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FEATURES

18 WHAT I WISH YOU KNEW

The Muslim University Students' Association (MUSA) invites everyone to the 2015 Islam Awareness Week. MUSA hopes to clear up the many misconceptions about the Islamic faith and to highlight areas of common belief and understanding.

BY MUSLIM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

22 VEXING VEXILLOGRAPHY

Let's pretend that we do all want a new flag for a second while we weigh up the options we have been given. Unfortunately there are no kiwis with lasers in the options presented to us, but here you go.

BY STAFF REPORTER

26 NZ FLAG: OPINION PIECE

About three years ago, I came across a Facebook group called 'Change the New Zealand Flag'. This was the first I had heard of the flag change movement, which has been going since at least the 1980s, if not earlier.

BY JEREMY HOWARD

NEWS & OPINION

- 06 COMMERCE ACCIDENT
- 07 EXECRABLE
- 08 NEWS
- 12 INTERNATIONAL
- 14 POLITICS
- 16 NEWS IN BRIEFS
- 18 SPORT

COLUMNS

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

CULTURE

- 30 BOOKS
- 31 FOOD
- 32 ART
- 35 FILM
- 36 MUSIC
- 38 GAMES
- 46 LOVE IS BLIND



A hand-drawn orange circle with a textured, slightly irregular edge, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page.

Critic Est. 1925

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A blue watercolor-style splash or cloud-like shape located in the bottom right corner of the page.

A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

» IT'S TIME TO BE HUMAN

The United Nations Refugee Agency has recorded 52 million persons of concern this year, the highest number since World War II.

New Zealand hasn't changed its cap of 750 refugees per year in 26 years and per capita, New Zealand is 90th in the world for the number of refugees we admit.

The government, and too many in the media, seem to see migrants and refugees as one and the same.

I am a migrant. I moved to New Zealand when I was 15, along with my parents. For my family, it was a choice – we left a good life in England for another good life here.

Refugees do not want to leave their home. They have to. They will die if they don't – they are merely seeking somewhere safe to survive. The world isn't in the midst of a migrant crisis. This is a humanitarian crisis.

I don't have a solution right now – I'm pretty sure no one expects us to, but it's a conversation we should be having. I'd certainly rather debate over what could be done about refugees than engaging in any more flag chat.

This week is Muslim Awareness Week and on the cover, we have 75 faces of Muslims from the University of Otago campus. This obviously isn't everyone who identifies as Muslim on campus, but it's certainly more than I realised were here. In fact, when

students came to the Critic office last week to get their photo taken, they also didn't realise how many of their fellow students identified as Muslim.

The Muslim University Students' Association approached Critic to ask for help with reaching out to all students. Honoured that they saw Critic as the best way to do that, here it is. We asked each student to tell us what they wanted everyone else to know. Overwhelmingly, their responses – no matter how we worded our questions – said "see me for me", "my religion or my country is just a part of me", "don't judge my religion on the damage caused by a minority."

Our generation is too smart, too open minded, and too desperate for a peaceful world for us to continue to see the world as *them* and *us* – whether we are talking about refugees, Muslims or black lives in America, we are just humans supposed to be in this together. We need to become us before it's too late.

Increase the refugee quota. It's not going to solve the issue, but it's a start. It's a start that's better than seeing another image of one of our fellow little boys washed up on the beach, knowing we are doing nothing to help.

This week, on Friday 11 September 2015, go to the meet a Muslim evening. It's a date that stings all of us. It's a date where we need to see *us*.

JOSIE COCHRANE,
CRITIC EDITOR

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Critic

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Paralysed After Commerce Building Accident

» UNIVERSITY SUED FOR \$60,000

BY JOE HIGHAM

The University of Otago must pay \$60,000 to a woman left permanently disabled after slipping on tiling in the Commerce Building.

In June 2013 Katherine Casey fractured her spine and pelvis in three places after slipping on the building's tiles.

Casey later sued the university and it pleaded guilty to a breach of section 49 of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. Following negotiations at court last week, Casey's lawyer and the university negotiated reparations of \$60,000, which must be paid by 7 September.

The victim's sister, Victoria Casey, is acting as Katherine's lawyer and said Katherine was "a very active trampster" before her injury — "she and her husband did about three or four different walks a year".

Casey said her sister also enjoyed cycling and kayaking, "but now, that is all finished now".

"Accidents happen and people lose their lifestyle, but when it happens because of such deliberate failure to fix a known hazard, I think the anger and frustration there is quite high", said Casey.

John Patrick, the University of Otago's chief operating officer, said the university is "sorry for any injuries that occur on its campus" and "deeply regrets" Katherine Casey's injuries.

"The university tries very hard to make the campus safe for its students, its staff and the public. It is clear that in the case of the Commerce Building it failed," said Patrick.

Victoria Casey said after the injuries she sustained, Katherine and her husband made an Official Information Act request "for all records of reported injuries" in the building.

Casey said the documents showed around 70 formal incident reports and complaints since the building was established in 1992. There were 25 specifically related to wet tiles. "Of those, at least a dozen were serious injuries and required hospitalisations."

The complaints include broken and dislocated arms, a sprained ankle, a broken finger, a fractured jaw and broken teeth.

In 1998 a person slipped on the steps of the building and was taken to hospital with knee, thigh and lower leg injuries. The same year a second individual injured their spine in the building.

In 2001 an individual tore their liver, and in 2010 a nine-year-old child slipped and was knocked unconscious.

OUSA President Paul Hunt said OUSA is "concerned with the safety risk" the building poses to students. "It is an issue that we've raised numerous times in the past."

Hunt said students with concerns or complaints about the building or any other area of the University should contact OUSA.

Patrick said that a "major refit of the building has been under consideration for a number of years and planning has recently been completed".

Since the accident, the University has sought a covering for the tiles which was applied to levels two and three of the building over the summer of 2013/2014.

The upcoming refit will enlarge the building's atrium, replace the atrium roof and create a new entrance from Union Street. The refit will also modify or replace the stairs.

Patrick said the estimated timeline "is for design to be completed in April 2016, with construction work expected to commence in mid-2016 with completion in mid-2017". ☉

Have you had an accident on campus or are aware of any other dangerous hot-spots?
Email critic@critic.co.nz.



EXECRABLE

Beers, Bottles and Binding Referendums

BY LAURA MUNRO

The meeting kicked off with OUSA Events Manager Dan Hendra outlining what will be involved in the upcoming Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival. Hendra said the event, soon to be held for the third time, has four strategic goals. These are to "achieve a true town and gown event", to "educate people about drinking quality over quantity", to be "financially successful" and "to grow stakeholder relationships". 3621 general tickets were sold last year, 715 of which were student tickets. The event hosted 61 stalls in 2014, and is planning for 75 in 2015.

Recreation Officer Jonny Martin asked Hendra how many students he expects to attend the event and Hendra said they are aiming for over 1000 students. Martin also asked how long the event takes OUSA staff to plan, which Hendra said often differs but is currently taking up the equivalent full-time hours of at least four staff. The questions followed criticisms last year for a lack of student attendance, taking up too many OUSA staff hours, and losing too much money.

Next on the agenda was the future of Planet Media Dunedin Ltd, which was set up in 1988 to house Critic and Radio One. President Paul Hunt

said the PDML board believe the company structure is "not appropriate". PMDL runs at a loss each year, does not guarantee media independence in its current format, and requires a General Manager who is the same person as the OUSA CEO. He said one of the main arguments for keeping PMDL is to maintain media independence. However, Hunt argued that because OUSA is the main stakeholder in the company, it can control who is on the PMDL board. Currently there are two executive members on the board of six, however the executive members usually would make up half of the board.

OUSA CEO Debbie Downs said if the company were to dissolve and become a department within OUSA, a media advisory board would need to be put in place to mediate any media independence issues between Critic/Radio One and OUSA. A board structure has not yet been decided, but Downs said there would be no OUSA executives or staff members on the board.

Education Officer Zachariah Al-Alami asked if the board would be able to "censor what Critic can say". Downs said the point of the board would be the exact opposite and would avoid any incidences of OUSA trying to censor Critic.

Finance Officer Nina Harrap tabled her report from the 17 July Bottle Buy Back. Harrap was pleased with the event. \$1153.60 was paid out but there was a discrepancy of \$64.90. She aims to put a system in place for the next Bottle Buy Back to ensure that even if the event gets busy, this won't happen again. The final Bottle Buy Back for the year will be held on 9 October.

The dates for the OUSA referendum were finalised, and it will run from Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October. The referendum will be binding and will decide whether the executive structure should change. Three options will be included in the referendum: to keep the remaining executive, to add one full-time vice-president, or to add two full-time vice-presidents. Hunt said the computer system used requires yes/no answers, making it possible for students to vote "yes" for all three options. Hunt said it will need to be made clear that only one option can be selected. The 2016 budget will be in the same referendum.

Martin suggested that since OUSA executive meetings are public, they should occasionally be held in the Main Common Room so that students can attend. OUSA Secretary Donna Jones said she will organise one in future. ●

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and closes 4pm Wednesday 30 September



Closure of Department of Applied Sciences

» "THE COMING WEEKS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE EASY"

BY JOE HIGHAM

Design students say they feel their majors have been "dismissed" after the University of Otago announced the Department of Applied Sciences will be closed.

Zac Newton, a Design for Technology major, says students have "worked so hard to show the value of what we do [as design majors]", but it has had little effect on the department's decision.

In July the Division of Sciences sent a letter to students outlining a proposal to remove the majors Design for Technology and Clothing and Textiles.

The proposal outraged students, who organised protests and a petition to save their degrees. The students and design graduates also made submissions to the university outlining the importance of their majors.

Despite their efforts, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Division of Sciences Keith Hunter announced last Tuesday that the department will close.

A new centre, which is yet to be named, will be opened in its place. Hunter said the centre will focus on fibre science and technology, as well as material science.

Hunter said the new major "will have extended scope, and will not focus exclusively on textiles and textile technologies".

Hunter said he recognises that the process "has been difficult for all involved, and the coming weeks are unlikely to be easy for staff and students". However, "the current model simply was not working".

He argued that the existing structure is "costing the university dearly, and in this highly competitive tertiary environment, everyone appreciates that we need to be responsible with the resources and money that we are entrusted to use wisely".

Newton said from a student point of view, "the whole situation with the Department of Applied Sciences has been about saving money,

no matter what ... [If] Hunter has sympathy for design fields like he claims, he sure has a funny way of showing it."

The university said it is "acutely aware of the students' needs" and "will continue to do [its best] to ensure the remainder of their time studying at Otago is productive".

Professor Raechel Laing will be the acting director of the new centre, and five other positions —two associate professors, two senior lecturers and one part-time professional practice fellow — will also be moved to the new centre.

All remaining academic staff positions will be disestablished: two senior lecturers, three professional practice fellows, a general design studio technician, a computing advisor and a senior technician/departmental manager.

The university expects the changes to be in place by the end of the year. ●



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HEALTH MINISTER: Jonathan Coleman

Medical Students Safe after SDHB Budget Cuts

» BUDGET CUT FOR ALREADY DETERIORATING HOSPITALS

BY JOE HIGHAM /

The Department of Health Sciences has said budget cuts in the Southern District Health Board are not expected to affect Otago's medical students.

The SDHB has introduced a five percent budget cut for most health providers in the southern region in an attempt to solve their financial issues.

In a statement, Health Minister Jonathan Coleman has said that the SDHB is forecasting a final deficit of \$27 million for the current financial year. He says this deficit is forecast to "further increase in 2015-16 to between \$30 million and \$42 million".

Coleman has also sacked 10 of the board's 11 members.

Peter Crampton, pro-vice chancellor for the Division of Sciences, said that he was not consulted on the cuts, but he doesn't expect they will have "a significant effect on [student] medical positions in the Southern District".

He said the Medical School has worked successfully with their partner organisations through "many periods of funding constraint".

Crampton said any effects on students "will depend on how health service managers configure their services in response to the cut".

The SDHB could not respond before deadline, but Critic was sent the commissioner's update for August 2015.

The commissioner's report said "it is clear to the team" that "change will be required in order

for the DHB to meet the Minister's expectation of reducing the deficit over a period of time".

"Our challenge is to balance our 'business as usual' governance role with the longer term thinking required to enable the DHB to live within its means ... [We] need to be focused on long term strategy to the best benefit of the population we serve and that will not be helped if an unrealistic budget figure is in front of them."

According to Dunedin North MP David Clark, the board has faced "flat-line funding" in recent years, and the cut doesn't take the SDHB's services into account.

Clark said "it is a total blanket cut" and a five percent figure is "extraordinary". ●



Dumb Things Still Happen in Thirties

» SHOULD WE BE SURPRISED?

BY EMILY DUNCAN

A recent University of Otago study has confirmed that students aren't the only ones waking up with Sunday morning woes. The study, conducted by Otago's Jennie Connor, shows that adverse affects from drinking alcohol still occur as New Zealanders approach middle age.

The study researched the sex and alcohol habits of 38 year olds as part of a project tracking the progress of more than 1000 people born in Dunedin in 1972–3.

Of those surveyed, eight percent of males and 15 percent of females said that they usually, or always, drank alcohol before having sex. Twenty percent of men and 16 percent of

women said they had never done so.

14 percent of men and 12 percent of women also reported adverse impacts of drinking before sex in the last 12 months; these included either regretting the sex or failing to use contraception.

