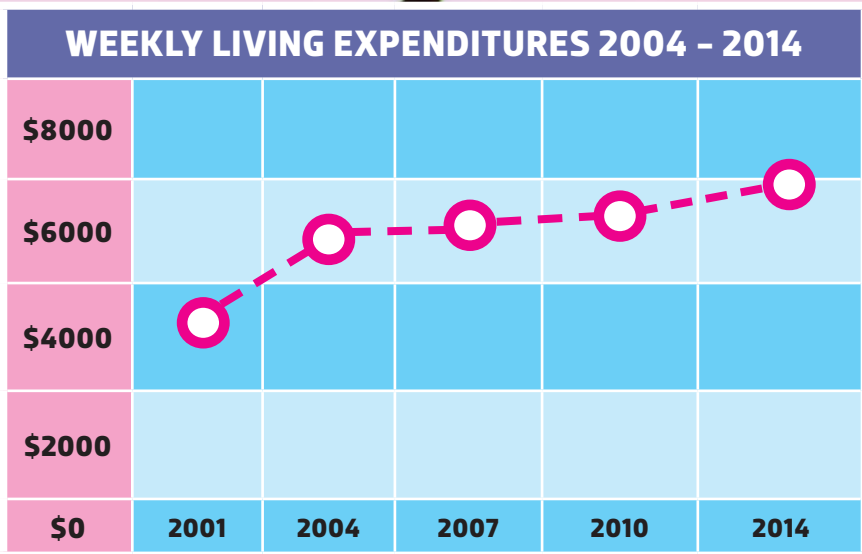
student debt is removing choices for New Zealand families. They're delaying, deferring and deserting starting a family because of mounting debt."

McCourt argues that the 12 percent repayment rate, which applies to every dollar earned above \$19,084 per annum (or \$367 per week), is "punishing for graduates and [forces] them to make decisions like delaying starting a family".

"Our repayment threshold was originally set to ensure the poorest New Zealanders didn't have impossible repayment obligations. By not adjusting it, we've increased the effective marginal tax rate for minimum wage workers to above that of the vice-chancellor and the prime minister. That is deeply wrong."

NZUSA argues that a progressive repayment scheme, like that of Australia, would ensure New Zealanders could afford to pay their loans off at a fair rate. "In Australia graduates don't pay a cent until they earn \$54,126, and even then it's only 4 per cent of their income. From there it goes up 0.5 per cent for every additional \$6,000 earned. The top rate of 8 per cent doesn't apply until a graduate is earning over \$100,520."

The report recommends that the course related costs loan cap, which has been frozen since 1993, be lifted to \$10,000 for first-year students and \$3,000 for other students. The report also makes a number of other recommendations, including that the government restore postgraduate allowances; introduce a universal housing grant in cities where rent is taking up over 70 percent of student income; increase funding for universities and polytechnics; restore allowances for over-40s; change the repayment rate and replace it with an Australian-style system; lift the parental income threshold; and introduce a \$10,000 scholarship for students who are the first in their family to participate in degree-level tertiary education. ●



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## NZUSA: Findlay says, "Let It Die"

BY LAURA MUNRO /

**T**he team began with the disaffiliation of the Volleyball Scorpions. The club has had minimal contact with OUSA in the last two years and President Paul Hunt said "the club itself is happy to be disaffiliated".

OUSA's Student Support Manager, Philippa Keaney, is writing a book marking OUSA's 125th anniversary. The manuscript for the book was expected to be in by 1 December 2015. However, Keaney asked for an extension to 29 April due to "understaffing and additional duties" which have meant she is unable to take leave. The extension was granted.

There was a request for extra funding for Suicide Prevention Day. Hunt said "there has been, unfortunately, an increase in suicides on campus recently". Due to this, OUSA was "approached with a request to advertise World Suicide Day in Critic".

Welfare Officer Payal Ramritu said the group applying for the funding is called Life Matters. She said they are "a great organisation when it comes to suicide prevention, [they're] very credible ... they do great work".

Hunt said Critic adverts are very effective, "obviously everyone reads Critic", so \$719 was granted.

The executive again debated the executive restructure proposal that was brought to the table last week. Ramritu stuck to her original stance: "I still don't think [the new role] should be an executive position." A key reason for this is that since the proposal would cut the finance and campaigns officer roles, meaning fewer students will be on the executive. Ramritu said she "[doesn't] think this will be more effective".

All of her fellow executives tended to agree with the original proposal, with International Officer Toa Sailusi saying it is "more effective than what we have". Colleges Officer TaoTao Li, however, said she "hadn't 100 percent made up [her] mind". Harrap admitted that having a finance officer role gives people "good experience", especially those "wanting to go into careers like accounting". However, she said there is a "discrepancy" with the work and hours required. Hunt said he is "happy not to put it to vote until people make up their mind".

In a meeting three days later, Postgraduate Officer Chris Jackson proposed a third option. This option would see a second vice-president role introduced; both would be working 20 hours. One VP would have internally based administrative activities, as in the current structure, and the second would have externally based activities. The external VP role would essentially

be a combination of the campaigns and finance officer roles.

Jackson outlined several benefits this new option would bring, including increased student representation, an inherent check system, and that the restructure would be cost neutral.

The executive were divided in opinion over the new suggestion, and it is set to be debated in future.

Ramritu said that, "after reading an article in Critic," she is now "in favour" of paying NZUSA the money owed. Hunt reiterated that the reason for not paying is so that the discussion about how to better represent students nationally "happens quicker". Campaigns Officer Nick Findlay, who was not on the executive when the decision not to pay was made, said the organisation is "redundant" and they should "let it die". Education Officer Zachariah Al-Alami agreed, saying, "why should we put any more students' money towards it?" Ramritu said "because that's what we constitutionally agreed to".

Findlay said sending NZUSA a "strongly worded letter" telling them to "wind up" would be a good idea. "Don't give them a cent," he said under his breath. The issue will be discussed by the policy committee. ●



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# OUSSC Organising Snowy Snow Week

» STUDENTS BRING BACK THE EPIC WEEK FROM TIMES PAST

BY EMILY DUNCAN

**T**he Otago University Snow Sports Club (OUSSC) is taking a group of 45 students to Wanaka from 23–28 August for Uni Snow Week, a week-long event organised and run by the OUSSC executive.

The week is comprised of organised competitive and social events. The competitive events run for three of the five days, starting on 25 August. They include a giant slalom race, cross-country skiing, skate and "GNAR" events (Gaffney's Numerical Assessment of Radness). As well as the 45 students OUSSC is bringing, the Canterbury University Boardriders Association (CUBA) is bringing another 45 students and Victoria University is bringing 15 students. It is predicted that there will be around 150 competitors.

Social events include a screening of GNAR: The Movie on Monday in preparation for the GNAR event, a points-based game that consists of performing wild things while skiing

or boarding down the mountain. A BBQ and "games" between Otago and Canterbury are planned for Tuesday, a drum and bass party will be organised by promoters AUDX at Wanaka's Mint bar on Wednesday, and the official prize giving and a gig will be held on Thursday.

OUSSC Vice President Katie Logan and club member Kieran Metherall say the focus is now more on encouraging students to get involved in the event than on the competition aspects.

In past years, around 500 competitors was a usual turnout. Numbers dropped dramatically when University Sport took over a few years ago and, according to Logan, "made the whole thing super lame". This was due to the large hike in expenses and lack of social events. University Sport went under after the 2013 event, where the lack of competitors meant the week had to be cancelled. Students have regained control in recent years, turning it into the biggest student-run event

outside OUSA.

OUSSC has doubled its members since last year, and aims to keep growing Uni Snow Week into an epic event for university students across New Zealand to participate in. Thanks to the generosity of OUSA, the OUSSC-run trip is far cheaper than in previous years, just \$160 for the entire week, including transport and accommodation.

General admission to the event is available at [dashtickets.co.nz](http://dashtickets.co.nz) for \$65; this includes entry into all the official events, plus discounts on and off the mountain and discounted lift passes at Cardrona and Treble Cone.

OUSSC Vice President Katie Logan said this year's event is expected to be different to previous years. "The idea is to make it a bit more sociable so more people get involved and bring the event back to its glory days." ●



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# Huge Hostel on Logan Park

» POLYTECH HOPES TO HOUSE OWN STUDENTS

BY JOE HIGHAM

**T**he Otago Polytechnic has revealed plans to build a new 235-room hostel on land in Logan Park, subject to a sale of the land by the council.

The building will cost "approximately \$20 million", although funding for this project is "still under discussion" according to Otago Polytech's Chief Executive Phil Ker.

Building will commence "within two to three months max", providing the council sells the land to the polytech. If it does, the build should be finished by late 2017. Ker said that students would move in for the 2018 academic year.

The reason for the new building is to attract new domestic and international students to the polytech.

The Otago Polytechnic Students' Association (OPSA) has not adopted a "formal position on" the issue, because it has not "been privy to enough information to make any sensible judgement".

Recent changes to the allocation of seats on polytechnic councils across the country mean that the institution's student president no longer sits on Otago Polytechnic's executive council, which "leaves a huge gap of knowledge that we once had," Mark Baxter, OPSA's event manager, said.

Baxter went on to say there is "no specific Polytech hostel at the moment ... [which] certainly shows a gap in the market". The polytech does have rooms within City College, but that is "quite a distance from the campus, so this new build will help with that". "We would certainly want to see the business case for it, and it would depend

on the financial side of it too, particularly where the money is actually coming from."

Ker added that it would also be great if it was a hostel "that is focused solely on Polytech, so you don't have all the residents go on holiday and you're the only three people left there."

Rory McCourt, president of the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA), said they are "concerned about the cost of first-year halls in particular for students and their families".

"We'd be keen to see that these halls are not \$13,000+ per year for students, but more affordable and in line with what someone would pay in an average Dunedin flat. As a principle, these hostels should never be run for profit." ○



## Degree Planning Days

Thursday 3 – Wednesday 9 September

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[otago.ac.nz/courseadvice](http://otago.ac.nz/courseadvice)





## Lucky Day for Local

» STUDENT WINS \$10,000 JACKPOT

BY JOE HIGHAM /

**A** University of Otago commerce student, Neihana Kahukura, from Invercargill, has won an annual nationwide Night 'n' Day competition, claiming the jackpot prize of \$10,000.

The competition was called "Get Lucky 24/7" and took place over a 24-hour period on 24 July (24/7), to tie in with the 24 hours, 7 days a week nature of the chain of stores.

The competition required a minimum purchase of 30c, and you were then automatically entered in the draw. On purchasing their products, customers received a goody-bag.

The store had "over 50,000 goody-bags to give away on the day, which had over 200,000 instant prizes" in them, said Bronson Te Tau, Night 'n' Day's marketing coordinator. Some bags had no vouchers, while others had up to ten.

Some of the bags contained flyers, which had details of the store's \$10,000 jackpot competition. If you were lucky enough to receive one, you had to go onto their Facebook page and enter your details, which put you in the draw to win the \$10,000 cash jackpot.

On winning the jackpot prize, Kahukura

said: "At first I couldn't really believe it. The guy rang me and told me I had won, but I thought it was one of my friends playing a joke. When I found out it was real, I was pretty stoked. I just couldn't believe it."

Te Tau said: "Some students were buying a 30c lolly and leaving our stores with over \$20 of prizes. We were bringing a bit of goodwill to our loyal customers and giving a bit back to them."

Even when he first entered the competition, Kahukura knew he was "always going to give half to my parents if I won, so I will do that, and [with the rest] I will probably save up and travel in the summer holidays".

The instant prizes ranged from Nestlé chocolate bars to Whittaker's Peanut Slabs. Some of the bags also contained vouchers for better prizes, including Coke, Tip Top ice cream, Night 'n' Day's burgers, chips and hot dogs, as well as many other prizes.

Kahukura's father drove up from Invercargill to accompany his son to the Octagon to complete formalities and finalise the transfer of the prize with Night 'n' Day's representatives on Wednesday 5 August at 3pm.

"Am I going to celebrate? Hell yeah!" he said. ●

## Students Getting the Dollars on Time

» THE DOLLARS ARE STILL NOT ENOUGH

BY ANGUS SHAW /

**S**tudyLink, working with the New Zealand Union of Students' Association (NZUSA), has made efforts to improve its services for students.

NZUSA said students were "deeply unhappy" with StudyLink's service in 2013 and made improving StudyLink a top priority. In 2013, the number of unanswered calls was 800,000. In a recent press release, the union claimed that this has been slashed to less than 8000.

The collaboration came after a large amount of negative feedback in 2013 and reportedly thousands of students not getting their allowance on time. Both the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and NZUSA said the improvements were a great example of how the government and students could work hand in hand.

Rory McCourt, the president of NZUSA

was highly pleased with the service's improvements. "Undoubtedly StudyLink is a much better service than it was a couple of years ago and I'm proud we could be part of making that turnaround happen alongside the government."

The improvements to the system were accomplished by specialising StudyLink's workforce. For example, a small team was created to deal with password issues. According to NZUSA, this freed up staff to deal with more complex issues. Other improvements included shorter call-waiting times, pre-filled forms and digital document scanning — so that fewer documents were misplaced during the application process.

The MSD's Associate Deputy Chief Executive Service Delivery, Marama Edwards, said the government worked closely with NZUSA to meet students' needs. "We're very pleased

with the progress we have made over the past two years. In 2015 StudyLink has processed 75% of all student allowance applications before study start date compared with 70% in 2014. For student loans, 94% were processed compared with 93.4% for 2014."

Rory McCourt admitted that improvements could still be made to StudyLink, however he was very pleased that most students are getting the allowance they are entitled to. He says that this means NZUSA can increase its focus on arguing for more liveable incomes for students. "Now that we have sorted most people getting their entitlement on time, we can start talking about the fact that students don't have enough money to live off and that the government needs to increase student support." ●

# Ceremony Marks 70 Years Since Hiroshima

» "WE WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN"

BY OLIVER GASKELL

A remembrance ceremony has been held at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to mark the 70th anniversary of the US bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Political leaders, survivors of the attacks and Hiroshima locals attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spoke about the dangers of nuclear weapons, and renewed a vow to end their use.

Abe said that as the only country that has been victim to a nuclear attack, Japan "has an obligation to realise a world without nuclear weapons".

Abe also called for world leaders to further recognise the devastating impact of nuclear devices. "President Obama and other policy-makers, please come to the A-bombed cities, hear the hibakusha (surviving victims) with your own ears, and encounter the reality of the atomic bombings."

Hiroshima's mayor, Kazumi Matsui, accused "selfish" nuclear powers, such as the US, of standing in the way of the abolishment of nuclear weapons.

Abe, Matsui and other dignitaries placed



wreaths in front of an eternal flame, where a placard reads: "Rest in peace. We will not make the same mistake again." A minute of silence was then held, with its end signified by the ringing of a temple gong.

In 1945, the city was devastated by the US deployment of an atomic bomb; the blast halved the area's population.

It is estimated that 90,000–146,000 people were killed in the attack, which involved US use of a uranium bomb nicknamed "Little Boy".

