

Critic

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ISSUE 24 // 21 SEP 2015
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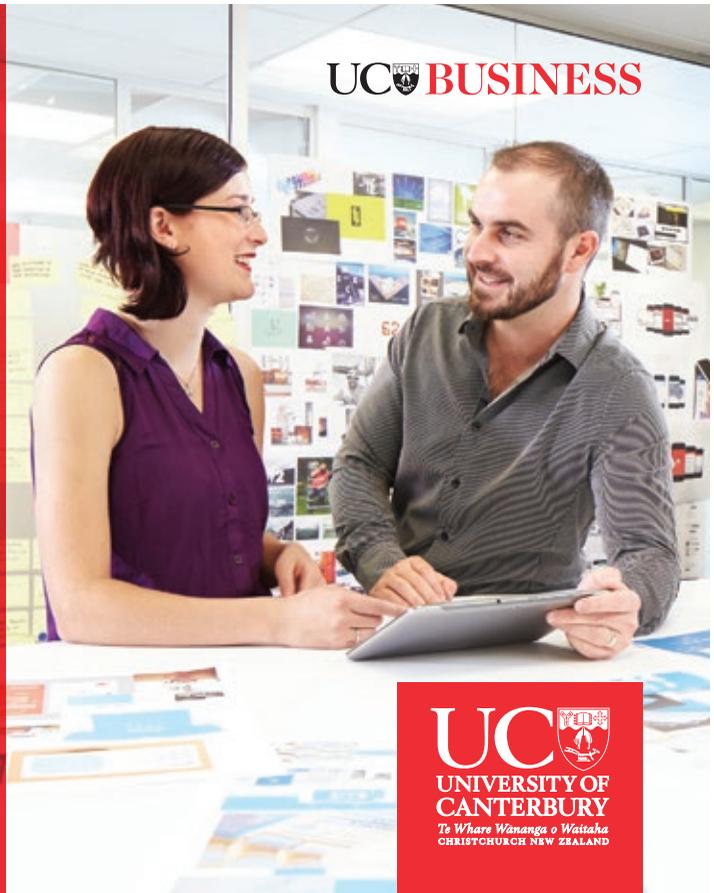
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EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

» VOTE CAUSE IT MIGHT HELP

This week the OUSA Executive candidate forums kick off with free pizza and too many hours spent listening to wannabe executive members say the same shit.

"I will make a change."

"I will buy a student bar."

"I will not let our student culture die."

I'm not going to pretend I'm any more interested in OUSA's student executive elections than I am. I tried to offer this editorial to someone who would try to inspire you a little more on the topic but no one wanted a bar of it. After five years here, and gradually working up to roles where I'm supposed to be more and more interested in the student elections, each year I come to dread them more and more. They're an exercise in listening to naïve but ambitious nominees making false promises and talking bullshit. The discussion consists of the same shallow ideas instead of a focus on improving the lives of actual students.

I don't expect this year to be any different.

The student executive should be focusing on real issues. They should be on the ground talking to students. They should be the ones kicking up a storm over the 54 per cent of medical students reporting harassment in our lead news this week. The seven EFTS cap has been a key issue for medical students for two years now and the most

powerful student association in the country still hasn't done anything to change it.

Obviously, the issues aren't just with medical students. But it's about time the executive start being the first to find these issues, without leaving it to everyone else.

On more interesting topics, we couldn't pick impartial colours for the cover this week because too many colours were associated with candidates. Instead, go All Blacks and see if you can find the coloured pencils we've left all over uni.

We're running a colouring in competition so make the cover pretty and drop your entries into the office to win a surprise prize. Anything to get you to visit us!

The creative inspiration for colouring in the cover came from working on the makeup for Phantom of the Opera - a show you should all go and see at the Regent. It's a stunning creation involving some serious local talent and the most beautiful music ever!

JOSIE COCHRANE,
CRITIC EDITOR

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Critic

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Medical Students Report Harassment and Bullying

>> SURVEY REVEALS "DISTURBING" WORK ENVIRONMENT IN HOSPITALS

BY JOE HIGHAM

A survey conducted by the New Zealand Medical Students' Association (NZMSA) has revealed extensive bullying and sexual harassment of medical students in hospitals across New Zealand.