"This is a cohort of adults who have been exposed to high levels of alcohol consumption among their age group when they were growing up," said Connor, "and some patterns of behaviour have persisted."

Connor said "many report not using condoms or contraception when it was appropriate to do so, due to their own or their partner's drinking at the time".

The study also showed that heavily drinking at least once a week was more common in New Zealanders at 38 years of age than it had been at 26.

Men and women with this drinking pattern were shown to be more likely to have sex that they regretted, with the most common regret being who they had slept with.

Connor said the study shows "that it is quite common for people to still mix drinking and sex in their thirties".

Connor added that "this is a phenomenon that needs to be taken into account by service providers" for people in this age group too. ●

Otago Academic Wins Prime Minister's Award

» PROFESSOR "EXTREMELY GRATEFUL" FOR SUPREME AWARD

BY BRIDIE BOYD

Otago's Associate Professor Suzanne Pitama has won the Prime Minister's Supreme Award for tertiary teaching excellence. Pitama, who is the director of the Māori/Indigenous Health Institute, was formally presented the award at the National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards on 11 August.

Pitama said she has had an overwhelming response from her family and friends and is "extremely grateful" for the award.

"I'm grateful to belong to the University of Otago, Christchurch, who have assisted this curriculum to happen (by being stakeholders themselves (students/staff) — and then have allowed me to have a job that assists me to advocate for my community," said Pitama.

Pitama has worked hard towards improving the health and healthcare in Māori communities, and is passionate about addressing the imbalance between Māori and non-Māori on issues relating to wellbeing and healthcare.

One of her notable successes was the



creation of Hauora Māori Day in 2010, which offers free health screening for individuals of Māori background. A total of 35 clinical staff are aided by 100 fifth-year medical students to provide the screenings.

Pitama offered her thanks to the Māori community and said it was "rewarding" to see the community benefit from her work.

Pitama was the recipient of a Sustained Excellence Award from the Kaupapa Māori category, and received an additional \$10,000 for the Supreme Award.

Also celebrated at the awards were Dr Roslyn

Kemp from the Microbiology and Immunology Department, and Dean of the Graduate Research School Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith, who won Sustained Excellence Awards.

University of Otago Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne offered congratulations to all three of the winners in a press release.

"On behalf of the entire University community, I warmly congratulate Suzanne, along with Roslyn and Rachel, on their outstanding achievements. We are very proud of them all."

"The University's ongoing success in these awards reflects Otago's commitment to high quality teaching. Excellent, inspiring teachers such as these three are central to ensuring that we remain at the forefront of New Zealand universities in teaching, and continue to be held in high regard internationally."

This marks the fourth year in a row that the Prime Minister's Supreme Award has been won by a University of Otago staff member. In the last 13 years, six Otago teachers have won the award.

Māori Bar "Shows No Credibility or Integrity"

» MĀORI PARTY CO-LEADER SAYS IDEA IS "BLATANT PIGGY-BACKING OFF MĀORI CULTURE"

BY **OLIVER GASKELL**



IMAGE: CC BY 2.0 (flickr) Priceminister

The Māori Party has condemned former All Black Byron Kelleher's sports bar, "The Haka Corner", claiming it disrespects Māori culture. The Māori-themed bar is set to open in Kelleher's residence of Toulouse, France.

The bar has come under fire for creating an online haka challenge,

promoted on Kelleher and the Haka Corner's Facebook pages.

Māori Party co-leader Te Ururoa Flavell claimed Kelleher is exploiting Māori culture, particularly criticising the use of the traditional war cry to encourage alcohol consumption.

"To make money associating drinking alcohol with Māori people is completely unacceptable and shows no credibility or integrity ... The social statistics around Māori and drinking are not good and this is not appropriate."

Flavell said the move is "blatant piggy-backing off Māori culture" and Kelleher's behaviour "is out of order".

Founder of the Manaia Maori Performing Arts Company, Lionel Anderson, also questioned the bar's appropriateness in an interview with Maori TV.

Anderson said the haka is "quite identifiable overseas" and Kelleher "can market and promote that as [he sees] fit".

In a statement, the Haka Corner rejected criticisms, claiming the bar was designed to share New Zealand's rugby culture with French fans. "French people are really respectful towards New Zealand roots, [they] love haka and All Blacks spirit."

Former co-leader of the Māori Party, Pita Sharples, also criticised the challenge, calling Kelleher's behaviour disappointing.

"Kelleher is not a Māori and should not really be doing this. It is an insult to our culture," said Sharples. "A lot of the other All Blacks will not like it either because they respect the haka greatly. It is fair enough to cash in on the rugby, but not in this way." ●

Jeans Too Tight for the Genes

» OTAGO STUDY HOPES TO LINK OBESITY AND GENES

BY **BRIDIE BOYD**

A new study is hoping to identify a genetic link between obesity and diabetes in New Zealanders.

The million-dollar study will be the largest so far in the attempt to discover the genes that can predispose Kiwis towards type-2 diabetes and obesity. The study was announced at Maurice Wilkins Centre at the annual Queenstown Research Week on 1 September.

The researchers will analyse up to 500 genes from over 600 people belonging to groups at risk of the diseases. The study will look for the genetic triggers that encourage people to overeat, or conserve too much energy.

Associate Professor Tony Merriman from the University of Otago and Professor Peter Shepherd from the University of Auckland will be responsible for the genetic analysis. They will co-direct a small team.

Merriman said it is "great" to see the study starting, and he thinks the results will have huge impacts on obesity in New Zealand.

"Ultimately our results should identify population subsets that could benefit from different interventions, e.g. exercise and/or behavioural training in food intake and/or specific drug/medical treatments," he said.

Merriman also said he hopes to change prejudices against those who suffer from type-2 diabetes or obesity.

"Hopefully," he said, "this change in perception from the voting public will enhance the political will to implement public health approaches to reduce the availability and increase the price of nutrient poor and energy dense foods that contribute to obesity."

Merriman said he does not believe the results will change the need for New Zealanders to exercise and eat moderately, and said genetics will only explain around 50 to 60 percent of obesity cases.

"Certainly the food environment and the physical environment (exercise) are important," said Merriman. "Other factors that may contribute are warmer houses (less calories used in keeping warm), less infectious diseases (that use calories in fighting by the immune system), and less thinking (the brain uses a lot of energy)." ●



Singer's Assault Comments Under Fire

» CHRISSIE HYNDE: "WHO ELSE'S FAULT CAN IT BE?"

BY STAFF REPORTER

Rock singer Chrissie Hynde is under fire after claiming in a Sunday Times interview that provocatively dressed women should take responsibility if they are sexually assaulted.

The Pretenders frontliner revealed that when she was 21 years old, she was sexually assaulted by members of a motorcycle gang. Hynde said she takes full responsibility for what happened: "If I'm walking around in my underwear and I'm drunk ... Who else's fault can it be?"

Various groups have slammed Hynde's remarks, with the director of Victim Support (UK), Lucy Hastings, telling the Guardian that victims "should not blame themselves".

Hastings said victims will often be "targeted by predatory offenders". Hastings said "regardless of circumstances or factors which have made them particularly vulnerable", sexual violence victims "should never feel or be made to feel that they were responsible for the appalling crime they suffered".

Hynde argued in her recently released autobiography that if women "don't want to entice a rapist", then "don't wear high heels so you can't run from him".

Polly Vernon, sexual assault victim and author of *Hot Feminist*, condemned the comments, claiming assaults can happen to anyone.

"Sexual aggressors are going to be aggressive, regardless of who wears how little. The women of Britain could give up mini-skirts, bra tops and stilettos en masse and terrifying numbers would still be subject to sexual violence."

Vernon added that when she was assaulted: "I was wearing second-hand Levi's 501 jeans; a moss green oversized M&S man's jumper over a grey marl crew neck T-shirt; Dr Martens shoes; and a denim jacket from Gap."

"My silhouette was bulky and androgynous, as the fashions of the time dictated. I'm slightly amazed my attacker actually realised there was a woman under all that cloth," said Vernon.

Former Runaways bassist Jackie Fuchs, who spoke earlier this year about having been raped by the Runaways' manager, Kim Fowley, told Yahoo Music:

"If you had seen the messages that people sent me, so many of them were about 'I've always thought it was my fault' ... So this [Hynde's comments] is just telling people who've recently gone through this experience of being raped or abused, 'Yeah, you're right, it is your fault.' But there's no such thing as asking for it. And poor judgment is not an invitation to rape, nor an excuse for it." ●



IMAGE: CC BY-NC 2.0 (flickr) Lilliane Callegari

If you or someone you know has been assaulted, please get in touch with these organisations, which are there to support you.

Victim Support: 0800 842 846 | www.victimsupport.org.nz
Rape Crisis 24-Hour Hotline: 0800 883300

European Refugee Crisis Escalates

» IN ONE WEEK, ANOTHER 700 REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA

BY BRIDIE BOYD

The refugee crisis in the European Union has escalated, with more than 700 people attempting to enter Austria alone since 30 August.

Refugees have also been trying to get into Spain via Morocco. One man was hidden

underneath a car hood, with his body wrapped around the motor. He was treated for oxygen deprivation after inhaling noxious car fumes.

Details are emerging about a group of refugees who drowned after trying to get from Turkey to the Greek Island of Kos. Bodies, including

those of children, have been washing ashore near the Turkish resort town of Bodrum.

An abandoned van on the Austrian-Hungarian border was found with 71 bodies of refugees, including a baby girl, who had died days earlier in an attempt to reach the West.

The horror of the van has not deterred other refugees from trying to enter Europe using similar methods. Police in eastern Austria said that since 30 August, 700 refugees have arrived, and around a third of them have been found in lorries or vans. Many of the refugees have come over



Rubbish Crisis in Lebanon Sparks Protests

» GARBAGE ACCUMULATING IN LEBANESE MOUNTAINS

BY ZAHRA SHAHTAHMASEBI

Thousands of Lebanese have rallied in the country's capital, Beirut, to protest the "rubbish crisis" occurring in the city.

Rubbish has been accumulating in the city since July after the closure of the city's main landfill. More than 20,000 tonnes of garbage have piled up in the city and the surrounding mountains.

Last month, six Lebanese ministers resigned after the cabinet rejected new waste management contracts, claiming they were too expensive.

"Given the high prices [quoted by would-be contractors], the council of ministers has decided not to approve the tenders and is charging the ministerial committee with finding alternatives."

Protesters calling for a better system marched through the streets waving flags and garbage bags, wearing paper masks and chanting anti-government slogans.

The protest campaign has been named "You Stink" due to the strong odours from the garbage on the streets. Residents have resorted to using shirts or scarves to cover their noses and mouths.

The protesters set a 72-hour ultimatum for the government to respond and threatened to escalate the protests if their demands are not met. They called for a snap parliamentary election, and for the environment minister to resign.

Rubbish collection has resumed in some parts of the capital. However, the government has not responded, making residents anxious

that a long-term solution has not been found.

Fears that the rally would turn violent led to high security, with barricades and barbed-wire fences placed around official buildings. However, the protest remained mostly peaceful, except for a group of masked youths who tried to break through the barriers surrounding the prime minister's office and then attacked the police with stones and bottles.

Lebanon has been without a president since May last year after Michel Suleiman stepped down and was not replaced.

The garbage crisis is said to be a reminder of the government's ongoing dysfunction, with Lebanese people saying that "enough is enough". ●

the border from Hungary. Police have arrested 24 people for smuggling.

Thousands of people have attempted to cross into Europe in 2015. International Organisation for Migration figures show that so far over 234,770 refugees have landed in Greece alone this year, which is more than the number in 2014 for Europe-wide migration. Another 114,276 people have made it to Italy.

Many never made it to Europe, either dying or vanishing on the journey. In a statement last week, United Nations Refugee Agency

spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said around 2500 people are believed to have died or gone missing while trying to reach Europe this year.

Many of the deaths were caused by drowning or suffocating in dangerous or unseaworthy boats.

Germany is taking in the bulk of the refugees, having received roughly 43 percent.

The distribution of the refugees has been criticised. According to Italy's foreign ministry, Italy, France and Germany are calling for "fair" distribution of refugees in Europe.

Peter Ammon, Germany's ambassador to the UK, has heavily criticised the number of refugees that Britain takes in, especially compared to Germany.

"Britain has taken in refugees for centuries and I think not to your disadvantage and I think we will expect that all partners will make their best efforts to contribute to the solution of this problem," he said.

Many refugees come from war-torn or crisis-stricken countries such as Guinea and Syria. ●



IMAGE: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (flickr) IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation

Labour Calls for Refugee Quota Increase

» OTAGO PROFESSOR: "IT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE SOLUTION"

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

The Labour Party has called on the government to increase New Zealand's refugee quota. A recent press release urges that the 750 quota be increased by 250–500 people per year.

The recent surge in refugees leaving Syria has placed pressure on countries around the region. The European Union reported that 100,000 refugees arrived on its borders in August alone.

"There are now nine million refugees from Syria alone. Every country in the world needs

to do its share and the Prime Minister's adamant refusal to lift our annual 750 refugee quota or consider a one-off special increase for displaced Syrians is disgraceful. We can do more and we must," said Labour Party leader Andrew Little.

