

Critic

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FEATURES

18 A HISTORY OF SEX IN MEDICINE

Appalling ideas and diseases from our past still influence our thinking and remind us of how lucky we are to live when and where we do, as well as how batty humans can be. Especially when they involve the hilarious sex lives of old-timey people. They are not very sexy, sorry.

BY **LUCY HUNTER**

22 CASH CROPPING ON CULTURE

Red cards where people don blackface, concerts where people wear the bindi, and festivals where people wear Native American headdress – people from majority groups can just put these things on and easily take them off, as if they're costumes and not a part of someone's culture.

BY **MANDY TE**

26 FINDING FLATTIES

Finding suitable flatmates is tough. It doesn't help that it's the most important part of obtaining great flat chemistry. However, you need not fear. With a few sensible tips and clear communication at the start, you can (maybe) have a successful year!

BY **SAM HENDRY**

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CRITIC EDITOR WANTED!

» YES, YOU SHOULD GO FOR IT

It's not often a vacancy comes up for an epic job that will be the coolest and the most challenging role you undertake in your life. There aren't many jobs where you can say you've edited a magazine, produced 30 publications, managed a department and overseen the work of nearly 200 volunteers in one year!

Just like a lot of other jobs, this role can be whatever you make of it. Except you have 20,000 students relying on you to make sure a great magazine is around every Monday morning to distract them from lectures. You have a team of staff and volunteers just as dedicated as you are to produce a great magazine. They are all just as excited as you are for the next issue. And you have an entire city to be the playground for all this to happen.

I plan on pursuing a career in journalism after this, but that's not to say the next editor should do the role with the same aim. Critic benefits from having a fresh face each year. Critic just needs someone who can listen to students and then help them speak for themselves.

I am going to be so sad to end my role here — aside from learning I can actually be more creative than I ever thought, I have met the most incredible people during my time at Critic. People only walk into the Critic office or email me if they've either got something to say or they have nothing to say but want to be able to tell someone else's story. As we're

lucky enough to be able to do that, we can welcome every single person.

I'm ready for my next adventure though. I started uni intending to be the next Meredith Grey, straight out of Grey's Anatomy. Every time I watch Grey's, I actually reconsider that idea for all of about 48 minutes (the length of an episode). Then I realise she's actually acting, McDreamy is dead, and I'd rather write a series like Grey's or, even better, tell a true story and create a piece of work people really start talking about.

Anyway, enough on me. If you're thinking about applying for this, just do it! Another year in Dunedin won't kill you, I promise. This is the longest I've ever lived anywhere, and it's actually a pretty cool city once you become a yo-pro. Not really — everyone still thinks you're a student, which is exactly what they should think. It proves you're still in touch with the kids, yo.

If you've got hesitations, ask. Speak up. You're not in this job alone. In fact, this year of Critic would have been a photocopied Word document with a shitty editorial if I didn't have such an amazing bunch of staff and volunteers who share the passion each week!

Love you all. Love them all. Love love love.

Josie xxx

JOSIE COCHRANE,
CRITIC EDITOR

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Critic

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The CensorShip has Sailed

» INTO THE RIVER SWEEPED AWAY FROM SHELVES

BY JESSICA THOMPSON CARR

On Thursday 10 September, students, staff and members of the public gathered in the Link to silently protest the interim restriction order placed on Ted Dawe's young adult novel, *Into the River*.

The novel, which won the Best Young Adult Fiction and the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year awards in 2013 was banned after an outcry from Christian lobby group, Family First. The book's sex scenes, language and use of drugs have caused controversy.

According to a press release by the Film and Literature Board, the restriction order means "no one in New Zealand can distribute, or exhibit, the book". If the order is breached, "individuals face a fine of \$3,000 and companies of \$10,000".

The restriction is in place until the board meets in October.

The protest was organised by Emma Neale, who teaches poetry at the University of Otago.

Neale helped edit the novel.

Neale said the protesters were there "to support Ted and highlight the absurdity of the ban". She said the novel was "unfairly highlighted and singled out ... the awards it won were mistaken as targeting young children, when it is truly a crossover novel directed toward young adults and teenagers".

Barbara Larson, a former publisher who attended the protest, said she was "dismayed" at the situation: "I don't like things taken out of context and used as an example".

The writer Lynley Hood, who was also at the protest, said it is "appalling that this has happened".

"Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of a democracy. It is pointless if we only write and say things that people agree with. How do you know whose ideas are the best if they're not all out there?"

A similar protest was held in central Wellington the same day.

Protest organiser Susan Pearce argued in a Wireless video: "Some New Zealanders have taken the narrative that describes sex and body parts as something that would damage their teenagers or their children should they read it, and that's why they've lobbied for its restriction and banning."

Green Party MP Gareth Hughes also attended the Wellington protest, saying "I'm here because I believe in the freedom of expression [and] the freedom to read literature. I'm opposed to this 1930s Soviet style banning of books, I think it's religious, outrageous, and no way should it be happening in 2015."

The New Zealand Book Council has also been outspoken about the book's banning, using the hashtag **#screwensorship** to promote the protest. ○



Referendum Questions and Other Useless Chat

BY LAURA MUNRO /

President Paul Hunt kicked off the dryest meeting of this year by outlining that Vice President Isaac Yu has been finalising a review of the Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival as well as other OUSA events. Hunt said Yu will make "potential recommendations" based on "what students want from events".

Hunt said he has been speaking with OUSA's solicitor about questions for the upcoming referendum. Hunt said they originally talked about only having one question, which would ask which of the three voting options students prefer. However, Hunt said this doesn't "necessarily provide a clear majority".

The two questions in the referendum will be:

1. Should the Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) alter the structure of its Executive members?

2. Which of the following alterations to the Otago University Students' Association Executive is more desirable?

The first option will be having one full-time vice president to replace the finance officer and campaigns officer roles. The second option would add a second 20-hour vice president of external affairs, which will replace the finance and campaigns officers. The second option would add another 10-hour position to the executive with no specification of what this role would entail. The third option is to leave the executive as it is.

Hunt said they need a "five percent turnout" for the referendum, otherwise the results will be void. Whichever option wins the majority vote will come into action in 2017.

On Thursday 1 October at 1pm, a public forum will be held on the potential executive restructure, with debate on each option.

Recreation Officer Jonny Martin has been representing OUSA at the Festival for the Future, which Hunt said "focuses on social enterprises and startups". Martin has "got lots of ideas coming back from that".

Hunt asked whether the executive have any further thoughts or questions on the PMDL situation. His question was met with silence. Hunt said the PMDL board is still looking into "how best to enshrine media independence".

Last week OUSA announced that it supports an increased refugee quota in New Zealand. Hunt said the government's recent announcement of accepting a further 750 refugees from Syria was good progress. However, OUSA still needs to focus on making sure there is "a more regular evaluation of how many refugees we let into New Zealand". Hunt said Amnesty International and Choose Kids are running events to support an increased quota. ●

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Student Throws Pot Plants, Not Charged

» CRITIC CONFUSED BY "HIGHLY UNUSUAL" BEHAVIOUR

BY JOE HIGHAM /

A student from the University of Otago has escaped charges after drunkenly attacking a Dunedin resident in her home on Saturday 29 August.

The attack, which lasted for several minutes, began after the intoxicated student followed her friend home. The student entered the victim's house, believing it was that of her friend.

Believing the victim was unlawfully in her friend's flat, the student then started throwing various objects at the property, including the victim's pot plants.

The pot plants smashed the victim's window, and the student then reached through the window, causing the victim to drop the phone she was using to call the police.

The student left the property shortly after the incident, and no arrest was made.

According to a police spokesperson, the victim "received minor cuts to her feet as a result of broken glass being scattered throughout the hallway of her house".

The spokesperson said no charges were laid because the case didn't meet the solicitor general's prosecution guidelines.

Southern District Police Community Manager Nic Barkley said he "can't say it's a common thing" for no charges to be laid in an incident like this. "Every situation is different, and this one is completely different to any other situation ... Every case is dealt with on its merits."

The student has written a letter apologising to the victim after she declined the offer of a face-to-face apology.

The police spokesperson also said police "liaised with [the victim's] insurance company to assist in the repayment of reparation".

The university's Code of Conduct states that "no student shall engage in actions that amount to assault or which result in, or can be reasonably expected to result in, harm to a person or persons".

However, the university cannot punish students for actions that are not connected to the university — simply being a student is not a sufficient connection for punishment to be handed out.

The university proctor said "there have been seven incidents that we term 'assaults' since the start of the academic year", though three of these were student assaults on non-students, where the other party was security staff. All of these assaults took place in the campus area.

The proctor said violence is highly unusual in the student community. ○

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Attempts At Saving the Student Voice

» STILL WAITING FOR SAVING OUR VOTE

BY BRIDIE BOYD

Vice Chancellor Harlene Hayne has announced she intends to create new ways for students to contribute to university governance.

Hayne announced the proposal, which came after the number of student seats was halved earlier this year, in a University Council meeting on 8 September.

According to Hayne, it is crucial for students to have "multiple places for input".

A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed soon to formalise the new places for students to have a voice. OUSA President Paul Hunt said he is "confident it will be signed before the end of the year".

Hunt said the MOU will allow students "to have influence over decisions before they are sent to Council ... Council is not the place to propose a new idea, and students have many great ideas which the MOU will allow to be presented to the University."



Hayne also suggested a monthly meeting between herself, or future vice chancellors, and the OUSA president. The OUSA Executive will also be invited to present to the Vice

Chancellor's Advisory Group on certain issues.

According to Hunt, the advisory group is where the "key" university decision makers are, and this will be one of the preferred methods of student input.

Hunt said if students are to have real influence on university decisions, "we need access to the forums where the real grunt work behind decisions occurs".

Hayne also announced the potential for an annual or twice yearly summit between the OUSA Executive and the Vice Chancellor's Advisory Group.

Hunt said he believes the proposals will give students "real influence" and that "sitting back and waiting until an issue is at Council is a hopeless strategy".

Hunt said the vice chancellor currently passes on student views, concerns and inputs to the University Council and he has "no doubt" this will continue. ●

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Cull says Dunedin May Welcome Refugees

» MP SAYS PUBLIC RESPONSE HAS BEEN "HEARTENING"

BY JOE HIGHAM

Dunedin could become home to Syrian refugees arriving in New Zealand, but Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull says an adequate resettlement programme needs to first be established.

Currently, New Zealand's most southernly resettlement programme for refugees is in Nelson.

Cull says before refugees arrive, systems need to be set up to support the struggling families.

"The needs of these people are quite complex and quite a bit different from just an immigrant coming in," said Cull. "These people come from a culture that's quite different from ours, [they] have been through extremely tough circumstances, [they] will be traumatised."

Cull said central government would need to fund the required facilities: "the council doesn't raise money for this

service at the moment, because we have never needed to".

According to Cull, it was only four years ago that government officials from the Department of Labour held discussions about establishing an immigration/refugee centre in Dunedin. This proposal was dropped.

Cull says now "there is an even greater need" for such a centre. He argues that with other centers around New Zealand quickly becoming full, "it makes sense to look at Dunedin. We are a regional city with great social infrastructure and a community eager to welcome and support these refugees in need."

Dunedin Welcomes Refugees held a candlelit vigil on Friday 11 September to galvanise public sentiment, and aims to see a resettlement programme established in Dunedin to help those in need.

In a press release about the event, the group said: "Dunedin is a vibrant

city, renowned for its culture, heritage, and altruism."

"Dunedin's generosity of spirit would shine through, and we would welcome any refugees to our city," said the group. "Dunedin has the capacity to take refugees, but needs a plan."

Dunedin North MP David Clark says the public response to the refugees "has been heartening ... it's confirmed what I have always thought of New Zealanders, that we are a generous people and that we do want to help where we can".

The New Zealand government recently announced plans to allow an extra 600 refugees, on top of the 150 in the existing quota, from Syria over the next three years.

The new quota is in response to the civil war, which has been occurring in Syria since 2011. So far, approximately four million Syrians have fled the country to survive. ●

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Microsoft Recognises Innovative Students

» COMPUTER PROGRAM RECEIVES "EXCELLENT" FEEDBACK

BY INDIA LEISHMAN

A student team from the University of Otago has won two prestigious awards for a virtual desktop project.

At the Tertiary Education ICT conference, the project was awarded the Microsoft Supreme Award and the Excellence in Technology Innovation Award.

After three years of development, the project reached its final stages in September last year. The virtual desktop was soft-launched onto ten university computers to see how students would react to the upgrade.

Emerson Pratt, the university's teaching and learning facilities manager, led the endeavour and said the project received "excellent" feedback during this stage.

"We saw many students lining up to use the ten machines with the new software, despite many other machines with the original software being free."

Pratt said: "It was clear the students wanted to use the new service."

The project's timing was perfect, as the university's current software, Windows XP, is being discontinued. Pratt and his team asked students how they would like to use their computers. Students said they wanted more access, and so stemmed the project's motto: "Anytime, Anywhere, Any Place".



Initially, the project was due to be released slowly last year with a big launch in February 2015, but plans changed after Pratt's team saw how eager students were to use the software. Previous login times were around five minutes; the new software averages 22 seconds.

The virtual desktop project will cater for all students, including those on placement or distance learning. Previously, students could not access university databases unless they were using the university computer rooms on campus.

"The new idea of computer rooms is to be

accessible everywhere," said Pratt.

Since its inception, the project has seen log-ins from 36 countries. Since the project's release, seven universities have asked Otago for more information, and the University of Hong Kong has sent staff over to study the project.

Lauren Baker, an Otago psychology student, said she found the new software beneficial.

"I got really sick of waiting to log in at the university computers because it would always take so long, but since the end of last year it's been so much quicker and more efficient." ●

Marketing Students Oh So Successful

» BRAND CHALLENGE TAKEN OUT ONCE AGAIN

BY EMILY DUNCAN

Four marketing students from the University of Otago won the Marketing Association's National Brand Challenge competition.

Teams from seven New Zealand universities were given a real-life case submitted by the beverage company Frucor. They were asked to market a new "Sparkling Oh" drink as the brand's first entry into the healthy drink market.

The Otago team — Jake McKay, Grace Fuhrer, Geena Billows and Hilary Derrick — had 10 days to prepare a 15-minute presentation at the competition, held in Auckland last month.

Derrick said the results were "very close" and the team was "ecstatic to be announced as the winners amongst such tough competition".

The team received their award at the TVNZ Marketing Awards, which were held in front of 750 people from the marketing industry.

Derrick said this provided the team with "the opportunity to network with marketing professionals from all over New Zealand". She said the experience had been "extremely humbling" and she was "grateful to have been a part of it".

Senior lecturer and coach of the Otago team, Dr John Guthrie, attributed the success to the

team's ability to show "why their strategy would work in terms of the size of market and projections into the future".

Guthrie said the team was "well picked" and had a good relationship, which is "often what makes a team stand out from other universities".

The University of Otago has a good track record at the brand challenge, with last year's team also taking away the first prize. Guthrie, who also coached that team, said "each year the standard goes up, so we were not sure what to expect".

The judges of the competition included people from IAG, Frucor and Genesis. ●

Thousands Flee Syria for Europe

» GERMANY STILL A STAND OUT

BY OLIVER GASKELL

More than 450,000 Syrians are expected to cross the Mediterranean Sea to seek refuge in Europe over the next year, UN officials announced last week. This is on top of the approximately 366,000 who have already attempted the journey this year.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has called for stronger asylum policies in Europe to deal with the rapidly growing refugee crisis. UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres said in a statement that the crisis is serious, but it would be manageable if Europe were properly organised. "We are talking about four or five thousand people per day in a [European] Union that has 508 million people. We have had until now 300,000 who have crossed the

Mediterranean, which is less than one per thousand of the European population."