A few days after, a similar bomb was dropped in Nagasaki. These are the only two occasions when nuclear weapons have been used for warfare.

Following the bombings, many people died from radiation sickness and other injuries, combined with the effects of illness and malnutrition prevalent at the time.

In both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, most of those who died were civilians, with only around 20,000 of the casualties in Hiroshima being military.

The bombings were spurred by Japan's refusal to make an unconditional surrender in the final year of World War II.

The US, the United Kingdom and China gave Japan the option of surrendering, threatening Japan with "prompt and utter destruction" if the country did not accept.

On 15 August 1945, just days after the bombing, Japan announced its surrender to the Allied forces.

Soon after, on 2 September 1945, World War II ended, with Japan's surrender in many ways securing the Allies' victory. ●

# South Carolina Officer Shoots Unarmed Teen

» POLICE BRUTALITY A GROWING ISSUE

BY JESSICA THOMPSON

Caucasian teenager Zachary Hammond was shot and killed by a police officer while eating icecream on a date in South Carolina. Hammond, 19, was shot twice in his shoulder and torso. He was unarmed.

The incident occurred in the parking lot of a Hardee's fast-food restaurant in Seneca. An incident report from Seneca police said Morton was the target of a police investigation.

The officer was said to be conducting a drug investigation and claimed to have shot Hammond in self-defence. A small amount of marijuana was found in the glove compartment of Hammond's car. Tori Morton, Hammond's date was arrested on charges of "simple possession of marijuana".

Seneca Police Chief John Covington said in a

statement that the officer, who has not yet been named, was "a uniformed officer, he was in a marked vehicle, [and] was out of his vehicle on foot approaching the suspect vehicle".

The Hammond family commissioned an independent autopsy, which found evidence of Hammond "being seated in a motor vehicle and being shot from the side of the vehicle through an open driver's side window".

Covington said the officer shot because he "felt threatened by [Hammond], who was driving his car toward the officer attempting to make the stop".

However, the private autopsy indicated the car wasn't moving when he was shot.

The family's attorney, Eric Bland, told the Guardian, "When [the officer] shot, it

was physically impossible for the car to hit him, because he's next to [Hammond] ... So unless a hurricane comes and blows the car over, it's physically impossible for him to be hit by a car at that point."

Bland said: "He was a 19-year-old, 121-pound kid killed basically for a joint."

Hammond's mother, Angie, told CNN, "Not only are we grieving that our son is gone, we don't know why it happened or what happened. We're just trying to find answers."

"The media and our government officials have treated the death of an unarmed white teenager differently than they would have if this were a death of an unarmed black teen. All people need to be outraged by this," said Bland.

The officer is now on administrative leave. ●



# Aussies Desperate for Alcohol

» VEGEMITE OFFICIALLY THE NECTAR OF THE GODS

BY OLIVER GASKELL

**V**egemite is reportedly being used to make homemade alcohol in dry Indigenous communities across Queensland and the Northern Territory in Australia.

In some areas, there have been reported instances of people buying up to 20 jars of the yeast-based spread at a time. However, Queensland police have ruled out a crackdown and are downplaying the reports.

Australia's federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Nigel Scullion, initially described the use of the spread for making alcohol as a "precursor to misery".

Scullion called for businesses to bring attention to customers stockpiling the spread, linking its use as home brew to domestic violence, underage drinking and truancy.

However, the government will not place any restrictions on the sale of the product.

Scullion said that the government's goal is for local communities to take greater

responsibility. "Our priority has always been to get kids to school, make communities safer and get people into jobs. Businesses in these communities also have a responsibility to report any purchase that may raise their own suspicions."

There are 19 communities across Queensland where the sale of alcohol is limited or banned. In 2013, the Queensland government considered removing some of these alcohol bans due to a growing increase in the prominence of home-brew alcohol.

Geoff Marsh, Queensland's far north region crime coordinator, said local police were aware that people in Indigenous communities had been using the yeast in Vegemite to produce alcohol, saying that they have "done it for years".

Marsh said that "there are a lot of products that contain yeast and it's all a bit of a beat up. We're not overly concerned about it at all in our position."

Marsh, unlike Scullion, does not expect local communities to take responsibility, saying that

Vegemite is just "one avenue towards [making alcohol], it's not illegal and we're not going to be telling shops to not sell Vegemite or give us the tip on who buys 50 bottles of Vegemite".

Dr John Baffa of the People's Alcohol Action Coalition based in Alice Springs, which is part of the Northern Territory, said that the issue has been exaggerated and the problem is not widespread. "We're talking about an isolated problem in a couple of communities around a very large nation." ●



IMAGE: CC BY-NC 2.0 (flickr) mobilhomme

# UAE Puts a Ban on "Offending God"

» NEW LAW CREATES CONCERN AMONG SECULARISTS

BY EMILY DUNCAN

**A**t the end of July 2015, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) passed a law that prohibits discrimination against religion.

Under the new law, it is an offence to commit an act that insults God, Islam, Christianity, Judaism or houses of worship, among other things. A breach of the law, which would include speech that criticises religious beliefs or expresses doubt about the existence of God, could result in harsh penalties. The possible penalties include a 10-year prison term and considerable fines.

The law has been presented by the UAE as an "anti-hate" or "anti-discrimination" law that prohibits discrimination or attacks based on religion, ethnicity and race. Sexuality was not listed.

The Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, announced the law "guarantees the freedom of individuals from religious intolerance".

Nonetheless, it has been met with some

condemnation from the western world. Keith Porteous Wood, executive director of the National Secular Society, criticised the law as being a means of pushing a "theocratic and Islamist agenda, with ambitions that it is enforced not just in Saudi Arabia, but across the world".

He also noted at a meeting of the European Parliament Platform for Secularism in Politics that "there has been a 15-year project by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to have defamation made an international law."

However, Otago law lecturer Stephen Smith commented: "The true impetus of the law probably comes from the opposite end of the spectrum: a concern regarding the growing influence of ISIS and other religiously motivated extremist groups in the Middle East who would criticise average citizens for not being Islamic enough."

The law can be seen as an attempt to enable the UAE to effectively subdue any extremist

movements that might arise in the country.

Some protesters have voiced concern over the consequences of the law on basic human rights, in particular freedom of speech and religion. President of the National Secular Society, Terry Sanderson, remarked: "It is dispiriting, and sadly unsurprising, to see yet another crackdown on religious freedom and freedom of speech in the Islamic world."

According to Smith, the law can be regarded as the "UAE being the UAE" in terms of vigorous restrictions on freedom of religion and expression.

The UAE has never signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a 1966 multilateral treaty that includes principles relating to rights of freedom of expression and religion. The recent law is said to reflect the previous stance taken in the UAE regarding these rights. ●

# MP: the Bloggers are Harming the MPs

» TRACEY MARTIN ACCUSES ROLINSON OF BREAKING NEW LAWS

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

**N**Z First MP Tracey Martin has claimed Curwen Rolinson is in breach of the Harmful Digital Communications Act, passed in July. In a blog post, Rolinson, former leader of the NZ First youth wing, accused Martin of undermining party MP Andrew Williams.

Speaking at the University of Otago last week, Martin suggested that Rolinson was in breach of the law as a result of a blog post written on 6 July, four days after the Act was officially made into law.

"I've been working on the Harmful Digital Communications bill and what Curwen [Rolinson] did, what Whaleoil [blogger Cameron Slater] does, that's harmful digital communications," said Martin.

The Act states that a person is in breach of the law if they intentionally cause harm to someone on the internet. "A person commits an offence if the person posts a digital communication with the intention that it cause harm to a victim," the law reads.

Rolinson made accusations last month in a post written on blogging site *The Daily Blog*. The former youth leader claimed that Martin spread rumours about NZ First MP Andrew Williams in an attempt to marginalise him. According to Rolinson, Williams had been flagged as a likely candidate for the deputy leadership

role following the 2011 election.

"Martin was lobbying hard for the position of deputy. It was not so much about what she could offer. It was about Williams' alleged unsuitability for the role. He was called a sexist. A bully. An alcoholic. Rumours were spread throughout the party that Williams had attempted to initiate a physical altercation with Winston [Peters]," wrote Rolinson.

Martin was appointed the deputy leader of NZ First in 2011.

The blog goes on to suggest that Martin colluded with her mother, Anne Martin, when she was the party president in order to remove Andrew Williams from the party list.

In the lead up to the 2014 election, Williams was removed from the NZ First list by the party's listing committee, which Williams attributed to Tracey and Anne Martin.

In August 2014, the *New Zealand Herald* published an article based on Williams' comments. The article alleged that Williams blamed his low list ranking on a clash with Martin, saying she saw him as a threat and wanted him "removed".

Following his accusations against Martin, Williams sought a judicial review in the High Court of Auckland claiming he was unfairly treated by the party and in doing so the party breached their constitution. The case was



subsequently dropped by Williams.

Martin wasn't willing to address Williams' case last week, saying it would be "inappropriate". However, she indicated that Williams knows why his case did not proceed, implying he was unjustified.

"Andrew Williams knows why — Andrew Williams went to take a court case and he then dropped it. So Andrew Williams knows why, it's for Andrew Williams to say, not for me to say, that would be inappropriate," said Martin.

Tracey Martin was succeeded as deputy leader of NZ First by MP Ron Mark in July this year. ●

## Craig Won't Rule Out Auckland

» "I WAS BORN HERE, I LOVE THIS CITY"

BY **HUGH BAIRD**

**F**ormer Conservative leader Colin Craig has not yet ruled out putting his hand up as a candidate in the race for the Auckland mayoralty next year.

Craig has said he has been approached on many occasions to enter his candidacy for the position and admitted it is something he has not yet ruled out. He believes there is a strong constituency for a conservative candidate in New Zealand's largest city.

"I was born here and I love the city. As a party we have always had some clear policies

about sorting Auckland out, starting by reducing rates," Craig said in a video interview with *Stuff*.

Craig ran previously in 2010, finishing third behind Len Brown and John Banks with upwards of 40,000 votes. "You had two very big names in the race," said Craig. "I think what's important is the issue for Aucklanders about making it a more affordable city to live in."



Despite his admission of interest in the race for the Auckland mayoralty, Craig says the Conservative Party and parliament are his main concerns.

Craig recently stood down as leader of the party amid allegations of sexual harassment towards his former press secretary, Rachel McGregor.

Craig also announced this week that he would be filing a trio of defamation claims against blogger Cameron Slater, former Conservative party board member John Stringer and political lobbyist Jordan Williams, seeking \$1.55 million in damages. ●



## In My Opinion: Henry's word A Political Paradox

In 2004, the Helen Clark-led Labour government passed the Foreshore and Seabed Act. Despite being greeted with outrage, the act set in train a series of events that ultimately preserved the Māori seats.

That sounds contradictory, and it is. It's a political paradox.

In 2003, the Court of Appeal made a unanimous judgement on the "Ngāti Apa" case. The decision triggered a series of legal and political decisions that would push many New Zealanders into a racist and discriminatory mindset.

The hapu, Ngāti Apa, had applied to the Marlborough District Council for a resource consent to establish marine farms off a nearby beach that the tribe had used for decades. The council refused to issue consent. As a result, Ngāti Apa took action through Te Kooti Whenua Māori (the Māori Land Court), claiming that the foreshore and seabed customarily belonged to Māori.

The Land Court, concerned the case was out of its jurisdiction, passed the case onto the Court of Appeal. That court unanimously decided that the Land Court did, in fact, have the right to make decisions over Māori claims for ownership of the foreshore and seabed in New Zealand.

The court decision was met with widespread outrage. Middle New Zealand feared their

longstanding beach-holiday culture was under attack. This reaction was, however, only brief.

Clark made a swift decision to stay favourable in the eyes of the voters. This led to the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004. The law effectively nullified the Court of Appeal's decision in the Ngāti Apa case — Māori could make no claim for the beaches in New Zealand.

Some 30,000 people, Māori and non-Māori, marched to the grounds of parliament in protest; meanwhile the prime minister was more interested in meeting a famous sheep.

The controversy over the law set the stage for a new, socially conservative, movement in mainstream New Zealand, providing an unmissable opportunity for an opposition political party.

At the beginning of 2004, the then-National Party leader Don Brash made a speech in Orewa that would make New Zealand political history. The speech focused almost exclusively on racial separatism connected with Māori rights and announced National's newest socially conservative policy: repealing Māori electoral seats.

The speech was undoubtedly populist, which is to say that its tone, its rhetoric and its entire purpose were designed simply to attract voters to National.

The party achieved this, and then some. A political poll a month later saw the Brash-led National Party jump 17 points. The party had struck a deep-centred core in the electorate and was now the most popular political party in the country.

That core was a resentment that many non-Māori New Zealanders had been feeling towards the indigenous culture since the argument over preferential Māori rights had been ignited in the foreshore and seabed claim.

From then on, National's election campaign was centred on stripping Māori of their rights. Leading up to the election, the party produced masterful campaign billboards that addressed the issue; the slogan "iwi/kiwi" was made famous. The billboards subtly accused Labour of being "pro-Māori" and implied National was "pro-New Zealand". A wildly inaccurate claim given that Labour had just passed a law that prevented any future interest Māori might have in the beaches.

However, the truth didn't matter to National. The party was content so long as the polls remained favourable, which they more or less did right up until election night.

National lost. But went within a hairs-length of winning.

No doubt many commentators and academics have convincing explanations for why the chips fell the way they did. However, perhaps Labour's very un-pro-Māori stance in 2004 spoiled National's plan to convince the voters that they were.

National's cornerstone policy of ending Māori privilege may have been defeated because the party lacked a nice, simple example of how Labour was what it was blindly accused of being. The "iwi/kiwi" billboards were blatantly inaccurate, and perhaps an increasingly socially conservative New Zealand realised it in time. Perhaps enough to at least blur the distinction between Labour and National.

The Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 may be the only reason that Māori are still represented in parliament today. ●

# News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



## World Watch

### 1 REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

One of the central streets in Iceland's capital city has been painted in rainbow colours as part of the city's annual Gay Pride festival. Dozens of people arrived to help transform the road, including the city's mayor, Dagur Eggertsson. Reykjavik Pride is one of Iceland's biggest events, attracting more than 100,000 visitors for a week of festivities.

### 2 SHENZHEN, CHINA

Police in one Chinese city have come up with a novel way of tackling jaywalkers by making them wear green hats while helping to direct traffic. There has been opposition to the colour of the hats as in Chinese culture the expression "wearing a green hat" signifies that a man has been cheated on.

### 3 EDIRNE, TURKEY

A governor in western Turkey is letting civil servants turn up late for work, as long as they spend the time exercising. Government workers in the province usually start their shifts at 8.30am, but they will now be allowed to clock in an hour later. Workers will be helped to find a sport that suits them, and will have access to a dietician.

### 4 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

There has been an angry reaction to anti-begging adverts, which have been plastered across walls on Stockholm's underground system. The adverts, created by the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats party, apologise to tourists for the "mess". Stockholm's transport company says it has received hundreds of complaints since the adverts first appeared.