However, University of Otago professor Robert Patman has denied that increasing the quota will help deter the crisis. Appearing on the Paul Henry Show, Patman said: "It might be a step in the right direction, but it's certainly not the solution and we have to be measured about this."

He adds, "New Zealand can play its part on the [United Nations] Security Council, but I think two things have to happen with respect to the short-term crisis in Europe. Europe has to develop a single asylum policy — at the moment they're squabbling over which countries should take a certain number of refugees — but more generally [and] globally we do actually have to move away from this idea that these problems are someone else's problem." ●

No Plans to Accelerate Spending

» GOVERNMENT POSITIVE DESPITE GLOBAL MARKET'S SLIDE

BY **HUGH BAIRD**

The government is confident that a slide in global markets this week does not spell recession for the country.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday 1 September in the wake of "black Monday", which saw markets around the world plummet, neither Key nor English believed that a slowing

Chinese economy or global stock rout would lead to a New Zealand recession.

They stated that they had no plans to accelerate spending in infrastructure or other fiscal stimuli in response to the latest downturn in global markets. Both conceded that if the economy were to worsen, increasing

spending would be an option. It creates jobs, improves production.

Key claimed that the government's current economic plan was the right strategy. He was confident that the New Zealand economy is strong. He added that the Reserve Bank could lower interest rates if necessary.



In My Opinion: Henry's word The Idea of Left and Right

The ideological distinction between the left and right has taken a blow, raising an interesting question: does it exist at all?

3 News recently ran a story about Labour's associate education spokesperson Kelvin Davis attending a fundraiser for a Northland charter school, a decision that runs in direct opposition to the party's key education policy of ending charter schools and, furthermore, privatisation.

Charter schools in Labour's eyes is privatisation. Taking a public service or something traditionally operated or managed by the government and placing it in the hands of the private sector.

Privatisation is one of the last bastions to distinguish the left from the right wing of politics. Liberals like National and ACT believe that the private sector is fundamentally better at providing services because it is goal driven and efficient; it

also lacks the institutional limitations of public services. Therefore, a private producer will deliver more and better services to those who need them.

In contrast, left-wing social democrats like Labour see privatisation as the commodification of services that many people rely on to live. In their view, the private sector is entirely driven by profit and will therefore maximise margins, irrespective of the implications. The recent Serco/Mt Eden prison scandal has become the poster-child for left-wing opposition to privatisation.

Thus privatisation is one of the distinct differences between National and Labour. Privatisation good, privatisation bad.

So, despite Labour's clear stance on privatisation, Kelvin Davis decided to throw de-facto support towards a charter school. Davis's official response was that he thinks charter schools

have some problems, but they aren't an inherently bad idea.


"I think there's a number of anomalies in charter schools that need to be ironed out to create a level playing field," said Davis.

This change in tune from the associate education spokesperson is embarrassing for a party that has repeatedly reiterated its stance. A recent press release condemning National's move towards privatising Child Youth and Family Services (CYF) further exemplifies the contradiction.

However, perhaps the most interesting conclusion is that the ideology behind Labour's anti-privatisation stance has dissipated. This wouldn't be the first instance where a party has strayed outside its normal ideological stand. In fact, the fourth Labour government led by David Lange implemented the infamous neoliberal economic agenda dubbed "Rogernomics" in the 1980s. The title came from the then finance minister Roger Douglas, who went on to be a founder of the ACT Party.

The implication is that the two main political parties are now becoming so indistinguishable that left- and right-wing ideologies feature in both parties. This would support the rationale behind National's \$126 million increase in benefits.

An alternative conclusion could be that Davis views charter schools as a unique link in the private sector chain; he did lead the charge against Serco after all. ●



Opposition leader, Andrew Little, disagreed, claiming that "their management is dumb economic management, and we can do better". Little believes that investment in infrastructure is needed, particularly house building in Auckland, which would be "killing two birds with one stone".

Fears of a recession in New Zealand have come as growth in China has slowed; the Chinese stock market fell eight percent on Monday 24 September 2015 after Chinese government attempts to prop up the market failed.

Global markets felt the shockwaves of a fall in the Chinese market, and the Dow Jones fell

four percent. New Zealand stocks also fell, recovering to finish up 0.1 percent. The New Zealand dollar, which is highly exposed to the Chinese market, fell to its lowest point since June 2009 at 62 cents against the US dollar, in stark contrast to June last year in which it was trading at 88 cents against the US. ●

News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



World Watch

1 YAMALO-NENETS, RUSSIA

Residents of a remote region in Siberia are to be given rubber bullets to help them ward off polar bears. Polar bears are a common threat in the area and residents of one town have been trying to ward off one particularly obnoxious polar bear for more than a month.

2 MOUNT RIGI, SWITZERLAND

A mountain resort in Switzerland is launching a special train service for Chinese tourists to defuse tensions with other visitors. According to a Swiss newspaper, Chinese tourists have been crowding corridors while taking pictures on the train and disturbing the peace and relaxation of other tourists. Chinese authorities have criticised the situation, pointing out that the large number of tourists from Asia boosts the Swiss economy.

3 VIETNAM

The Vietnamese government is in a dispute over royalties with the family of the man who wrote the country's national anthem. The anthem has been used since 1976, and in North Vietnam before that. However, the family of the anthem's author registered the song with the Vietnam Centre for Protection of Music Copyright last week and is demanding royalties for all public performances.

4 CATALONIA, SPAIN

A medieval sanctuary in Spain has put out a job advertisement to fill a vacancy for a hermit. The advertisement says that the successful candidate must "leave all uncivil or immoral activity outside" and will be required to perform "all the proper duties of a hermit". The year-long tenure comes with free accommodation and a stipend of 1000 euros.

5 TAJIKISTAN

A man has been fined in Tajikistan for breaking the country's law against celebrating birthdays in public. Isayev Amirbek posted photos on Facebook showing his visit to a café with a birthday cake, which were used as evidence that he had broken the law. The social media post landed him a fine of 4000 somoni (US\$634).

6 RHODE ISLAND, UNITED STATES

A Benedictine monk who works at a Rhode Island school has been spotted relaxing on top of the school's wind turbine. Brother Joseph Byron was relaxing on the top of the school's turbine — as he often does — when a drone zoomed in. The footage was posted online and Byron has since found fame and been contacted by many alumni he has not seen for years.

7 ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

Two teenage boys in America have entered their black Labrador into the race for president. Bailey D. Dog, or candidate ID P60009883, is one of the nearly 800 candidates for president. The two teenagers were inspired to enter their dog after reading an article about "all the wacky presidential candidates that are running".

8 SALTILLO, MEXICO

A 52-year-old Mexican man says he has the world's largest penis — and it's making his life miserable. Roberto Esquivel Cabrera says that he would like to be considered disabled because the member leaves him unable to work, forcing him to live on assistance and scavenge for food. His penis is reportedly 48.2 centimetres (nearly 19 inches) long and the tip's circumference is 25 centimetres.

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Poppa's - Mmmmm!

Grapevine

"Somebody has to be managing this money at a very sophisticated level. They've obviously been altering the education systems, with textbooks, Islamic purification, restrictions on the education of women. They've been conducting the equivalent of a local purge in the justice system, so they have essentially taken over many elements of the rule of law."



Anthony Cordesman — Center for Strategic and International Studies

The Islamic State claims it is now minting its own gold coins and other currency according to a lengthy propaganda video released by the militant group. The narrator in the video explains that the new currency is aimed at strengthening the group's caliphate and harming the US economy. It says the new currency will deliver a "second blow" to the US and its "capitalist financial system of enslavement".

"Today's verdict defies logic and common sense. Today's verdict is yet another deliberate attack on press freedom. It is a dark day for the Egyptian judiciary; rather than defend liberties and a free and fair media, they have compromised their independence for political reasons."

Mostefa Souag — Al Jazeera Media Network Director

Three Al Jazeera journalists were sentenced to three years in prison by an Egyptian court after the men were found guilty of "aiding a terrorist organisation" in connection with their coverage of the 2013 ouster of Mohammed Morsi. Judge Hassan Farid said the men did not register to practise journalism in the country and broadcast "false news".



"King Mswati III has the power to suspend the constitutional rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the press at his discretion, and these rights are severely restricted in practice, especially with respect to speech on political issues or the royal family."



Freedom House

Thirty-eight women were killed and 20 others seriously injured in Swaziland when a truck crash occurred as the passengers were on their way to dance for the country's king at an event celebrating womanhood and chastity. The Swaziland Solidarity Network, a rights group that announced the news, said local police discouraged journalists from reporting on the accident.

"Rape is a revolting crime, not a punishment. It's no wonder this disgusting 'sentence' has provoked global outrage. These khap [unofficial village] courts routinely order vile sexually violent punishments against women. India's Supreme Court has rightly declared such orders illegal."

Rachel Alcock — Amnesty International

India's treatment of women is again eliciting shock as reports circulate about an unofficial council of village elders who ordered two women to be gang-raped after their brother eloped with a married woman of a higher caste. Meenakshi Kumari, 23, and her 15-year-old sister were told that their faces would be blackened and they would be raped and paraded naked in front of their neighbours.



FACTS & FIGURES



The UK

eats more baked beans than the rest of the world combined.

1460

The number of dreams that the average person has per year.

Coca-cola

is green without colouring.

Only 80%

of women wash their hands when they leave the restroom.

Charles Darwin

married his first cousin.

1 in 423,548

The chance you have of dying from falling out of bed

In the 1800s

people believed gin could cure stomach problems.

99 hours

The length of the longest monopoly game in a bathtub.



IMAGE: National Library NZ on The Commons

All Blacks Finalise Squad for Rugby World Cup

» TOUGH SELECTION CHOICES HINT AT ATTACKING INTENT

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

The speculation from armchair critics is now over, and our 31-man All Blacks squad to defend the World Cup has been finalised.

The squad balance suggests that the All Blacks will continue their open and attacking style of play — expect “spinning it wide” to try and scores in multiples of five.

The talent we have in the wider squad means that several worthy players will have to follow the tournament on Sky like the rest of us peasants. However, they shouldn't crack into the beersies yet. They will need to have their passport ready and bags packed in case there is a similar crisis to when Stephen Donald was called back from a fishing trip to kick the winning goal of the 2011 World Cup final.

This is the grim reality facing Lima Sopoaga. Having improved dramatically over the last few seasons, culminating in a Super Rugby title with the Highlanders and handling the pressure of an All Blacks debut against the Springboks in South Africa, it could be argued that Sopoaga's exclusion is the biggest surprise in the squad announcement.

Dan Carter is locked in as the starting No. 10 with experienced All Blacks Beauden Barrett and Colin Slade as backup playmakers. Slade and Barrett's versatility just edged them ahead; they can both cover at fullback and on the wing if need be. Focus on 2019, “Sops”.

Another surprising omission is Israel Dagg, which debunks the notion that you can't play your way out of the All Blacks. This also seems to be the case with Cory Jane. But it's not so surprising given his injury-disrupted season.

This leaves Highlanders captain Ben Smith as the only proper fullback in the squad. Smith is an 80-minute man every week. The All Blacks have put a lot of faith on Smith continuing this record in England, and the selection of the outside backs suggests that Smith will not be used on the wing as he has been in the past.

Alongside Barrett and Slade as fullback options is Hurricanes winger/fullback Nehe-Milner Skudder, who scored twice on debut against Australia and will be crucial to the attacking game plan of an exciting backline that includes his Hurricanes teammate, Julian Savea.

Arguably the most exciting player of the Super Rugby season was the top try scorer Waisake Naholo, and arguably one of the biggest shock inclusions. There is no questioning Naholo's talent and pace, but his match-fitness will be a concern as he is still recovering from the leg fracture he suffered on his All Blacks debut against Argentina. The All Blacks doctors must be confident that he will be fully fit, and he is likely to miss the first couple of pool matches.

Charles Piutau is fit and has been playing well, so he will consider himself very unlucky to have missed out to make way for Naholo. Piutau may be regretting his decision to sign with Irish club Ulster for next season, which was a factor in his exclusion — Steve Hansen was frank about players being disloyal to the black jersey (although this hasn't affected Colin Slade's selection in the squad).

No surprises in the midfield with Ma'a Nonu and Conrad Smith the obvious 12 and 13 combination and plenty of support from SBW and Malakai Fekitoa to add impact from the bench.

Aaron Smith is the undisputed first-choice halfback, and the inclusion of TJ Perenara as backup was never in doubt.

Andy Ellis will be feeling hard done by. The Crusaders halfback was brought back into the All Blacks for the Samoa and Argentina tests after four years out of the black jersey, only to be dropped for Tawera Kerr-Barlow. However, like Faumuina and Naholo, Kerr-Barlow was identified by the selectors a few years ago as part of the next generation of All Blacks; his selection is in keeping with Hansen's policy of keeping faith in injured but promising young talent.

No great surprises in the forward pack, with the captain Richie McCaw and his Crusaders teammates dominating selection up front. Liam Messam is a deserved pick, having narrowly missed out on the 2011 squad.

The inclusion of Blues prop Charlie Faumuina was the biggest eyebrow raiser in the front row. He was injured for a lot of the Super Rugby season and hasn't played a test match since the All Blacks beat Wales in Cardiff in November 2014. Faumuina's inclusion meant there was no room for Nepo Laulala, who looked as though he was being given a huge push to prepare for the World Cup after debuting against Samoa in July and playing another three tests since. Like Sopoaga, he will be looking forward to 2019.