A single-day record was reached when 7000 Syrian refugees arrived in Macedonia on Monday 7 September.

Germany's vice chancellor, Sigmar Gabriel told AFP news that Germany would continue to take "a greatly disproportionate share" of refugees in years to come "because we are an economically strong country".

"[Germany] could surely deal with something in the order of half a million [refugees] for several years ... I have no doubt about that, maybe more."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has also given her backing to the EU quota to take 160,000 more refugees.

Merkel said the quota suggested by the EU, which involved Germany taking 31,000 extra refugees, represented the least they could do. There have been reports of Germany taking up to 800,000 this year alone.

"This joint European asylum system cannot just exist on paper but must also exist in practice — I say that because it lays out minimum standards for accommodating refugees," Merkel said in a news conference with German Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.

British Prime Minister David Cameron told the House of Commons that they will resettle up to 20,000 refugees from Syria over the next four and a half years. Cameron said that Britain would only take in vulnerable refugees from camps in the region, and not those who have crossed the Mediterranean Sea into Europe.

France will begin reconnaissance flights over Syria, potentially carrying out airstrikes against the Islamic State (IS), President François Hollande announced during a press conference. Hollande blamed the IS for the refugee crisis in Europe as well as a number of terrorist attacks carried out in France and other countries.

France and Germany will ask the European Commission to introduce an "obligatory and permanent" system to deal with those fleeing war zones and force EU members to take their share of asylum seekers.

"Every country must engage ... the important word is 'obligatory' ... and permanent, meaning continuing for some time," Hollande said.

Hollande said France would take 1000 refugees who had crossed from Hungary into Germany last week, saying that they cannot leave Germany to deal with the situation alone, and the EU needs "to show solidarity".

He added that France would take 24,000 refugees over the next two years, as part of the EU quota.

The president of the European Council, Donald Tusk, warned that the current crisis is part of a refugee "exodus", which will last for years.

"The wave of migration is not a one-time incident ... we will have to deal with this problem for many years to come." ○



When Human Rights Prevail

» CLERK JAILED FOR REFUSING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LICENCES

BY ZAHRA SHAHTAHMASEBI



A Kentucky clerk who was imprisoned after refusing to issue marriage licences to same-sex couples has been released from jail.

Kim Davis was originally held in contempt of court after defying repeated orders by US district court judge, David Bunning, to issue the licences. She was jailed for five days after her continued refusal.

Davis, who chose to be imprisoned indefinitely, said she refused the licences on the basis that same-sex marriage goes against her Christian convictions.

Her actions went against the recent Supreme Court decision that legalised same-sex marriage in all 50 US states.

In her absence, five of Davis's deputies agreed to issue licences to the group of clients who originally sued the clerk.

Being satisfied that her deputies had fulfilled their obligations,

Bunning ordered Davis's release.

Bunning's new order for Davis says that she cannot interfere with her deputies issuing marriage licences to all eligible same-sex couples. Davis will be jailed again if she doesn't follow this order.

Davis has claimed her time in jail was worth it, and she is returning to work this week. Her lawyers have not said whether she will agree to issue licences to same-sex couples, only that she will continue to be "loyal to her job and her people", but "she'll also be loyal to God and she's not going to violate her conscience".

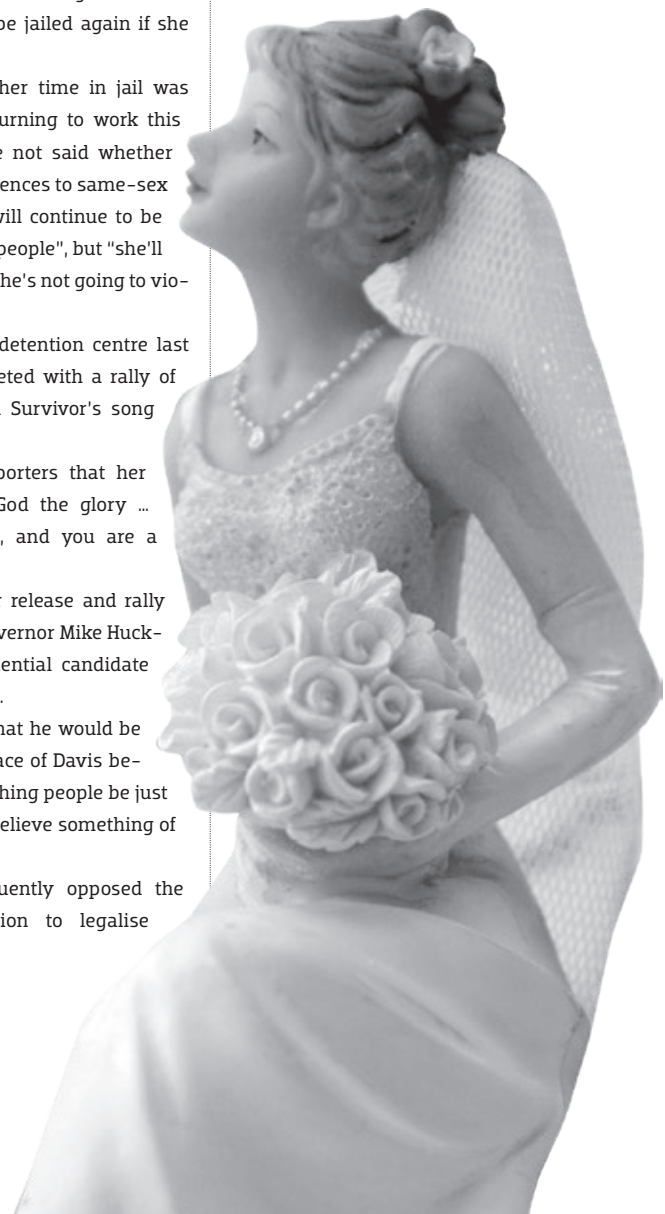
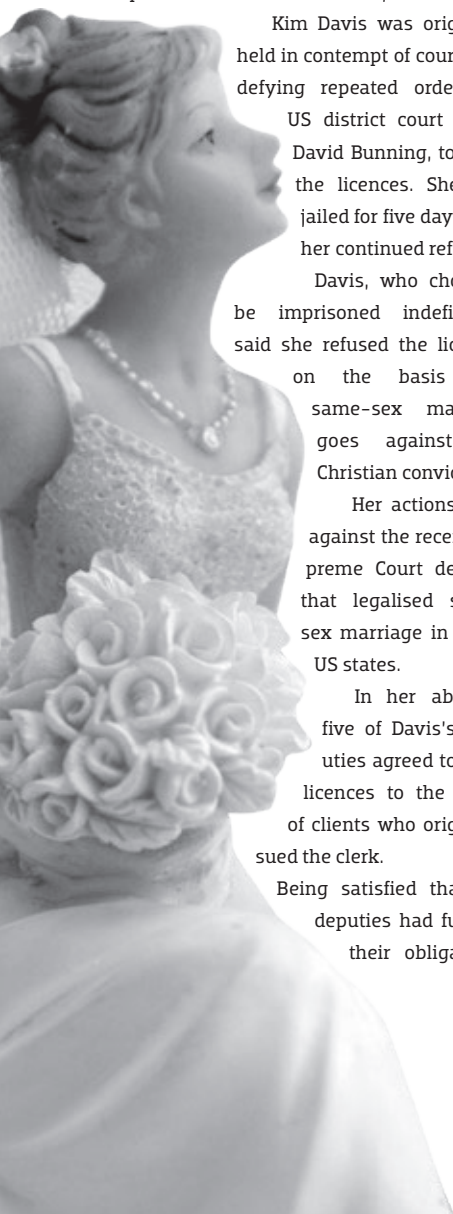
Walking out of the detention centre last Tuesday, Davis was greeted with a rally of supporters, who blasted Survivor's song "The Eye of the Tiger".

Davis told her supporters that her actions were "to give God the glory ... his people have rallied, and you are a strong people".

Also present for her release and rally was former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, a potential presidential candidate and firm Davis supporter.

Huckabee claimed that he would be willing to go to jail in place of Davis because he is "tired of watching people be just harassed because they believe something of their faith".

Huckabee has frequently opposed the Supreme Court's decision to legalise same-sex marriage. ●



HA THE UNCLEAR

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Peters says Men Should Defend Their Own Country

» PETERS: NZ SHOULD ONLY TAKE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

IMAGE: CC BY 2.0 (flickr) Bryce Edwards



New Zealand First leader Winston Peters has called for male refugees from Syria to return home and help their country fight ISIS.

Last week Peters threw his support behind the emergency one-off intake of an extra 600 refugees from Syria, as well as a further 150 over the next three years. However, he suggested that only women and children should be accepted.

Speaking on the Paul Henry Show, Peters reiterated his critical stance on the issue saying New Zealand "could be doing much more, faster".

"I was looking at the television coverage of this [refugee crisis] out of Hungary — there were a lot of fit young men there that didn't all seem to be in families," said Peters. "My concern was, in a crisis like this, you take the women and children first."

Peters went on to argue that New Zealand and a number of Western allies, including the United States and Australia, have contributed training contingents and troops to the Middle

Eastern region occupied by the terror group.

"When you look at the facts that we have a number of Western countries with skin in the game, with their soldiers on the line, including our own, it would be reasonable surely to expect people to defend their own country first," Peters said.

Peters' statement came after a week of controversial discussion over whether New Zealand would increase the annual refugee quota or accept a one-off intake from Syria. In response, the National government announced 600 more refugees would be accepted, as well as 150 extra over the next three years.

The announcement was made before the Labour and Green parties put forward their emergency bills to respond to the growing crisis.

Labour has since withdrawn its bill to have an emergency intake of refugees, but the Greens' attempt to permanently increase the annual quota by 250 people is continuing. ●

Bill Concludes Five Treaty Settlements

» GOVERNMENT SETTLES "GRIEVANCES" OF THE PAST

BY **HENRY NAPIER**

Four Te Huki iwi have concluded Treaty of Waitangi settlements following the enactment of the Te Huki Claims Settlement Bill.

The four iwi are Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupōuri, Ngāi Takoto and Te Rarawa.

The bill was accompanied by another Treaty settlement, which gave effect to a deed of settlement signed last year. Both bills recently passed their third reading, allowing them to progress into law.

The first bill ratified agreements between the Crown and the four Far North iwi, all of which now have full and final settlements.

The second bill to conclude a Treaty settlement was between the Crown and Auckland-based iwi Te Kawerau ā Maki.

Minister of Treaty Settlements Chris Finlayson said in a press statement that each settlement "acknowledges, apologises for

and makes significant redress toward righting wrongs of the past".

"The passing of this bill is one of the final steps in settling the grievances of Te Kawerau ā Maki and is significant as a further step toward the settlement of historical claims across Auckland," said Finlayson.

Finlayson said the settlement allows for Te Kawerau ā Maki to purchase 86 percent of the Riverhead Crown Forest Licence land, "which will be a significant commercial asset for the iwi".

"While the Crown can never fully compensate for the wrongs of the past, this settlement will enable Te Kawerau ā Maki to focus on developing a strong cultural and economic future".

As the settlement negotiation concluded, Ngāti Kahu protested over their outstanding grievances, which may have been lost as a

result of the Te Huki settlements.

Last week, a group of people claiming to represent Ngāti Kahu occupied Kaitiāia Airport in a protest against the Crown for failing to seriously address their grievances.

Speaking on Radio Live last week, protest leader Wi Katana criticised the Crown for not providing a fair settlement for the iwi's claim, saying that Ngāti Kahu had rightful ownership of the airport.

"Well rightfully we do [own the airport], we have evidence on how it was taken from our people, so rightfully we do. But at the moment the [Far North District] Council's got it, the Crown's got it and yeah, we're here to take it back," said Wi Katana.

Flights had to be cancelled, and the protest ended with several arrests following verbal trespasses. ●

In My Opinion: Henry's word TPPA No Way?

I get the distinct feeling that protesters against the TPPA are mostly gullible idealists with little idea of the reality of government or international relations. I don't profess to be an authority, or even an expert. However, I feel justified in saying that I am intelligent enough to logically consider the relevant issues before condemning something.

I don't think New Zealanders are stupid. Actually, the contrary. I think if the majority of people stopped and considered the relevant factors of a multilateral trade/investment agreement like the TPPA, they would see it is politics as usual. Not a sinister conspiracy theory.

I've heard at least 10 people say that the TPPA is bad for New Zealand's democratic freedom. But I get the feeling most of them don't actually know what that means.

What they are referring to (probably unknowingly) is the investor-state arbitration clause rumoured to be part of the TPPA. This clause would allow international corporations to take legal action against the state if the agreement is breached. Sounds sinister? Well, yes and no.

First, this can be a problem. In 2011, the Australian federal government passed the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011. This was clearly not in the interest of cigarette producers. In response, international tobacco conglomerate Phillip Morris Asia took legal action against the Australian government for an alleged breach of the 1993 bilateral investment treaty (BIT) between Australia and Hong Kong. Following a number of failed attempts to challenge the law in domestic courts, Phillip Morris has now progressed the case to an international arbitration court created by the Australia-Hong Kong BIT. Now, while it has cost Australian taxpayers a small fortune to fight in court, the claim is frivolous. No legal commentator expects the claim to succeed. And therefore it is an irrelevant argument against the general inclusion of an investor-state arbitration clause in investment agreements.

Second, the clause exists solely to encourage foreign direct investment. Foreign direct investment is the process by which overseas companies operate in New Zealand. In doing so, they create jobs, increase the products and services available, and offer new training and employment opportunities. In short, foreign

direct investment is essential to constructing an effective economy.

Bilateral investment treaties were created to encourage foreign direct investment, including the unique investor-state arbitration clauses everyone is so upset about. The rationale being that if a company took the risk to invest in a foreign state, and then that state decided to pass laws that directly damaged their profitability, the company would have a forum in which to seek remedy.

This happened in 2001 when Argentina fell into crisis following a massive economic downturn. The Argentinian government removed the pegging of the pesos to the US dollar, and its currency plummeted in value. However, the multinational companies operating in the country still had to pay the same rates to utility companies despite the halving of their income. As a result of the domestic law changes, the companies were effectively wiped out.

I've obviously simplified many aspects of the 2001–2002 Argentinian crisis, so this example should be viewed in isolation, as should the Phillip Morris v Australia one. However, it is worth pointing out that both sides of the debate have ample grounds for argument.

But here's the interesting part. New Zealand already has a number of agreements with investor-state arbitration clauses. Here's a list of countries whose companies could sue us: Singapore, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia and Hong Kong.

If you're going to protest against something, at least go and find out if what you're protesting about has already happened. Because in this case, it has. ●



IMAGE: CC BY 2.0 (wiki commons) Gobierno de Chile

News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



World Watch

1 ADYGEA, RUSSIA

A special police unit has been set up in southern Russia to ensure security at weddings. The 40-strong detail will patrol the area making sure that wedding motorcades observe the highway code and nobody fires weapons from car windows. The people of Adygea have a reputation for partying hard, and weddings there often involve celebratory gunfire and driving around in noisy convoys.

2 NORWAY

Norway's armed forces will be kitted out in organic cotton underpants and bras in the future, after the logistics division signed contracts with eco-clothing providers. The new eco-friendly underwear is expected to be a boon for local organic clothing manufacturers, which are expecting to provide the armed forces with 50,000 pieces of underwear per year.