The survey focused on fourth-, fifth- and sixth-year medical students on clinical placements. Of the 772 respondents, 158 were based in Dunedin Hospital.

Out of all respondents, 54 percent said they had been sexually harassed or bullied at medical school. A total of 22 percent of the students said they had experienced sexist remarks, and 17 percent had heard or received racist remarks. 30 students had been bullied based on their gender identity or sexual orientation.

The majority of students, 57 percent, said they had been bullied verbally – defined as "called names, humiliated, insulted".

Students were asked which professionals commonly carry out bullying: 70 percent said consultants were perpetrators, 26 percent reported bullying from registrars and 42 percent of respondents reported bullying from nurses. Students were allowed to choose more than one option.

Tash Austin, president of the Otago Medical Students' Association, said she has heard "a number of disturbing stories" from those working in clinical placements. "There is a lot of worry among preclinical students about just what is waiting for them in the hospital."

Elizabeth Berryman, president of the NZMSA, said the report "confirms what everyone has known for a long time ... bullying and sexual harassment [are] widespread in our hospitals".

"We are at the bottom of the medical hierarchy," said Berryman. "Students make particularly easy targets for bullying and sexual harassment, [and we have] little way to fight back."

Berryman said the power discrepancy between the victims and perpetrators is "scary ... the threat of [losing] future career prospects is at stake".

Only 13 percent of the students who had experienced sexual harassment or bullying said they had reported it.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' advisory group on discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment recently dubbed it "career suicide" for medical students to make a complaint.

Communications manager for the NZMSA, Alistair Lock, said students often feel that if a complaint is made, this will result in a failed grade, and "possible prevention from entry into speciality programmes" later in their career.

Lock also said the current process of complaining is not confidential, "which is a major cause for concern".

The New Zealand Medical Council could not comment before print deadline, but the chair of the council, Andrew Connolly, said in a press release that bullying should not be tolerated in the medical community.

"The culture that has accepted discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment in surgery, but also elsewhere in a hospital or other workplace has to change," said Connolly.

Connolly said the council is working with different stakeholders to get rid of the normalisation of bullying.

"We need to create a safe work environment that values and nurtures people and gives them the confidence to speak out about unsafe work practices, without further intimidation or harassment," he said.

"It is no longer OK to be silent about bad behaviour because someone has a position of power or authority."

A spokesperson for the Southern District Health Board said bullying will not be tolerated in their hospitals.

"We have a number of policies that guide our expectations when it comes to employee behaviour ... Disruptive, abusive or threatening behaviour is a serious breach of our Code of Conduct and Integrity."

Barry Taylor, the dean of the Medical Department at the University of Otago said "from an educational view ... you don't learn very well when you're under that kind of stress".

Taylor said "positive approaches and encouragement works better than threatening behaviour". ○



Sushi-Eating Student Attends

BY LAURA MUNRO /

In order to garner a greater student audience, the executive held its meeting in the university's Main Common Room. One spectator attended with sushi in hand, though Critic assumes he was simply trying to watch the football playing on the projector.

President Paul Hunt spoke of the upcoming referendum which he was "happy to admit" he had submitted extra questions for. Hunt revealed that one of the questions related to NZUSA. "Hopefully this makes it more exciting," he said. We can only hope.

Hunt revealed that 20,172 students are enrolled in the university this semester. In order for the referendum to be valid, OUSA needs 1008.6 students, five percent, to vote.

Recreation Officer Jonny Martin spoke of the Festival for the Future he recently attended.

Martin said the festival was "incredibly inspiring". There were many ideas that Martin said OUSA "can support and should support".

Hunt said the executive need to "put our heads into" the upcoming 2016 budget. This will happen in the immediate two weeks after elections. The recently conducted student services survey has closed, and the executive will use the feedback to organise next year's budget.