An exciting, experienced team of 1484 test caps and an average age of 28 that has the difficult “squad goal” of becoming the first team to retain the World Cup. On paper, they can achieve this. ○

The Final Squad



Hookers:

Keven Mealamu (**Blues**)
Dane Coles (**Hurricanes**)
Codie Taylor (**Crusaders**)

Props:

Wyatt Crockett (**Crusaders**)
Charlie Faumuina (**Blues**)
Ben Franks (**Hurricanes**)
Owen Franks (**Crusaders**)
Tony Woodcock (**Blues**)

Locks:

Brodie Retallick (**Chiefs**)
Sam Whitelock (**Crusaders**)
Luke Romano (**Crusaders**)

Loose Forwards:

Richie McCaw (**Crusaders**)
Kieran Read (**Crusaders**)
Jerome Kaino (**Blues**)
Victor Vito (**Hurricanes**)
Sam Cane (**Chiefs**)
Liam Messam (**Chiefs**)

Halfbacks:

Aaron Smith (**Highlanders**)
TJ Perenara (**Hurricanes**)
Tawera Kerr-Barlow (**Chiefs**)

First Fives:

Daniel Carter (**Crusaders**)
Beauden Barrett (**Hurricanes**)
Colin Slade (**Crusaders**)

Centres:

Ma'a Nonu (**Hurricanes**)
Conrad Smith (**Hurricanes**)
Sonny Bill Williams (**Chiefs**)
Malakai Fekitoa (**Highlanders**)

Backs:

Ben Smith (**Highlanders**)
Waisake Naholo (**Highlanders**)
Nehe Milner-Skudder (**Hurricanes**)
Julian Savea (**Hurricanes**)



Can't live without my cell pho

LOOK UP BEFORE YOU CROSS THE ROAD





what i wish you knew

This week, the Muslim University Students' Association (MUSA) invites you to attend the 2015 Islam Awareness Week. The week will involve movie nights, lectures and a networking with Muslims evening. MUSA hopes to clear up the many misconceptions about the Islamic faith and to highlight areas of common belief and understanding between their and others' religions. They hope to promote inter-faith dialogue by strengthening relationships between Muslims and everyone else on campus. All are welcome!

"Islam is not just a religion; it's a way of life, culture, interaction, love, peace and unity. By definition, Islam means peace, and I wish people to know that there's a massive difference between what media portray Islam as and what Islam really is. Please come and meet Muslims, ask questions, clarify things and enjoy new experience ... See you at Islamic Awareness Week."

Mohamud Osman



"I aspire to be a successful lawyer and most importantly a good person. I share the same life aspirations and ambitions as anybody else in campus. I have a dream that one day the world would think of Islam and not simultaneously think of terror, prejudice and inequality. Islam is just a religion. It's malleable. You can bring goodness to it if you are a good person, and at the same time can bring evil if you are."

Hadi Alkhwaildi,
Law



"My wish is for people to be open to asking questions so they can get the real idea of what Islam is, what I believe, and how it relates to my spiritual life rather than just basing their ideas on misconceptions."

Hamza,
Computer Science





"In Islam, we believe that the unity of Muslims with each other is like the bricks of a building. Each strengthens the other."

Imad Al Lawati,
Dentistry



"That Islam isn't always what you see or hear on the TV or the internet. Though the lives of Muslims do differ to lives in many other societies, most of us still live with the same morals and carry the same humane views that are considered normal to everybody. It would be cool to see people really trying to learn about the Islam that actually surrounds them and realising that we really aren't that different from the rest of society."

Ali Johnston



"Converting to Islam was a big decision, and what has surprised me is the reactions of people to my decision. To me I see the links between Islam and the other religions as they all have the same route ... this fact I think is often forgotten."

Bronwyn,
Foundation Studies

"I don't ever remember being in a place where I had no rights or was treated differently because I am a woman. Islam is my protection in life, without it I would feel insecure."

Fatemeh Ghanbari



"Islam teaches tolerance, not hatred; universal brotherhood, not enmity; peace, and not violence."

Almoatasam Alsiyabi,
Dentistry



**"Islam
is not
just a
religion,
it's a
way of
life."**



"Have you ever wondered where the culture of wearing a regalia during graduation came from? It is a muslim culture whereby our scholars used to wear it during their everyday life."

Nor Asyikin Mohd Tahir,
Pharmacy



"I wish people would look past the inhumane actions of many heartless individuals around the world and discover what Islam is really about. I urge those with these misunderstandings to find out more about Islam when you have the opportunity. Enter a mosque or open a page of the Quran. Islam beautifully preaches love, devotion and peace. I'm so proud to be a Muslim."

Zahra Ditta,
Psychology



"What I want the non-Muslim community to understand is the role of a woman in Islam. We, unfortunately, have been misrepresented in the media and press. We are not oppressed and the male in our family does not control our life. As a Muslim woman, we are able to have our own opinion, make decisions and pave our own path. The most physical evidence in this thinking of "oppression" would be by our Hijab or headscarf. To a Muslim woman, this does not represent being oppressed but more of our freedom, and this is our choice! Personally, I started wearing my Hijab two years ago because I felt more pressured to be accepted in society when I was not wearing a Hijab, or as we call it being 'Free Hair'. I had to keep up with the latest trends, fashion, what was in and what was out. But since wearing a Hijab, I felt more empowered and knew that I could do anything I set my mind to and pave my own way."

Siti Hajar Anurddin,
Commerce



"We are human beings with hopes, passions and goals in life just like any other person."

Ebba Ourfali



"God and religion are not a burden but guidance to a successful life. People may assume that we are burdened by the prayers and other Islamic ways, just because it may not be the norm; it is the uniqueness that makes us who we are."

Suhail Toubat,
Accounting



"Islam has taught us the difference between wrong and right. It has simplified life for me. However, as not everyone is perfect, it does not mean that all Muslims are to be blamed. I wish for people to know we are normal."

Abdalla Abdi



"Knowledge is one of the cores of Islam and I once compared knowledge as a backpack, full of required textbooks and lecture notes or maybe your laptop and all those pen drives. What use is carrying all that weight if you aren't going to make full use of it?"

Iffah Abdul Kahar,
Medicine



We are a people of diverse cultures and traditions. We exist in societies spanning the world over that have existed and integrated with their localities for centuries. A Chinese Muslim is Chinese, a Somalian Muslim is Somali and a Fijian Muslim is Fijian. We may have certain characteristics that bind us with people thousands of kilometers away, but in actuality, we are part of the here and now. We are "Kiwi" Muslims.

Hashmat Lafraie

Islam Awareness Week 2015 Event Schedule

Monday, September 7th

Exhibition: Union Hall,
9am-4pm

Opening: Union Hall,
12.10pm

Interfaith Dialogue:
Union Hall, 12.30-1.30pm

Exhibition:
Union Hall, 9am - 4pm

Movie Night:
Seven Wonders of the
Muslim World
Burns 1, 7.00pm

Wednesday, September 9th

**Dunedin Abrahamic
Interfaith Group Annual
Peace Lecture**

"Pursuing Peace in a Time of
Peace and a Time of War"
St. David Lecture Theatre,
5.30-7.00pm

**Chocolate & Chit Chat
(ladies only)**
Alhambra Hall, 7.30-9.00pm

Thursday, September 10th

**Lecture and a Q&A
Session**

"Mercy to all the Worlds"
Speaker: Arif Rasheed
Burns 1, 7.00-9.00pm

Friday, September 11th
Meet a Muslim Evening
Alhambra Hall, 7.00-9.00pm

**Saturday, September
12th & Sunday,
September 13th**

Open Day
9.00am-3.00pm
all welcome

VEXING VEXILLO GRAPHY

Let's pretend that we do all want a new flag change for a second while we weigh up the options we've been given. Unfortunately, there are no Kiwis with lasers in the options presented to us. As confused as I am about what would better represent New Zealanders than Kiwis with lasers, we have to take what we're given.



Flag #1

The first flag design is the All Blacks logo mixed with a bit of yin and yang. I'm kind of confused about how the Post Haste logo made it to the top four, but we'll roll with it.

Alofi Kanter, the designer of the flag, says he used the fern because it "has been a distinctive symbol of New Zealand for the past 100 years". Kanter said the design is "strong and simple" and "represents our uniqueness as Aotearoa New Zealand ... With the softly curved spine of the frond binding us all together as a young, independent and proud nation."

Flag #2

This flag, as well as design number three, was designed by Kyle Lockwood. Lockwood is based in Australia, seeing as they love to steal all our shit.

Here we have another silver fern, which the designer says has been "worn proudly by many generations". Lockwood says the fern "represents the growth of our nation".

The red half of the flag is said to represent "our heritage and sacrifices made" and the blue represents the Pacific Ocean which our ancestors "crossed to get here".

The Southern Cross represents "our geographic location in the antipodes. It has been used as a navigational aid for centuries and it helped guide early settlers to our islands".



In memoriam: some rejected masterpieces



Flag #3



Here we have flag #2 with a touch of black. For obvious reasons, Lockwood didn't actually give a new description for this flag. Probably because it is exactly the same as his first design.

I don't actually know what else I am supposed to say here. Refer to description #2.

Flag #4



It's the yin and yang monkey tail. If Curious George isn't on our flagpole, then I give up.

Designer Andrew Fyfe writes, "as our flag unfurls, so too does its koru". Fyfe says the koru represents the fern frond.

Aside from a monkey's tail, Fyfe said the flag is also reminiscent of "a wave, a cloud, and a ram's horn".

"In Māori kowhaiwhai patterns," Fyfe describes, "the koru represent new life, growth, strength and peace, and for this reason has taken a special place in Aotearoa's visual language."



The Red Peak Flag

A good design and it had all the colours everyone liked. It was practical - anyone could draw it.

And it was not a fern! Mountains are a symbol for New Zealand. They are steeped in Maori legend and culture, a cornerstone in the clean and green NZ image.

There were also a few designs which sadly didn't make it:



Manawa (The People's Choice)

First of all, it had the colour green. Green can represent our environmental stance, pounamu,

and is a neutral colour not linked to sports or England. It would be a fresh colour for a fresh new image of NZ. And it is a colour the Australians do not have on their flag, taking us one step further away from any trans-oceanic confusion.

It was designed by Otis Frizzell from Auckland. He described his flag design as "The design represents the night sky and the Southern Cross that bought us all here. The white manawa line represents the long white cloud and the whitecaps on the water. The green is the land and sea."

And there you have it, all the information you as a voter need to make your crucial flag choice. If only there was as much information about the TPPA, asset sales, housing, the poverty gap, the Saudi sheep deal, troops to Iraq, seabed drilling ...

The referendum will be held between 20 November and 11 December to decide which of the four designs will run against the current flag in a second referendum in March 2016. The second referendum is when New Zealanders can decide if they wanted this kerfuffle at all.

OPINION:

THE NZ FLAG DEBATE JUST VOTE

JEREMY HOWARD

About three years ago, I came across a group on Facebook called "Change the New Zealand Flag". This was the first I'd heard of the flag change movement, which has been going since at least the 1980s, if not earlier. Now, in 2015, the referendum will decide which of the Final Four should compete with the old flag, and hoo boy, has it been a wild ride. Not because the designs in and of themselves are actually exciting — oh no, it's because the antis have come out of the woodwork, and beating away the arguments made by naysayers has become, for some, a constant battle. As a person who is quite honestly pro-flag change, I'm going to outline some of these arguments.

OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHERS FOUGHT FOR OUR FLAG. IF WE CHANGE IT, WE'LL LOSE PART OF OUR HISTORY.

No, they didn't, and no, we won't. The New Zealand flag wasn't actually settled on for quite a long time in our history. From 1835 to 1902 the flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand was flown, and in 1902, we adopted the naval ensign the Royal Navy used to distinguish ships bound for or returning from New Zealand. It wasn't until 1939 that this flag was actually flown in battle — during the ANZAC years the flags flown were the Union Jack or the United Tribes or other symbols of the Australian-New Zealand Army Corps.

What this boils down to is that soldiers past and present did not fight for a flag, they fought for the nation and for the freedom of its people.

IF WE TAKE THE UNION JACK OFF OUR FLAG, WE WILL LOSE OUR COMMONWEALTH PROTECTION.

The types of people who usually say this, in my experience, have usually put it forward as some kind of secret legal knowledge, coupled with conspiracy theories about how John Key wants to shape us into a republic and make himself president. While I enjoy a bit of Key-bashing as much as anyone else who didn't vote him in, these ideas are ludicrous.

Of the 53 countries and territories in the Commonwealth, more than half have changed their flags and none have been booted from the Commonwealth or had some sinister reptilian-overlord agenda take place. South Africa, Canada and Jamaica's flags have all become stellar international successes, and of the sovereign nations (not territories) within the Commonwealth, only three still have a Union Jack on their flags: us, Australia and Fiji.

THE NEW FLAGS LOOK LIKE CORPORATE LOGOS MORE THAN FLAGS. WE'RE A COUNTRY, WE DON'T NEED REBRANDING.