3 THAILAND

Schools in Thailand are to end lessons 90 minutes early and let pupils decide how they spend the rest of their day. The new initiative is being trialled in 3500 schools; students will finish classes at 2pm and will be allowed to choose from a host of extra-curricular activities or even go home.

4 CHINA

A Chinese ice cream company is marking 70 years since the end of World War Two with a special creation depicting the face of Japan's wartime prime minister, Hideki Tojo. The Shanghai-based Iceason chain wants 10,000 people to scoff the head-shaped snacks as a way of remembering China's war against Japan.

5 FRENCH ALPS, FRANCE

Angry farmers in the French Alps held the bosses of a national park hostage overnight in an act of "bossnapping", demanding that more be done to protect their livestock from wolf attacks. At least 50 farmers were involved in the non-violent action, which came after some 130 wolf attacks against livestock so far this year led to anger that nothing is being done to prevent the slaughter.

6 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Arabic-language version of children's television favourite, *Sesame Street*, is to return to TV screens across the Middle East after a 25-year hiatus. The programme ran from 1978 until the Gulf War interrupted production in 1990. The re-launch has been a long time in coming with negotiations reportedly starting in 2010.

7 TURKEY

Opinion columnists at a Turkish newspaper have submitted blank columns in protest against what they describe as the "pressure" on opposition media outlets. While columnists' faces appeared on the front page, the spaces beside them were left completely empty. The paper has been openly critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the government.

8 NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

Thirty cadets were injured when an annual pillow fight at the US Military Academy turned bloody. At least 24 students were reportedly left unconscious after freshmen packed their pillow cases with helmets and body armour before the brawl at West Point. The pillow fight is supposed to build camaraderie after a tough summer of training.

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Poppa's - Mmmm!

Grapevine



"If you look at those displaced by conflict per day, in 2010 it was 11,000; last year there were 42,000. This means a dramatic increase in need, from shelter to water and sanitation, food, medical assistance, education. The budgets cannot be compared with the growth in need. Our income in 2015 will be around 10% less than in 2014."



UN High Commissioner for Refugees — Antonio Guterres

The UN's humanitarian agencies are on the verge of bankruptcy and unable to meet the basic needs of millions of people because of the size of the refugee crisis in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Recent months have seen severe cuts to food rations for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan as well as for Somali and Sudanese refugees in Kenya. Guterres

warned that the damage being done by these cuts would be impossible to reverse: "We know that we are not doing enough, we are failing the basic needs of people."

"We are not assassins and we have a conscience. I have the weight of an innocent man's death on my conscience ... It's time, I believe, for me to express my profound regret and my apologies."

Jean-Luc Kister

A French secret service diver who took part in the operation to sink Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior, 30 years ago has spoken publicly for the first time to apologise for his actions. Kister, who attached a mine to the ship's hull, said the guilt of the bombing still weighs heavily on his mind. Kister was one of two divers serving with the French intelligence service, who sank the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland in 1985.



"While the relationship between gender identity and sexual orientation is complex, and sometimes overlapping, the two identities are distinct. Significant evidence suggests that transgender persons are often especially visible, and vulnerable, to harassment and persecution due to their often public non-conformance with normative gender roles."



Jacqueline Nguyen — ninth circuit judge

A US appeals court has granted asylum to an undocumented transgender immigrant under international anti-torture conventions, saying she would almost certainly face more sexual and physical abuse because of her gender identity if returned to her native Mexico. The ruling overturned a Los Angeles-based immigration court decision in 2013 to deport

Edin Avendano-Hernandez to Mexico where she had previously been "raped, forced to perform oral sex, beaten severely, and threatened."

"I think I'd rather have a president who is tough and puts America first than can win a game of Trivial Pursuit. But I don't think the public gives a flying flip if somebody knows who, today, is a specific leader of a specific region or a religion or anything."

Sarah Palin, Former governor and vice-presidential candidate

Palin has announced her support for Republican candidate Donald Trump. Palin also said that if she was asked, she would serve as Trump's energy department secretary, although she stated it would be a short-term role as she believes America should "get rid of it". Mr Trump said in July that he would be open to the possibility of Palin serving in his government.



FACTS & FIGURES



Odontophobia

The fear of teeth.

About half an hour

The amount of time every human spent as a single cell.

7.5 million

toothpicks can be created from a cord (3.62m3) of wood.

80%

of all sexually active adults will contract an STI at some point.

100,000 miles/second

The speed at which a telephone signal travels.

16 to 18 hours

The number of hours cats sleep per day.

Two years

The amount of time the average person spends on the phone in their lifetime.

Premier League Transfer Spending Exceeds \$2 Billion

» NEW TELEVISION RIGHTS DEAL KICKS OFF PREMIER LEAGUE SPENDING SPREE

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

The English Premier League has never been short of cash, and it has been flooded with even more money having recently negotiated a record-breaking broadcasting rights deal worth \$12 billion over three seasons, far outstripping the previous \$2 billion per season agreement. The deal cements the EPL as the world's richest football league.

To put these numbers into perspective, the New Zealand government allocated \$12.3 billion for superannuation benefits in the 2015/16 budget. Clearly this is big business for the clubs, and the latest transfer window saw 184 transfers in and 394 transfers out — a net spend of just over \$1 billion.

When TV and advertising money is combined with other lucrative sponsorship deals and private investment from playboy billionaires, it is no wonder that the price of player transfers has increased dramatically over recent years. Just as dramatic and bordering on the ridiculous are the players' wage demands, with many players easily negotiating deals worth over \$500,000. Not for a year. Not for a month, but for one week! In case you are wondering, half a million dollars a week is about \$70,000 a day or \$3000 an hour. Studylink chips in \$240 a week for me and I consider myself lucky.

The value of players is one thing, but the mechanics of the transfer window itself are just as controversial. The window is open for a month after the season begins. One camp contends that it is ludicrous for teams to start a new season without their players being finalised and that the best players on smaller teams can be poached away with little time to replace them. On the other hand, teams looking to offload certain players like to have a few games in which to showcase their skills — or lack thereof — to potential buyers in a "how much is that doggy in the window" mentality.

With the amount of money involved now, the lines between business and sport are

becoming increasingly blurred. We take a look at the biggest deals of the biggest spending spree ever.

Top Transfer Deals

1) Kevin De Bruyne

Wolfsburg to Manchester City — \$132 million



The albino Belgian midfielder was the most expensive signing of the transfer window in a prime example of Chelsea's much-criticised loan/transfer policy. De Bruyne was signed by Chelsea in 2012 from Belgian Pro League club, Genk. Despite spending three years contracted to Chelsea, he made just three appearances for the Blues before being loaned several times, then finally sold to Wolfsburg. He moved to Manchester City for a club record fee, becoming the second-most expensive player in English football history and negotiating a weekly wage reportedly as high \$700k, with performance bonuses taken into account.

2) Raheem Sterling

Liverpool to Manchester City — \$118 million



After 95 appearances and 18 goals for Liverpool, the 20-year-old England winger joined City after a very public contract dispute that saw him flake on Liverpool's pre-season trip

to Asia, citing "illness". A deal was reached after several bids were rejected; Sterling miraculously recovered and quickly linked up with his new club in Melbourne, scoring three minutes into his City debut against Roma. Sterling's "base salary will be a reported \$430k per week at City after he rejected a \$250k per week deal from Liverpool.

3) Angel Di Maria

Manchester United to PSG — \$107 million



One of the most acrimonious deals of the window ended with Di Maria opting for the more fashionable beaux quartiers of Paris after barely a year in the grey industrial surrounds of Manchester. He failed to front up for United's pre-season trip to the United States, instead jetting to Qatar for negotiations with the French club's billionaire owners. He will have to work hard to prove the critics wrong when they say he couldn't handle the physicality of the Premier League and has stepped down to an "easier" league. Expect a hostile reception for the Argentine if United and PSG get drawn together in the Champions League.

4) Anthony Martial

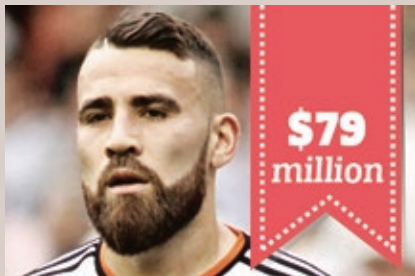
AS Monaco to Manchester United — \$87 million



United captain Wayne Rooney had reportedly never heard of the 19-year-old Frenchman before he became the most expensive teenager in history. Criticisms abound of "panic buying" as the deadline day deal was rushed through — Rooney was the only established striker in the squad after other players were sold and loaned out. United don't usually pay over the odds for relatively unproven youngsters, and the already massive fee could rise to £58 million in performance-based add-ons if United win the Premier and Champions leagues.

5) Nicolas Otamendi

Valencia to Manchester City — \$79 million



The Argentine defender had been heavily linked with a move to Manchester United, but their "noisy neighbours" City swooped in for the 27-year-old, who was the only Valencia player named in the last season's "La Liga XI". Otamendi was cut from the Argentine squad before the 2014 World Cup, but was welcomed back into the fold for the 2015 Copa América where they finished runners up. He was also named in the Copa's Team of the Tournament.

6) Christian Benteke

Aston Villa to Liverpool — \$78 million



Aston Villa have struggled for goals over the few last seasons, but the Birmingham club has clearly prioritised money in the bank over balls in the back of the net after cashing in on the powerful Belgian striker. Having failed with their punt on Mario Balotelli, Liverpool fans will be hoping that their new No. 9 is the player to plug the hole in their attack following the departures of Suarez, Gerrard and Sterling.

7) Roberto Firmino

Hoffenheim to Liverpool — \$70 million



The versatile 23-year-old Brazilian attacking midfielder was a relative unknown to Liverpool fans having spent the last five seasons

developing in the much-lauded German football system, which will have set him up well for life in the Premier League. When this is combined with Benteke and several other signings, Brendan Rodgers has now spent £289 million in three years as Liverpool manager and will be desperate for his new-look team to challenge for trophies.

8) Morgan Schneiderlin

Southampton to Manchester United

— \$60 million



After several impressive seasons with Southampton, it was only a matter of time before the Frenchman was poached by a bigger club. He survived the mass exodus from St Mary's in last year's summer transfer window despite interest from Arsenal. Having come through the lower leagues with Southampton, Schneiderlin arrives at Old Trafford as a battle-hardened defensive midfielder who, with German World Cup winner Bastian Schweinsteiger, forms a solid new "Schmidfield" partnership for the Red Devils. ●

6

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a history of sex in medicine



by **Lucy Hunter**

A

ha! It's "a chancre on the penis!" not "a chamber on the lines", it's "a chancre on the penis!" This is the joyous thought process I had while decoding the terrible handwriting of a

Victorian doctor from a huge leather-bound book in the Dunedin medical archives last year. If you can't imagine the delight in working out the ailments of a syphilitic pianist from Port Chalmers in 1889, medical history may not be for you.

Appalling ideas and diseases from our past still influence our thinking and remind us of how lucky we are to live when and where we do, as well as how batty humans can be. Especially when they involve the hilarious sex lives of old-timey people. Here are four of my favourite, funniest

and saddest stories from the Western history of sexual medicine. They are not very sexy, sorry.

I'll begin with my favourite historical figure, the fabulous John Hunter ...

Surgeon holds back medical knowledge using only his syphilitic knob

John Hunter, a pioneering eighteenth-century surgeon, took his passion for venereal disease seriously. He wanted to prove his theory that gonorrhoea and syphilis were the same disease presenting different symptoms. To make his case, he took the pus from a gonorrific sore and, using a scalpel, poked it into an anonymous man's penis and testicles. He does not say whose junk he used for the experiment, but as he recorded frequent and intimate detail on the progression of the patient's sexual health, including their mood and exact sensations of pain and discomfort over many decades, historians assume that the cock and balls heroically sacrificed in the name of science were Hunter's own.

Hunter gleefully observed his testicles becoming painful and swollen, his penis discharging a greenish yellow liquid, and an awful burning sensation when he urinated. He had successfully given himself gonorrhoea! But, even better, after his initial symptoms cleared up, Hunter awoke one day to find a single, firm, painless, non-itchy skin ulceration at the site of his gonorrhoea infection — a tell-tale chancre of primary-stage syphilis. Hunter's experiment was a success. He happily wrote that gonorrhoea and syphilis were the same disease.

Except, of course, they aren't. What had happened was that Hunter had selected a pus sample from a person who had both gonorrhoea and syphilis. Unfortunately this idea stuck for another sixty years. Gonorrhoea is very unpleasant, but even before we had antibiotics it would usually clear up on its own within about a month. Sadly, due to Hunter's mistake, gonorrhoea continued to be treated the same way syphilis was, with highly toxic mercury.

Hunter's self-experimentation was noble, even if it was revolting and horribly misinformed.

Man invents electro-orgasm, pleasures himself to death

Johann Wilhelm Rittler made radical progress in the technology of electricity with the invention of the Voltaic pile — the world's first electric battery that allowed for a continuous, steady and strong flow of electric current. In around 1800, he began experimenting with how the electricity felt on his body — on his eyes, his tongue, up his nose and, predictably, on his dick.

Rittler soaked a cloth in milk and wrapped it around his penis. When he put the electric wire on it, he achieved an erection and orgasm. He then wrote down his findings and left the thing alone.

Just kidding! He declared his love for the machine, delightedly writing to his publisher "Tomorrow I marry — i.e. my battery!" He then repeated his "experiment" with higher and higher levels of current, until he had to take opium to dull the pain. Repeated electrocution meant he endured frequent headaches, muscle spasms, numbness and stomach cramps. His eyes became infected. His lungs filled with mucous. He lost the sensation in his tongue and often collapsed from terrible dizzy spells. At one point, the current paralysed his arm for a week, and he often couldn't get out of bed for months at a time. But then why would he want to, when the love of his life was there to electrocute his balls all day long?

Ritter died at age 33 due to complications from tuberculosis. These complications were almost certainly the kind you get from fucking a robot until your body doesn't work anymore.

As most historic doctors were, like Rittler, male, and were, like Rittler, obsessed with their penises, women's bodies were long regarded as mysterious and terrifying things. Because men didn't seem to think that actually asking women how they were feeling was a sensible idea, they pretty much just made up female anatomy and health advice for about two millennia. For example ...

Women are untrustworthy flibbertigibbets with animals for organs

Watch out, ladies! You have an animal walking around inside you that is making you crazy and feeble! Ancient Greek doctor Aretaeus explains: "It moves hither and thither in the flanks [...]to the right or the left, either to the liver or the spleen [...] in a word, it is altogether erratic." GET AWAY FROM MY SPLEEN, FOUL BEAST!

Don't worry, the animal inside you is only your womb. Or, actually, do worry, because it is going to cause you and the rest of Western womankind misery for the next 2000 years or so. Greek doctors thought the wombs of lonely women broke free of the belly and headed upward, toward the head. This condition was called "hysteria", or "wandering womb". Once it escaped, the womb could be hard to find and could sometimes suffocate a woman.

The best cure for hysteria was hot, steamy sex, which put widows and spinsters at particular risk of developing the disease. Luckily, wombs were said to have very sensitive noses and could be coaxed back to their proper place by rubbing a tasty treat or sweet-smelling unguent over the vulva and upper thighs. Or you could do what Roman poet Martial reported one woman doing:

Leda told her old husband that she was hysterical and complained that being fucked is a necessity for her [...] what he no longer does, should be done. Right away the male doctors come forward and the female doctors step back, and her feet are lifted. What severe medicine!