### 5 FRANKFURT, GERMANY

A German conservative MP, Martin Patzelt, has taken two Eritrean refugees into his home and is helping the young men find jobs. The two men have been staying with him for a month, and Mr Patzelt says such initiatives help to "get rid of the polarisation and hostility" towards migrants in a country that has a high inflow of foreign migrants and refugees from Africa.

### 6 TEXAS, UNITED STATES

A 20-year-old Texas man has jumped quickly into an arranged marriage after a judge told him he had a choice of getting married or spending 15 days in jail on an assault charge. Josten Bundy was charged with assaulting his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend, but the judge said he would grant probation if he married his girlfriend, wrote Bible verses and attended counselling.

### 7 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says officials in Papua New Guinea are drawing up legislation that would outlaw firearms, and he believes they should be removed from both civilians and police. O'Neill is quoted as saying, "You don't need firearms to control law and order ... It is about respect of the community, respect of the policemen and women."

### 8 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, ENGLAND

Scientists analysing pipes that were dug up in William Shakespeare's garden have found residue of cannabis in the pipes, suggesting the famous playwright may have been smoking the drug when he produced some of his famous works. Of 24 fragments of pipe from the garden, four were found to have traces of cannabis in them.



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# Grapevine



**"The wicked Japanese imperialists committed such unpardonable crimes as depriving Korea of even its standard time while mercilessly trampling down its land with 5,000-year-long history and culture and pursuing the unheard-of policy of obliterating the Korean nation."**



## **North Korean Central News Agency**

North Korea is set to launch its own time zone by taking its clocks back 20 minutes — returning the country to the time standard it used before Japanese colonisation in 1910. The new time zone takes effect on 15 August, the 70th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule at the end of World War Two.

**"The fact is, since then, many killings, murders, crime, drugs pouring across the border, are money going out and the drugs coming in. And I said we need to build a wall, and it has to be built quickly. And I don't mind having a big beautiful door in that wall so that people can come into this country legally."**

## **Donald Trump**

Donald Trump is maintaining his lead in the race to become the Republican nominee for the presidential election of 2016 despite being criticised for some of his controversial comments in the first debate. Trump has been outspoken on many issues, particularly illegal immigration, and has become characterised for his political incorrectness and willingness to make controversial statements.



**"Many activists have been calling on the government to end rampant corruption here in Iraq. All of the people we spoke to here say they want to see an end to rampant corruption, they want the return of basic services, they want electricity, they want to have air conditioning at a time when Iraq is experiencing a blazingly hot record heatwave and they want to have clean water."**



## **Mohammed Jamjoom, Al Jazeera**

Iraq's prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, has issued a decree proposing the cancellation of the country's vice president position and deputy PM role. The statement comes after mounting pressure from protestors over poor living conditions, including electricity cuts and water quality, and allegations of corruption within the government. Abadi also suggested cancelling privileges and expenses for the three branches of government.

**"We're talking about an isolated problem in a couple of communities around a very large nation, and a nation where there is a very large number of Aboriginal communities, and every community is different."**

## **Dr John Boffa, People's Alcohol Action Coalition**

Vegemite sales will not be limited in remote Australian communities amid reports the spread was being used in home-brewed alcohol. Prime Minister Tony Abbott said he did not want a "Vegemite watch" despite a report in a Queensland newspaper that Vegemite was being made into alcohol in large quantities in some remote Indigenous communities and the Indigenous Affairs minister had proposed banning it.



# FACTS & FIGURES



## **A cow**

farts enough each day to fill 30 party balloons.

## **98%**

of the atoms in your body are replaced every year.

## **Russia**

has a larger surface area than Pluto.

## **Approximately 55%**

of all movies released are R-rated.

## **1.6 million**

the number of ants for every human on Earth.

## **The average adult**

produces about half a litre of gas per day — the equivalent of 14 farts.

## **25%**

People generally read 25% slower from a computer screen than from paper.



IMAGE: CC BY 2.0 (flickr) MICHAEL ELLERAY

# F1 Season Reaches Half Distance

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

**W**hether it is racing around the world's best circuits or just racing to get to Castle 1 on time, the lives of Otago students and F1 drivers are hectic and require a lot of commitment — meaning we both deserve a break. As students are eyeing up some grab-a-seat deals to get back to Auckland on the cheap, the world's highest paid drivers will also be enjoying their mid-season break — albeit in far more glamorous surroundings.

**MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS**  
FORMULA ONE TEAM



## **Mercedes** 1st place: 383 points

Last year's champions are the team to beat again and their 100 percent reliability record and dominance in qualifying effectively mean that it is really a question of when, not if, Mercedes will be crowned champions again. Two-time champ Lewis Hamilton has won five races and scored a further four podiums to lead the drivers' standings from teammate Nico Rosberg, who has recorded three race wins and six other podiums. Mercedes' worst result came in the last race in Hungary, with its drivers coming home eighth and sixth, breaking the team's record streak of consecutive podium finishes. There are some very small chinks in Mercedes' armour — the most glaringly obvious was the poor pit stop strategy, which cost Hamilton a certain victory in Monaco and handed it to teammate Rosberg. The result made for an awkward podium interview and further fuelled the conspiracy theory that Mercedes, a nominally German team, favours its German driver, despite the team being based in England and being staffed mainly by Brits.

**SCUDERIA FERRARI**



## **Ferrari** 2nd: 236 points

It has been an impressive first season at Ferrari for four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, with wins in Malaysia and Hungary and a further five podiums. Vettel is still in with a chance to win the drivers' title and has made no secret of the fact that he wants to emulate his compatriot Michael Schumacher by leading Ferrari back to the drivers' and constructors' championship after a lengthy drought. Ferrari's last drivers' title was won by Vettel's current teammate Kimi Raikkonen in 2007. Raikkonen has suffered the brunt of Ferrari's rare reliability issues, which have caused him to retire from three races; a solitary podium finish in Bahrain is his best result. Raikkonen has also suffered from poor strategy in qualifying, causing him to miss the top ten shootout on several occasions.

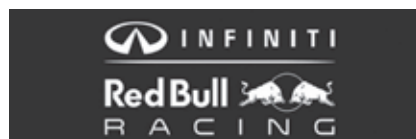
**WILLIAMS MARTINI RACING**



## **Williams** 3rd: 151 points

Williams has been locked in a scrap with Ferrari for best-of-the-rest as Mercedes has been so dominant over the last two years. This season, Ferrari has had the edge, meaning only one podium each for drivers Felipe Massa and Valtteri Bottas, who have otherwise enjoyed good reliability and consistency. The two drivers are at opposite ends of their respective careers but seem very well matched in qualifying and in the races. Owing to their consistent performances, Williams faces the prospect of having to replace at least one of its drivers for next season, and Bottas is heavily linked to Ferrari. Williams suffered a lot of criticism for its conservative strategy, which cost it the chance to win the British Grand Prix after leapfrogging the Mercedes with a fast start. It

was arguably its best chance to win a race this year as the Silverstone track was ideally suited to its low-downforce design concept and Mercedes power — which also explains why the team was so uncompetitive on the comparatively high-downforce, low-speed circuits like Hungary and Monaco.



## **Red Bull Racing** 4th: 96 points

Red Bull thoroughly dominated F1 from 2009 to 2013, winning four straight championships. However, you can't stay on top forever, and Red Bull has been very vocal about its frustrations with its underpowered Renault engines, which are hampering the team's performances. RBR has also lost a lot of the aerodynamic advantage that had been masking its lack of power. Australian Daniel Ricciardo had a great season last year, winning three grand prix but just hasn't had the pace to challenge for victory so far this year. New teammate Dani Kvyat hasn't yet shown why he should keep his seat for next year — especially considering the amount of talent in the Red Bull young drivers programme. A double-podium finish at the last race in Hungary will give Red Bull hope for a more successful second half of the season, but it will be very difficult to change its championship position relative to everyone else.



## **Force India** 5th: 39 points

Force India has been around for a long time, having been rebranded several times from the original Jordan team that enjoyed a decent

amount of success in the 1990s. This year the team has used its Mercedes power to consistently score points with a series of solid, if unspectacular, top ten finishes. Nico Hülkenberg has always been a highly rated driver; although a sixth place is his best result so far, he has recently proven just what he is capable of by winning the Le Mans 24 Hour for Porsche alongside Kiwi driver Earl Bamber. Teammate Sergio Perez has had another consistent season, only retiring from the last race after a broken rear suspension caused his car to roll over in a spectacular accident. Force India will spend the rest of the season battling with Lotus and Toro Rosso, with fifth place in the constructors' championship the best the team can realistically hope for.



**Lotus**  
6th: 35 points

Unfortunately for Lotus, the team has been far from sharp out on track, especially with Pastor Maldonado, who has had a disastrous run of results since joining in 2014. Back-to-back seventh place finishes in Canada and Austria are as good as it gets for Maldonado this year, and he has already retired from six races this season. Some of this is down to bad luck, but the BBC has given him the nickname of "Crashtor Maldonado" for a reason. Without the sponsorship money he brings to the team from

Venezuelan oil interests, it is very unlikely that he would retain his seat. Teammate Romain Grosjean hasn't fared much better, with three retirements and a best race result of seventh, leaving Lotus scrapping in the mid-table for another season amid talks of morphing back into a Renault works team.



**Toro Rosso**  
7th: 31 points

Toro Rosso literally means "Red Bull" in Italian and is an apt description of Toro Rosso's role as a "junior" team to Red Bull Racing. Toro Rosso has given dozens of different young drivers a shot over the last few years, but now seems to have found a reliable combination in two second-generation drivers, Carlos Sainz Jr. and Max Verstappen. The fearless 17-year-old Verstappen has provided some of the most entertaining racing of the season — especially before his spectacular crash in Monaco and a

mature drive to fourth place in Hungary. And all of this despite not being yet eligible to sit his full driver's license test yet.



**Sauber F1 Team**



**Sauber**  
8th: 22 points

A long-term association with Ferrari has helped Sauber achieve a very good reliability record so far this season, although a fifth-place finish in Australia for Felipe Nasr remains the team's best result. Since the withdrawal of BMW from F1, Sauber has been restricted by its finances in recent seasons and has had to resort to a series of drivers based on their sponsorship prospects rather than raw talent — Nasr comes with a large cheque from a Brazilian bank. Despite this, Nasr and Marcus Ericsson have achieved similarly solid results, which suggests they are both getting the maximum out of the car that is largely on the grid to make up the numbers. ●

## F1 DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP

	DRIVER	TEAM	PT		DRIVER	TEAM	PT
1	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	202	5	Kimi Raikkonen	Ferrari	76
2	Nico Rosberg	Mercedes	181	6	Felipe Massa	Williams-Mercedes	74
3	Sebastian Vettel	Ferrari	160	7	Daniel Ricciardo	Red Bull-Renault	51
4	Valtteri Bottas	Williams-Mercedes	77	8	Dani Kvyat	Red Bull-Renault	45

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use your ears.**

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# students' secret pets

by kelsey frost

When it comes to Dunedin flat inspections, these forbidden furry friends do not exist.



alma

**delilah**



**norman**







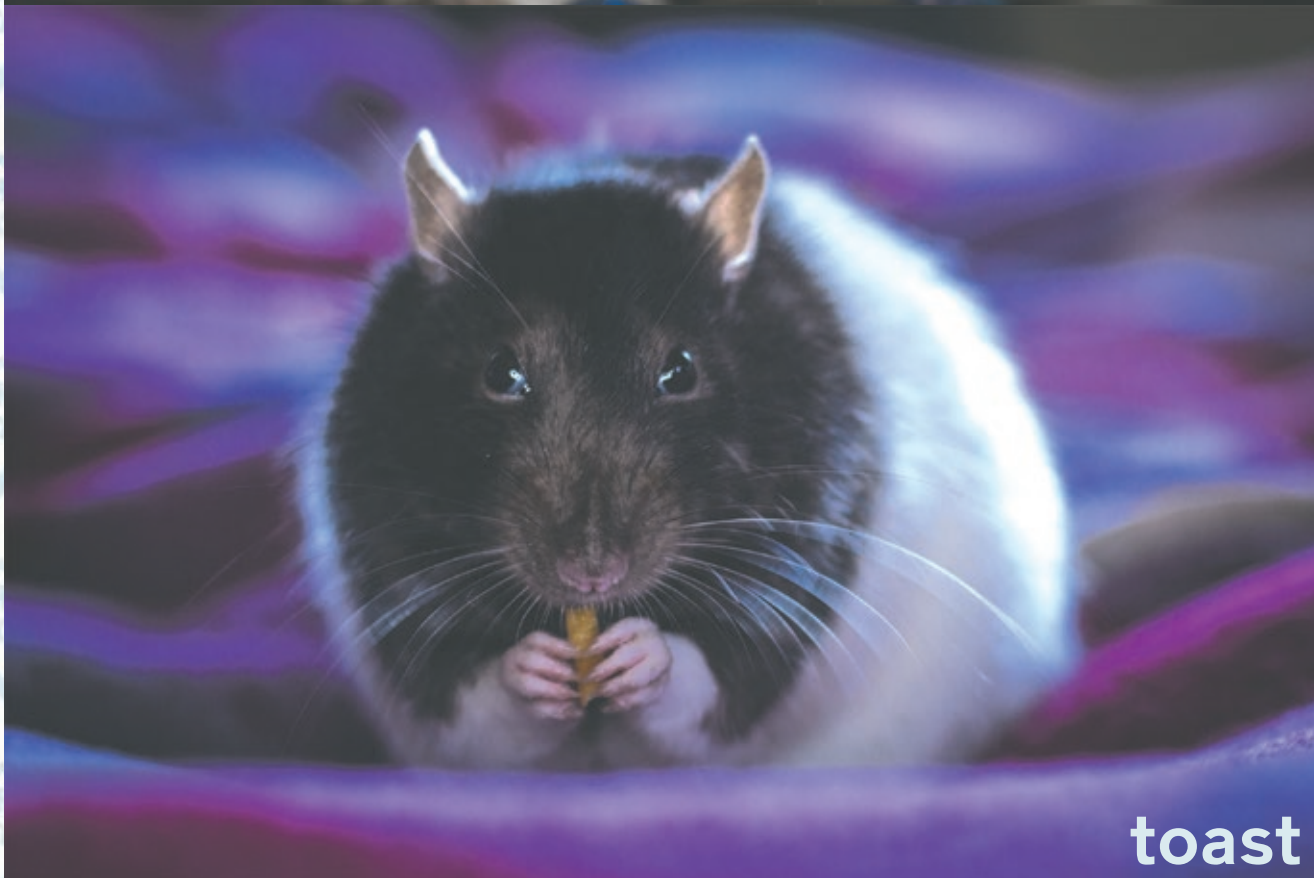
pluto



rubix



**samson**



**toast**







# do you see? me.



By Kirsty Gordge

When Julie Woods went partially blind in 1984, she was an 18-year-old student at the University of Otago. Her vision declined in a matter of months after she was diagnosed with Stargardt disease. Stargardt disease is the most common form of juvenile macular degeneration and affects approximately 1 in 10,000 people. Her loss of sight rapidly progressed as the photoreceptor cells in her retina began to degenerate because of a gene mutation. At the point of her diagnosis, she was offered little support, and she failed half of her first-year papers.