OUSA CEO Debbie Downs said she had spoken with the managers of different departments and "advised" them not to endorse candidates for the upcoming election. Downs also said current executive members who are running for re-election are under strict instructions not to use OUSA resources – "staff are one of these resources". Downs also said printing and photocopying in OUSA are against the rules.

Admin Vice-President Isaac Yu said the policy committee had discussed the issue of executive members endorsing potential candidates. Yu said no rules had changed since last year, and that executive members were able to endorse others as long as they used a disclaimer that said they were not endorsing in their capacity as an OUSA executive member.

Welfare Officer Payal Ramritu said her neighbourhood project was kicking off, and she is meeting with the DCC and the university next week. Ramritu said the project aims to "make living better for students", which includes improving flats "structurally and socially" and also targets waste and energy consumption.

The spectator continued to sit and eat his sushi once the meeting had closed. ●

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Voting closes Wednesday 30 September at 4pm

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Reaching the Breaking Point

» DUNEDIN BAR UNABLE TO MEET STANDARDS

BY BRIDIE BOYD

Dunedin bar The Break has been officially closed after the owners were found to be unsuitable applicants to operate licensed premises.

The Dunedin District Licensing Committee made the ruling, and the bar closed its doors on Friday 11 September.

Colin Weatherall, a committee member, said the owner had been "open and honest" about the struggles the bar was facing: "[They knew] they were going to be unable to meet the standards required" for a licence.

Weatherall said a temporary authority had been granted until 23 September while the on-licence application was being considered, though this was revoked by the committee. The owners of the bar have been ordered to stop trading on the premises.

Police alcohol harm prevention officer Sergeant Ian Paulin said police had been concerned about the owner's ability to control what was happening on the premises.

Paulin said police have "certainly had issues" with the bar in the past: "We have been to the property before when the situation bordered on going out of control with intoxication." Police recently attended an event at the bar, and Paulin said the majority of party goers were highly intoxicated.

Paulin said the duty manager "was doing nothing to control the patrons' behaviour" and police were forced to shut down the bar. Critic was unable to get comment from the manager before print.

Weatherall said another key factor in the committee's decision not to grant the licence was the high staff turnover.

"There have been a number of details given to the committee that suggested there were significant challenges around the staff," he said. "[A] lot of the stories suggested there was not always a good relationship."

Weatherall clarified that while some staff were "uncomfortable", this was not always the case. He said some staff appeared to be "unfair to the applicant".

According to Weatherall, 85 percent of establishments in Dunedin are well run, well presented and have well-trained staff. He said 10 percent need support, "and only a minority do not meet licensing standards".

"We want the students to feel safe, and the majority of our licensees are safe for them to go to," he said. ○

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Connectedness is Focus of Tribute Ceremony

» MINISTER: "HUMAN LIFE IS PRECIOUS"

BY OLIVER GASKELL

Over 400 individuals attended the recent World Suicide Prevention Day ceremony held on Thursday 10 September. The ceremony was held at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Dunedin.

In an event organised by Life Matters, attendees paid tribute to the 569 New Zealanders who died by suicide in the last year.

The event was also held to raise awareness, with the evening's theme being "Reaching out and saving lives".

The ceremony featured speeches from representatives of various charities, Otago professors and members of the public paying tribute to loved ones taken by suicide, as well as musical performances.

The evening was opened with a message of hope from Reverend Doctor Trevor James.

"We stand with those who are lost, together as people who grieve and who

are fragile, we can live for tomorrow, whatever happens."

A candle was lit for each person who has taken their own life in New Zealand in the twelve months to May.

Forty-one roses were handed out to those who had lost loved ones to suicide, each one representing someone who died as a result of suicide in the Otago/Southland area.

A key topic of the night was connectedness, which is seen as key to suicide prevention and helping people through dark times.

Reverend Greg Hughson talked about the importance of events that connect people and raise awareness.

"Whoever we are and whatever reason we came, let us tonight reaffirm that life matters and that human life is precious."

Keynote speaker, Maree Inder, the managing director of Clinical Advisory Services

Aotearoa (CASA) and an Otago researcher, also stressed that "social connection is crucial to our wellbeing".