Sadly the idea of hysteria didn't disappear until the goddamned twentieth century. Women could be diagnosed with hysteria for a wide array of symptoms, including faintness, nervousness, sexual desire, insomnia, fluid retention, heaviness in the abdomen, muscle spasm, shortness of breath, irritability, loss of appetite for food or sex, and "a tendency to cause trouble". You will notice that both sexual desire and lack of sexual desire are listed. The criteria were so messed up that a woman could do basically anything her husband or family didn't like and be diagnosed as hysterical. Many "hysterical" women were forced to enter an insane asylum or to undergo surgical hysterectomy.

The only possibly nice thing about hysteria is that treatment for it continued to be sexual stimulation. Greek doctors recommended manual stimulation of the private parts to induce a "spasm". Nineteenth-century doctors continued this treatment, rubbing their patients' genitals with warm oil. Many doctors found the process tiring (it can take a while, amirite?). Some used well-aimed jets of water on their patients, and in the 1860s an American doctor designed a steam-powered pulsating device with a vibrating sphere to relieve his colleagues of the tedious chore. The first vibrator had been invented. The women liked it so much he advised use of the "pelvic manipulator" should be closely supervised by a (male) doctor or the woman's husband to prevent "overindulgence". Come on, doctor, give the ladies a break!

It is strange that the treatment for hysteria was assisted manual orgasm, as for the most part the thought of people enjoying sexual sensations outside of marriage with the aim of reproducing was not advised. Quite the opposite, in fact ...

The doomed war against masturbation

Victorians were obsessed with stopping people masturbating. The American doctor John Harvey Kellogg suggested small boys be circumcised "without administering an anaesthetic, as the brief pain attending the operation will have a salutary effect upon the mind". For young girls, he "found the application of pure carbolic acid to the clitoris an excellent means of allaying the abnormal excitement". Kellogg also believed a diet of



tasteless, dry food could curb the urge to abuse oneself, and lo, cornflakes were invented. Before you write him off as an evil pervert, take into account that at the time masturbation was thought to cause problems such as shortness, blindness, epilepsy, madness, hairiness, weakness, acne and cancer, to name a few. Women who masturbated were said to be prone to nervous exhaustion and emaciation, as well flat-chestedness, memory loss, fickleness and an irritable disposition. They were restricted from riding horses or bicycles, sewing and squatting down to do laundry because these activities could arouse unwanted sexual feelings. Some women even had a clitoridectomy to stop them from touching themselves.

In the early 1800s, a French medical professor called Claude Lallemand dominated the field of masturbation. He was bothered by what he called "spermatorrhea", or wet dreams, as even the most restrained man could not help the erections and orgasms that plagued him at night. Claude hunted out spattered sperm on his patients' bodies and clothing with a microscope. If he found any stray soldiers, the man would be treated with crushed ice, lead girdles, electric shocks and hot needles inserted into the scrotum, perineum and anus. Lallemand also recommended a slim metal cylinder covered in a caustic substance be inserted into the urethra, causing the patient "visible agony" and occasional death. Lallemand was happy with his procedure, noting that the pain it caused resulted in "the most marked and lasting effects". Injure your dick badly enough and it will stop working for a while. Amazing.

Doctors poking their noses into other people's sex lives and telling them what they should and shouldn't be doing has caused immeasurable misery. It's with a heavy heart that I proceed to ...

The terrible "treatment" of non-heterosexuals

Horrible things from history can be kind of funny if they were a few generations ago and didn't affect anybody alive today. The medicalisation of homosexuality is far too recent to fall into this category. Non-hetero and non-cis people are still having a rough time. Homosexuality was only legalised in New Zealand in 1986. And less than two decades before that, doctors were still "treating" homosexuality with electric shock therapy.

"Ritter died at age 33 due to complications from tuberculosis. These complications were almost certainly the kind you get from fucking a robot until your body doesn't work anymore."

I only have room for one man's story. Alan Turing was a brilliant computer scientist, mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, mathematical biologist, and marathon and ultra-distance runner. In World War Two, he was part of a group that intercepted and cracked coded messages that enabled the Allies to defeat the Nazis; it has been estimated that this work shortened the war in Europe by as many as two to four years. He arguably made a greater contribution to defeating the Nazis than Eisenhower or Churchill. But this man, who should have been lavishly rewarded and idolised for saving probably hundreds of thousands of lives, was discovered to be homosexual. He was offered the choice of two years in prison (you can imagine how the other prisoners would have treated him) or a course of hormone injections that would have resulted in his chemical castration, and would have caused him to grow breasts. In 1954, Turing committed suicide. The gentle, eccentric, introverted genius made the private decision to lace an apple with cyanide and eat it.

The history of medicine can remind us of how bad things have been, how far we have come, how grateful we should be for the privacy, freedom and healthcare we have, and how much we can still improve our health system. If you are feeling sad about your sex life or lack of it, be happy that you can at least masturbate without worrying that you're going to give yourself cancer ■

CASH CROPPING ON CULTURE


MANDY TE

Discrimination tends to be experienced only by certain groups of people. Some people will never endure professional, social or economic discrimination because of what they look like, where they come from or the origins of their ancestors. Those privileges are not necessarily realised, but they are there. Red cards where people don blackface, concerts where people wear the bindi, and festivals where people wear Native American headdress — people from majority groups can just put these things on and easily take them off, as if they're costumes and not a part of someone's culture.

Author, feminist and social activist, bell hooks, argues that contemporary society "perpetuates the idea that there is pleasure to be found in the acknowledgement and enjoyment of racial difference. The commodification of otherness has been so successful because it is offered as a new delight, more intense, more satisfying than other ways of feeling and doing. Within commodity culture, ethnicity becomes spice, seasoning that can liven up the dull dish that is mainstream white culture." And, that's the problem — markers of race are being used to

"spice" up someone else's life. This is what cultural appropriation is all about. Fordham University law professor and author of *Who Owns Culture? Appropriation and Authenticity in American Law*, Susan Scafidi, defines the term as "taking intellectual property, traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, or artifacts from someone else's culture without permission. This can include unauthorised use of another culture's dance, dress, music, language, folklore, cuisine, traditional medicine, religious symbols, etc. Scafidi adds, "It's most likely to be harmful when the source community is a minority group that has been oppressed or exploited in other ways or when the object of appropriation is particularly sensitive, e.g. sacred objects."

Cultural appropriation relates to a power imbalance, one that eerily reflects a coloniser/colonised binary. The remnants of this binary can be seen through white privilege, the social, economic and political advantages that white people have compared to minority group members. American feminist and anti-racism activist, Peggy McIntosh, acknowledges her own position as a white female and describes white privilege as follows: "I have come to see



white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was 'meant' to remain oblivious [...] Privilege can look like strength when it is in fact permission to escape or to dominate. Power from unearned privilege can look like strength when it is in fact permission to escape or to dominate." Often, those with white privilege don't understand that what they're doing is offensive. When asked why that is, Department of Media, Film and Communication lecturer at the University of Otago, Rosemary Overell, said she believes people don't understand what they're doing is wrong because "in the West, we grow up saturated in a culture which regularly appropriates from 'Other' cultures. It is often couched in terms of 'appreciation' — 'I appreciate Indian culture so it is okay to wear a bindi to a rave' etc, or even a touristic discourse." She thinks that the recent blastings artists like No Doubt, Lana del Rey, and Miley Cyrus have received for their appropriation from non-Western cultures have increased awareness of the issue.

Minority groups who have been oppressed or exploited are, to this day, publicly shamed and negatively stereotyped for wearing and being those "spicy" things. At this year's Academy Awards, 18-year-old actress, Zendaya Coleman, was criticised by Giuliana Rancic, host of Fashion Police, for wearing dreadlocks. "I feel like she smells of patchouli and weed," stated the talk show host. Coleman expressed her distaste on Instagram: "to say that an 18-year-old young woman with locs must smell of patchouli oil or

'weed' is not only a large stereotype but outrageously offensive [...] There is already harsh criticism of African American hair in society without the help of ignorant people who choose to judge others based on the curl of their hair."

At this year's MTV Video Music Awards, Miley Cyrus wore dreadlock extensions; contrary to Coleman's reception at the Academy Awards, Cyrus was praised for her "amazing" hairstyle. The Hunger Games actress, Amandla Stenberg, and her classmate, Quinn Masterson, recently explored the appropriation of Black hair and, in turn, Black culture through their video, Don't Cash Crop on My Cornrows. In the video, Stenberg states: "Black hair has always been an essential component of black culture [...] It's just a part of our identity" and she goes on to discuss the popularisation of Black culture through the incorporation of hip hop into pop culture. Noting the growing inclusion of Black culture signifiers in music videos and the success of artists such as Eminem, Macklemore and Iggy Azalea, Stenberg contrasts their success with the rise in police brutality, including the murders of several African-American men, children and women. Not only has Cyrus profited from the signifiers of Black culture, she also dismissed Nicki Minaj's concerns over how Black women are treated by the entertainment industry. Exhibiting what Overell calls 'call out' culture, Minaj replied with — "Miley, what's good?" Maisha Z Johnson from Everyday Feminism describes her response as "addressing her in the language of her neighborhood — showing everyone that while Miley picks the parts of Black



“WHAT I TAKE OFFENCE TO IS PEOPLE LOVING BLACK CULTURE BUT NOT STANDING UP FOR BLACK PEOPLE.”

culture that she likes (and that get her albums sold), she can't handle the whole truth of what it means to be Black. Because she doesn't actually engage with the culture — or realize there's more to it than the stereotypes enacted through cultural appropriation.”


When asked about Stenberg's video, third-year Otago student Ropafadzo Kadewere, who is also the events coordinator for AfrOtago, described the actor's sentiments as “relevant and well-thought out. I agree that other races see black culture as ‘cool’ when it's about cornrows, grills, and having a fat ass, but when it comes to the serious social issues — those same cultural appropriators couldn't give a crap. Personally, I don't relate very much as I haven't really experienced any racism. However, I'm in full support of the message of her video. I don't really take offence when people from other races wear ‘black’ hairstyles. What I take offence to is people loving black culture but not standing up for black people.”

When people's feelings vary, Overell believes it's tricky to actually stop cultural appropriation: “there is a tendency to dismiss ‘call outs’ as overbearing and policing. The call outs become killjoys and ‘uncool’. In turn, those who appropriate seem to be the more liberal, chilled, ‘relaxed and comfortable’ types — it alibis cultural appropriation. Instead of denouncing people who appropriate from non-

Western cultures, we need to take a generous approach and engage in dialogue, conversation, and discussion about why cultural appropriation might be problematic — in terms of the history of cultural appropriation and the asymmetries of power between Western and non-Western cultures today.”

And, what about the fact that people from minority groups don't always have the same view of a situation? “We have to consider power when thinking about any cultural practice, object or formation,” says Overell. “We need to be generous and consider more nuanced appropriations which might work as ironic or political critique, but we must also remember the privilege that Western people (particularly White people) still have in Western cultures — their race is unmarked, neutral and offered as the zero-point — this means that they perhaps can ‘play’ with Otherness — they can put on a headdress or bindi — but everyone knows they are ‘still white’ — they do not suffer the consequences of these cultural signifiers which people of colour may experience.”

Director of *Dreadlocks Story*, Linda Ainouche, explores the historical roots of dreadlocks by looking at the connection between India and Jamaica. “I was inspired by the ignorance on Indian enslavement to the Caribbean basin, because Indians had never been nothing else than oppressed by the Colonists,” she states. Ainouche felt it



was important to enlighten people on what shocks her, "such as the many misconceptions and judgements people have of history and culture, such as the links between Hindu and Rasta culture."

As cultures become increasingly intertwined due to migration, exposure and stronger connections — both digitally and physically — our encounters gives us a chance to learn more about the world and the people around us. Ainouche's documentary explores multiculturalism in Jamaica and raises the idea that, rather than one group of people having to sacrifice their culture's values through the traditional and colonial concept of assimilation, groups are merging together and realising their similarities instead of their differences. Sharing culture and acknowledging that culture is not fixed links closely to the concept of cultural exchange. Cultural exchange is often positioned as the opposite of cultural appropriation but it can, at times, be difficult to distinguish between these two terms.

When asked about the term cultural exchange, Overell claimed that "'exchange' implies symmetry and equality — ideally it does", but in practice within the Western world's capitalist structure, it does not operate with equality in mind. "Whenever we buy something, we engage in an uneven exchange. So maybe cultural appropriation is the same as cultural exchange! I don't think that is the common understanding however — the common understanding is that cultural

exchange is equitable and that both parties 'gain' from the experience." When it comes to privilege, though, the inequality remains as the white Westerner often gains something — "they look hip, exotic and mysterious at a music festival or an electronic song has "spice" added to it by African beats — but the group from whom they appropriate doesn't really gain at all [...] items which might have significant social or cultural value in their home culture, say the first nation's headdress, become little more than a fashion item — they are really reduced to a commodity bought and exchanged, discarded at the end of the party."

Within contemporary society, it seems as though cultural exchange can rarely exist. Rather than fully embracing multiculturalism through an equal "exchange", people from dominant groups benefit and use multiculturalism as a smokescreen for their offences, claiming to "appreciate not appropriate". Living in a country with a colonial history and with many Western societies built upon structures that create a disparity in wealth, class, education and, thus, opportunities, it's important to realise how our individual positions in society are unequal. We need to discern these differences with cultural appropriation — is what you're wearing an exercise of open-mindedness or, rather, an exercise of privilege?



FINDING FLATTIES



Sam Hendry

Finding suitable flatmates is tough. It doesn't help that it's the most important part of obtaining great flat chemistry. However, you need not fear. With a few sensible tips and clear communication at the start, you can (maybe) have a successful year!

"You never truly know someone until you've lived with them." I'm sure I wasn't the only one to hear this while under a mother's watch. The key to identifying future flatmates is to ask the tough questions. It's easy to sign a lease with friends. But it's essential to ensure your compatibility. Could you deal with their quirks around the clock, for a whole year?

Messy vs. Clean

If you're a messy bugger, whose hobbies include letting your washing pile build to the size of Mount Cook and re-using the same cereal bowl to avoid the dreadful duty of scrubbing dishes, you might consider bagging yourself a clean freak for a flatmate to take the stress of independence off your shoulders. This may sound great, but you will probably clash with the clean freak when they ask you to stop being so fucking lazy. If someone is messy by nature and hates cleaning, then even if they occasionally do help, it won't be up to the standard expected by the clean freaks. It may be a smart idea to flat with other messy people so you can all live in a nice mess pile together.

Equally, clean freaks can unite and create a spotless, enjoyable environment for themselves.

Sometimes one's ideal living environment isn't so attainable because each member has a different tolerance for mess. If this is the case, agree on the appropriate state of common living areas before moving in. To maintain this agreement, flatmates can rotate cleaning chores each week using a chore chart or wheel.

Study vs. Party ... Or Both?

What are your intentions for the year? Are you a first-time flatter? Straight out of a residence and looking to continue your fresher party ways in a flat on Hyde or Castle? Or perhaps you're a forth year who's done their party time and is now focused on the books around the clock?

Flatmates often have opposing intentions. Before you move in together, agree on some ground rules. Noise could be one. What days is the music allowed to be pumping, if at all? Are rules needed about ciggies, drugs and alcohol? Do you care where people smoke? Do you care if they light a spliff at breakfast? Do you care if they come home drunk during exam period? I have this handy tip for you though: check your insurance for personal liability in case a flattie passes out while the oven is on ... it can happen. It's important to have these things agreed early on because if the issue

arises later in the year, it can be hard to break established bad habits.