The frequent question "why don't you just get glasses?" proved to Woods that people had misunderstood and were briskly offering what they thought were solutions. Being embarrassed by the presumptions people made and not feeling she belonged in either the sighted or the blind world left Woods in a limbo for 13 years until, at age 31, she went fully blind. The support system once she became fully blind greatly increased. The relief of finally being categorised as part of a group that society was at least trying to understand and deal with made the situation a lot better. Talking to other blind and partially sighted people was a confidence boost as the barriers of some stereotypes and assumed limitations were lifted.

Now Woods is a professional speaker and coach with a busy schedule talking to people throughout New Zealand. She has completed the 15.5km Papatowai Challenge nine times and walked eight half-marathons here in Dunedin. She has visited the seven Wonders of the World over the last six years and won the Attitude TV Spirit Finalist Award in 2014. She also hosted her own Cooking Without Looking radio show, which won the Supreme Award of the Otago Access Radio Air Awards in 2011. Woods told me that the question she asks herself when any opportunity arises, is "why not?"

She is as capable of living a full life as any other person and claims that the biggest contributor to her personal success is support.

The support of blindness and partial blindness has grown over the years. The University of Otago has a Disability Information and Support Centre, which helps impaired students undertake their studies at their full potential. Their services include help with enrolment, access to specialised equipment, access to course notes, tutoring, study rooms, organising examination arrangements and reformatting course materials. Walking the campus with a guide helps visually impaired people to become familiar with the university environment. The Blind Foundation offers orientation and mobility support, guiding those who need it until they are comfortable navigating on their own.

Perfect vision is commonly known as 20/20, and its metric equivalent is known as a visual acuity of 6/6. This system measures how much the human eye can see from six metres (or 20 feet). At a visual acuity of 6/6, the human eye is able to separate contours that are 1.75mm apart. The less detail you can see, the more the second number increases. When you reach a visual acuity of 6/18, your drivers' license will likely be confiscated. If you have a visual acuity of 6/24, you are eligible to become a member of the Blind Foundation. It is interesting to note that only 5–10 percent of Blind Foundation members are totally blind, which reflects the increased awareness of partial blindness in the last thirty years.

Ivan Dodds, a national contact centre advisor for the Blind Foundation, explained that the foundation is a rehabilitating service with a range of support services. These include counselling, technology training, subsidising subscriptions to braille downloads,

“A child born blind today still has to learn that the world was not designed for them: it was designed for sighted people, and they must adapt themselves in order to navigate the world.”



occupational therapy, adapting houses and managing accessibility. Dodds believes the most important service they provide is teaching people how to use the technology that will enable them to do everything they want to. He pointed out that while some people are born blind, a vast number of eye diseases deteriorate vision and lead to partial blindness. A common condition is glaucoma, which can lead to the removal of the eye/s if left untreated, or if surgery is unsuccessful.

According to a 2013 disability report from Statistics New Zealand, 168,000 people, or four percent of the population, have visual impairments that affect their day-to-day lives. The Blind Foundation states that while these statistics are not necessarily medically verified, they do indicate how many people in New Zealand may say “sight loss affects their quality of life”.

Aine Kelly-Costello, a student at the University of Auckland, has been blind from birth and is a talented swimmer, competing in the London 2012 Paralympics. She is also interested in music and performs classical flute. She studies English and Spanish and is in her third year of university. Kelly-Costello describes navigating around Auckland and her routine of focusing on familiar landmarks, which proves “notoriously problematic” in big open spaces. After a few times it becomes easier, and it helps to have walked a route with a friend’s guidance or with an orientation or mobility instructor.

Kelly-Costello believes that the silence of hybrid cars is a problem nowadays, although the “noise hierarchy” of the road has always been difficult to determine. The World Blind Union issued a Status of Quiet Cars report in April 2012, which discussed applying a minimum sound standard to vehicles to make them audible or requiring hybrid and electric vehicles to make an alert sound when they are temporarily stationary.

Although some forms of technology create dangers that need to be addressed, developments in technology have helped blind people in many other ways. Kelly-Costello believes “technology is an avenue that has enabled blind people to feel much more included in society”. She uses her BrailleNote — a “very basic computer with a braille display and speech output” — for everyday work and reads braille sheet music. However, one cannot play the flute properly with both hands and read the music simultaneously — it takes time to commit the tune to memory before being able to play with both hands. Kelly-Costello would love to see improvements in Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software for both text and music because, she says, having a score that is “reasonably accurate” for classical music is “certainly not good enough”.

Louis Braille, a blind French educator in the 1800s, came up with reading by finger and invented the braille system. Braille uses a unique series of raised dots to symbolise each letter of the alphabet.



Braille believed that "[a]ccess to communication in the widest sense is access to knowledge, and that is vitally important for us if we are not to go on being despised or patronised by condescending sighted people. We do not need pity, nor do we need to be reminded we are vulnerable. We must be treated as equals — and communication is the way this can be brought about." He completed the system in 1824 when he was just 15. The music system came soon after, in 1829, and enabled blind people to read music. After Braille's death two years later, his system started being taught in institutions, and it still stands today in almost the same form as that in which it was admired and respected by his pupils. Abbreviation shortcuts have been added to the alphabet, but the systematic reading style remains the same.

Two centuries later, advanced technology helps improve the lives of the blind. In 2014, University of Otago PhD student Nabeel Khan developed a smartphone app to help blind people in new places. Khan created a technology that could scan a photograph of the current location and match it to stored information on a database. When the photograph was "read", the phone would speak out its location and would help the user figure out where to go by providing relevant information. The app was designed as a PhD project, and the prototype was never launched on the market. Brendan McCane, Khan's supervisor, believes that it is very probable that similar technology will help blind people in the future. However, he believes it will be through something more interactive and personal like Google Glass rather than a smartphone app. McCane imagines that blind people will be able to wear something that tells them where they are and how to get where they want to go.

Colour blindness technology has undergone this kind of development, and glasses that correct colour blindness have recently become available. Ethan Zachery Scott trialed the EnChroma glasses in June this year, which allowed him to see purple for the first time. The glasses help filter incoming light, correcting the hues seen by the eye and allowing those who are colour blind to see colours they have never seen before. Different filters are built into the glasses specific to the ability of a person's eyes. Multi-notch filters ensure that more than one aspect of colour blindness can be combatted at once, for example, correcting the sight to allow both red and green to be seen.

It is all related to the cones in the eye. The cells that absorb red light are called L-cones, and the cells that absorb green light are called M-cones. Colour blindness occurs when the red and green photopigments overlap more than is normal, making a person see those colours differently to everyone else. The EnChroma glasses drive a wedge between the L-cone and M-cone signals, improving the separation and providing better colour vision to a wearer who has red-green colour blindness. In Scott's case, the glasses work with the S-cones, amplifying the perception of the primary colour blue, allowing him to see shades such as purple.

Although it seems as if Scott is "cured" of his colour blindness, EnChroma describes the glasses as an "optical assistive device" instead of a cure for colour blindness. Physical imperfections in the eye cannot be "solved" by using technology that doesn't involve surgery. However, technology can make the lives of those living with partial sight or colour blindness easier. Although this technology can be life-changing for people like Scott, it is important to remember the effects of becoming dependent on a technology and how taking it away may greatly affect the user who has become accustomed to it.

A child born blind today still has to learn that most environments were not built for them: they were designed for sighted people, and they must adapt themselves in order to navigate the world. Communities exclude people with impairments by not making their facilities user-friendly. Having ramps alongside stairs and voice-overs as well as braille in lifts is a good start, but engaging in normal conversation and offering help in public places to people who seem unfamiliar with the surroundings is something that we can all work on.

Woods doesn't think life got any worse when she went blind. She said, "it has its tricky patches, but when has learning something new ever been easy?" Woods believes most people are very understanding. Some people don't even notice she is blind and others do, but it's the little things like someone telling her "the ketchup is in front of your right hand" that make life a bit easier.

Kelly-Costello added: "Considering the scale of injustices the world has to offer, I've been dealt an excellent hand!" ◉



# DUMB WAYS TO DIET

BY LAURA STARLING

Whether they're a first year trying to shed that fresher five, or a 40-something hitting their midlife crisis, you find people starting out on diets everywhere. Unfortunately, most of these weight-losing, cancer-curing, healthy-making diets are full of shit.

**F**ood is an important part of our lives. Without food, we'd all die. Over the years, humans have consumed all sorts of different foods in order to attain certain standards of health. Cornflakes, for example, were initially created to prevent masturbation. John Harvey Kellogg created the cereal because he believed that plain, boring foods like cornflakes for breakfast would prevent people from getting too "excited" over the day. To sell the product, he teamed up with his brother, who insisted they add sugar to the mix to make it more palatable. Eventually his brother won out and today we have the sugary, tasty cornflakes. Which, fortunately for us, do not prevent masturbation. Like cornflakes, most diets cannot magically make you lose weight or turn you into a "healthy" specimen.

## PALEO

A frenzy of Paleo-themed hashtags clogs up the social media freeway. We've all

got that one friend who uploads a picture of every meal on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat in an attempt to grasp accountability, motivation and some sweet buns. Alas, you'll find that the #paleolifestyle isn't the miracle diet you were hoping for.

Paleo, and other "caveman"-based diets, rely on cutting out grains, legumes, processed food and oftentimes dairy. The diet is restricted to raw, lean and unprocessed foods. The idea is that this is what people ate during the Palaeolithic period. All the hormones and additives in the food we eat today are making us unhealthy and the Paleo diet essentially takes us back to a time before all this interference.

However, there's no definitive proof that this diet will make you lose weight. If you eat less fat and carbs and exercise more while on a Paleo diet, then, yes, you will lose weight. But that's not limited to Paleo. It's no different to any other low-carb and low-fat diet. In fact, because the Paleo diet makes a person cut out entire food groups, it can potentially be detrimental to their health. It has also been criticised as a rich person's diet because the restrictions seriously limit the availability and affordability of food.



The real kicker here is that there's not even proof that the Paleo diet matches what people ate during the Palaeolithic period — they were more likely to eat rodents, insects and lizards than chicken and fish. People ate anything they could get their hands on, even human meat, which was consumed by almost every known group of prehistoric people. Even it was the correct diet, do we really want to base what we eat on people who mostly ate whatever they could find, were probably starving and had shorter lifespans?

## GLUTEN FREE

This involves cutting all forms of gluten from your diet, and claims you will lose weight and generally live a healthier life. To begin with, people would lose weight because they were cutting out calorie-dense foods like baking and pasta. However, because of the popularity of the diet, gluten-free options have been popping up all over the place. So now you can gain weight with or without gluten.

A gluten-free diet is sometimes promoted as a "cure" for autism. The thinking behind this is that those with autism are sensitive to gluten, which can make the symptoms worse. If they are given a strictly non-gluten diet, their social abilities and speech will improve. However, there is no evidence that this is true. In fact, a lot of parents continue to keep their children on gluten-free diets even after testing has shown they are not allergic or sensitive to gluten.

Really, the only time someone would want to remove gluten from their diet is if they have coeliac disease, which has serious repercussions for their health. Some people may have a slight sensitivity

or allergy to gluten, but often this can be attributed to other factors. In any case, going gluten free will not make you lose weight, it will not "cure" any kind of ailment or "improve" the behaviour of autistic children. If anything, it'll just annoy you because you won't be able to eat a lot of perfectly delicious foods.

## MASTER CLEANSE

This one's also known commonly as the lemon detox diet. Essentially, the diet claims that by eliminating all foods for 10 days and drinking only a concoction made of lemonade, cayenne pepper and maple syrup, you will lose weight and remove toxins from your system. Further, you must drink a laxative tea before bed every night. This is more fasting than diet at all, and is a temporary change.

Yes — if you don't eat for 10 days and drink nothing but laxatives and lemon-pepper water, you will definitely lose weight. This does not mean that this is a good plan to achieve health. If anything ever tells you that you need to remove toxins from your body, or that you need a cleanse or a detox, be wary. Your body already cleanses itself — that's what your liver and your kidneys are for. They process whatever poison (alcohol) you may have put in your body and do their best to keep you balanced and healthy.

Going on a diet like this will probably just make you look for a quick fix and consume a pile of junk food at the end — if you make it that far. You'll be weak, tired and sick, and you'll only lose a few kilos.

## ICE DIET

Supposedly, this is a simple, easy fix for all your weight-loss problems. All you need to do is pop this prepacked,







pre-frozen Hoodia-infused ice cube into your favourite drink, and your appetite will subside. You'll no longer stare at your textbook thinking about squiddies, or uncontrollably purchase yet another Rob Roy's ice cream. There'll be no need. You won't be hungry, and you'll have no sugar cravings. Hoodia is magical.

Hoodia is a succulent plant that grows in the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa. The plant is used by bushmen to curb their hunger on long hunting trips — however, there are no clinical or scientific studies to show that the plant actually works. There's not even anything specifically to say it's safe, yet it's being packaged, marketed and sold to people as the miracle medicine they've been after their whole lives.

### TAPEWORM DIET

Initially I wasn't planning to include a section on tapeworm diets, as this was something commonly practised years ago and (I assumed) was no longer a thing. However, humanity has proven

to me that people will try anything to ensure that they can have the cake, eat all of it and maintain a slim figure, without having to get up off the couch even once.

The notion behind the tapeworm diet is that historically humans played host to a lot of different parasites and worms. Now that medicine has advanced, we no longer need to deal with these critters, and are able to keep them out of our bodies. Most people would assume this is a good thing, but not tapeworm diet enthusiasts! The argument is that if you allow a tapeworm to live inside your stomach, you will be sharing your food with another creature, it will absorb all the calories for you and you will be able to eat whatever you want, whenever, with no consequences. Well, to your thighs that is.

Most sites do acknowledge that if you have a fucking parasitic worm living inside you, you will suffer a plethora of negative side effects, which include



# HUMANS CANNOT PHOTOSYNTHESISE; WE ARE NOT PLANTS.

abdominal pain, weakness, headaches, nausea, diarrhoea, constipation and bloating. Just last year, an American mother spiked her daughter with a tapeworm pill to help her lose weight. Unsurprisingly, the daughter got sick and ended up in hospital with abdominal pain and bloating. Another fun fact: if untreated, you will have to shit them out while they're still alive and squirming.

Is minimal effort and eating whatever worth it? Make your own decision, but please don't make your kids suffer this pointless 'diet'.

## BREATHARIANISM

As you may have deduced from the name, this is a diet in which the main form of sustenance is the air you breathe. This particular diet, obviously, will kill you. It's not safe, and while you may lose weight while not eating for days, the Master Cleanse seems like a better bet! Sun gazing is common, as many advocates believe they can absorb energy through their eyes by looking at the sun. Further, this particular diet is unsurprisingly associated with the pro-anorexia movement. The most famous Breatharianist is Jasmuheen.