Brands are not just used by big, evil corporations. They are used by not-for-profits, by churches, by charity organisations and, yes, by nations. Any Olympics opening ceremony or meeting at the United Nations confirms this. You may disagree that the Final Four accurately represent New Zealand, or even that a people and its identity cannot be represented by a piece of cloth, but the fact remains that many people feel our current branding is outdated and doesn't represent us as a modern nation-state. For myself

and many others, the current flag is nothing more than a naval ensign, and doesn't really stir much in the way of patriotism outside of ANZAC Day services and awkward moments when we're confused with Australia at international sporting events.

Bringing up Canada again, many of these arguments and grumbles were made about their flag change before it happened. It was likened to the branding of a popular tin of toffees; the maple leaf was "too corporate" or "too much like a sports team" to be something for the whole nation. Now, it's one of the most proudly sported, and widely recognised, flags on travellers' backpacks.

JOHN KEY IS USING THIS TO DISTRACT FROM THE SHADY TPPA. IT'S JUST HIS PET PROJECT.

This complaint is related to the one about losing our Commonwealth status, mainly because it's usually followed by conspiracy theories and relentless Nat-bashing. Again, this complaint serves only to derail the conversation.

I don't like how the TPPA is being done in secret, and I don't like some of the potential implications, but every time I've talked to someone involved with economics, like a distinguished professor or someone who actually works in the field, it seems like most people don't really know what they're on about. Without making this article about the TPP itself (look, see, it's derailing!!), I have to point out that 1) policy change isn't always a sinister cover-up, and 2) this movement has been around for a while. Labour talked about changing the flag when they were in power a while back, and Māori Party MPs have also pushed for change.

IT'S SO MUCH MONEY THAT COULD GO ELSEWHERE.

\$26 million is a lot of money. But in terms of the government budget? It's not all that much. In 2015, the government put \$1.7 billion into health. The flag money would raise it to \$1.726 billion. Not a big difference. While I agree that more money

and attention needs to go into things like child poverty, injecting money into that kind of area is not necessarily going to solve all problems.

IT'S A DISTRACTION FROM KEY'S BLUNDERS AND MISTAKES.

Similar to the complaint about this all being a literal "false flag operation" to deflect attention from the TPPA, people have complained that this is a government circus designed to distract us from bigger issues. While there may be truth to this, I would actually point my finger at the media, and ourselves, more than the government. A lot of people are interested in the flag debate, which is why it's in the news so often. There are also other things going on. One major event or piece of legislation does not preclude others from being legitimate concerns or being processed in parliament. As much of a circus as I think the mainstream media is (and our government), and as much as I dislike Key as well, I don't think the flag thing is some smokescreen to hide his blunders and eerily sinister pocket-lining. In my opinion, he already weasels his way out of confrontation when reporters ask him the hard questions — he doesn't need a flag referendum to do that for him.

SO WHAT NOW?

In the last few days, I've seen another flag-related Facebook group pop up, this time encouraging people to boycott the Final Four referendum because they don't like any of the flags chosen by the panel. Personally, I think this shows people don't really understand the process. Firstly, a non-vote doesn't count. A better form of activism would be going into the Final Four referendum and using stickers to show which flag you'd rather have. Secondly, if you'd rather keep the old flag, wait until the next referendum when it is pitted against the favourite of the Four. There is no reason to throw your toys and boycott the first referendum. We have our say coming up and we have the right to make our voices heard. You have a vote; use it ■

1st place

Suburban Summer

you couldn't bear to throw it away, plastic headphones wrapped with yarns the colour of cherry pie and lemon trees. it reminded you of summer, the one that haunts you, an infinite loop of gaslight nights and an orange haze. you grew up in a sweltering suburban heaven, spending days waiting by the gates of your local pool, initial goosebumps begging to burst out of your skinny arms. you're all chlorine green eyes, the straps of a ratty swimsuit sliding down your shoulders. it was the summer of skinned knees, of jumping at the sting of iodine, of gritted teeth and gritty knuckles. there's a friendship bracelet tucked up your sleeve, colourful plastic charms that dangle from your slender wrist. you pull at the straps of your dungarees and the plastic makes a cold clang against the metal buttons. in the evenings you ride your shaky bike around the lip of your friendly neighbourhood cul-de-sac, chasing the slightly sad melody of the ice-cream truck, your tongue following the vanilla dribble down your arms and it was alright. back then it was all you ever wanted.

Felicia Tjandra

OUSA Poetry Competition 2015

Here are the top three entrants for OUSA's poetry competition, held last month.

2nd place

Innocence

I am an empty slate. I am a blank piece of paper, yet to have blackened ink of others scribbled onto me. There was a time when all I wanted was for you to write poetry across my skin. You do not get to lose interest because my surface is bare, like the doormat to your house that was meant to read 'welcome'. The fact that I am an empty slate is not a weakness but a power. For I can fold myself into a paper plane, ready to fly when the winds get heavy. There is no ink in the creases of my skin to weigh me down. Something you need to realise is that I am not written in braille, you do not need to touch me to know me. And if my sole purpose is to be a surface for you to scribble your heartbroken thoughts onto, late at night when the waves get heavy, then you need to find someone else. Because I am so much more than a blank slate. If you took the time to turn the pages over, you would see a hidden story. Where black ink becomes irrelevant. Freckles and laugh lines, the important pieces of the world are engraved into me. I may be an empty slate. But I am sure as hell not an empty piece of paper.

Becca Simms

3rd place

Nostalgia

The spiralling case decorated with an abundance of books stands alone
 Amid an ever changing architecture, its collection steadily grows.
 The stories gather dust with no reader to read
 But some, hidden in between novels, are unusual
 Battered and creased their stories have been revisited often
 The music of those nights exhales from the binding
 The warmth pulses through the ageing paper
 And, as I read over the words my hand feels what it was like to feel yours again,
 You exist here

Gemma Cotton



Rich Man Road

» WRITTEN BY **ANN GLAMUZINA**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

Rich Man Road, by Ann Glamuzina, tells the separate stories of two immigrants to New Zealand. One morning the novice nun, Pualele Sina Auva'a, awakes to find that her friend and fellow nun, the elderly Olga Mastrovic, has died in the night. She has left behind a letter to Pualele, confessing that Olga felt herself to be a fraud who was never meant to be a nun.

She asks Pualele to read her journal, hoping that Pualele will learn from her friend's choices and work out what future she really wants before taking her vows.

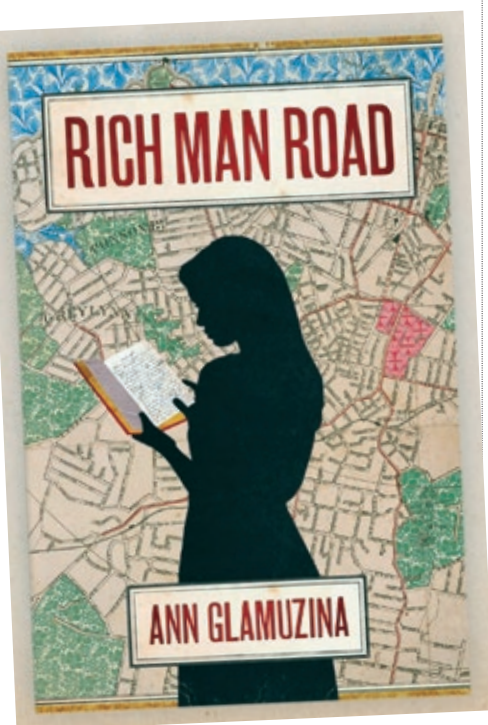
The book that follows consists of chapters from Olga's journal, each followed by a chapter about Pualele's childhood in third-person present tense. Olga's journal traces her long slow journey from a tiny village in Dalmatia, which her family had to flee during World War Two, to New Zealand. She blames herself for having caused the conflict between the villagers and the German soldiers occupying the village, which forced them to leave, and believes her mother blames her too. Pualele leaves Samoa for New Zealand in 1979, sent to stay with her aunt and uncle in Auckland as part of an illegal adoption. Her difficulties fitting in with New Zealand culture lead to humiliation and disaster, and her misery is increased by being conscious that her mother has given her away. At the point where Olga and Pualele's lives intersect, the connection between them is apparent.

While Olga's story begins in a dramatic situation, Pualele's gets off to a slower start. The initially contrasting narratives switch between a girl who is imperilled by Nazis and unwisely risks her life and a girl who moves country and has to start a new school.

Soon enough, however, the divide lessens as terrible things happen to Pualele. Each new chapter is so engaging that it ends with a wrench of disappointment when you have to leave behind the girl you're currently worried about to learn what's happening to the other girl you're worried about. Rich Man Road consists of drama bomb after drama bomb, with just enough hope and positivity intertwined for it all to seem plausible. Glamuzina writes with strength and clarity, and rarely wastes a sentence.

There is a huge time skip, which is a bit frustrating, especially for Pualele's story. Olga's story ends with her in the convent and we understand exactly why she's there. Pualele's narrative leaves her somewhere in her early teens, still homesick for Samoa, although beginning to find happiness in New Zealand. We rejoin her in the convent, where she has just finished reading Olga's journal. At this point Pualele must be 42, but her character still comes across like a young adult. Both Pualele and Olga have used religion to retreat from the world, but it still seems like a long time for Pualele to have stayed in an unsure and insecure stasis. The ending hinges on her decision about whether to stay in the convent or return to Samoa.

The biggest flaw of Rich Man Road is that there isn't enough of it. I wanted to know more about Pualele, about what had happened to her and what was going to happen her. But its biggest flaw, inevitably, is also its biggest success — Rich Man Road is well worth reading. ●



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Banana Pancakes

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS



I stumbled across this trend of banana pancakes on the interwebs last week while procrastinating something chronic. I think I ate them for dinner three nights in a row, each one smothered in lush peanut butter, of course. I enjoyed mine this morning with some quick blueberry compote and some plain unsweetened yoghurt. They are flour free so you don't feel as stodgy, and the eggs are a good source of protein and fats.

You want to cook these relatively low and slow. If the frying pan is too hot, the surface will burn before the moisture from the banana has had the chance to evaporate, making the pancakes super mushy. ●

INGREDIENTS

SERVES 2


- **2 medium-sized** bananas
(the riper the bananas, the sweeter the pancakes)
- **2** eggs
- **¼ teaspoon** baking powder
- **¼ teaspoon** cinnamon
- **pinch** of salt
- **½ teaspoon** vanilla essence
- **a knob** of butter for the pan

FOR THE COMPOTE

- **⅓ cup** frozen blueberries
- **2 teaspoons** sugar or honey
- **juice** of 1 lemon

METHOD


1. Mash the bananas until there are absolutely no lumps and the mash is super smooth.
2. Whisk in the egg, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and vanilla until smooth and even.
3. Heat a non-stick frying pan to a medium heat and melt a wee bit of butter in it. Spoon the batter onto the pan and form as many pancakes as the pan will allow. Leave to cook until bubbles start forming on the top, flip and cook for another one to two minutes until the other side is golden. Repeat for the rest of the batter.
4. To make the compote, heat all the ingredients together until the sugar dissolves and the lemon juice becomes syrupy.
5. Serve the pancakes with the compote and a good dollop of plain yoghurt.
6. Enjoy!



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The Great Affair Is To Move

BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER

Wanderings Works from the Collection

» **DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY** | EXHIBITED UNTIL 10 OCTOBER

Collection exhibitions can sometimes feel like a cop out, but if you have a collection why not play with it and put it on show? Following a theme of travel, the works in *Wanderings* shake off any gathered dust with their depictions of afar, of the other-worldly and of returning home after the adventure is had.

Marking the entrance to the show is a large, aluminium, polished signpost by John Reynolds. Laid on its side and with no locations written onto it, Reynolds' *The Deposition* creates a tone of directionlessness — not that of the wayward, romantic traveller but of one who has been forced to leave. Five oilstick-on-paper works by Reynolds in the next room, however, lead this exploration in another direction with an abundance of signs to wonderfully morbid places like "Mt Patriarch" and "Mt Misery", or utopian nightmares like "Eureka Road" and "Excellent Street".

The adventure continues with Walter Sherwill's drawings of India through Victorian eyes enchanted by the exotic.

While Reynolds' and Sherwill's works invoke the act of travel, the oval marble maps with streaks of gold and grey in Andrew Drummond's *Mementos* from the *Crossing* symbolise a nostalgia for what once was. The burden of returning home after growing from an experience is realising that no one shares your memories (and many don't care to either). You will never be able to properly communicate what you have been through and how you have changed. Drummond's marble maps, each isolated from the other above a floating marble desktop, resound with both the beauty and the deep loneliness that the return home inevitably entails.

But Drummond's yearning is not the final word in *Wanderings*. Francis Upritchard and

Ani O'Neill's works in the third room of the show remind us of the future's potential, of the escape we can find in dreaming and of continuing cross-cultural conversations that do not have to end when you leave one place for the other. O'Neill's woven florist ribbon blanket hangs from the gallery ceiling and falls partly across the floor (reminded of local artist Cobi Taylor's *Definitively Unfinished*, anyone?). The repeated star pattern in Kua marino te tai (the sea is calm) invokes the artist's Cook Island and Irish heritage and the traditional use of the sky to navigate the long distance between these two countries.