Money

Can your future flatties be trusted to pay their share? You don't want to be paying extra bills to keep the power going because one flatmate has let the team down. To avoid this problem, agree on a method of handling bills. One way is to assign each bill to a different flatmate, who is then responsible for organising the payment of that bill. Usually, that person would divide the total among the flat, collect the money, then pay.

The other option is to get one or two people to take care of the finances and get everyone to put money in each week, just as they would for rent. \$10 per week should cover you for electricity for example, and then the leftover funds can go towards an end of year activity.

Personalities

It can be hard, if not impossible, to know if you have the right mix of personalities before you move in. Not knowing who you're compatible with can sometimes lead to major flat clashes. Issues normally stem from something like stealing food or not doing dishes. One story included ripping up a fellow flattie's mail, placing rotting food in their underwear drawer and dropping their toothbrush down the toilet. All this unfortunately led to the victim being hospitalised with a vile stomach infection. This person understandably decided to move out.

Meet each flatmate before moving in. Too often people forget to meet that friend of a friend who sounds all good on paper but then turns to shit in reality. Listen to your instinct — everyone knows that feeling when they're a bit on edge about someone. Play it safe and if doesn't feel right, keep looking.

There is one rule a flat should always keep to. Don't screw the crew! The reasons are obvious: to avoid a potential falling out, any awkwardness down the track upon splitting, the jealousy one might feel if the other were to meet someone else, and because the rest of the flat doesn't want to drift off to sleep to a thumping noise every night. Be considerate, people.

When Shit Hits the Flat Fan

You may have moved into your flat with a bunch of your besties but quickly realised that living with them just isn't as great as you hoped. No one's doing the dishes, surprise parties are constantly pumping, and there is never any hot water.

The first port of call is, of course, to try to talk it out. Instead of leaving the infamous passive aggressive notes, dealing with these issues through diplomacy and clear communication will result in a better outcome. Call a flat meeting if speaking up at the time fails, and express clearly what the problem is.

Obviously, this doesn't always work. This is where the Student Support Centre comes in. You can drop in and have a chat to the support crew at 5 Ethel Benjamin Place. Philippa Keaney from OUSA Student Support says they can help with "all aspects of flatting: repairs, an elusive landlord or agent, issues with bond, flatmate dramas, financial strife, assisting students with formal processes such as 14-day notices and Tenancy Tribunal applications, and more". Mediation can often identify and solve the underlying issues.

Keaney explained that it's really tough to get out of a fixed-term lease and find a new place to live, as well as someone to replace you. Worst case scenario, you might end up having to pay two lots of rent just to get away. However, if it is unbearable and you have to leave, you still have to figure out who is going to pay for your place in a fair and just way. Student Support can help with this, too.

If you're in a violent, threatening or abusive situation in your flat, get out immediately and seek help from one of the following: the police, the university proctor, Women's Refuge, or the OUSA Student Support Centre.

Flatting can be great fun or a total nightmare, and finding the right flatmates is a big part of that puzzle. If there are issues while you're hunting for a flat, it's okay to pull out and go with a different plan. Take your time! There is no rush — there are always places left when you return in February each year.

If you're a newbie to flatting or having shit experiences, then going through the agreement on the next page might help!

> For more help, contact help@ousa.org.nz

OUSA STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE FLATTING AGREEMENT

The following contract is a guide for you and your flatmates as you plan how your flat will run. Go through it at your first flat meeting – this should be well before you move in or even sign a lease. It's up to you how much weight you put on this agreement, and of course you can change it to suit the kind of people you are. Communication – before you move in and while you're flatting – is the key to success.

Meals:

What are your food and cooking preferences? Does anyone have any special dietary needs or religious requirements affecting what they can eat?

Is anyone going to be out at dinnertime because of labs/lectures/work/other commitments?

If yes, who does dinner need to be saved for? On what nights?

We agree to eat together on:
 Mon/Tue/Wed/Thur /Fri/Sat/Sun

We'll make our own arrangements on [what nights?]

Does anyone need cooking lessons, or help with cooking?

Shopping:

If we want the following items, we'll buy our own:

We'll pay for the flat shopping by
 - Putting \$_____ into the flat account each week, OR
 - _____ will pay for the shopping, then split the bill.

We agree to take turns doing the shopping, OR _____ will do the shopping every week,
 OR We'll do it together.

We'll split the cost of the taxi money to get the shopping home,

OR

We'll give _____ some petrol money to use his/her car.

Big eaters will pay \$_____ more per week than others.

Vegetarians and vegans will :

Cleaning:

Often flatmates rotate the chores each week, but sometimes each flatmate decides to take on one job for the whole year. Here are the main chores:

- Kitchen: benchtop, oven and stovetop, microwave, fridge and floor.
- Bathroom: sinktop, basin, toilet, bath, shower, floor.
- Common areas: tidy and vacuum lounge, dining area, stairs and hall.
- Odd jobs: putting out the rubbish and recycling, emptying scraps bucket, doing dishes in the weekend.
- Shopping: writing the list, doing the shopping, getting it home and putting it away.
- Any other jobs: at your flat, it might be the tenants' responsibility to take care of the lawn and garden or you might have firewood to bring in.
- Cleaning roster is attached (Y/N)

Tidiness:

How tidy do you agree to keep the common areas of the house?
 (If you have any pet hates, now is a good time to talk about them.)

Phone, Sky and internet:

Do we even need a phone?

Will you get Sky?
 Who will pay?
 Will flatmates who don't pay be allowed to watch?

Will you get internet access?
 Who will pay, and what kind of plan will you get?

Noise:

Do you want to make rules around:
 - Visitors?
 - Parties?
 - Playing music/having the TV on?
 - Having quiet at certain times of the day/week?

Electricity:

Do you want to put any limits on:
 - How much each flatmate can use heaters?
 - How much each flatmate can use the clothes dryer?

Bills:

Our flat agrees that:
 - Every bill has a different person responsible for organising payment.
 - The person responsible for a bill divides the total amongst the flatmates, collects the money then pays the bill (making arrangements for times like semester breaks when people are away).
 - Each flatmate pays their share as soon as they can.

OR

- We will pay \$_____ into the flat account each week.
 - Who will set up the flat account, who will have access to it, who will set up and stop automatic payments, and who will close the account at the end of the year?



Tully Arnot **Grey Goo**

» **BLUE OYSTER ART PROJECT SPACE** | 2 - 26 SEPTEMBER, 2015

BY **JAMES THOMSON-BACHE**

"It's an experimental space," curator Chloe Geoghegan remarked on my arrival to the Blue Oyster's most recently installed exhibition, *Grey Goo*. It certainly did feel that way as I stood there, an ominous hum playing around me and a McDonald's burger shaking vigorously at my feet. *Grey Goo* is a collection of works by Tully Arnot, originally from Sydney. The show represents a large body of his most recent pieces.

"Experimentation" is the overwhelming first impression of both the exhibit as an art space and the aesthetics of the works themselves. A mess of wires is strewn across the floor, connecting various and seemingly inanimate, non-programmable objects, including houseplants, beer bottles, severed fingers and toes and the aforementioned burger. Almost like a project from a primary school science fair, in which children are encouraged to hook up wires and cords to whatever they can get their hands on, electricity and motors provide new life and purpose to these regular, unassuming items. Arnot's works reminds one of the classic current-generating potatoes, only in this case the

objects receive a current, which in turn produces new behaviour.

The various plants in the show appear inanimate, just as they would in any other indoor setting, a fact we often assume, even though they are organic and living things. Arnot has repurposed the plants using hidden motors and solar panels so that, when standing away from them, the aptly named *Nervous Plants* shake slightly as if they recognise your presence from a distance and cannot quite hold themselves together. However, they swiftly return to an inanimate state (perhaps out of shock!) upon being approached. Similarly, the burger that sits alone on the floor shakes uncontrollably. I took this excited motion as its desperate attempt for me to notice it and put it out of its uneaten misery.

The animatronic *Lonely Sculpture* presents itself as a finger that endlessly taps right on an iPhone running the Tinder app. While comical and somewhat absurd, it comments on the disengagement of personal experience and interaction through the internet, particularly through apps like Tinder. By efficiently streamlining the

user's online experience, it ends up taking that "experience" away altogether. This disconnect pushes further questions about the nature of objects and how we interact with them. Arnot is travelling to China to create a mass-produced, commercial version of this piece, following its social media success. This art object will soon enter into the everyday-object sphere.

The beer bottles are the most engaging piece, which is not at all surprising with their siren song filling the room. Based on an earlier work titled *Bottle Song* (2013), the original 100 bottles have been replaced with eight, but used to much the same effect. Small 12v fans blow periodically into their necks, in much the same way as you would stand around at a party and nervously blow during a lull in the conversation. Combined with the moving plants and vines, this makes the space feel like a rainforest, only one filled with the sound of fans and crawling animatronics.

Grey Goo subverts the idea of the readymade with its objects that become (enhanced) subjects of artistic function. What we at first perceive to be everyday items function in unexpected and unnatural ways, highlighting the object's potential for interpretation, rather than simply existing as the object itself. •





Savoury Muffins

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

My best friend Sophie M loves savoury muffins. Like crazy loves. She will buy one almost every day to have for morning tea. In her muffin quests, she has come to be quite the connoisseur. I always get really nervous when I make them for her for fear they will not live up to her high standards. For some reason, she still thinks mine are some of the best. I find this odd considering mine always come out kind of flat and not overflowing and lush like the ones she buys. Clearly it really must be what is on the inside that counts. I always roast my vegetable cubes before putting them in the muffin mix. Roasting the vegetable cubes before putting them in the muffin mix helps to concentrate the natural sugars, making the final product just that little bit sweeter. Feta cheese also helps to keep the muffin moist on the inside. I think the trick to a good savoury muffin though is ample chunky filling. ●

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 20 SMALL MUFFINS

- **3 cups** flour
- **2 tablespoons** baking powder
- **1 teaspoon** salt
- **1 teaspoon** smoked paprika
- **½ teaspoon** freshly cracked pepper
- **3** eggs
- **2 ¼ cups** milk
- **75g** butter, melted
- **300g** pumpkin, cubed into small pieces
- **200g** frozen spinach portions
- **1 small** onion, diced
- **splash** of oil
- **2 cups** grated cheese
- **100–200g** feta (the more the merrier), plus extra to garnish
- **small handful** of parsley or mint, finely chopped
- sunflower or pumpkin seeds to finish

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees on bake. Line a tray with baking paper. Toss the pumpkin cubes in the oil, then scatter across the baking tray with a sprinkling of salt. Bake for 40 minutes until tender, then remove from the oven and leave to cool. Alternatively, microwave the cubes in a container of just boiled water for 5–6 minutes until the cubes are tender, then drain well and leave to cool.
2. Chop the frozen spinach portions up into shreds while they are still frozen. Submerge the shreds in boiling water and leave until defrosted. Drain well and squeeze out all the excess moisture.
3. Sauté the onion in a splash of oil until translucent, then put to one side.
4. Keep the oven set to 180 degrees on bake and line two muffin trays with muffin cases or grease them really well.
5. Sieve all the dry ingredients together, then make a well in the centre. Whisk together the eggs, milk and melted butter, then pour the mixture into the well. Give the batter a quick stir until just combined. It is okay if there are lumps of flour — these will sort themselves out in the oven and it is super important you don't over-mix.
6. Tip the pumpkin, spinach, onion, cheese, feta and herbs into the batter and quickly stir to evenly disperse.
7. Spoon the batter into the muffin trays, topping each muffin with some extra feta or grated cheese and a couple of seeds. Bake for 15 minutes or until a skewer poked into the centre of one of them comes out clean.



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Ever the Land

» DIRECTED BY **SARAH GROHNERT**

REVIEWED BY **NGARANGI HAEREWAI**



Part of the quintessential cinematic experience is going into the cinema knowing next to nothing about the film. With such logic, I was halfway toward the ultimate cinema experience. While it was initially thrilling, *Ever the Land* was also disappointing.

Directed by Sarah Grohnert, *Ever the Land* chronicles the back-and-forth struggle for land reclamation between Ngāi Tūhoe, a tribe in the eastern Bay of Plenty, and John Key's

National government. After agreeing on a hefty settlement and offering an official apology on behalf of the Crown, the government returned guardianship of their ancestral homeland, Te Urewera, to Tūhoe. Following the enactment of the Te Urewera Act 2014, Grohnert documents the tribe as a collective, discussions on New Zealand's past and the construction of Te Wharehou o Tūhoe — New Zealand's first living building.

From gentle flowing rivers to mystic

mountains, the film's stunning cinematography exposes us to a world of myth and surrealism. The director certainly plays on the folk legend of Tūhoe as being "Children of the Mist", using a number of pillow shots to display misty mountains. This technique becomes her dominant aesthetic staple, used time and time again. The distinctive *cinéma-vérité* documentary style allows exclusive access to the inner sanctum of the Tūhoe leadership group but despite the stunning cinematography, the central narrative raises little excitement.

Ever the Land instigates an important discussion on culture and politics, where tradition and progressive ideals clash. ●



Last Cab to Darwin

» DIRECTED BY **JEREMY SIMS**

REVIEWED BY **VALU MAKAI**



Last Cab to Darwin is one of those circling-the-drain films that makes you reflect on your life and keeps you up at night with deep questions such as "what makes life worth living?"

Directed by Jeremy Sims, *Last Cab to Darwin* follows Rex McRae (Michael Caton), a man on an audacious adventure across Australia.

After his oncologist tells him his stomach cancer gives him three months to live, Rex makes it his mission to track down Nicole Farmer (Jacki Weaver), a doctor who is interested in legalising euthanasia in Darwin, as a means to make his death quick and easy.

Even though Rex considers himself a lonely man, people in his community — like

his boisterous Aboriginal neighbour Polly (Ningali Lawford) — do care about him. While on his journey, Rex forms unexpected friendships with the quick-witted and optimistic Tilly (Mark Coles Smith), as well as the sweet and generous Julie (Emma Hamilton). Through these friendships, the protagonist comes to realise that it is the simple things in life that are important and sharing his life is what makes it worth living.

The cast give admirable performances, especially Michael Caton. Playing both an average senior citizen and a deteriorating old man, his transformation gives the audience time to gradually care for Rex, as his hard-hearted, dry sense of humour is initially difficult for the audience to empathise with.

Although the film tends to mindlessly drag as Rex nears an arduous death, this surprisingly supplies the audience with humour and lightheartedness crucial in creating a plot that is not completely miserable. *Last Cab to Darwin* is sentimental and reflective — offering rawness and a release for cluttered-up tears, but it also put an admiring smile on my face. ●

Ricki and the Flash

» DIRECTED BY **JONATHAN DEMME**

REVIEWED BY **MAYA DODD**



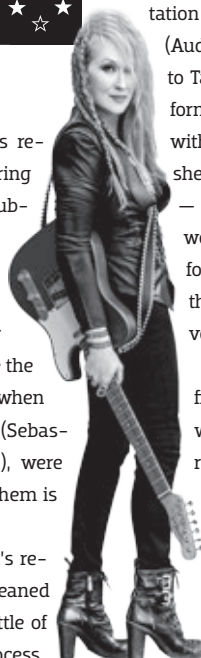
Meryl Streep is not only an incredible actor with a great set of pipes, there is also just something unique about her that leaves me in awe. But, for me, nothing will ever top her performance as the stylishly cold Miranda Priestly in *The Devil Wears Prada*. However, with impressive acting and a surprisingly original storyline, Streep in *Ricki and the Flash* comes pretty close.