She claims that she can live on a cup of tea and a biscuit once every few days. The only attempts to prove this have failed, leaving her severely dehydrated and blaming the bad air from the city. She was awarded the Ig Nobel Prize (a parody of the actual Nobel Prize) for her book *Living on Light*.

Just in case you didn't catch it the first time: this is not a safe or healthy kind of diet. Humans cannot photosynthesise; we are not plants.

Experts (the real ones, anyway) all agree that there's no quick fix and even if you do partake in a fad diet and manage to shed the kilos in a short amount of time, chances are you haven't learned the habits required to keep them off. Instead, most people fall back into old ways thinking that now they've attained the goal weight, they can go back to their old lifestyle. The only healthy way to lose weight is to maintain a balanced diet and have a regular exercise routine. However, stress and other mental hurdles can still get in the way. See a professional if you need some help, but stay away from the tapeworms!





## Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago

» DIRECTED BY **LYDIA B. SMITH**

REVIEWED BY **SHAUN SWAIN**



As the old saying goes, "it's not the destination that counts, it's the journey" — in the case of the 1200-year-old Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, there really is no other way to put it. But while it is the journey that truly counts, it's nothing without the people who are embarking on it. Lydia B. Smith's travelogue documentary, *Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago*, brilliantly captures not only the trail but the pilgrims who choose to travel on it.

*Walking the Camino* follows the journeys of six groups of pilgrims. While their personalities

and backgrounds may differ, these people share a goal: to travel the "Way of St. James" — a 500-mile trek to the shrine of apostle St. James the Great at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. Ranging in age from a three-year-old travelling with his mother to a 73-year-old, the film's subjects endure hot, cold and windy weather, chronic snoring from lodgers, rationing, exhaustion and other obstacles during their walk.

Following a typical documentary structure, the film's "cast" of pilgrims discuss their places of origin and aspects of their personal

background. While some members explicitly state their reasons for walking to Santiago, others are more hesitant to divulge that information. Smith allows the audience to pay less attention to the journey itself and more to the people embarking on it. As the film progresses, their stories, realisations and enlightenments (spiritual or otherwise) create a surprising sense of poignancy and depth.

*Walking the Camino* artistically encompasses not only the beauty of the long dusty road, but also the tears and sweat that accompany it — highlighting both the grittiness and the struggle of the individuals striving for some form of deeper understanding of themselves. But, with a runtime of 80 minutes, the exact scale of Camino de Santiago is compressed and heavily minimised so that the audience's prevalent emotion is sympathy rather than empathy.

With intelligent and thoughtful direction, Lydia B. Smith's *Walking the Camino* provides a surprisingly insightful case study of different people looking forward to the same goal — it offers the audience a look into the lives of those who are momentarily part of this journey. ●

## Les Combattants

» DIRECTED BY **THOMAS CAILLEY**

REVIEWED BY **CAMERON EVANS**



With nine nominations at the 40th César Awards, *Les Combattants'* arrival on the big screen was much anticipated. While the film offers the audience an unconventional and interesting romantic comedy, it often teeters on the line between mediocre and good. With some baffling cinematic choices by Thomas Cailley, *Les Combattants* is a film with potential, but with potential that is ultimately unreachd.

Arnaud Labréde (Kévin Azaïs) is a bored young man who works at his family's carpentry business while trying to figure out what he wants to do with his life. When Arnaud is paired up for a wrestling match with Madeleine Beaulieu (Adèle Haenel), a dour-looking woman who is in the midst of preparing for an unspecified apocalypse, he becomes smitten with her. He even follows her to military camp

— where she intends to learn how to survive the end of the world. However, their time at military camp is different to how they had imagined, especially for Madeleine. Despite the shock of what military camp is really like, the pair's relationship strengthens and their slow-burning romance is solidified as they navigate their way through camp together.

With direction from Thomas Cailley, both Haenel and Azaïs offer genuine performances that meticulously cultivate a chemistry that appears realistic and effortless. However, their quirky relationship — one that is refreshing and new — becomes tarnished with an unsatisfying finale, as *Les Combattants* pigeonholes itself into its genre by offering the audience disappointing and outdated tropes. Despite these tropes, Haenel's character remains somewhat of an unknown in the world



of romantic comedy, surprising the audience with a female lead who doesn't have a predictable personality — the audience never knows what to expect from Madeleine, which is what makes her interesting and exciting to watch. In the process, however, Arnaud easily becomes overlooked, as his role seems to be the audience's vessel to connect with Madeleine.

Although Cailley is unable to follow through with the film's originality, for the most part *Les Combattants* provides the audience a different, surprising spin on romance. ●



## Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation

» DIRECTED BY **CHRISTOPHER MCQUARRIE**

REVIEWED BY **MAYA DODD**



I never used to be a fan of the Mission: Impossible franchise. Maybe I was too young to appreciate it — or maybe I was jealous of Katie Holmes — but with Tom Cruise's love of Scientology and his overwhelming arrogance, I don't know why I'd have ever cared. However, as I've grown older and the movies have progressed, I've fallen in love — not with Tom Cruise, but with Mission: Impossible.

After an evaluation from the CIA, concerns are raised regarding the execution of missions and the destruction that the Impossible Mission Force (IMF), leaves in its wake. The team soon dissolves and, during their time of deposition,

Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) is captured and taken to an undisclosed location where his captors intend to torture him for information. However, Ilsa Faust (Rebecca Ferguson), an undercover MI6 agent, saves his life and aids in his escape before returning to her boss under the pretense that Hunt escaped on his own.

Ethan, now estranged from his country and on the run from the CIA, undertakes his most impossible mission yet. For six months, he tracks Solomon Lane (Sean Harris), ex-MI6 agent and leader of the "Syndicate", an organisation set on destroying the IMF. Without his team, Hunt is beaten by Lane at every turn, and eventually calls on some old agents for help.

The cast of Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation offers the audiences impressive performances, and the chemistry between Ethan and one of his former colleagues, Benji Dunn (Simon Pegg), provides the audience with some amusing banter. Ethan's brooding and sinister characteristics contrast well with Benji, who gives the audience excellent comic relief and some much-needed light-heartedness. Although the characters are well developed, the film has far too many plot twists. One is fine, two is unexpected and intriguing, but start playing around with too many and it becomes annoying.

Despite this, the action scenes and atmosphere of Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation gives the audience a film with an outstanding cast. It is a welcomed fifth instalment to the Mission: Impossible franchise and does not disappoint. ●

## Theatre: The Hound of the Baskervilles

» DIRECTED BY **PATRICK DAVIES**

REVIEWED BY **KIRSTY GORDGE**



With three actors playing several roles throughout the show, The Hound of the Baskervilles is a theatre production that provides a refreshingly unconventional take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most well-known Sherlock Holmes mystery.

Featuring Detective Sherlock Holmes (Nick Dunbar) and his ever-inquisitive sidekick, Doctor Watson (Simon Leary), the crime-murder-mystery-turned-comedy adds some extra fuel to the classic storyline. The pair are called on to investigate the death of Sir Charles Baskerville (Patrick Davies), a man who believed in a family curse — one where his ancestor had sold his soul to the devil in exchange for help to abduct a woman and was apparently killed by a giant hound. Before his death, Charles was suspected of running away

from something and, in an attempt to protect Charles's son, Sir Henry Baskerville (Patrick Davies), the duo look for clues to unravel the mystery.

Patrick Davies, Nick Dunbar, and Simon Leary tackle the mission of playing and changing into different characters. The small cast may not seem advantageous but the actors' talents at effortless transitions allow them to embody characters, both male and female, with consistent accents, voices and mannerisms that create a recognisable persona within each of them. The ease with which each actor executes a change in character excellently marks each role apart from each other.

Its varying subtle gags, as well as the hilarious facial expressions and gestures accompanying such well-directed and brilliantly



presented lines, will have you chuckling away. Each scene is relatively short, holding the audience's attention and keeping the plot fast-paced. An interval is offered as a quick breather before the three characters commence a fast-forward run-through of the first half before continuing with the second. This reminds the audience of exactly what they have been watching, and the action and lines become even more laughable at double speed.

If you are looking for a funny, warm, entertaining and out-of-the-ordinary night, this spectacular production is awaiting you. ●





## Skinny Soup

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

I make a lot of cakes. Pastries, slices, anything baked really. I even have a site called Sophie Likes Cake. You can probably guess that because of this I would also consume a lot of cake. In an attempt to counteract my calorific hobby, I also go to the gym. A lot. I also tend to eat a lot of vegetable soup.

This soup I call "skinny soup". It is filling, warming, full of flavour but not full of calories.

As it requires some pretty cheap vegetables and some budget tins of tomatoes, it is also skinny on the old bank balance, which is currently sitting at about \$11.

Most Sundays I will cook up a nice big pot of this soup and take jars of it with me each day for lunch. You could add in a tin of lentils, barley or even pasta to hearten it up. I don't 'cause, you know, carbs. ●

### INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

- **splash** of cooking oil
- **1** onion, diced
- **4** cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- **3** carrots, diced
- **350g** pumpkin, skinned and cubed
- **3 stalks** of celery, diced
- **2 teaspoons** ground cumin
- **1 teaspoon** ground coriander
- **1 teaspoon** smoked paprika
- **½ teaspoon** ground chilli
- **3** OXO vegetable stock cubes (chicken will also work)
- **600ml** hot water
- **2 400g tins** chopped tomatoes
- salt to taste
- **freshly chopped** coriander leaves to stir through at the end

### METHOD

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, sauté the onion until translucent, then add the garlic and continue to cook for another minute.
2. Tip in the carrot, pumpkin and celery and leave to fry for five minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Tip in the spices and stir to coat the vegetables. Fry for another two minutes to release the flavour.
4. Dissolve the vegetable stock cubes in the water and pour this into the saucepan along with the tomatoes. Bring to the boil, then reduce to a simmer.
5. Simmer the soup for around half an hour until all the vegetables have softened. Add salt to taste. Stir through the chopped coriander and serve.



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## Josh Hunter & Jessie Lee Robertson **As Bad As Me**

» **13 VAULT GALLERY** | 1-28 AUGUST

BY **LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER**

**I** My mum knew I'd be fucked if I did anything else," Josh said when I asked him why he went to art school. Enamoured of popular culture, Americana, comics and tattoos, Josh Hunter and Jessie Lee Robertson aren't quite like the art school graduates I typically encounter, but that just means they are bringing another, exciting interpretation to the art world.

The Tom Waits title *Bad As Me* has made a reappearance as the name for a near sold-out show at 13 Vault Gallery. Like the Waits album, the show marks a (re-)emergence for its two featured artists, Josh and Jessie. When the two have shown their works before, it had been at

Dunedin's art school, but as recent fine art graduates they are individually and collaboratively finding their feet within the wider art scenes in Dunedin, New Zealand and beyond. *As Bad As Me*, organised by 13 Vault's Nathan Forbes in conjunction with tattoo parlour, Agency Inc, features three works each by Josh and Jessie. "13 Vault is a space for artists who usually don't have a voice in the typical Dunedin artist community," Josh comments. "It's a space that isn't hindered by expectations on what's happening in the art world at a given moment."

By screen-printing digital illustrations, Josh has created three works that depict Evel Knievel

in various hellish scenarios. "He was an amazing stuntman but also a real bastard — he was a bank robber and broke guys' arms with baseball bats because he didn't like them. This icon was actually a coked-up douchebag." Josh's work in this show "connects together to make one world where a portal from hell has been opened in Tokyo and biker gangs are trying to take over humanity." Despite this growing background narrative, Josh describes it as "a work in progress".

Jessie's pencil works also use icons from Americana, with portraits of Courtney Love ("although she was only good in '94"), Anna Nicole-Smith and Betty Page: "I focused on gross Americana and overused women — it was an ode to/R.I.P. [project]." The women that Jessie chose to depict "are sexy, have amazing bodies, married rich and got dirty — they were doing all this before it was cool to be feminist and do BDSM, before it was cool to have a sugar daddy. Now women can do all that. These people [set the way] for everyone else."

Jessie's interest in pop culture, America and female icons is a recurring theme in her work. For her honour's year, her final work was a large blanket fort made of 576 "screen-printed babes — people I had fallen in love with and had spent eight years watching on my computer, in a different reality with the world". Jessie also had a project where she drew Instagram-famous people, like Luna Lovebad who has 75,500 followers, and sent the works to them. Her work was reblogged and liked by fervent fans, with one work obtaining about 1200 likes — "I put it up in my toilet," Jessie laughs. "I think that was my fame, I peaked too early. It's never going to happen again."

Josh and Jessie have decided to study design in the hope that they can seek creative career options that will give them the much-needed income to continue their art. As for their other ambitions, the two have plans for more shows. Jessie dreams of collaborating with Lena Dunham and playing herself on HBO show *Girls*, while Josh would like to have exhibitions in bigger cities and "raise some hell". "Get radical," Jessie interjects, then laughs. "But we're so straight though — sit at home, drink red wine, in bed by ten o'clock." ●



### 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







## Stealth Inc 2: A Game of Clones

» PC, PS3, PS4, XBOX ONE, WII U, PS VITA | DEV & PUB BY CURVE

REVIEWED BY LAURA STARLING



**S**tealth Inc 2 is a sequel to *Stealth Bastard Deluxe*, a stealth-based 2D platformer. You play a clone who is attempting to escape his cloning facility and, in the process, discover the reason the clones exist. Cut scenes show a human working over-time monitoring the clones attempting to get to the top of the leaderboard.