In a large wooden display cabinet on the other side of the room, Upritchard has sculpted a handful of planets (and a comparatively oversized moon) and stuck them on the ends of map compass points. *Orrery II* is reminiscent of school astronomy projects and math class, but while school children are encouraged to make realistic replicas, Upritchard indulges in a kind of subversion — reminding even the most straight-laced adults that another type of travel (or escape) involves almost no movement at all. ●



Francis Upritchard

Orrery II
2004

Compasses, plastic, wood, paint, resin, copper
The Jim Barr and Mary Barr Loan collection,
Dunedin Public Art Gallery



Alex Lovell-Smith ... Travelling Alone, Sir ...

» **WEBB FARRY, LAWYERS AT 79 LOWER STUART ST** | UNTIL 31 OCTOBER

The theme of travel appropriately moves beyond the Dunedin Public Art Gallery down the road to the Alternative Space Gallery on Lower Stuart Street, where Alex Lovell-Smith's ... Travelling Alone, Sir ... is currently on display. Alternative Space Gallery is an initiative where students, professors, fellows and friends of the Dunedin School of Art can display their art in the reception areas (upstairs and downstairs) of the Webb Farry law firm. The goal of the collaboration seems to be to create another public portal (open during normal business hours) into the art school from a central city location, while also providing artists with exposure to a varied audience who may not normally see their work.

Albeit in a slightly unusual place to seek out art, Lovell-Smith's scanned 35mm film

photos, interspersed with polaroids, transport the viewer into endless, foreign landscapes that sometimes invoke the loneliness of a solo traveller and at other times capture the bizarre details that only searching eyes can find. Although Lovell-Smith is based in Dunedin, his current show extends on a deeper theme of the photographer's yearning for adventure, for discovering an exciting scene or a potential new project in an unfamiliar environment. He then brings these images back to Dunedin to share with and teach others and also inspire himself to go out and do it all again, because some projects are never finished.

Despite the mixed arrangement of the photographs, these fragments of Lovell-Smith's travel in middle Europe, North Africa and Israel are separated into two projects. In one of the larger format photos, we see a young woman

lounged on a bed, stretched back with her face carefully angled for a selfie taken on her cellphone. Another photo shows a woman surrounded by forest green ridges triumphantly ... taking a selfie. These images document people's prevalent use of cellphones, which threaten to slither in between them and the experience at any moment, as if their experience isn't validated until the selfie is taken. Lovell-Smith's discerning eye intermingles the picturesque with a dark humour that casts the habits of our times in an uncertain light.

The second project, consisting of polaroids made by a camera Lovell-Smith found in the Czech Republic, captures the quiet, hidden scenes a person stumbles across when they are free to seek — to find themselves or an artefact of a different world whose discovery expands their own. ●

Photo Forum 28 (December 1975/January 1976), p. 24. Photo as part of 'Bodyprint 5' 'Solider'.

King Vitor Manuel Campaigner, c. 1971.

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Amy

» DIRECTED BY **ASIF KAPADIA**

REVIEWED BY **NITA SULLIVAN**



From the very beginning, Amy Winehouse was a true artist with a palpable talent. During the noughties, however, it was hard to miss Winehouse's infamous rise and tragic decline. What we didn't really see though, and what the documentary Amy strongly captures, is the absolute heart-break of her story. Using a combination of previously unseen home-video footage and audio interviews with Winehouse and those

closest to her, Asif Kapadia has created a powerfully intimate and gripping film.

In initial scenes, Kapadia uses early footage of Winehouse as a fresh-faced and energetic teen to set up her genuine musical talent. Later paparazzi footage exposes the shocking reality of the fishbowl Winehouse became trapped in as she struggled with tumultuous relationships, stardom, drugs and alcohol. By showcasing Winehouse both

pre- and post-fame, the director carefully unravels Winehouse's self-destructive behaviour and the pressures she felt while under the media spotlight.

The audience easily becomes attached to Winehouse and the way she funnels her experiences into musical form. Their fondness for Winehouse is amplified when they learn more about the problematic relationships in her life. Clearly unhealthy, Winehouse's father allowed her to avoid rehab while touring, and then-boyfriend Blake Fielder left Winehouse to return to his ex — only to return to Winehouse's side once she achieved global success with her second album. Kapadia does not explicitly vilify the negative influences in Winehouse's life — but he doesn't need to either. Presented with these details of Winehouse's life, the audience walks away with a strong disapproval of the male influences around her — regardless of any finger pointing by the director.

Kapadia's emotive documentary reveals a deep sadness — although Amy Winehouse had true talent and only wished to sing jazz and soul for others, the ultimate price for fulfilling her dreams was her life. ●

She's Funny That Way

» DIRECTED BY **PETER BOGDANOVICH**

REVIEWED BY **NGARANGI HAEREWA**



She's Funny That Way may have a clever turn of phrase ("squirrels to the nuts"), but that is not enough to save it from the depths of its own depravity.

Set in the world of Broadway, *She's Funny That Way* follows the love triangle between call-girl-turned-thespian Isabella "Izzy" Beatty (Imogen Poots), director Arnold Albertson (Owen Wilson) and his wife, Delta Simmons (Kathryn Hahn). This love triangle ultimately turns into what resembles more of a love

dodecahedron as the entire cast is caught up in an intricate web of lies. Judges and playwrights indulge in affairs with New York's finest escorts, leading to a slurry of scandal.

Boasting a cast of tried and true veterans, *She's Funny That Way* appears to be a promising film, but it undeniably does not live up to the potential provided by names such as Owen Wilson, Will Forte, Kathryn Hahn and Rhys Ifans. Instead of allowing his accomplished cast to flaunt their comedy chops,

Peter Bogdanovich's direction strictly follows the conventions of everyone's "favourite" film genre — screwball comedy. The film tears open its predictable narrative from the outset with scenes of forced laughter and ridiculously strange moments. While similar films such as *Crazy, Stupid, Love* slowly build their narrative toward their comedy crescendo, *She's Funny That Way* explodes into a frenzy of outrageously choreographed drama.

With its cheap jokes and a driving narrative where the male characters see Izzy more as a prize than an actual person, *She's Funny That Way* is a film that will have you questioning your own sanity. ●





Women He's Undressed

» DIRECTED BY **GILLIAN ARMSTRONG**

REVIEWED BY **CAMERON EVANS**



In *Women He's Undressed*, director Gillian Armstrong goes beyond fashion and offers the audience a comprehensive insight into the life, motivations and tribulations of Australian, Orry Kelly — a costume designer whose success is unknown to most of Australia.

Using an Orry Kelly stand-in (Darren Gilshenan) to narrate the pivotal moments in the designer's life, Armstrong follows the protagonist's move from Sydney to New York. After becoming involved in the city's underworld, Kelly — with the help of his parents

— chose to start a new life in America, and in the process, he evaded one of Sydney's most notorious crime lords. While in New York, Kelly fell in love with a budding English actor, Archibald "Archie" Leach. During the prohibition era, the pair effortlessly fell into the city's vibrant homosexual speakeasy scene. With a background in fine arts, Kelly spent his time designing murals for the mafia's illegal bars and sold handpainted ties while Leach auditioned for Broadway productions.

In the early 30s, the couple settled in the bustling cultural heart of the country,

Los Angeles. However, their relationship eventually came to an end due to the impacts of the Great Depression, the mistreatment of the homosexual community and Leach's break in North by Northwest. Despite the disintegration of their relationship, not only did Leach (who soon changed his name to Cary Grant) find success in the entertainment business — so did Kelly. Catching the attention of Jack Warner, a founder of Warner Bros. Entertainment Incorporated, Kelly worked on many film sets and won three Academy Awards for his costume designs in *An American in Paris*, *Les Girls* and *Some Like It Hot*.

Throughout *Women He's Undressed*, Gillian Armstrong shows her strength as an engaging director. By ably mixing Gilshenan's semi-dramatised narration with interviews with Kelly's colleagues, Armstrong keeps the eclectic documentary clipping along at a pace that captivates the audience's interest.

Not only does the director shed light on an Australian talent, *Women He's Undressed* delves deeper into Orry Kelly's history, focusing on costume design, but also explores his adventurous personal life — one that involves the mafia, New York during the prohibition era and Cary Grant. ●

Southpaw

» DIRECTED BY **ANTOINE FUQUA**

REVIEWED BY **ALASTAIR REITH**



Do we really need *Southpaw*? Do we really need a microwave reheat of another boxing film?

Despite the influx of Eastern European titans in recent years on the world stage, boxing in the United States remains a Black- and Latino-dominated sport, as it has been for decades. With the release of yet another fantasy about a white champ, it seems *Rocky* didn't do enough to soothe our collective white insecurity.

Southpaw follows Billy Hope (Jake Gyllenhaal), a boxer at the peak of his career. While attending a charity event with his wife, Maureen (Rachel McAdams), Billy gets into a fight with rising boxer, Miguel "Magic" Escobar (Miguel Gomez). Maureen is accidentally killed by Miguel's brother — unable to cope, our protagonist turns to alcohol and drugs. Subsequently, his daughter, Leila (Oona Laurence) is taken away from him by Child Protective Services. In the hope of getting his old life back, Billy dedicates himself to working his way back to the

top with the help of veteran boxer Titus "Tick" Wills (Forest Whitaker).

Gyllenhaal and Whitaker both deliver excellent performances. Gyllenhaal's development from an unsympathetic wreck with self-made problems to a character who more than earns his redemption is no less impressive than the actor's actual dedication in preparing for the role. Although Whitaker hardly breaks new ground in the role of a tired, sad, cynical trainer looking for purpose, he plays it well. Some of the few laughs and more genuine moments in *Southpaw* come from his weary exasperation.

Unfortunately, Rachel McAdams's character is rather two dimensional — appearing more as a foil for Gyllenhaal's character to grow. Oona Laurence's portrayal of Leila irritates the moviegoer. The child has three traits in the film — beaming worshipper of daddy, resentful glower-er, and hysterical — all are cringeworthy.

Although *Southpaw* has no surprises from start to finish, the cast's solid acting and the polished cinematography save it from being a total dud. ●



"...NAME A RAPPER OTHER THAN SCRIBE TO COME OUT OF THE SOUTH. I BET YOU CAN'T"



Legacy Music Group

» BY DANIEL MUNRO

Dunedin has birthed some huge names in music, with acts like Six60 and The Chills enjoying not only national but international success. While certain acts have made it big outside our wee student city, hip-hop has not been among them. Lucas "Big Sima" Gunn asked us to "name a rapper other than Scribe to come out of the south. I bet you can't." True enough, we struggled to come up with one. Gunn and his Legacy Music Group are looking to change that with their new record label. The Legacy family consists of co-directors Lucas and Hamish Gunn, Ashleigh Russell, Mo Muse as the flagship artist, Joe "Lil J" Tumohe as the label DJ, Levine "Vine" Lale as the in-house producer, and creative partners Angus "AC" Cleland and Johnny "BXNGX" Ward.

Legacy's story is a peculiar one. Lucas moved to Dunedin from Christchurch following the earthquakes, bringing with him a burning desire to make music. "I came to Dunedin with nothing really," Lucas tells us. "I just wanted a fresh start. I had some clothes and some money and that was it." He recorded *Rebuilt*, his first album as Big Sima, on loaned equipment in just one week. He then recorded his album *The Upper* in the basement of a strip club where he was working as a doorman. When Mo Muse featured on a track for that album entitled "SLANGA", Sima saw massive potential in the young artist.

Sima wrote up a business plan and found himself some investors. After gaining the funding, Legacy set up their studio, right across from the location where Sima recorded his first demos in Dunedin. "It was natural for me to finish up so close to where I started," Sima said. From conception to fruition, Legacy was created in just seven months and has been making steady progress ever since.

Their goal is to cultivate a booming hip-hop scene down here in Dunedin.

While Dunedin has hip-hop listeners in abundance, there is a distinct lack of artists. The main problem with rap music in the south is apparently a lack of consistency. "Hip-hop has always been around in the south but the drivers come and go. The North Island has the stable acts such as David Dallas and YGB helping to grow new artists. Legacy wants to bring the stability the South Island needs." Though they have ambitions to conquer the world, Legacy is proudly Dunedin-based. "Do it from where you are," Sima tells us. "You can't conquer the world until you've conquered your home town."

At present, Legacy's priority is developing their main artist, Mo Muse. While relatively new to the scene, Mo has been making waves and opening for some huge acts. Following his trial by fire, Mo has played alongside some of Aotearoa's best rap artists - Raiza Biza, State of Mind and Third3ye. Mo's latest track "Marathons" was released last month, and shows just how far Mo has come already. The AC-produced track is the most polished release from the Legacy camp thus far, and is an undeniable standout among hip-hop releases this year. "Marathons" opens with a soft vocal melody, before Mo spits some impressive verses over a heavy drum beat. Mo's word play and lyrical content must be heard to be believed. Hot on the heels of "Marathons", Mo plans to carry on releasing singles leading up to his debut album, *Not Safe for Work*. He is in safe hands at Legacy, with Big Sima's ten years of experience in the game making him the perfect mentor.

After spending some time with the Legacy Music Group, I have no doubt they will achieve what they've set out to do. They have the drive, talent and resources needed to finally sow a scene here in Dunedin that we've been sorely lacking. ●

Singles Reviews

» REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

New Tracks



The Dead Weather

"I Feel Love (Every Million Miles)"

The most experimental of all of Jack White's bands is arguably The Dead Weather, in which he shares vocal responsibilities with Alison Mosshart of The Kills. The quartet makes scuzzy, psychedelic blues rock drenched in gothic imagery and red wine. There is far more rhythmic and textural variety in a Dead Weather song than there is in, say, a White Stripes track. Sadly, how The Dead Weather actually sounds does not live up to descriptions of their music. There is something unmistakably hollow about *Horehound* and *Sea of Cowards*, the two albums The Dead Weather have released so far. For all of their blues-from-hell squalling, the two LPs suffer from the same lack of focus.