The film follows estranged mother, Ricki Rendazzo (Meryl Streep), a wannabe rock star who gave up her family in pursuit of her dreams. Living in Tarzana, Los Angeles, Ricki performs in a local pub with her ragtag and borderline elderly band, *The Flash*. Receiving a call from her ex-husband, Pete, Ricki learns that her

daughter, Julie (Mamie Gummer), has recently attempted suicide after discovering that her husband cheated on her and subsequently left their marriage.

Ricki flies to Indianapolis in the hopes of healing Julie's broken heart. Unsurprisingly, Julie is furious at her mother's attempt to swoop in and save the day. After walking out on her family when Julie and her other two children, Josh (Sebastian Stan) and Adam (Nick Westrate), were only young, Ricki's relationship with them is dysfunctional and distrusting.

However, it isn't long before Ricki's relaxed and playful attitude gets Julie cleaned up and out of the house, soothing a little of her daughter's broken heart in the process.



But following a tense and revealing confrontation with Pete's second wife, Maureen (Audra McDonald), an upset Ricki returns to Tarzana, continuing her late night performances and eventually finding love with one of her band mates. Gradually she makes amends with her children — returning to Indianapolis for Josh's wedding and surprising him with a performance from her band — a musical gift that help mends the rift she had inadvertently created.

I have nothing but love for this film. The acting was heartfelt, the songs were Grammy-worthy, and the storyline (although ending far too neatly) was, for once, different. Maybe it was the impressive acting, or perhaps it was Streep's touching rendition of the original song *Cold One* — either way, a few tears escaped. ●



We Are Your Friends

» DIRECTED BY **MAX JOSEPH**

REVIEWED BY **KIRSTY GORDGE**



Max Joseph's music drama, *We Are Your Friends*, successfully captures the struggles of four young adults who have opted out of student loans and, instead, are attempting the get-rich-quick route.

Following their attempts at wealth, aspiring DJ Cole (Zac Efron) and his friends, Ollie (Shiloh Fernandez), Mason (Jonny Weston),

and Squirrel (Alex Shaffer), are promoters for a popular Hollywood event called Social. It is there that Cole's musical talent gets noticed by James Reed (Wes Bentley), leading to a new lifestyle filled with drugs, alcohol and a chance to play at SummerFest, an upcoming music festival. However, Cole's growing feelings for James's girlfriend, Sophie (Emily Ratajowski), put the

protagonist in the doomed position of having to choose between the girl he likes and his mentor.

Cole embarks on a romance with Sophie and a fight ensues between the two DJs, ruining his music career — but it's the death of his friend that puts his life into perspective. Inspired by his experiences, Cole finally mixes a track that James is proud of. Many subtle sounds and conversations that Cole has recorded throughout the film are stockpiled and mixed together to make a fresh and original track. These include voice snippets of Sophie saying "I love it here" and his friend saying "Will we ever be more than this?" — culminating in a song that the crowd falls in love with and that causes Cole to be overcome with emotion on stage.

As a music drama, *We Are Your Friends* has a good sense of direction but lacks any refreshing dialogue that furthers the film into coming-of-age territory — something that Joseph attempts but fails to do with the storyline. The audience is often left to fill in the blanks and make assumptions about what happens between scenes and, although the male characters develop, Ratajowski's character is sidelined — becoming a crutch for their development instead.

Although it doesn't push any cinematic boundaries or provide any new messages, *We Are Your Friends* is a satisfying film — and anything with Zac Efron as the lead actor is never going to be a complete disaster. ●



Ghosts of Electricity

» INTERVIEW

BY **BASTI MENKES**

Ghosts of Electricity are a white-collar punk trio from Auckland. Critic caught up with frontman and principal songwriter Tim Fowler recently to discuss their great new album *Trolls*, the current New Zealand music climate, and trying to sound like Lana Del Rey.

Tell me a little about the formation of your band.

There are these websites, kind of like dating sites, but for musicians. I found the drummer, Patrick, on one of those. I've played with a lot of drummers, mostly met on muso dating sites, and most of the time the first little while is hard work, but we found a groove pretty quick and got to writing new material in the first or second practice. It was originally going to be a two-piece, but then I remembered a friend of mine, Peter, played guitar. I have a terrible history of trying to convince guitarists to be bassists, but in this case it worked great.

What was the creative process of *Trolls* like?

I can only really comment properly on my contributions, but I read a really great book called *How Music Works* by David Byrne of Talking Heads. He talks a lot about his own process and, after a lot of reflection on mine, I decided the process I had been using was spending too much time on the wrong things and I had a big re-jig of my approach. I wrote *Trolls* a lot faster than I usually would and just trusted that the first thing I come up with is probably going to be the best in a lot of cases, without much re-working of tracks. I also left some room to work out parts in the studio. The lyrics for "Parle Blanc", for example, were written, but I'd never sung it, and I only had a vague idea how I was

going to. It took quite a few takes, but I think that approach worked for that particular song. In terms of the writing, there's still the false narrator writing style I've adapted from Randy Newman, but a lot of things happened in this last year which required a lot of personal reflection, so there is a lot more of first-person writing than I usually do.

Your music is undeniably punk in nature, but some of the influences you name definitely don't belong to that genre! How do you explain this stylistic disparity?

I never intended on being in a punk band per se, I was originally trying to do a folk-rock crossed with Joy Division sort of thing ... but from a whole bunch of songs, we picked our best ones, and it just so happens the songs we liked meant people called us punk. Also, playing fast and distorted is really, really fun.

Because your musical interests go far beyond the confines of punk music, can you see *Ghosts of Electricity* significantly mixing up their formula on your next album?

Maybe. I've written the backbone of another album now. I've got about 30 demos at various stages of completion, and probably five or so are straight-out punk songs. I bought a bunch of cheap instruments off TradeMe, with the intention of trying to be Tom Waits. I failed miserably at that. I also bought a fuzz pedal so I could sound like St Vincent; I was even worse at that. I'm currently trying to work out how to sound like Lana Del Rey, and I can take a stab at what that'll be like. But in trying to push my own writing to sound like someone else's I mistakenly stumble on something I can use which isn't exactly like what I was trying to

do. So from this and some other experiments, I've got a bank of songs, some atonal spoken word tracks like "Pohutukawa" but slow and largely percussive, some pop songs, some mutant funk, as well as the usual punk suspects. I mean, maybe the band will decide the experimental stuff is shit, and we'll do another punk album, and that's fine too. We'll have to wait and see.

Your lyrics tap into a culture of young, disillusioned Kiwis. Have you had any inspiration from the recent protests against the National government and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership?

Not specifically. Because a lot of my lyrics are conversations I may have overheard, most of the political content of my songs tends to reflect things I hear and get angry about. Because emotion and logic aren't the same thing, I often end up focusing on an issue that isn't necessarily the most important or urgent, just the one that happens to cross my mind at the right time.

Is success important to you? Would you want to "make it" in the same way an artist like Lorde has?

A: Fuck. Yeah. If I could only work out how to sell out, I would in a heartbeat. I don't think I would like fame specifically, but I would like doing music all day. Lorde's done so well, and if anyone is going to be a pop star, I'm glad it's her. I work with her uncle. He's a real nice guy and is as proud as you'd expect.

If you could have any one superpower, what would it be?

When I was young, I used to say that I wanted to be a bad robot when I grew up, as Decepticons are way cooler, so I guess the ability to transform into a jet and have a theme song. ●



Singles Reviews

» REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

New Tracks



Battles

"The Yabba" and "FF Bada"

"Robot Rock" may be a Daft Punk song, but no band fits that description quite like Battles do. Since their 2007 debut album *Mirrored*, Battles have been blurring human and machine together in synth-infused blasts of experimental rock music. Tyondai Braxton used to be at the forefront of their rainbow-coloured sound, his voice warped digitally into an alien croon. Give "Atlas" a listen and tell me you don't feel an X-Files unease creeping up your spine.

"The Yabba" and "FF Bada" are the first two tracks made available from Battles' third album, *La Di Da Di*. If that sentence sounds like a nursery rhyme, I'm sure Battles intended as much. *La Di Da Di* marks the second album without Braxton's distinctively processed voice guiding the way. Last time around on *Gloss Drop*, the three remaining members of Battles filled in his vacancy with more

squiggles of cartoon guitar, shimmering keyboards and thumping drums than ever before. Guest vocalists such as Gary Numan and Yamantaka Eye were brought in to further enrich the fluorescent bacchanalia.

If "The Yabba" and "FF Bada" represent the album as a whole, *La Di Da Di* is set to be Battles' first purely instrumental LP. "The Yabba" begins with a deceptively grand introduction, its brooding portents of synthesizer seemingly setting the stage for something spectacular. When the curtain finally lifts, there isn't much catharsis to be had. Instead of the extravaganza promised by this opening, "The Yabba" opts for a meandering krautrock groove interwoven with doodles of synth. The song has as many false endings as *The Return of the King*, repeatedly slowing to a complete halt and then starting back up again. As gorgeous as some of the sounds are that cascade past,

"The Yabba" feels more like a rough draft than a finished track.

There is much more focus and momentum to "FF Bada". Its feverish riffs and dense layers of twitching percussion recall some of the more angular moments of *Mirrored*. The vivid imagery "FF Bada" evokes is quintessential Battles, all garish flashes of bubblegum and trampolines and things wrapped in cellophane. But the fact "The Yabba" sounds like a pop-prog cut from *Gloss Drop* and "FF Bada" like the finicky math-rock of their debut doesn't suggest a huge leap forward for Battles soundwise. Heck, even the queasy food sculptures of the artwork for *La Di Da Di* evoke some of the imagery used for *Gloss Drop*. Hopefully Battles still have some surprises for us up their sleeve. ●



Paying with their Bodies: American War and the Problem of the Disabled Veteran

» WRITTEN BY **JOHN M KINDER**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

Paying with their Bodies: American War and the Problem of the Disabled Veteran, by John M Kinder, takes on the subject of disabilities caused by warfare and the treatment of disabled veterans throughout American history. Kinder begins with the treatment of disabled war veterans and chiefly focuses on the aftermath of World War One. He examines the soldiers' rehabilitation movement that followed the First World War, the organisations that lobbied on disabled veterans' behalf and the rhetoric of peace activists using the disabled body as an anti-war symbol. Kinder ends with an overview of the problem of the disabled soldier from World War Two to the present day.

Using World War One as a template, Kinder discusses how the "problem of the disabled veteran" has never been a single problem, but rather a term covering a range of concerns depending upon perspective. For the government, the problem was disabled veterans' dependence on the state for financial assistance, which many civilians saw as an unnecessary drain on monetary resources. For peace activists, the problem was the decisions that led to the existence of disabled veterans: the government policies of militarism and intervention in foreign wars. For producers of military propaganda and war planners, it was that the disabled veteran existed as a counterpoint to their claims about the glories of war. And for disabled veterans themselves, the problem was that they were being neglected by a culture fundamentally antagonistic to their well-being.

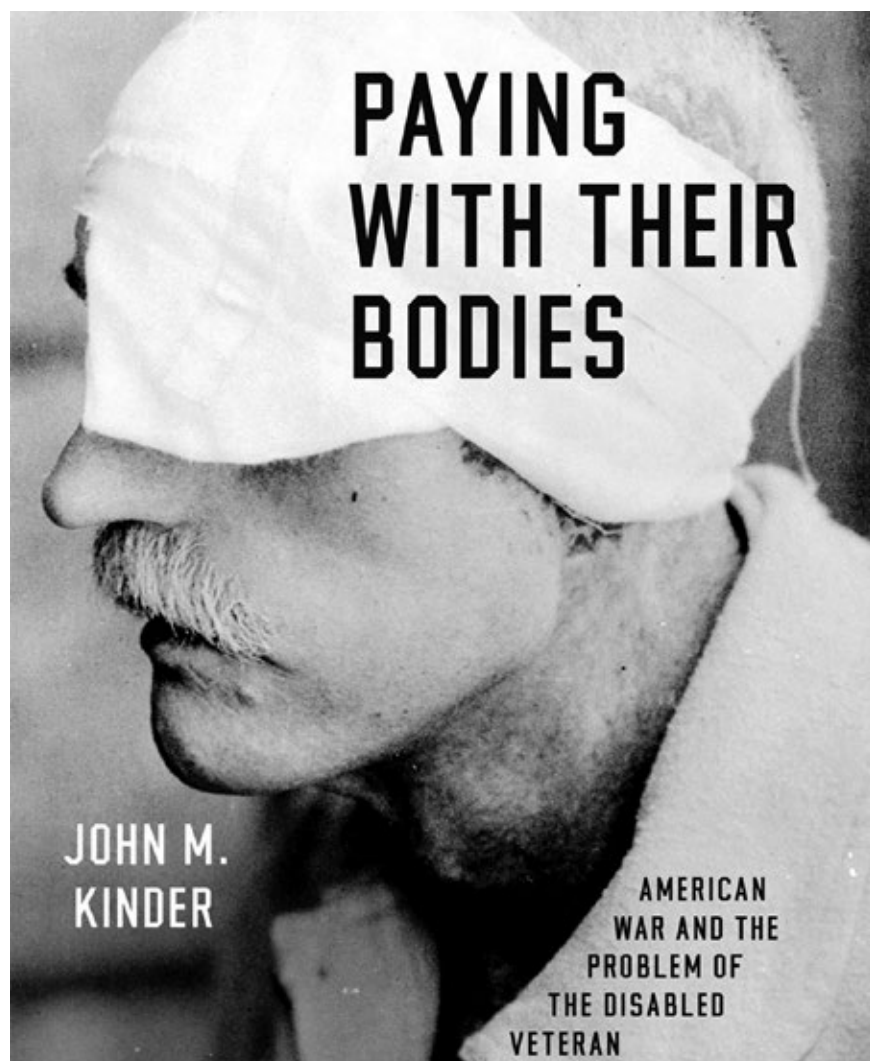
One of the many repeating patterns Kinder observes is the terrible conditions in veterans' hospitals. In the aftermath of World War One, "[h]ospitalised vets testified about endless red tape, indifferent staff, supply shortages, and inadequate medical care."

Of a Vietnam veterans' hospital, he writes: "Water dripped from holes in the walls, and the entire hospital reeked of garbage and human waste. Crammed into filthy wards, spinal injury patients waited hours for even the most rudimentary care, their untended urine bags leaking onto the floor."

A 2007 investigation into the conditions at Walter Reed Medical Center, the nation's premier treatment facility for disabled combatants, "found disabled Iraq veterans living in squalid, cockroach-infested rooms, where black mould dotted the walls and mouse faeces stained the floors ... many patients described a general attitude of indifference among hospital staff." By these parallels, Kinder proves that his focus on World War One does not limit the scope of his discussion.

Since the First World War, revelations of the disgraceful conditions in hospitals for disabled veterans have scandalised the American public. But none of these scandals has ever

resulted in a long-term solution to prevent the same thing happening again. The same is true of nearly all the issues Kinder raises. Although he does point out how various attitudes have changed, Kinder makes it clear that the ultimate negligence has not, and that, despite technological advances, disabled veterans will exist for as long as war does. Kinder concludes *Paying with their Bodies* by offering a solution he calls "a New Veteranology", an ideology revolving chiefly around open communication about war and disability. Ending on this optimistic note makes Kinder's work more than a fascinating if gloomy piece of history; he presents a serious problem and offers a thoughtful solution. ●





Rocket League

» **PS4, PC** | DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED BY PSYONIX

REVIEWED BY **CARL DINGWALL**



helps the online matchmaking set you up with similarly skilled players.