At its core, this is a puzzle game. While it's a side-scroller-type game, you have to make use of pre-existing portals and many other

level mechanics and tools to make your way through deadly "tests" set up by the facility. All the while, text appears on the screen berating you as you play — every time you fail to manoeuvre your way around lasers, guards, explosives and sometimes even large spiky balls that chase you, the text pops up, essentially calling you an idiot. Even when you do manage to pass a test, you're still treated patronisingly. However, the text serves more purpose than to antagonise you — it also (however rudely!) gives hints and instructions

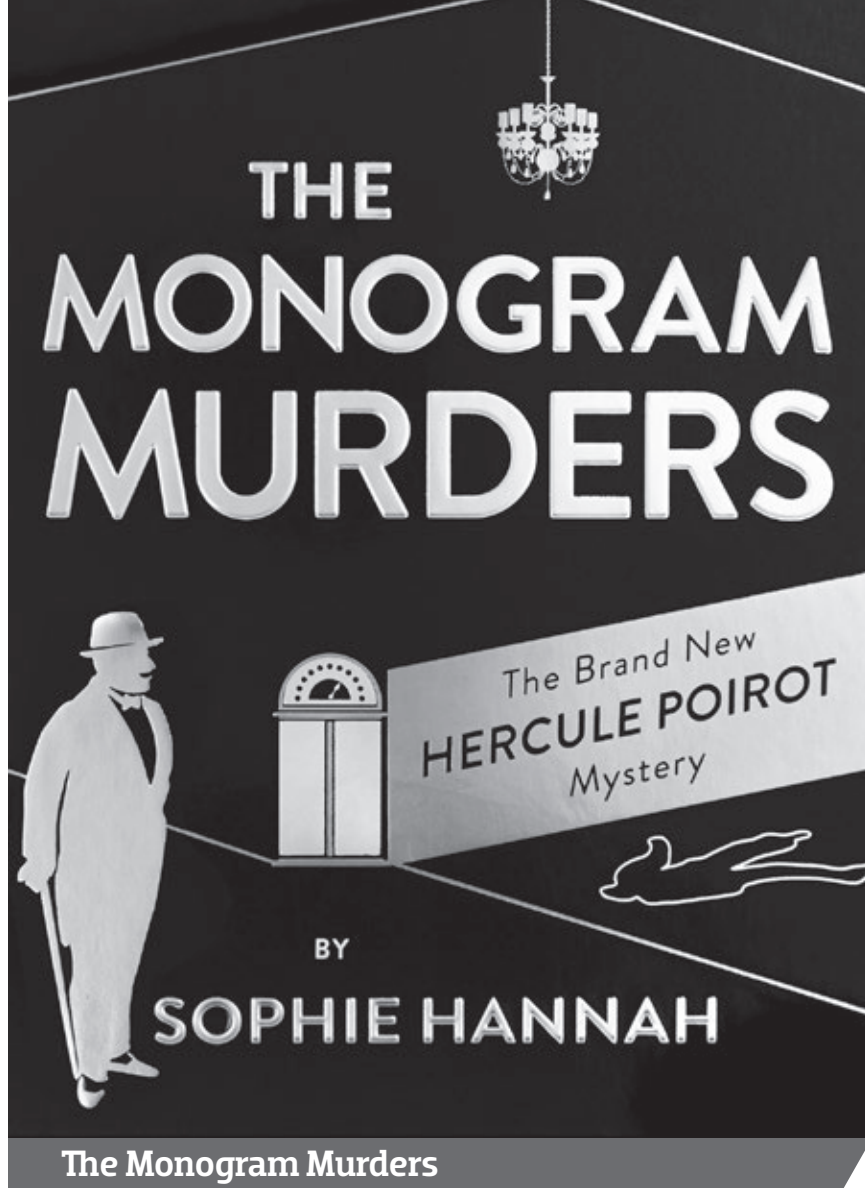
for how you can make your way through the level. Because of the antagonistic text, I was reminded a lot of *Portal* and *Glados'* instructions. The platforming style is similar to that of *Super Meat Boy*, while the stealth mechanics are reminiscent of the *Metal Gear Solid* series.

Each level is fairly short — so it's not tedious, and if you die, you don't go all the way back to the start, just back to a little bit before you died. This is a nice mechanic because you are going to die a lot in your attempts to solve the level. In saying this, its design is very intuitive and easy to pick up. You're introduced to each mechanic individually and quickly learn the rules of the world. In some rooms, you have to move quickly to solve the puzzle and get out alive. Other rooms take a little longer to solve, and there's no immediate threat (unless you mess up), so you can take your time to make your way through the level. *Stealth Inc. 2* is very impressive in the way it manages your learning curve, feeding you new mechanics and challenging you as you progress, deftly walking the line between frustrating and hand-holding.

Replay value is pretty high, as you can come back to older levels and find different ways to get through them, as well as beating time scores for how quickly you made it through. There are some parts of levels you can't get to the first time you play through, but when you revisit them either in the narrative, or once you have access to different tools, you can get access to these different aspects.

The music is also a lot of fun, somehow managing to be both bouncy and upbeat, but also dark and creepy, and not at all distracting. Thematically, it ties in very well to the game itself, offering a sneaky, espionage vibe to your mission. But be aware, it can get a little repetitive in long sessions and, coupled with a difficult level, might make you want to throw your controller at something.

I really enjoyed this game — but I am definitely into puzzle and logic games generally. If you have the patience and enjoy solving puzzles, then you'll probably enjoy *Stealth Inc 2*. But if you prefer the kind of game where you run through guns blazing, you won't enjoy it. This game takes a bit of patience and logic to get through, but the cute clones, amusing story and rewarding gameplay are totally worth it. ●



## The Monogram Murders

» WRITTEN BY **SOPHIE HANNAH**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

**S**ophie Hannah's *The Monogram Murders* is a murder mystery starring Agatha Christie's most famous detective, Hercule Poirot. Poirot is dining at a coffee house when a woman enters in an obvious state of panic. Poirot asks what is troubling her, and she tells him that she is about to be murdered. Despite clearly being terrified, she refuses Poirot's offer of aid and says that it is what she deserves, that when she is murdered

justice will finally be done. She begs him not to attempt to solve her inevitable murder.

That same night, police officer Edward Catchpool, who serves as the narrator of *The Monogram Murders*, returns to the lodging house he shares with Poirot. He has been at the Bloxam Hotel, where there has been a triple-homicide. The victims were found in three different rooms, laid out in the same way, and

each of them had a monogrammed cufflink inside their mouth. When Poirot hears about this he connects it to the parting remarks of the woman at the coffee house, and becomes determined to find her in time to prevent a fourth murder.

Hannah's Agatha Christie fan-fiction is of the credible imitation type. It's easy to see why Christie's literary estate gave it their backing. The author has produced an entertaining mystery with a lot of satisfying twists, and this Poirot brings new life to Christie's own. Her original characters are also enjoyable, particularly Euphemia Spring, a highly observant waitress, and Margaret Ernst, who knows the murderer's motive and spends her days guarding a gravestone.

While Catchpool, on the other hand is not strikingly interesting as a narrator, he has the advantage of being infinitely preferable to Christie's own occasional narrator, Hastings. By making Catchpool a competent police officer whose chief weakness is insecurity, Hannah almost seems to have set him up as Hastings' opposite (Hastings' most notable qualities is pompous arrogance despite his own utter incompetence).

In some ways, Hannah's fan-fic is a little too spot on, although she does refrain from emulating Christie's racism, sexism, and bizarre prejudice against adoption. Hannah mimics Christie's habit of having Poirot randomly conversing in French for a sentence or two. Christie was a middle-class English woman who wrote with a firmly middle-class English audience in mind, she could therefore assume that her intended audience understood some basic French, because at that point in time, they would have. But now leaving untranslated French in your English novel simply looks like the author showing off at the reader's expense. Still, *The Monogram Murders* is very good at being what it is, with a whodunit that remains intriguing throughout the entire story. ●



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## Mac DeMarco **Another One**

» **INDIE, POP** | CAPTURED TRACK; 2015

REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**



**R**ejoice, everyone! Your favourite John Lennon-impersonating hipster doo-fus is back. No, I did not mean Kevin Parker. That esteemed title surely belongs to Mac DeMarco, the talented young singer-songwriter from Canada.

Over the last three years, DeMarco's been making waves with his brand of lovesick guitar pop. His first full-length album, *2*, found him as an already charismatic and compelling music presence. Behind every jangling number was DeMarco's gap-toothed grin, just one part of a lovable persona that also includes an infatuation with cigarettes. Last year's sequel, *Salad Days*, was arguably an even stronger

set of songs. Though *Salad Days* explored little new sonic territory, it did find DeMarco's sound deepening, with more pensive lyrics and mellifluous compositions than we'd heard before from him. Songs like "Salad Days", "Brother" and "Treat Her Better" delivered on the melodic promises of his debut in a big way.

I hoped that now DeMarco had perfected his signature sound with *Salad Days*, he might change it up somewhat to keep from stagnating. Disappointingly, his new mini-album *Another One* is aptly titled. Like his last two records, *Another One* features twinkling guitars, shuffling drums and DeMarco's lackadaisical voice, all bobbing together down a gentle stream. Most of these eight songs are sun-drenched, heartfelt and worthy additions to the Mac DeMarco canon. But heaven almighty are they similar to DeMarco's previous material.

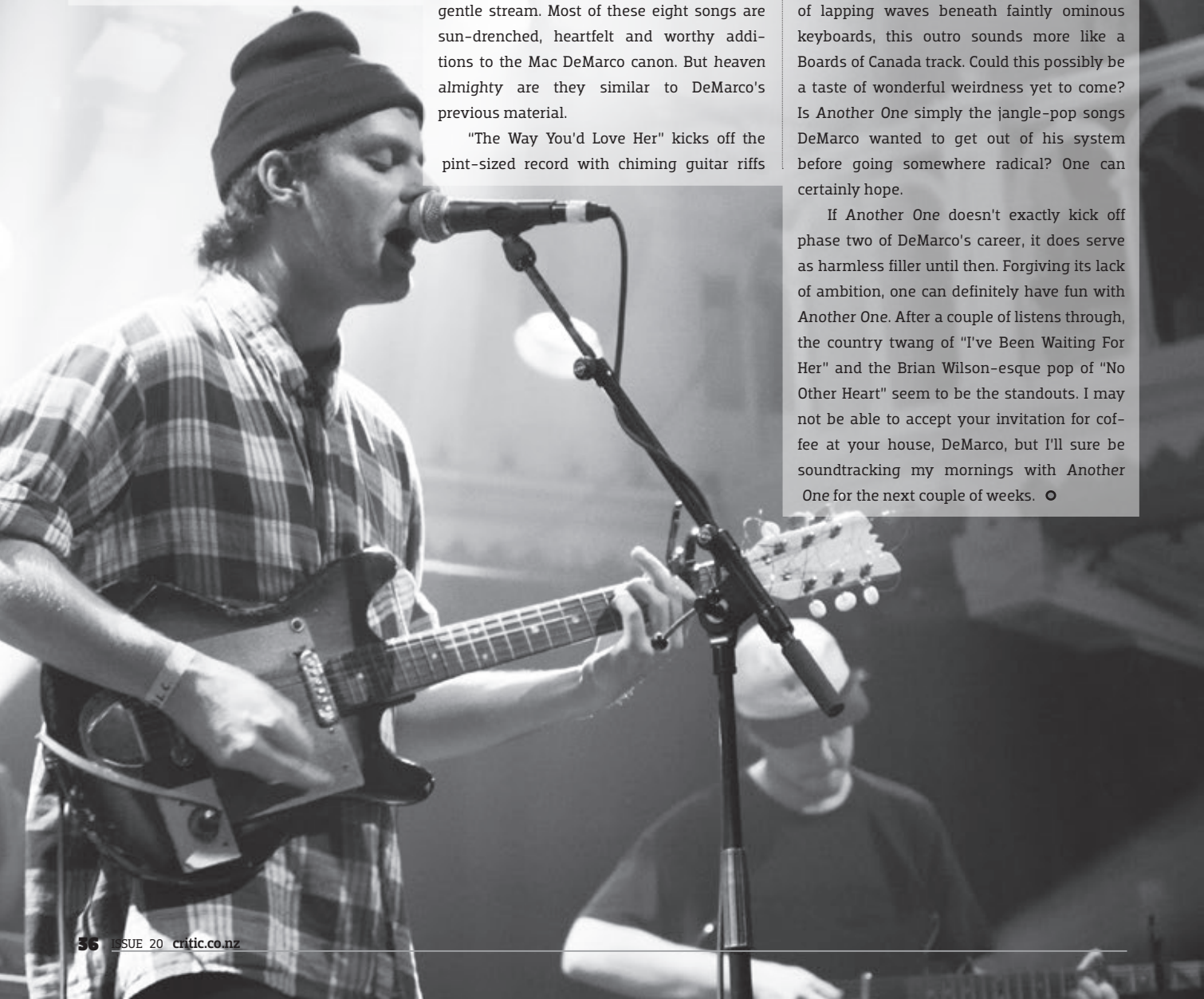
"The Way You'd Love Her" kicks off the pint-sized record with chiming guitar riffs

and a bittersweet chorus. For those of us who love DeMarco, the song is comfortable and warm, like an old jersey. But like that old jersey, "The Way You'd Love Her" is also faded, slack and overly familiar. As lovely as the track is, it is eerily similar to "Blue Boy" from DeMarco's last album, especially in its chorus.

Most of the songs on *Another One* elicit similar feelings of both charm and déjà vu. The only aspect of *Another One* that really distinguishes it from previous Mac DeMarco releases is its use of keyboards, most audible on the title track and the ambivalent "A Heart Like Hers". While not propelling DeMarco to anywhere new, the soft-focus sound of these keys enriches *Another One*'s polaroid loveliness.

The only real exception to the same-old feel of this new record is the ambient closer, "My House By The Water". Featuring the sound of lapping waves beneath faintly ominous keyboards, this outro sounds more like a Boards of Canada track. Could this possibly be a taste of wonderful weirdness yet to come? Is *Another One* simply the jangle-pop songs DeMarco wanted to get out of his system before going somewhere radical? One can certainly hope.

If *Another One* doesn't exactly kick off phase two of DeMarco's career, it does serve as harmless filler until then. Forgiving its lack of ambition, one can definitely have fun with *Another One*. After a couple of listens through, the country twang of "I've Been Waiting For Her" and the Brian Wilson-esque pop of "No Other Heart" seem to be the standouts. I may not be able to accept your invitation for coffee at your house, DeMarco, but I'll sure be soundtracking my mornings with *Another One* for the next couple of weeks. ○



## Singles Reviews

» REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

## New Tracks

**Myrkur****"Hævnén"**

**2** 015 shall forever be remembered as the year women took over metal. Following fantastic releases from Chelsea Wolfe and Dorthia Cottrell in the last couple of months, we're about to see Amalie Bruun's one-woman black metal outfit, Myrkur, release its first studio album. "Hævnén" is our first taste of M, out later this month on the prestigious Relapse Records.

Taking her name from the Icelandic word for "darkness", Myrkur's music is as gloomy and frostbitten as the moniker implies. "Hævnén" packs an impressive punch in its three-and-a-bit minutes. The track begins with a brooding mid-tempo riff and wordless vocals, sounding like something from Nirvana's debut album. The next thing we know, "Hævnén" is thundering away with the lo-fi fury of a Darkthrone song. A beautiful shoegazey section offers some relief for the listener, like a starlit glade in the middle of a dark wood. However, Myrkur saves the very best for last. The outro is flat-out gorgeous, with Bruun's ethereal voice complementing rich strings and piano. It is amazing how well she transitions between seraph and tortured banshee, not to mention the different styles of music she employs. In both its ideas and its execution, "Hævnén" is a very promising taste of what's to come. ●

**Nevermen****"Tough Towns"**

**D** oseone (of Clouddead) informed us a little while back that he was forming a supergroup with Tunde Adebimpe (TV on the Radio) and Mike Patton (Faith No More) — by a little while back, I mean 2008. A whopping seven years later, we're only just hearing our first taste of the Nevermen. It's been so darn long since the conception of the project, most of us forgot it was even happening.