Unfortunately, their third album *Dodge and Burn* seems to be destined to the same fate. Despite an impressively caustic vocal performance by Mosshart, "I Feel Love (Every Million Miles)" is plagued by the same ennui as much of their prior material. Its bratty riff is frustratingly similar to a dozen we've already heard from other Jack White projects, and its tepid lyrics feel equally familiar and recycled. By the time "I Feel Love" reached its creative tempo shift around the two-minute mark, I'd already stopped giving a shit.

There may well be more innovative and engrossing tracks on *Dodge and Burn* than this new single, but I'm not getting my hopes up. ●



Doprah

"Great Esteem"

Doprah are an exciting young trip-hop group from Christchurch, fronted by producer Steven Marr and vocalist Indi Force. Their self-titled debut EP last year saw them draw clear inspiration from the musical stylings of The xx, Portishead and Björk's *Homogenic*, while still managing to make something wholly unique. The ethereal single "Stranger People" was particularly mesmerising, with its crystalline beats tumbling over what sounded like Old Hollywood soundtrack samples.

Still taking place in a melancholic soundworld of glassy electronics and ghostly vocals, Doprah's new track "Great Esteem" isn't a huge stylistic departure for the band. But it is easily the most sedated we've heard them, breezing along at a gentle pace over synth chords and Force's echoing voice. Previously, a Doprah song could almost overwhelm the listener with its rapid-fire series of musical ideas, galloping along with the pace and uncanny logic of a dream. The slow-burning approach they take on "Great Esteem" is a welcome yin to the mercurial yang of a song like "Stranger People".

Another notable difference between this song and prior Doprah numbers is Force's more conventional enunciation of her words. Sounding a little closer to Lorde than Black Lodge Laura Palmer this time around, it is much easier to make out just what Force is saying. Though this lyrical discernibility means more potential for emotional investment, I preferred the wonderful ambiguity of her other performances.

Whether a one-off experiment or a template of things to come, "Great Esteem" is another gorgeous track in the Doprah canon. ●



This War of Mine

» PC, iOS | DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED BY 11 BIT STUDIOS

REVIEWED BY **GEORGE ELLIOTT**



In the past decade, the video game industry has been disrupted by a revolution of sorts: the medium is being reclaimed from the potent forces of commercialisation. The rise of the independent developer, propelled by advances in digital distribution, the democratisation of software and the community magic of crowd-funding, mean that modest developing teams are no longer bound by the publishing giants and the hard-wired hunt for profit. The genres, game mechanics and themes that triple-A companies won't touch can now be explored in video games. The award-winning *This War of Mine* is a telling artifact born out of this radically changing environment.

The brainchild of Grzegorz Miechowski, a pioneer in Poland's game industry, and built by 11 bit studios, a small Warsaw-based developer team of about 40 employees, *This War of Mine* is a survival-themed strategy game that focuses on a group of civilians collecting resources, building items and crafting tools to stay alive in a paradoxically beautiful and startlingly realistic reimagining of one of the most brutal post-WWII war crimes in Europe, the 1992–1996 Siege of Sarajevo during the Bosnian War. The civilians caught up in war, their personalities,

experiences and raw horror are seldom given a voice in pop war games, and it's refreshing to see a game where you play as the victim of conflict rather than the invulnerable "hero".

This War of Mine uses a simple cross-section platformer-esque layout and is illustrated with a unique rough charcoal-style sketchiness. The art doesn't aim for photorealism but instead builds nightmare-like scenes where time itself is under siege. The soundtrack is just as emotive, albeit slightly tiresome.

This War of Mine plays out in a cycle of two phases. By day, your characters complete chores like laying down rat traps, filtering rainwater, crafting tools, tending to your rudimentary garden and boarding up holes in your shelled-out dingy home. At night, you decide who will venture out to scavenge and who will stay home and guard the house or sleep. There's a number of locations your nominated scavenger can go. At first you'll be visiting empty ever-burning family homes, with materials and parts to collect to craft the basics back home, like a fireplace or cooker. As the game progresses and winter approaches, you'll get more desperate to find food scraps or fuel for your fire.

You'll come across a range of strangers: the sick and starving, the local priest whom you can trade with, bandits or militiamen who will shoot you on sight and other paranoid and sickly survivors trying to get by. Weapons are scarce and stealth is often the best option. Bring some books, booze and cigarettes home, and your party of survivors will be content for a few days.

The gameplay is unapologetic and a new player will most likely start a new game a fair few times before getting the hang of things. Each character (you start with three) has unique attributes, backstories and needs. Depending on your actions, your characters might be starving, tired, wounded, sick or contrastingly content. Without food or if something terrible happens (like one of the party being murdered), the team will spiral towards catatonia and eventually commit suicide. When someone dies, they die.

This is one of the darkest video games I've ever played. It's a highly challenging, emotional and thought-provoking experience that will test your strategic skills and force you to aggressively contemplate your moral assumptions about war and human nature. Just as importantly, *This War of Mine* will make you question the direction and purpose of video games altogether. ●

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

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Goat advice! Not many to choose from this week

Dear Josie,

Please advise Mr Thwaites that an all-grass diet is a slow death for goats - they are browsers, requiring roughage like briar, young gorse, and similar (Mackenzie, 1970). His desire for grass would have been a mistake.

A "goat-cam" attached to a goat would reveal a heck of a lot of tussock, matagouri, blackberry and similar views, not a lot of grass (apart from the rougher growth).

Best,
Chaz Forsyth

Reference:

Mackenzie, D. (1970), Goat Husbandry, London, England: Faber and Faber Ltd.

I'd be a Gorilla

Dear Critic,

I would rather be a meerkat than a goat.

Kind regards,

An alligator

Warm Up Iceman <3

Dear Critic,

Please ask your "sports editor" Daniel Lormans to put a bit of effort into his half page of enthralling journalism next time he decides to update us on the world of sports. The least he could do when copying and pasting a photo of Lewis Hamilton and Kimi Raikkonen from Google, is pick a photo from 2015, not 2007.

Sincerely,
the Iceman

Thanks for your enthralling letter Gethin.

I'll take the blame for the photo as that's not on him.

Much love,
Ed.

NOTICES

OUSA REFERENDUM

Will be held from 9am
5th October until 4pm
8th October 2015.

Questions for the referendum
should be submitted to

Adminvp@ousa.org.nz

No later than 4pm
11th September, 2015.

PURSuing PEACE IN A TIME OF PEACE AND A TIME OF WAR

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Professor Harlene Hayne

St David Lecture Theatre,
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Wednesday 9th September
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Further information :
Greg Hughson 479 8497

<http://on.fb.me/1Ktq7JL>

LETTERS POLICY

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

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Why was Pingu's dad always ironing when no one wore any clothes 43

"Just finish your degree." But I don't want to anymore. Send haaalp. 82

Asked 8yr old sis why her socks were inside out, "because they're cleaner on this side". She'll make a great scarfie 123

Don't tell me how to live my life Nestlé 93

"Every kiss begins with k" I whisper to myself as I read the one letter reply from my crush 46

I had no idea we were millionaires until I saw my flatmate rip off four paper towels at once 43

Pretty sure my flatmates mum dropped the baby but raised the placenta instead 101

Don't worry laundry, nobody does me either 33

The vintage Scarfie pilgrimage - Starters > Cook > Monkey > Maccas and or Octy, you young bloods will never know... 118

Asking someone out for coffee seems more serious than asking them around for sex at night. Thats twisted haha. 173

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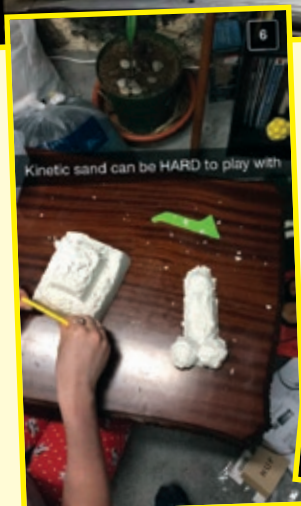








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Artificial Intelligence

BY SAM FRASER

Could robots take over? Should we fear a world where robots are smarter than humans? As we moved into the twenty-first century, the world became increasingly digitalised, mirroring fictional visions of the future with robots, instant communication and information sharing. Will the machines we develop work as our slaves or control our governments? A recent research poll of economists, futurists and industrial analysts didn't produce a clear answer.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the intelligence demonstrated by machines or software. As scientists have developed software and machines capable of intelligent behaviour, tensions have arisen over how intelligent these beings could actually become — think the movie *I-Robot*.

So how human could AI become? One argument is based around the concept of experience. As humans, every decision we make at any moment of our lives is governed by our own life experiences. We mentally recall experiences and emotions of any given decision to inform our decision-making. When Thomas Edison was asked about his "failures" in his pursuit of inventing the lightbulb, he responded: "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 things that did not work." Whether it's success or failure, humans are constantly learning. Experimentation is a key component of the advancement of knowledge.

If super-thinking machines are the product of this accumulation of human knowledge, they are essentially people. However, almost all AI has to be provided with common sense by humans. Going back to the idea of experience, artificial intelligence will only be equal to a human's intelligence when it is able to make decisions based on grounding in real-world experience, learn for itself and extend its own knowledge. This has happened yet, and won't for decades.

The emergence of artificial intelligence (in a human sense) relies on two main assumptions: that technology in the field of computer science will grow and that there is nothing materially special about the human brain, which allows consciousness to exist. As far as we know, both these assumptions are true, which may mean that machine intelligence is inevitable.



BDSM: What Not To Do

BY T. ANTRIC

Fifty Shades of Grey is a terribly written, (inexplicably) terribly popular book series, originally created as fanfiction for a series that featured sparkly vampires.

I myself have a few scarves (and ties and jumpers and even a sock) that have been relegated to the graveyard of items of clothing stretched beyond recognition from being used as a certain type of restraint, so I understand the appeal. But the relationship and type of sex shown in *Fifty Shades of Grey* are not healthy, nor properly consenting, nor proper BDSM.

BDSM is an overlapping acronym for bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sadism and masochism. And while EL James gets some things in her barely-more-than-vanilla-sex book right, others she gets dangerously wrong (all the while mutilating the English language).

Restraints she gets right: Christian Grey (or should I say Edward Cullen?) uses his impressive array of suit ties to hold insert-generic-shy-awkward-white-teen-novel-protagonist-here in place instead of anything hard. While I may have invested in a pair of pink fluffy handcuffs or two in my time, I would strongly recommend sticking to fabrics. They're easier on the wrist, you can make them as tight or as loose as you want, change the position of hands or feet or whatever — and if things go wrong, they are easier to cut off than trying to wrench metal around.

Although EL James mentions safe words, I'm fairly sure I noticed examples where safe words were ignored. This is not okay. If the safe word gets said, stop. No coercing, no begging, whining, pleading or sulking. Stop instantly, without complaint.

Also stalking is not okay in any relationship. Having a BDSM relationship with someone does not mean abuse is okay. Abuse is never okay, even if you do enjoy engaging in hot BDSM sex.

If this type of relationship fascinates you, do your research. Do NOT model a relationship on *Fifty Shades of Grey*. In fact, take it as a "What Not to Do" guide. And invest in a few fabric items that can be your designated restraints; too many a scarf has been lost to hot sex already.



Vitamin C

BY WEE DOUBT

The belief that vitamin C helps with colds and boosts the immune system is so prevalent that probably everybody reading this, including me, has taken a vitamin C tablet in their life.

Scurvy is a disease that most people associate with sailors losing teeth from their bleeding gums and is caused by a lack of vitamin C. In 1752 a Scottish surgeon called James Lind discovered that scurvy could be treated by giving the patient citrus fruits to eat. We now know this is because citrus fruits, along with most fruits and vegetables, contain vitamin C.

Vitamins are substances we need to survive and are found in trace amounts in the food we eat. Vitamin deficiency can lead to diseases such as rickets and pellagra, but these are very rare in New Zealand where most people are far from malnourished. Unfortunately, instead of people eating the right foods to gain sufficient vitamins, people started considering vitamins as something they need to take as a health supplement.

Linus Pauling was a brilliant American chemist who won Nobel prizes in both science and peace. Unfortunately his giant brain went a little doolally in his old age and he teamed up with "Doctor" (term used loosely) Irwin Stone who told Pauling that he could live another 30 years if he took 3000mg of vitamin C every day. In 1971, Pauling wrote a book called *Vitamin C and the Common Cold* and it sold like crazy. He believed that taking massive doses of vitamin C could both cure a cold and prevent you from getting it in the first place. Stone took it a step further. He added that vitamin C could cure cancer. In response to this, vitamin C sales went ballistic, and it continues to be by far the most popular vitamin supplement on the market.