Your profile experience also contributes to cosmetic unlocks for your vehicle. You can pick between several paint jobs, bodies, colour palates for the two teams, hats, aerials and what your boost looks like. You can also purchase more through DLC, with one pack released so far.

The game's graphics feature a near futuristic visual style, with many shiny or glowing surfaces supplementing each stadium's unique look. Action takes place in a dimly glowing hex-shaped mesh dome that keeps the ball in play, and provides a surface for your car to climb. The ball has highlighted segments that glow in the colour of the last team to touch it. When it crosses the goal line, the ball is illuminated as if it were passing through a force field before exploding, confirming your score.

Rocket League is worth playing if you are looking for simple fun. It's easy to pick up, play a few rounds, and put down again. It also makes for a great local multiplayer party game. But if you are interested in something with complexity and variety, you might want to look elsewhere as the current game modes are limited. If you like the idea of flinging yourself around a futuristic soccer pitch in a rocket-powered car, look no further. ●

You may remember a segment from Top Gear involving cars, a large soccer ball and an attempt to play soccer. Entertaining in its own right, it wasn't enough for the developers over at Psyonix, who figured it would make a more entertaining game if you added rockets. Welcome to *Rocket League*, a game that can be simply described as soccer ... with rocket-powered cars. In its simplicity comes the challenge; it is easy to learn but difficult to master the skills needed to take on the many AI opponents, as well as your local and online multiplayer competitors.

The core of the game is pretty bare bones. Your job is to get the large illuminated ball into the other team's goal. The team with the most goals at the end of five minutes is the winner. You can jump, or even double jump, your vehicle in any direction, giving you more control to intercept, pass and kick the ball.

You also have a limited pool of rocket boost, accelerating your car in the direction it's facing, which can be replenished with respawning pickups. It's easy enough to learn how to use them in the game's tutorial and practice modes,

but very difficult to get the hang of — being able to hit the ball in midair is usually more about luck than skill. Don't get me wrong, some people have practised for hours on end to do such feats, but the best bet for the rest of us is to wait for the ball to hit the ground.

Don't worry if the other team keeps clustering around the ball either; you can momentarily destroy your opponent's cars by ramming them at speed. There's not much else to the game, but it's grown quite popular, even becoming the latest game to become an official E-Sport with an official MLG tournament.

There's only a handful of game modes, including the exhibition matches against AI of varying degrees of difficulty, online matchmaking and local multiplayer. You can select up to four players on each team, with empty slots filled by AI players, whose skills range from "scoring on their own goal" to "perfect aim every time". There is also a league mode that allows you to play against the AI in your own league, which feels more like an online practice mode but is a good opportunity to gain experience, both in your own learning and in your profile, which

University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a
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As the secretary for the Otago University Lasertag Society, I am deeply saddened that the Laser Kiwi flag design was rejected by the government panel.

What other design encapsulates so much about our great country?

From our unique wildlife, to our green environmental stances, to our epicness, there isn't much this flag design doesn't cover and, as John Oliver so eloquently put, it would be impossible for anyone who passed by it to not immediately pledge allegiance to it.

There's been a lot on social media about the flag.

I would just encourage anyone reading this to make sure to get their voice heard.

If you want to keep the current flag, then make sure you vote in the second referendum. Discussion on facebook is great, but the votes are what the government will be looking at (although, can you imagine if they moved voting to facebook?).

And if this whole flag issue, or exams, is making you want to blow off some steam, I heard there's a club on campus that'll let you play lasertag for super cheap.

Just saying,
Joel

You're Not Furniture though <3

Hey Scarfies,

I'm not at war with you, I'm at war with barbarity and stupidity and unkindness. I'm at war for the freedom to come and go as I please as part of the town's furniture. The goal that the university acknowledges the precinct ain't entirely students and care for its peasants with the same diligence they cover up their inmates follies.

Yours faithfully,
Susan Heap

Just a Small Fire?

Dear Critic,

No matter how little you spend on the flag, it's already too much when you decide to do nothing to little about child and general poverty in NZ. It's akin to deciding to purchase a new coffee table while the toilet roof has collapsed or the kitchen has recently suffered from a small fire.

We need to take care of important issues first such as poverty, wealth inequality, environmental degradation and foreign debt before we push what is essentially an issue about identity and aesthetics to the forefront of discussion and media attention.

Regards
Partisan and proud
Ethan Smith

Goats 4eva

Tks Josie,

More references available about NZ diets, particularly for feral goats in NZ too - Atkinson,

Rudge and others produced some material 'way back in the 1970s and '80s.

Best,
Chaz F

NOTICES

REFERENDUM FORUM

(Questions to come)

1 October 2015 at 1pm in the Main Common Room.

Vogel St Party 2015

Celebrating literature and light

10 October / 3pm - 10pm

Vogel St will be transformed a pedestrian space and take on a carnival atmosphere; literature and light will be explored through 30 different interactive activities, exhibitions, performances and installations while musicians, street performers and food vendors line the street.

The area will be creatively lit up with a special focus on innovation and technology, demonstrating the exciting combination of old and new in Dunedin's Warehouse Precinct.



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Bi Visibility Day

Not Straight, Not Gay: Carving Out a Bisexual Identity

BY SAM FLEURY

Our culture assumes that sexuality has two options: straight and gay. Straight is the default and gay is the "alternative". To many people, it's obvious that guys are into girls, unless they're into dudes and then they're gay or confused and secretly gay. Similarly, it is assumed that girls are into guys unless they're into girls and then they're really lesbians or they're just doing it for "attention". The idea is that there's a fundamental truth about everyone's sexuality, and for everyone it's either that you're exclusively into men or exclusively into women, and anything else is some kind of deception.

Of course, for many people — me included — this does not explain their full range of experiences.

What it *does* do is keep people from seeing themselves reflected in the world. Public figures' rich lives are compressed down to more digestible identity: Freddie Mercury, a self-identified bisexual man famous for so many extraordinary

songs about women, is remembered as a gay icon; Marlon Brando, who in his time slept with James Dean *and* Marilyn Monroe, Rock Hudson *and* Rita Hayworth, is idolised as a paragon of heterosexual masculinity. Contemporary bisexuals routinely have their identities flat-out ignored (Angelina Jolie) or negated (Alan Cumming, Andy Dick) in the press. Things aren't much better in popular fiction, where self-identified bi people are nowhere to be found, and anyone resembling one is a tired stereotype (greedy, confused, evil, dirty).

Without visible role-models, real or fictional, and without a good cultural understanding of the identity, bisexuals are alienated from the past, the present, and often from each other. Numerous studies have shown that while bisexuals make up more than half of the MOGAI community (that's people of Marginalised Orientations, Genders and Intersex), they're way less likely to be out to people in their lives than other non-straight people, and tend to have poorer mental

health, with high rates of depression, anxiety and self-harm.

Bisexuality is a spectrum, and an extremely inclusive one; in the words of activist Robyn Ochs: "I call myself bisexual because I acknowledge that I have in myself the potential to be attracted — romantically and/or sexually — to people of more than one sex and/or gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily in the same way, and not necessarily to the same degree." It's simple, but our very existence challenges the culturally ingrained concept that everyone can only face one direction when it comes to attraction.

September 23 is Bi Visibility Day. I know I'm a bit early, but I encourage you to take this opportunity to start a conversation, to find each other and to be a community. After all, you're here, you're valid and, despite how it may have felt at times, you're not alone.

P.S. Shout-out to Frank Ocean and Anaïs Nin.

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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.

Yak

Anyone else ever noticed the bear before?

139

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WHAT.THE.FUCK.

13

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Yik Yak

Opinions are like orgasms. Mine is more important and I don't care if you have one.

109

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v

American universities call everyone professor and NZ universities just call everyone their first name :L

90

^
v

I was really late to work today because i stopped on the way there to pet a cat.. it was worth it

8

^
v

Because the whole flat are all short bitches, it literally took us 10 minutes to change a lightbulb #justgirlproblems

83

^
v

Laughing with your friends about how awful anal sounds but you secretly know exactly what it's like

68

^
v

DIET TIP: your pants will never get too tight if you don't wear any

122

^
v

Seriously though, how gorgeous are all the faces on the Critic mag this week??

22

^
v

Just remember that asking for medical advice on yik yak is the online version of asking a first year health Sci the same thing. Better living everyone.

73

^
v

All I want in life is to be able to text my dog

78

^
v

Thoughts on being a cam girl? Masturbating for money sounds like a sweet deal!

8

^
v

Ugh that convo went from nice yarns to unsolicited dick pics within 15 mins. Why would someone think that would work?!

22

^
v

Getting told your flat mates mum is paying for her rent next year makes me not want to live with her

23

^
v

Lecturer just replied to my email in less than ten min after 10pm. Thanks! Do you have a life? is this what my future may be 🙄🙄🙄

22

^
v

I skipped my period for you and you won't even reply 🙄

83

^
v

I don't understand how these students can afford to go skiing in the weekends in qtnw, I can't even afford a fucking loaf of bread :/ seriously.

100

^
v

I think my boyfriend got high while I was out last night. There's a bowl of dip with 7 museli bars in it in the fridge.

182

^
v

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Sunday 20th

3pm: Group photo in front of Registry building

5pm - 7pm: Praise and Worship Lotu

Venue: Castle 1 Lecture Theatre

Monday 21st

12pm - 2pm: Ava, Kiwa or Yegona tasting

*Best Island wear comp

Venue: Pacific Islands Centre

Tuesday 22nd

5pm - 7pm: Poetry & Debates

Venue: Law Moot Court

Wednesday 23rd

7pm - 9pm: Social Volleyball

Venue: Unipol

Thursday 24th

10:40am - 5pm: Pacific Voices XII Symposium

Venue: Union Main Common Room

Friday 25th

Saturday 26th

6pm-9pm: Cultural Fiefia Night

Venue: College of Education Auditorium

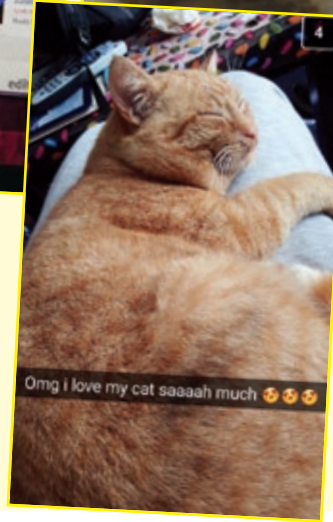
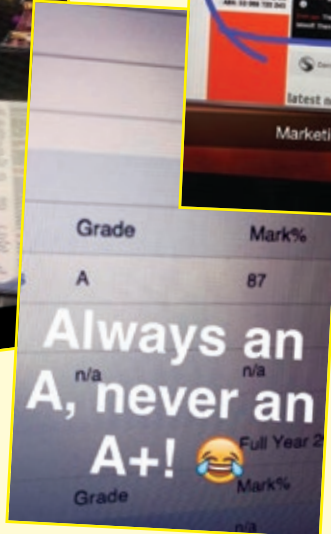
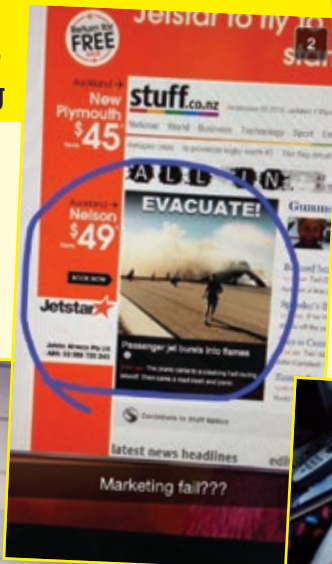
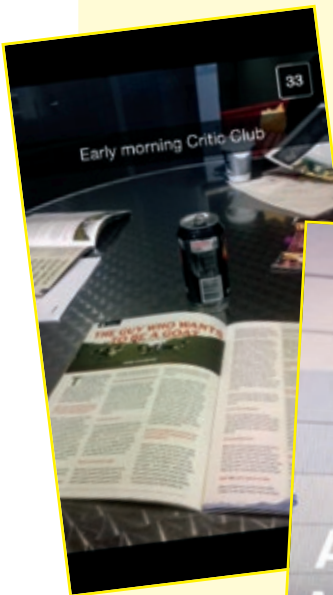
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Flatmate in Trouble

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

Dear Ethel,

We're really worried about one of our flatmates. His drinking is out of control. We all like a bit of a good time, but we can't remember the last time he wasn't drunk. He drinks every night and is often passed out on the sofa in the morning. He's not himself when he's drunk, so we leave him to it. My girlfriend won't even come to our flat anymore because he gets so aggro. I know his parents. Do you think I should talk to them?

I think your flatmate is lucky to have such good mates! Good on you for being worried about him. The tricky thing with alcohol is that the best solution (or change) comes when the person who is drinking too much realises the harm that they're doing to themselves, their friendships and possibly others, and seeks some help. We often use alcohol to mask other things such as social anxiety, insecurity, loneliness, depression and loads more.

It's great that you know the parents, but we suggest you consider having a frank conversation with your friend before you approach his parents (I'm sure you'd like that if it were you drinking excessively).

Before you talk to him, check out some of the help available for getting alcohol under control so that you will feel better placed to provide the right support/advice. Go to alcoholdrug.org.nz or give their helpline a call and have a chat about your concerns: 0800 787 797. The Community Alcohol and Drug Service (CADS) is based in Dunedin and provides a range of services, from one-on-one counselling to group therapy. Chris Griffiths, one of the practice nurses at Student Health, specialises in helping students work through alcohol dependency. General counselling is also available to help understand what's triggering the desire to drink to excess.

Then, if you feel comfortable doing so, have a chat with him. Choose a time when you know he's likely to be sober and tell him that you're worried about his drinking. Ask him if he's OK. Is there anything worrying him? You might tell him that he doesn't seem like the mate he usually is when he's drunk. Reinforce that he has your friendship and that you can help him find support if he wants it.

And, yes, parents are definitely an option if talking to him as a friend doesn't work. Safety is the key. If your friend remains out of control, parents and some more formal support would be the way to go.

If you aren't comfortable talking to him, feel free to drop into S Ethel B to have a chat with us about options.



Refugee Crisis

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

I find it heart-breaking that New Zealand was so slow to welcome Syrian refugees escaping the biggest humanitarian crisis since WWII.

Our existing refugee quota of 750 per annum has been in place for decades, and places us 87th in the world for generosity of welcome.

When I was a schoolboy, the small seaside community I grew up in welcomed a refugee family from Cambodia. At first, the children at school spoke no English. Each child wore the same donated sweatshirt and pair of trousers for the first few weeks. They stood out. They looked out of place, and following the horrors of genocide in their own country, clearly they felt it. Life had been horrific, and adapting to a new culture and community was never going to be perfectly easy. Despite a broad welcome, some residents resented them and some children taunted them in the playground.

Years later, I heard of the success of these students — who shone academically and took on professional careers. They had studied hard. Having faced certain death if they'd stayed in their homeland, they'd made the most out of their talents at every opportunity.

More recently, New Zealand accepted refugees following the Tampa crisis.