Well, better late than never. "Tough Towns" is the lead single from Nevermen, taken from a full-length album arriving later in the year. Usually the sign of a good supergroup is that it takes into account all the differing styles of its members and makes them gel into a unified sound. An example of this Venn diagram approach is Them Crooked Vultures, which sounds pretty much as coherent as a Foo Fighters/Led Zeppelin/Queen of the Stone Age mashup could possibly be.

Conversely, "Tough Towns" is driven by the tension of its warring aesthetics. There are a dozen different flavours on offer, none of them quite sitting comfortably with the others. This stylistic unease works to the song's advantage, even reinforcing its rousing lyrics of anger and revolution. The track jumps between experimental hip-hop verses and thundering pop choruses in which Patton showcases his peerless vocal talents. One can't help but think of Peeping Tom, Patton's one-off experimental pop album.

Ramshackle and anthemic, "Tough Towns" is an oddity worth checking out. ●



# University Book Shop



## LETTER OF THE WEEK

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## Been waiting for this ...

Dear Critic,

Apparently, New Zealand has to import not only CEOs from overseas, because they are more capable than our own people, but now artists as well.

The University already has an exceptional collection of works by some of this country's most significant artists. But rather than thoughtfully building on the university's contribution to New Zealand art (one of our primary expressions of cultural identity) in the present, both it and OUSA have chosen to jump on the obnoxious trend of institutionalizing the once anarchic field of "street art" (AKA a privately commissioned mural), employing a Canadian artist to do so.

According to last issue's report, Fluke was chosen out of a list of "twenty international artists". Were there any New Zealand artists (I'm sure plenty would have been capable) on the list? Our Vice-chancellor claims the project will "build upon our already strong

bond with Dunedin." Surely employing a Dunedin-based artist would have done so more effectively? Is it actually appropriate for a non-Maori, non-New Zealander to depict the hongi? If the university's goal was to represent an important aspect of New Zealand/Maori culture, surely a New Zealand/Maori artist would have been best qualified?

I don't mean to unreasonably criticize Fluke. He has created a competent mural as he was hired to do. But the decision to install a piece of fashionable ephemera with questionable cultural relevance, rather than a significant piece of New Zealand art seems like a terrible missed opportunity.

Many thanks,  
Sophie Gilmore

Response from OUSA:

*Fluke was selected from a wide range of potential artists through a voting system amongst OUSA staff and executives. Wide consultation was undertaken on the concept, which included the Office for Maori Development at the University. Bringing in an artist from overseas can be also be viewed as adding extra diversity to the already vibrant and community embracing art scene in Dunedin. There is no shortage of talent, and we strongly believe there is a place for both local and international artists in this inclusive environment. Fluke is offering his talents and knowledge with the local street art community while he visits, and there has been a welcoming response to this opportunity.*

OUSA

She even has thigh gap.

Who is this superhuman?

Why won't she eat a muffin?

Sincerely,

**The Guilt Tripped.**

## critic.co.nz/TPPAthings

Dear Critic,

Firstly, I would like to praise you guys on devoting a lot of effort in creating public awareness in all kind of topic. As a student, I think you guys did a fantastic job on that and I do appreciate that. Beside that, I would like to recommend you guys to put a bit more emphasis on TPPA because I personally think that it will not only affect those who are in business. It will even affect the whole nation.

I suggest that you guys should create a page about TPPA and ask students from different streams (typically law and economic but it will be interesting to have student that come from science and health professional to give their opinion) to provide their opinion about TPPA. Hopefully, this will not only create more awareness but will provide another platform for student to express their view about TPPA.

Thank you for your attention

Yours Sincerely,

Hongson

## Yea, we thought about it. Then we wrote more things.

Hey Critic,

Have you ever thought of putting in a crossword? Maybe a Sudoku. It would really help to fill in time on the less interesting lectures.

Cheers,

Mark

## No. No. It would not be the best.

Dear Critic,

I have been watching Eurovision repeats. Just like we band together with Aussie and SA for Rugby, I totally think we should do the same for Southernvision. It would be the best!

Sincerely,  
Jemima

## Stop spying on your neighbour!

Dear Critic,

There is a girl in the flat next to me who is both impressive and terrifying at the same time. She is the fit, skinny, gorgeous type...and she really works for it. She is always skipping (with a rope). She will stand out on the pavement, in wind, rain, snow, hail, armed with a puffer jacket and her rope...and then she will skip for ages.

## Law Kids??

Dear *Critic*,

So all you budding law students, if i wanted to fly my UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) above a river, lake or beach, who do I need to ask permission? IwI, a district authority? or myself? The CAA don't quite make it clear who owns them, does the law know?

Arni Pie, Eye in the Sky.

**Brent Holmes**

## Another Stalker is Loose

Dear *Critic*,

What is it about guys that make them so difficult to find on social media?!

This week I happened to be internally swept off my feet (externally I was an awkward, giggly mess) by a lovely physio postgrad student. With only his first name in hand I went home to try and find him on Facebook for a cheeky stalk. But alas, he could not be found.

Over 3 hours was spent searching through every physio group on Facebook, the overheard @ Otago uni page, the works. I showed true dedication, I even downloaded Tinder in the hopes he may come up as a prospective match, getting other students and a second year physio involved in the hunt for his elusive last name, just to find him on some form of social media. But so far I have had no luck, and the mystery is killing me. I'm sure if the situation was reversed he would have found me in 2 minutes flat, all I'm asking is he makes himself a little easier to find for a fresher like me.

**Kath**


## Something Strange

"There's seven of us, and masks we wear

To keep out the anti's and guard our lair.

We know everyone, but no-one knows us

We're two steps ahead, that's always a plus



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We can handle our drink, well some anyway

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We're a streak of white light, a swish of a hoop

A strong set of arms, a pretty cool group

There is a head to be seen, a voice to be heard

And yes it was us that sent one of you a turd

The QuizMasters is our glorious name

And pulling pranks is our notorious game.



## Sue Says:

Dear Non Sue,

Where is your name honey?

Don't compare yourself to anyone. If you want to learn a skill go learn it.

How the girls and boys seem polarised all clamped in the merciless camera phone and fairytales of boys angry they cant deafen you their stereos.

When you try something new they only laugh for seven years.

Chuck the malice kid, trust yourself.

Yours faithfully,

**Sue Heap**

## Someone Had To Talk

Dear *Critic*,

From my observations, every single thing that OUSA does could be greatly improved if the Executive were to be replaced with a pile of rotting lemons. Their incompetence does a great disservice to the fantastic work the organisation does. You're representing the students - and being paid for it. Get your shit together.

**an omnipresent ex-student**



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LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 200 words or fewer. Deadline is Thursday at 5pm. Send letters to [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto: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.





## Yik Yak

Town is dead. And I don't mean 50 people out dead. .. I mean there's no DJ at starters and there's roughly 10 people at boogie all sitting around not dancing lol. Don't get fomo guys.

When you can hear your flatmate playing sims and she's arguing with them.. 🤔

Petition for ambulance sirens to be replaced with the 'take your place in the world' song for Saturday night call-outs 39

Telling yourself you won't leave the next one until the last minute every time you hand in an assignment. Just like how you'll make an effort to do better next semester. 29

You know your in Dunedin when you look forward to washing the dishes so you can enjoy that 10 minutes of having warm hands 163

Wanting to get laid, but can't be fucked going out and it's too late now to start putting in the tinder groundwork 26

Why are firetrucks red? You would be to if your hose was hanging out 37

Dropping the towel on accident in front of your hot flatmate and she notices the gains 39

Imagine if everyone was naturally really fit and toned and it was considered like really sexy to be fat so everyone tried to be fat but found it hard coz being fit just happened .. 9

Another drunken hookup, another person I can never make eye contact with again 196

Watching Sister Act in bed and singing along to annoy the flatmates. 13

One of the hardest things in life is being able to tell if you are in someone's league or not... 49

Just today I realised why my flatmate got awkward last week when I asked if he'd be keen to Netflix and chill. Oh I have been naive. 170

At any moment the urge to sing "the lion sleeps tonight" is just a whim away 162

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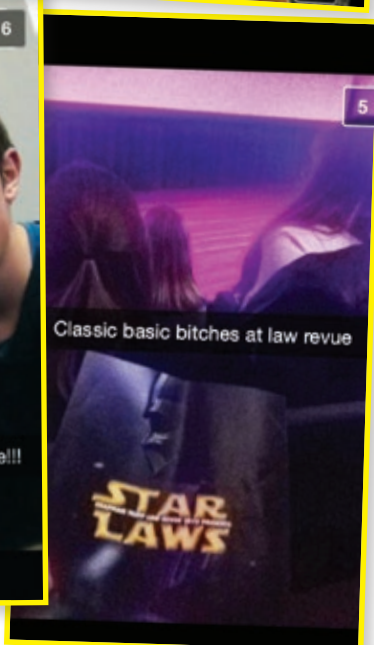
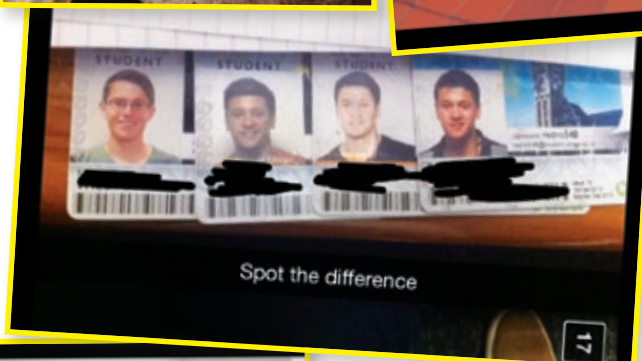
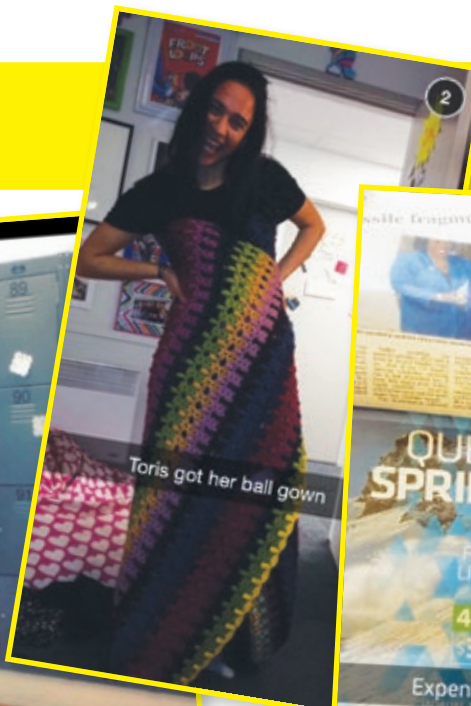
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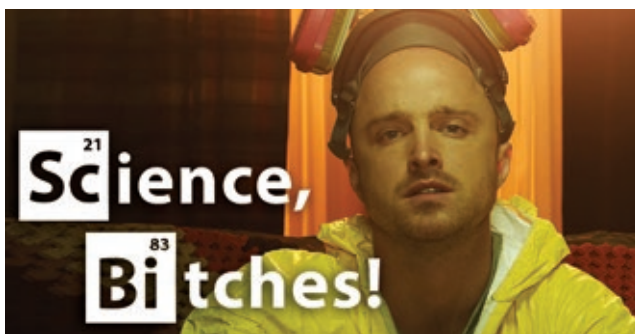


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## Isaac Newton

BY SAM FRASER

Isaac Newton is most famous for his work on the theory on gravity. In 1687, Newton published *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, which is right up there with Darwin's *Origin of Life* as one of the most influential science books ever published. The book laid down Newton's three laws of motion and the law of universal gravitation. However, this column isn't about these laws. It's about Newton himself, because he was one weird man.

Isaac Newton was extremely reclusive. Scholars believe Newton probably died a virgin. He never married and there are no records that even allude to Newton losing his V. One of the smartest people that ever lived spent his whole life in deep thought, but was never curious enough to have sex.

Newton, however, still acted on impulses. One day he became his own human guinea pig when he stuck a blunt needle into his eye. At the time it was contentious as to whether eyes were responsible for collecting light or creating it. Newton pressed the needle deep into his eye until he saw several white circles. This, apparently, cleared up the light debate.

Newton also spent a lot of time studying the Bible. As well as being a scientist, Newton was an extremely religious man. At 19 years old, he wrote a bizarre confession of 48 sins he wasn't too proud of. This list included terrible sins such as "making pies on Sunday night" and "stealing cherry cobs from Eduard Storer". Newton published prolifically on the Bible, at one point calculating the date of Jesus' crucifixion and calculating the earliest possible date of Armageddon as 2060.

Another seemingly contradictory hobby of Newton's was his interest in the practice and study of alchemy. Alchemy is a kind of pseudoscience combining speculative philosophy and chemistry. Alchemy is concerned with discovering ways to transform base metals into gold and the quest to find an elixir of life. Newton published over 100 books on the topic. He was a dude with a lot on his mind.



## Slut Shaming

BY T. ANTRIC

You know who I don't fuck with? I don't fuck with people who think the number of people a person has slept with has any bearing on their worth as a human being. My sex education was presented to me at 13 years old by a nun at my Catholic, all-girls high school. Presenting two toothbrushes, the nun told us one was used, and one was brand new. Which one would we rather brush our teeth with? "The new one," thirty impressionable, barely teenaged girls replied. This is what happens when you have sex, she told us. You become a used toothbrush, and no-one will want to marry (or brush their teeth with) a used toothbrush. Unfortunately, it's not just Sister Mary who holds these views.

Slut-shaming, or sex-shaming, is where someone (usually a woman) is called names and shamed because she enjoys sex. "Slut", "whore", "slag" (grown-up versions of calling a woman a used toothbrush) all attack women who decide to have lots of sex. What is the correlating derogatory word for men who have lots of sex? There is none. When hundreds of celebrities had their photos hacked and distributed online, it wasn't the hacker's fault. It was the women who dared express their sexuality in picture form. When Miley Cyrus gyrates on stage, she is called all manner of names, but have you heard any directed at Channing Tatum for his equally thrust-y role as Magic Mike?

Women are begged to take their clothes off, but are faced with disgust and disrespect if they do. We live in a society where men are told to want constant sex, but if women put out on the first date, they lose respect.

And no, before someone says it, vaginas do not get looser due to lots of sex. They are a muscle, designed to potentially push a baby out and go back to the same size. That's pretty impressive.

Sister Mary's view was a damaging lesson to internalise. Sex isn't something that makes you dirty, or used. Sex is a natural, fun, pleasurable act between (consenting, adult) humans.

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## Einstein, Hannibal and Genius

BY WEE DOUBT

**T**he internet is full of fake Einstein quotes that people attach to him to make others pay attention. For example, Einstein is famously credited with saying, "If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination ... no more men!" This may be true, but Einstein didn't say it. He was a physicist, not an entomologist, or a botanist, or even a biologist. He also wasn't an economist, or a sociologist, or an environmentalist, or a relationship counsellor.