There are around 2000 published studies a year on the effects of vitamin C on the human body. The vast majority of these studies show that taking large amounts of vitamin C is at best pointless, and at worst dangerous. Since our bodies cannot store it, most excess vitamin C you ingest will be excreted in your urine. One large study on cancer patients in 1996 had to be stopped because the group taking masses of vitamins was dying out rapidly. Believing you need to take masses of vitamin C all the time is like thinking you should take masses of aspirin all the time simply because aspirin is good for headaches ...



OUSA Elections

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

Student politics was lively when I was studying on campus. It was the early days of student loans and sentiment ran high. Memorably, one protestor threw himself under Education Minister Lockwood Smith's car on a visit to the university. Grant Robertson — then OUSA president, now Labour MP — led an actual occupation of the Registry building, protesting fee increases. Then there were mock weddings, and a few real ones, to challenge stupid new rules around relationship-based access to student support.

Then, as now, a lot of the action was OUSA-led. A strong executive and a president with a vision can make a real impact on the national stage, literally within days of being elected.

It is not long until nominations open for the 2016 OUSA Executive. In my experience, a strong and well-run students' association is vital to making your time on campus the best it can be.

OUSA for all its foibles (and there were plenty when I was a student) is incredibly important. But it is only as good as the people who run it. And you choose those people.

The government has made it more difficult for students' associations across the country to represent students, and many have folded as a result. But the OUSA model still works — in part because the university recognises the benefits of dealing with a mandated organisation, and in part because it recognises many services are best delivered "by students for students".

That's not to say OUSA's survival is guaranteed "just because". As I argued in *Critic*, issue 17, the students' association depends to a good degree upon the grace and favour of the current vice-chancellor. But it does send a strong message to the university when students get out and vote.

The challenges facing the student union movement are worrying given there are so many current issues that impact students. Warm and healthy flats, increased financial support and accessible education are all things that OUSA can advocate for — if that's what students demand. And if they choose executive members who want to advance those goals.

That's why it's important to vote to see the changes you want to be actioned at OUSA. Much like electing MPs, candidates in every election have a set of values they hold to, and policy changes they hope to implement. It's crucial that you shop around to find candidates who fit with your own values.



Hayfever

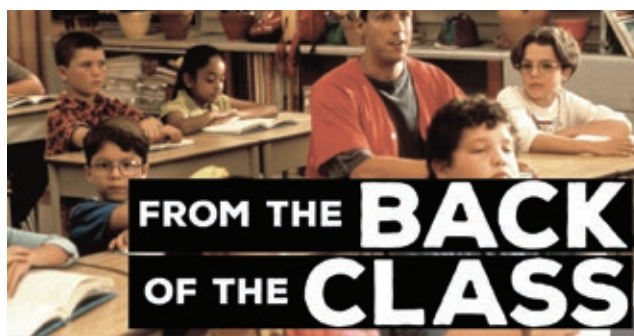
BY ISA ALCHEMIST

Spring is here and, despite the cold weather, the spring flowers are coming up.

Along with spring comes the familiar story of blocked or runny noses, sneezing, sore and itchy eyes and maybe a headache. When we suggest that the culprit is hayfever and not a cold or whatever has laid low your friends or flatmates, the common response is "but I don't get hayfever!" Most people are allergic to something (exams, cleaning, cooking). Hayfever is an allergic response, often to the new growth that comes with spring and the subsequent release of pollen into the air. In New Zealand, the most common causes of hay fever are rye grass (widely used for lawns and paddocks), English plantain (a weed found in parks and lawns) and the silver birch tree, many of which are planted around campus.

Students coming to Dunedin may never have experienced hayfever before. New surroundings bring new allergens. It can take up to three years to become sensitised to the pollen, which is just long enough to get a degree. And for those who have asthma, there is a link: up to 40 percent of people who have allergies will go on to develop asthma, a similar but more serious condition that affects the lungs.

So what to do? In the first instance, get some advice and take a suitable antihistamine on a daily basis. The older sedating antihistamines will have you snoring on the library table, which won't give you the best results for the October exams! The newer, non-sedating antihistamines have very few side effects, and are safe to take on a daily basis for a few months. If the symptoms are not relieved, add in a steroid nasal spray. A few sniffs daily of the right medicine will contain the eye and nose problems effectively, although it may take a week or two to kick in.



Magna Carta

BY FINBARR NOBLE

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta at Runnymede on the banks of the Thames in 1215 AD. If somehow this momentous occasion has slipped your mind, here's a recap.

The Magna Carta was essentially a peace treaty between the barons and "Bad" King John, who you may remember as the snivelling lion from Disney's Robin Hood (you know, the film with all the American animals knocking around thirteenth-century England). Anyway, as a peace treaty it sucked and civil war broke out once again just a few months later. However, as a symbolic and legal document, it has a great legacy.

It was the first attempt by "we the people" to curtail the power of a feudal monarch and make it so that no one was above the law. Up until this point, only God was above the King, and God conveniently spoke through one guy in Rome who kindly agreed not to mess about with the King's temporal power so long as it suited the Church's own political machinations. This meant that King John could do all sorts of things like levy enormously oppressive taxes for wars (which he then lost) and then levy more taxes to pay for having lost them. King John also kept trying to bang his barons' wives, which was considered poor form.

The barons got together and drafted a document. Clause 61 stated that if the King was being a dick, they had a lawful right to break their feudal oaths and rise up. This, like most of the Magna Carta, is now redundant because of new legislation like the Human Rights Act and changes in time. However, three clauses remain active: one preserves the rights and liberties of the Church; one does the same for the City of London; the third, and most famous, grants all "free men" the right to justice and a fair trial. Free men at the time were only a very small proportion of the medieval population. But over time, this was expanded and reinterpreted as applying to all people and granting them the protection of the law and due process.

Although the document is old and largely inactive, it is a symbol of freedom and justice that has inspired great leaders and thinkers like Gandhi and Thomas Jefferson. As Dennis Denuto said in *The Castle*, "it's just the vibe of the thing".

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Working During Exams

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

Dear Ethel,

A couple of months ago, I got a job as a kitchen hand and was told that I would be rostered between 10 and 12 hours per week. The first two weeks were OK, but then someone left and I got rostered on for 20 hours. When I said I couldn't do those hours, my boss said I had signed a contract and I had to do them. Now I want to leave, but my contract states that I have to give two months' notice or I forfeit my pay. I'm not going to be able to get through exams if I have to work that many hours and I can't afford not to get paid. What can I do?

Without looking at the contract that you've signed, it looks like you're on what is commonly referred to as a "zero-hour" contract, where you are obliged to work as little (or in your case, as much) as the business owner dictates.

There have been some recent moves to stop employers using zero-hour contracts, and many fast food outlets have agreed to stop this practice. Unfortunately though, if you have already signed a contract, it is likely to be legally binding unless your employer has broken the law.

We are not legal experts, so we highly recommend that you phone New Zealand at Work to discuss the legality of your situation. Their freephone number is 0800 20 90 20 and their website is www.employment.govt.nz. You could also get some free legal advice from Community Law Otago, located in Filleul Street (take your contract in with you).

The other thing to consider is a mediated conversation with your employer. We have attended these before to represent the interests of students and have been able to negotiate more reasonable terms for the students, either hours of work or flexibility around ending employment. As with most things, it is always good to be able to work things out through honest and open communication if at all possible. If you would like us to arrange that, please drop in to 5 Ethel B to have a chat.

The moral of this story is please read any contract carefully before you sign and if anything seems dodgy or confusing, seek some advice! It doesn't matter if it's for a job, a flat, a loan, insurance — anything at all — time taken to read will always be worth its weight in gold and may save you a lot of grief later.



Rich Lose Dollars

BY STEPH TAYLOR

Finding base for council may mean musical chairs

Apparently not just a kids' party game, but something Queenstown councillors love to do when they can't secure office premises.

Pavlova icing on the rink

What do you get when you mix curling in Naseby and a couple of Czechs? A delightful introduction to the lip-smackingly good dessert known as pavlova, which apparently was "fantastic". Great headline news there.

Now a biddable brolly

We once made our flatmate cry by hiding the umbrella she had bought in Paris. Now that an Auckland company has invented a traceable umbrella, I may buy one of those for her so she will never cry over lost umbrellas again.

Rich lose billions

In a sad story, the world's wealthiest collectively lost \$US124 billion in the recent market tumble. On the other hand, I freak out when I spend \$10 on a Saturday night on that unnecessary kebab.



di lusso

B A R

Love is blind

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

Steven

Wham, bam, thank you, Ma'am.

I applied for this gig many months ago, so I was chomping at the bit when I got the call to go on the date last Wednesday night. I turned up to Di Lusso relatively steamed, as one would expect for a blind date, but cognitive enough to string a number of seductive sentences together.

We got talking and I couldn't stop thinking about how hot she was and had to tell my "little friend" to settle down – his time will come. We didn't eat any of the platter so we gave it to a group of lads at the table next to us and set to work making the best use of the bar tab. The cocktails were sublime, and to ensure the night continued, I added another \$50 to the tab.

The chat flowed well and we were lucky enough to get a few laughs from the lad of a bartender that exploded my first cocktail and spilt blood in my second ... Coincidentally, we both needed to go to the toilet at the same time so it seemed like a satisfactory place to have the first round of fun for the night.

Yes, you heard me... the first. The second took place in the toilet of a fast food chain that, fortuitously, we both work for. And the third, well I found out she liked to travel the world. So I decided it was only fair enough that one of my lucky flatmates and I show her the real Eiffel Tower ... if you know what I mean.

All in all, a successful night. Thanks Di Lusso and Critic.

Amy

Those who troll together, roll together.

In preparation for the big night, my flatmates ensured I had a couple of drinks, which I didn't mind as I had just submitted a huge assignment that morning. Although I suppose the preparation had started a wee bit earlier with my wax appointment earlier that afternoon (you just never know). I rocked up to Di Lusso a little late with my date arriving a few minutes after me.

My first thoughts on seeing him were:

- Do I need more liquid courage?
- Three buttons were undone – what a dickhead
- He's hot

We introduced ourselves and immediately discovered we were both here to make use of the bar tab – he even put an extra 50 bucks on it (what an absolute GC). As we stared deeply, and more deeply, and yet more deeply into each other's eyes, the feelings grew.

After a few drinks down I went to the bathroom and to my surprise (not really a surprise, I mean he had three buttons undone), he followed me. With one thing leading to another, this lead to us showing love the way dogs do. With hormones at a high we decided to spend the rest of our bar tab on shots and off back to his flat we went.

With my classiness levels already out the door, we decided to do round two in a fast food bathroom. Then we were back on the journey to his flat. When we arrived, his flattie kept the chat going with a few more beverages. Feeling hungry, it is only fair to say that by the end of the night my mouth was full with both guys happy to play chef. All and all my dignity is gone, but I managed to tick one thing off my bucket list thanks to the help of the brilliant team at Di Lusso and Critic.

So if my degree doesn't get me anywhere, I can happily say my time at the University of Otago helped me to achieve one thing that the grandkids don't need to know about.



OUSA President's Column

Club Success

Congratulations to our top men's and women's hockey teams who won their respective club championships! The hockey club has put in a significant amount of effort over recent years and winning both major championships is a great result. Clubs and societies are a great way to meet new people and develop real world skills. The executive deliberately invested more resource into clubs this year, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Choose Kids, a caused based club, promotes discussion on child poverty and provides cook-ups in the community. It was great to see such a strong turnout at their recent panel discussion. I've heard people claim our generation are not as interested in improving the world compared to previous generations. This is rubbish. The strength of groups like Choose Kids, along with other cause based groups on campus, demonstrate we are engaged, and we care. The types of movements we participate in just take a different form to those of the past. Research shows we are more likely to work out how all actors in society can be part of solving major challenges like child poverty and

climate change. Civic groups promoting specific causes are attracting greater numbers as a result. I highly recommend getting involved in a social cause group and checking out the next Choose Kids panel discussion on this Monday the 7th of September, at 6pm in the Main Common Room.

World Suicide Prevention Day

The Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust is hosting World Suicide Prevention Day on Thursday September 10, from 6:30pm, at St. Paul's Cathedral. This is an opportunity to discuss how we can better support each other and raise awareness around suicide prevention. The day acknowledges the suffering of those who have taken their own lives as well as the families, friends and communities who are impacted by suicide. Approaching situations where you, or someone else is distressed, can be challenging. Support and information is available, check out our list of phone numbers you can call for free and confidential advice, or pop into the OUSA Student Support Centre and have a chat.

Support and Information services

- **Suicide Crisis Line**
0508 TAUTOKO (0800 828 865)
- **Youthline** 0800 376 633, FREE TXT 234.
- **Student Health** 0800 479 821 or 479 8212
- **Dunedin Emergency Psychiatric Service**
0800 467 846



Do you need support? Come and see Student Support

It's been a long, cold winter and exams are fast approaching...

This time of year can be overwhelming: it's still freezing, money is tight, and it's crunch time academically. Decisions need to be made about living arrangements for next year, friendships might be wearing thin and, for some of you, it's time to start thinking about finding a job and life beyond university.

The friendly staff at OUSA Student Support, 5 Ethel Benjamin Place, can help if you find yourself overwhelmed or if you have just one or two things that could be better. Come in for a chat and bounce around some ideas and options. Whether it's financial, academic, something to do with your flat, your mates, or anything else, we can help. If we can't help, we'll find someone who can! We are an independent service wholly focused on student needs, so whatever it is that you need, we'll try to help you achieve it.