I wrote my PhD about a German pastor who came to New Zealand as a refugee from Nazi Germany. Although he'd endangered his life by opposing Hitler's regime before fleeing it, not everyone welcomed him. Upon arrival as a newly graduated tutor of theological students, he was treated with utter contempt by a then world-famous academic who headed his faculty. But he went on to make a significant impact in his chosen academic field at Otago, influencing Sir Lloyd Geering among numerous others.

Generally, refugees get little say in where they end up. If they had a real choice to live in their home country, none would choose the prejudice and abuse they suffer from community members in their adopted country, ignorant of the horrors they have faced. And I am sure most go on to make an above-average contribution to the community.

But none of this should drive our decision-making. What should matter when we see the devastation abroad is the compassion that issues a swift response. I was delighted to learn of active steps by youth wings of political parties across the spectrum to urge the government to adopt a more generous position in response to this humanitarian crisis. This gives me hope that a better tomorrow is not far away.



Ectoplasm

BY WEE DOUBT



Public Activities

BY T. ANTRIC

What's the grossest thing you would do for attention and money? Go on a reality TV show? Film a sex tape? Marry Donald Trump? In Victorian Britain, there was a type of con-artist and liar willing to do something grosser than any of that. They were the "mediums", and they took photos of themselves covered in something they called ectoplasm.

Ectoplasm was believed to be a substance excreted by mediums during trances: a slime-like goo made from the lining of cells that emerged from all (yes all) of the body's orifices to take the shape of a human spirit. Old photos show remarkably unconvincing "ghosts" with disgusting mucously cords going up stoned-looking mediums' noses, mouths, ears and, yup, bums and vaginas. Thankfully the latter two "portals" are discreetly covered by skirts and tablecloths in photos, but you can tell what's going on. Ectoplasm was said to be a substance between a solid, a liquid and a gas that could take the shape of the spirit the medium was contacting. The photos are gloomy and often blurry because, predictably, ectoplasm would disintegrate on exposure to light.

Surely no self-respecting spirit would go through with that? If I were a ghost and the only way to reach my loved ones was to squeeze myself out of some creep's anus in a big snotty blob, I'd probably give it a miss. Thanks, but no thanks.

But, of course, it's not real. When flash photography became a thing, ectoplasm manifesting into solid spirits was shown to be (surprise!) was of wet cloth shoved into various bodily orifices, pulled out (bleurgh!!!) and connected to papier-mâché dolls. Cheesecloth could be coated in egg white, swallowed and regurgitated. There were tricks like putting a rubber glove on the end of a tube so it looked like you were vomiting an arm. A famous medium called Carrière was caught out when it was revealed that his "spirit faces" were cut out from newspapers and magazines. Some ectoplasm was said to emit a strong odour — I'm guessing this was the stuff people pulled out of their bums. These people were charging money to indulge in their weird exhibitionist fetishes and trick grieving clients into thinking they were talking to their dead loved ones. If you can think of something sicker than that, I don't want to know.

Ok, so you want to spice up your sex life a bit. You're bored, it's not exciting anymore, you want the sense of danger. Whether it's at the back of the movie theatre or at the beach, everyone seems to have a story about it. This is all well and good, but bear in mind that a) public nudity and obscenity are crimes, and b) no one needs or wants to hear/see that (well, with exceptions).

Instead of going at it in a movie theatre, maybe you could try a toilet. It's not the most glamorous of places, but it's relatively private and (hopefully) has a locked door. It's not the most sanitary either, so try to keep delicate bits away from any surfaces that look a bit grimy. There are bathrooms that aren't in scummy clubs ... If the walls of the disabled toilets in the Link could talk. (Yes, I know I'm a bad person and I'm going to hell. Sorry, Mum.)

You could also try in a car at night on a deserted road. If you're all romantic and shit, you could even get out and put a blanket down. Watch the stars. You could have a movie moment if you fog up the windows of the back seat and make a handprint. This does lose its appeal when you realise there are now dried stains all over the back seat of your mum's car and she's had enough teenage sons to not believe your story that it's toothpaste. (I was put on the spot. I have little experience trying to come up with plausible cover stories for odd cum patches. Don't judge me.)

Small, enclosed, private-ish places are your best bet for fulfilling your low-key voyeuristic fantasies in a relatively safe way. Be warned though, the police officer will still look at you with judgement and disappointment if you get caught. I accept zero responsibility for the shame.

But try not to do it in a public space during the day, or in a movie theatre. We get it, most of us love sex, we know your body likes his/her/their body, but, for the love of God, we do not need to see it.



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Acne

BY ISA ALCHEMIST

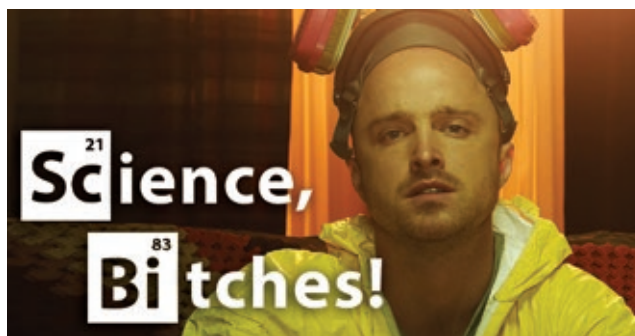
It dogs us in our teenage years, popping out to dampen a big night out. Severe acne can be a serious affliction that causes a normally sociable student to become shy and withdrawn. The good news is that all acne can be treated. Extreme cases will require a visit to Student Health, but options for mild or moderate acne can be found with a trip to the pharmacy.

Pimples occur when bacteria breaks down the oil produced by our skin pores, causing an inflammatory response characterised by redness and swelling. Frequent hand washing helps prevent pimples. But not too frequent, or the skin will dry out (this will happen if you use the flat bar of soap that has been in the bathroom since last semester). A wash or soap balanced to the pH of the skin is ideal. The label of the product should say if it is pH balanced.

Benzoyl peroxide is a powerful tool in controlling acne. It is a very good antibacterial, and it is also keratolytic (removes outer skin). But be careful when you snuggle into the bae's new top — it is a mild bleach!

We've all been told not to pop pimples as it destroys the skin, which is a barrier against infection. But no one wants to walk around with a big, white pus-filled beacon on our face. The trick is to not introduce more infection, so wash your hands before tackling the beast, and treat with an antiseptic preparation after. Remember: wipe on, wipe off. Note: pawpaw is not an antiseptic.

Occlusive skin products (that is, the best covering foundation makeup, of course) will aggravate acne. As do some types of food, smoking, some medicines and some medical conditions. But remember, it can be improved, if not totally cured. Usually by your 25th year, it's packed up and left.



The World's Last Intact Ecosystem

BY SAM FRASER

Scientists recognise the Ross Sea as the world's last pristine, intact ecosystem. The Ross Sea is a huge bay cutting into the Antarctic sea and continent. It is 4000 km from New Zealand, the most remote and southernmost fishery on the planet. Given its position, it is also completely inaccessible due to the presence of sea ice for half the year, but — still — it remains the most productive stretch of water in the Southern Ocean.

While the Ross Sea sounds like some kind of utopia for Antarctic animals, humans are once again threatening the ecosystem. In 1996 a New Zealand fishing vessel was sent down to the Ross Sea to find new fishing grounds. They discovered the "Antarctic toothfish", the apex fish predator of a valuable and untapped ecosystem. Antarctic toothfish grow much larger (up to 150kg and 1.5m long) than other fish in the area. News spread of the discovery, and now 3000 tonnes of toothfish are extracted from the Ross Sea each year by a range of nations.

Ecosystems are a complex and fragile balance of different animals that prey on each other and the environment they live in. By severely lowering the population of toothfish in the Ross Sea, the predator-prey relations are jeopardised, disrupting the ecosystem's natural balance. The effects of ecosystem disruptions are difficult to predict and extremely difficult to fix. The ecosystem includes penguins, minke whales, killer whales, krill and squid. Like ripples spreading on a pond, overfishing the toothfish has negative implications for the entire ecosystem. Everyone loses.

If business continues as usual, the spawning stock of toothfish will reduce by half over the next 35 years, and high-end restaurants now sell toothfish suspiciously named as "Chilean seabass". But there's hope! New Zealand groups are spearheading movements to protect the Ross Sea. The film, *The Last Ocean*, is a good place to start if you're keen to learn a bit more or contribute to the movement.

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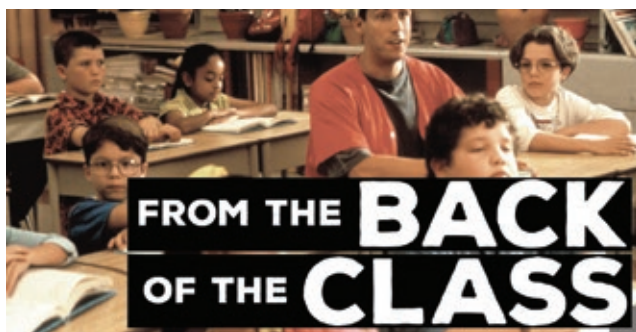
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What's the Story, Moriori?

BY FINBARR NOBLE

I was going to write something different this week but, because I am a glutton for punishment, I ventured into the stuff.co.nz comments on a piece about the Tino Rangatiratanga flag — and what did I find? Only the same fucking idiots spouting the same fucking idiosyncrasy about Moriori that was discredited in the 60s, so, instead, I wrote about that.

The myth on the message boards and one you may have heard yourself is that Moriori — who lived on Rēkohu and Rangihau in the Chatham Islands — were pre-Māori settlers of New Zealand who "the Māori" (apparently they're a homogenous group) ate and wiped out. It's been used by a certain type of European New Zealander to legitimise colonisation and oppression with a sort of schoolyard "nah but Māori did it first so you can't complain" logic.

Current archaeology indicates that Moriori migrated to the Chatham Islands from New Zealand in around 1500 — roughly 200 years after the first settlement of New Zealand. Moriori's peak population was about 2000 and, to prevent inbreeding, marriage between first, second and third cousins was prohibited. Some male infants were castrated for birth control.

Isolated from the mainland, Moriori developed their unique culture based on a law of peace called Nunuku's Law after the ancestor Nunuku-whenua. Moriori banned murder and the eating of human flesh because, when there's only a few of you on an island, you can't go around beating each other's brains out and eating the jelly. Warfare is an immense drain on resources.

In 1791 the British ship Chatham called in at Rēkohu, marking the first contact with Europeans and Māori, some of whom settled on the islands and lived in relative peace with each other.

In 1835 this peace was shattered when Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama Māori from Taranaki arrived. They were very poor house-guests and immediately began killing and enslaving the Moriori. Even though the Moriori outnumbered the invaders two to one, they chose to obey Nunuku's Law and did not fight back. One has to respect their integrity, I suppose, but the tribe was in serious danger of being wiped out. Finally, 28 years later, the government stepped in.

It was once thought that Moriori had died out in the 1930s, but since the 1990s Moriori have been rebuilding their culture, language and identity. In 2001 the Waitangi Tribunal recognised them as the indigenous people of the Chathams.

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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.

Troy

Law kid who has decent train chat and likes cups of tea. Sounds like Thomas the Tank Engine.

Gabriella

She supports High School Musical 3, non-budget bread, and prawn heads. A confused law kid.

After quite a few nervous beers and the calming words of my flatmates telling me not to fuck it up I headed down to Macs bar to meet my date.

After getting their fashionably early and helping myself to a couple of drinks on the bar tab, my date showed up looking great. After the classic awkward introductions, I discovered that my date and I were in the same course even though I don't think I had ever seen her. We had plenty to talk about. After quite a few drinks, the conversation was flowing well and once a bit of shameless law banter was out of the way, I stood up and realised just how drunk I was. Fortunately for me my date was taking no prisoners on the wines and when she stumbled off to the loo the owner of the bar came over and wisely told me told me he thought our love was a sure thing.

We decide to leave and go for a bit of a walk, and we ended up walking all around the waterfront in the freezing cold. After my top notch chat about the train station went down a treat, I knew that I had sussed it, so we started to head back toward the clubs and the cheeky grind. On the way, we stumbled across the Tongan student clubs social and after going in and getting a few funny looks, we headed to boogie. It was pretty late and the line was huge so we decided instead we should just cruise home.

After deciding to be the gentlemen and walking her home, the deal was sealed when she asked me in for a 'cup of tea'. Safe to say that the cup of tea was not the only thing that kept us warm that night. In the morning I woke up to her flatmates in the room asking me how the night was, and I decided to gap it pretty quick afterwards.

Cheers Critic for the great night and complete stitch up with someone I get to see every day at uni.

Our story begins on a quiet Saturday night, as I happily minded my own business, mentally preparing myself for a rousing night of study. Tables turned when my flatmate pulled her red card. An hour later, showered and funneled up, I was ushered towards a cute boy and handed a wine list.

I was tipsy and flustered, to say the least. I'd like to thank him for taking my high paced babbling in his stride, and forgiving my tendency to repeat myself on multiple occasions. We immediately established our mutual degree and mutual inability to handle large amounts of either alcohol or spice. The similarities began to mount up, prompting a drunken text to the flatties: "kind of me in a boy." At the risk of sounding too cool, I started to feel optimistic when we had an energetic debate on the merits of High School Musical 3.

After rediscovering the delights of actual, non-budget bread, polishing off the bar tab, and accidentally eating parts of a prawn I don't think you're meant to, we ventured out into the streets.

At this point my memory becomes distinctly hazy. After a long and leisurely stroll in the cold, we ended up mildly lost and drunk. After eventually making it home, I invited him in for a cup of tea because we were both pretty goddamn cold. I ended up shamelessly exploiting him for his body heat as he stayed over for a wee snuggle.

All in all, he was a great person who taught me a lot about the mechanics of a well-executed "grind," even though he has designated "eating hours" and slept in jeans, both of which I am morally opposed to.

We discussed the possibility of inventing a rendezvous involving international flights and Emma Watson but I now doubt whether we are worthy. Either way, this lil PG 13 date was a great time, and my flatmate is feeling smug at her successful red card. Fellow law students, look out for some supreme 'sup' nodding come Monday morning.

Thanks Critic!



OUSA Vice-President's Column

On Refugees

As a nation of boat people whose ancestors braved the Pacific Ocean in search of someplace better, it astounds me how little empathy some people have for the current wave of refugees coming in from Syria. Remarks that "it isn't our problem" or that "charity starts at home" only set us back in a world that is increasingly interconnected.

We have always been incredibly fortunate to live in a land isolated from war, where anyone – regardless of their social standing or financ-

es – can attend university and go out into the world with the qualifications to succeed. Even a hundred years ago the ANZACs who set off for Gallipoli and the Western Front were notorious for having the worst dental hygiene of any army at the time because even the poorest of the poor could afford to eat meat and sugar every day, a luxury usually reserved for the wealthy. It is no wonder that New Zealanders come from every part of the globe: from the European cradle in the West, to the Far East and the wide expanse of the Pacific.

What distinguishes someone as a New Zealander isn't the colour of their skin or what name they call God, it is their desire to come to Aotearoa in the hope of establishing a good life. A New Zealander is someone who embraces life here, being amongst the Kowhai trees, forming part of

our culture and respecting our bicultural nation.

The refugees coming in from Syria are not foreigners – they are future Kiwis. Just as many of us were once foreigners to this land, we have no right to dismiss their suffering because they don't come from here. We who have been given so much for so long cannot ignore those who desperately seek asylum on the grounds of petty tribalism and xenophobia.

I would like to think that as the future leaders of our country, we who 'dare to be wise', will act with knowledge and compassion instead of self-interest and ignorance when confronted with a humanitarian crisis.

Isaac Yu

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