I found an article called "Ten Things Einstein Can Teach You About Love". The advice may be sound, but we should not be listening to Einstein for marital advice. As well as being a serial philanderer, Einstein once wrote a list of criteria his first wife had to stick to in order to stay married to him. The criteria included: "You will renounce all personal relations with me insofar as they are not completely necessary for social reasons. Specifically, You will forego: 1. My sitting at home with you. 2. My going out or travelling with you." Another requirement was "You will not expect any intimacy from me, nor will you reproach me in any way." What a dreamboat, huh?

Hannibal Lector, in the TV series *Hannibal*, is a good example of what we sometimes think geniuses are capable of. Hannibal is a psychiatrist, he makes every meal he eats look so beautiful it makes you want to eat people, he hosts frequent high-brow dinner parties, he draws like a professional artist, he plays the harpsichord like a professional musician, he knows ballroom dancing, all about science, literature, music and history. And still has time to plot and execute elaborate murders, maintain several properties in diverse locations and keep a few people alive in pits. Any one of these skills requires decades of training. If someone were to be highly skilled at two of these things, it would be incredible. But we never see Hannibal fumbling through a new harpsichord piece for hours at a time or writing out study notes.

Was Einstein a brilliant physicist who came up with the theory of relativity? Yes, he was. Did he have adorable mad-scientist flyaway white hair and a big moustache? You bet your freakin' life he did! Was he an expert on everything in the world? Probably not.



## Law Revue

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

**I** was chuffed to receive an invitation to the University of Otago annual Law Revue a few weeks ago. For me, live entertainment with satire that nudges boundaries is an indispensable part of life on campus. It should be celebrated at every opportunity.

Along with its more grandiose cousin, the *Capping Show*, the revue fulfils an important role. Underneath the jocular entertainment, there is reflection on those things that really shape lives at university.

This year's show confronted the fear every generation of Scarfies has — that a unique way of life is in jeopardy. In *Star Wars* theme, the heroes of the law revue's *Star Laws* production battled the ever-present threat that "the Force" would be thrown out of balance by an over-emphasis on study, at the expense of recreation.

On one level, the skits covered predictable ground: notable personalities, music, relationships, debt, life in the law library, career prospects and nightlife. But they were fresh and clever, with enough insider jokes to make the experience unthinkable in another context. You had to be there. Literally.

The fear that student life is changing is, of course, real. It is always changing. But no one should fear the end of a rounded education. Law firms will never hire on grades alone. Their clients never ask to see a lawyer's academic records.

Of course, good grades matter a great deal. They always have. Maybe they matter more than they once did. Plenty of the sketches dealt with the ravages of doubt and the consequences of failure.

The morning after the revue, I had brunch with a friend from my early Scarfie days. Her career has taken her to Europe, the Middle East and Australia. She practised law for 15 years before focusing on kids. What we canvassed as we ate were the lives of people we'd formed friendships with while on campus. We talked about the world and New Zealand: how it was, and how we would like it to be. Not once did we discuss our grades.

Friendships, values, hopes and dreams are forged with new steel on campus. Life's ups and downs can't easily take these from you. Time in tertiary education is formative. It makes us better people and our world a better place. Now that is something worth reflecting on.

PUSPAWARNA GELAMEN PRESENTS:  
**SELEBRASI! WEEKEND CELEBRATION OF  
20 YEARS OF GELAMEN IN OTAGO 1995-2015**

7PM SATURDAY 22 AUGUST CONTEMPORARY DANCE & MUSIC  
5PM SUNDAY 23 AUGUST TRADITIONAL DANCE & MUSIC: WAYANG KULIT (SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE)

ALLEN HALL THEATRE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO • ADMISSION \$15 (CHILDREN FREE)







## Condoms

BY ISA ALCHEMIST

**T**hey can come in all sizes, colours and flavours (in theory). Funded versions (\$5 on a prescription from a doctor) include coloured, flavoured and gradations of sizes — whether they fulfil the extra promises their packaging suggests is another question — apparently the chocolate-flavoured ones don't taste like Cadbury's.

There is no limit on the number of condoms that can be given on a single prescription, although 144 is the generally accepted quantity. The prescription must only cover three months supply, so if you can justify 288 (that's 3.2 bangs every 24 hours for three months; flavoured ones don't count), then it's all legit.

Pulling rubber over your most cherished appendage is never a pleasant option. So it's not surprising when excuses are made, including some, dramatically, comparing it to wearing a gumboot. When a man makes the excuse that a condom is too small, Google can direct you to images that show how they can fit over a person's foot. If you have an allergy to rubber, there is a variant of condom that is latex-free and claims to be "the closest thing to wearing nothing".

Lubricants are useful in reducing friction and preventing condom breakage. But be careful about raiding the flat supplies for quick-fix solutions. Non-water-based lubricants such as butter and vaseline will destroy the relatively fragile condom very quickly, leaving a sticky situation.

And here's a tip: condoms are meant to go on erect penises. I once spent an agonising 15 minutes explaining to a super-cautious couple that rolling a condom onto a flaccid member was never going to be a good way to go (or come).

On the positive side, when it comes to negative results, condoms are an effective barrier against sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs ... and, well, babies too.



## Extra Residents in the Flat

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

Dear Ethel,

*I think we're in deep shit! We're in a five-bedroom place, but it's expensive, so we got another four guys in to help cover the rent. The landlord came around last week to do an inspection and sprung extra beds and extra people in four rooms. He went nuts and is threatening legal action. What can we do?*

**D**on't panic! You won't be the first and you certainly won't be the last students to be in this situation. It's not nearly as bad as you think.

For the landlord to be able to do anything at all, the tenancy agreement you signed has to stipulate "maximum occupancy". Let's assume that your agreement does limit you to five tenants. What then? The landlord has to give you the opportunity to fix things. They do this by issuing you with a 14-day notice that pretty much says, "Hey, you're in breach of your contract. You need to fix it by getting rid of the extra three (or 23 or however many) people you've crammed into the flat." Once you get that notice, you've got 14 days to make those people go away.

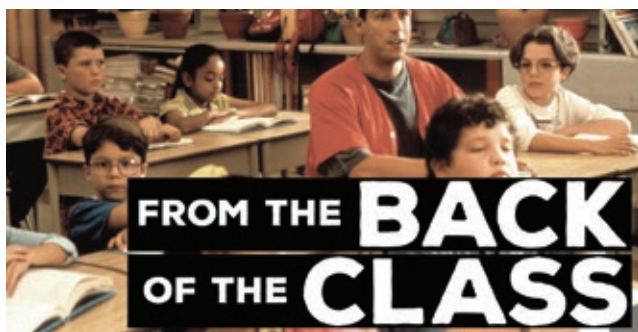
If you don't get rid of them in time, the landlord can take you to the Tenancy Tribunal. The tribunal can legally order you to get rid of the people who aren't on the lease or it might consider terminating your tenancy if the landlord asks for that.

You may be worried that the landlord can ask you for six months' of extra money for those extra people, but it doesn't work like that. You have to be given the chance to fix what's not right. Even if it goes to the tribunal, the only real avenue for your landlord to get any extra dosh is if they can prove having those extra people caused damage or more wear and tear to the property.

So, don't get too upset. Fix it before it gets to the tribunal (best not to have your names on public record). Pop into 5 Ethel B if you want more information about how best to deal with grumpy landlords, starvation or anything else that's bothering you! If allowances were even vaguely aligned with real living costs, we wouldn't be answering your letter.

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## #FlagReferendum

BY FINBARR NOBLE

If you have been paying even cursory attention to your Facebook newsfeed recently, you'll have noticed that there's a thing about a flag coming up and that people have opinions about it. Regardless of the merits (or otherwise) of a \$25 million referendum or the value some may attribute to distancing our modern nation from a colonial past, the history of the New Zealand flag is worth a look.

We have essentially had three flags in our brief history. In 1834, James Busby, the British Resident in New Zealand, met with 25 northern Māori chiefs and came up with the Flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand. However, how "United" it was is debatable as — bizarrely — most of New Zealand is found south of the far north. Busby also has the dubious honour of being the victim of New Zealand's first drive-by when people,

pissed off with his inefficacy at keeping order, would take pot-shots at his house from their carriages.

The Union Jack was established as our national flag in 1840 by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. But Hōne Heke kept chopping it down so our current flag, the New Zealand Ensign, was adopted. Although (in 1845) Hōne did keep chopping down the flag, that's not why we changed it; the 1902 change was maybe just a distraction from larger and more complicated political issues but, eh, who can say ...

Perhaps our first, and certainly my favourite, representative piece of cloth for our nation, came before these examples in 1830. At the time, "British" New Zealand was an economic and cultural outpost of New South Wales (it was a dark and shameful time in our history where it might be said that New Zealand was part of Australia). British law stated that ships built in a particular place had to be registered and carry the flag of that place but equally, under British law, New Zealand wasn't "a place" yet. Isn't international maritime law fun?

In 1830, the *Sir George Murray* a New Zealand-built vessel part-owned by northern chiefs Patuone and Taonui was sailing to Sydney with a shipment of kauri. They ingeniously flew a kaitaka (woven mat) at the masthead in lieu of a state flag. This was considered insufficient by those unimaginative pencil-pushing bureaucrats in Sydney and the ship was impounded as a stateless/piratical vessel. Though not an "official" flag, this mat was the first vexillological representation of our country as an independent state, and I think that's pretty cool.



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# di lusso BAR

## 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](mailto: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.

### Alice in Underpants

A frisky law student who had a successful night.

**5** shots of tequila saw me through the three minute walk to Di Lusso, where my fresh faced cutie of a date was patiently waiting. A fellow law student, plus a Rick & Morty fan; I was smitten. Despite not agreeing on baby names, we were otherwise the proverbial house on fire. The other patrons obviously thought so too – after exhausting the bar tab, we left to an unexpected round of applause.

Adventure now called as he gallantly agreed to indulge my rather childish demand. A pitstop pash at mine and two skateboards later, we set off into the streets. Ploughing down Stuart Street, the last long island iced tea getting well acquainted with my bloodstream, the night looked hazily promising.

We wound up in the industrial area with all limbs still intact, frisky with adrenaline. Sexual tension was high, but we weren't in the most accommodating of locations. Logs, warehouses and train tracks just about summarised our surroundings. Luckily, the bae was full of kiwi ingenuity. Pointing out a nearby silo, he threw me over the barbed wire fence and up we went. Banging on top of a tank ... not the cushiest of settings, but this was made up for in excitement, plus the brilliant views over Dunedin's harbour. My inner exhibitionist was fizzing. Tempting as it was to see out the night atop our steel castle, the rain lost its romance pretty quickly.

So, the night ended in Maccas. Our outdoor pursuits had left us hungry. By this time, I was on the verge of passing out into my nuggets, so my date escorted me in a most chivalrous fashion back home. Safe to say I didn't make it to work the next morning, but can certainly tick a few things off my bucket list. Thanks for a wild night Critic!

### Agent Cody Swanks

Couldn't give up Tinder for one night?

**N**ot gonna lie, my mate really threw me under the bus on this one. I had fuck all time to prepare myself and shave my pubes (finally an occasion to do so), and sunk some bourbons.

After a lot of coaxing from a blind date veteran, I managed to turn up bang on time to be the "gentleman" that I really wasn't. To be honest, I didn't even notice her walk in, as I was too busy swiping on Tinder (just in case).

As soon as she sat down though, I was ogling her hard and popped a semi. We actually hit it off really well, both taking the same subjects, our love for hip-hop, and being half Asian. As I was steadily tucking into the beers, I noticed her slowing down; it seemed to be hitting her worse than me. Somehow, through no doing of my own, we got onto the topic of sex. It turned out, she had always dreamt of having a younger guy and discreetly filming it for shits and gigs. "I've bloody struck gold" I thought to myself and quickly text the boys and told them I was gonna be balls deep within the hour.

Spending far too much time there, we stumbled our way out of Di Lusso, grabbed some skateboards (which was hella stupid) and slowly made our way to the industrial area, where she mentioned the prospect of butt stuff under the night sky. Pushing our luck, we climbed a fence onto a silo, and made the beast with two backs for at least 1.5 minutes – the cold steel of the silo providing no give or romance.

We were pretty smashed by this point, and shot off to get Maccas. I wanted to cut some sick shapes on the d-floor but she was fucked at this point so I just dropped her off home and reluctantly called it a night.

10/10 Critic would do again.





## OUSA President Column

Over the next few months the executive will be undertaking work in some important areas. While they may seem a little boring, we think they are important for the future.

Firstly, we will be advocating for areas which might enhance the learning experience and environment.

It was recently announced that Otago University, for the sixth consecutive year, has the best completion rate of any university in New Zealand. This is great news and is indicative of the high levels of academic and pastoral support offered here. But, there is always room for improvement, and we as students can provide a unique perspective on how conditions can be enhanced or adapted to improve our ability to succeed. This includes many factors which in isolation may seem trivial, but overall can have a significant impact. For example, this year we successfully advocated to keep exam free days when a proposal was introduced to abolish them. We've recently received feedback that greater access to lecture recordings would be useful. This seems like a good idea with research showing that lecture recordings aid the revision process: what do you think? There are many more facets to the learning experience - access

to previous exams/exemplars, tutoring services, conditions of the lecture theatre and so on. If you have any feedback or changes you would like to see, please email me - [president@ousa.org.nz](mailto:president@ousa.org.nz).

Secondly, we will be advocating for ways to improve student representation.

Student politics now operates in a significantly different environment than it has in the past. With the recent changes to the University Council, it is a good time to look at alternative avenues to beef up the level of input students have on University decisions. In addition to one spot on Council, OUSA has positions on some other University committees. While they are beneficial, they are not sufficient to ensure the student perspective is heard and accounted for. In any organisation, having a say over where resources are allocated gives an indication of whether your perspective is being taken into account. We want to see our representation be effective in that manner. We have three main ideas in the mix at the moment:

### 1. A whole 'student committee/senate'.

While the OUSA executive is a student senate in some respects, it has no formal status within the official University decision making process. Who makes up the student senate is the key question - is it OUSA, other nominated students or even representatives from youth political wings on campus?

2. We are looking carefully at the structure of the OUSA executive. A second full time position would create more time to dedicate to student advocacy. The problem is, is there enough student interest out there to warrant two full time positions?

3. Guaranteed access to the Vice Chancellor. We want an assurance, stated in University policy that the student body, in particular OUSA, have guaranteed access to the Vice Chancellor and other key University officials on a regular basis. Under the current Vice Chancellor, this already happens, given the University's great willingness to work with students on issues we care about. However, it is important to future proof this for years to come.

Again, if you have any ideas or feedback around student representation, please let us know. Your input really matters and we're always happy to hear opinions.

**Paul Hunt**

[president@ousa.org.nz](mailto:president@ousa.org.nz)

## OUSA is on Instagram!



We'll be putting up regular content including competitions and giveaways, so follow if you love cool pics and free stuff!  
follow us @ousanz

## OUSA PRESENTS THE QUEEREST TEA PARTY



**Thursday 20 August, 12-2pm**  
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**Tuesday 1st September 2015**

**OUSA Recreation Centre**