"Connectedness can be viewed as a common thread to suicide ... suicide develops when someone has a perception of not belonging and feeling as if they are a burden on others ... The act of showing care or concern to someone feeling vulnerable can be a game changer ... reaching out can save lives."

The event was organised by the Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust. If you or someone you know has been affected by suicide and needs support, the trust can be contacted through their website at www.lifematters.org.nz or by email at lifematters@gmail.com.

Those needing support can also call
Lifeline on 0800 543 354
 and **Youthline on 0800 376 633**.

Auckland Trumps Otago for the Second Year

» OTAGO DROPS IN WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

BY LAURA MUNRO

The University of Otago has been named as the only university in New Zealand whose worldwide ranking has dropped since 2014 in the QS world university rankings.

In the recently released QS world university rankings, Otago was ranked at 173; this dropped from the 2014 ranking of 159.

Otago has remained second in New Zealand behind the University of Auckland, which was placed at 82 worldwide (up from 92 in 2014). Auckland is the only New Zealand university in the world's top 100 list.

The University of Canterbury was rated

as third in New Zealand and ranked at 211 globally. Victoria University of Wellington was rated as fourth in New Zealand, and placed at 229 in the world rankings.

In arts and humanities faculties, Otago ranked 59th worldwide. This was behind Auckland at 29th and Victoria at 39th.

In social sciences and management, Otago ranked 94th equal with Canterbury. This was behind Auckland at 36th and Victoria at 72nd.

The University of Auckland is the only New Zealand university in the engineering and technology table, and is ranked 59th.

The QS rankings also show "New

Zealand's universities are consistently among the world's best at attracting international students and faculty members".

Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been named the top university in the world. Harvard University, which was placed fourth last year, has been ranked second. The University of Cambridge and Stanford University have been placed an equal second.

Half of the world's top ten universities are in the UK, and four are in the US. The only other country to make it into the top ten is the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

2016 Executive NOMINATIONS

OUSA
otago uni **students'** association

The nominations for the 2016 OUSA Executive have closed, and an array of good-looking candidates have put their names forward to represent you next year. Voting will take place on the OUSA website from 21 to 30 September, with the winners announced that evening.

There are 11 voting positions on the Executive. The top dog, and only full-time position, is the President. There are four 20-hour Vice-President tier positions – Administrative Vice-President, Finance Officer,

Welfare Officer and Education Officer – and five 10-hour general representative positions – Recreation Officer, Campaigns Officer, Colleges Officer, International Officer and Postgraduate Officer. Voting for the International Officer position is open to international students only, and the Postgraduate Officer to postgrads only.

The final position on the Executive is the Te Roopu Maori President, who sits as an ex officio voting member. Elections for the Te Roopu Maori Executive are also open.

Please note that Critic does not edit candidate blurbs in any way. What you see is what you get.



PRESIDENT



LAURA HARRIS

Hi, my name's Laura and I'm running to be your OUSA President. I'm an English/Linguistics student and I'm standing because I believe this year isn't as good as it gets for OUSA. The 2015 Executive haven't fought hard enough to make sure current and future students get the best deal during their time at University. They haven't advocated for students at a local or national level.

An Executive I lead will be relentless in advocating for you. As your President I'll fight for real changes to make university education affordable and accessible.

This means:

- ▶ Working to improve the quality of flats
- ▶ Increasing the quality of services provided to students
- ▶ Campaigning to remove the 7EFTS cap for

medical students

- ▶ Fighting to restore student allowances for postgraduate students

I'm the candidate that will kick OUSA into drive. Vote Laura Harris to make OUSA work for students again.

Nominated by: Rachel Goh
Seconded by: Dean Alan Jones



PAUL HUNT

Hey all, I'm chucking my hat in the ring to be OUSA President again. Delivering real results on the issues you care about is my priority.

In 2015 we:

- ▶ Advocated against and successfully prevented local alcohol policies which would've destroyed Dunedin's bar scene.
- ▶ Delivered the biggest funding increase (50%) to clubs, faculty groups and social causes in the last decade
- ▶ Successfully saved exam free days when the University wanted to abolish them
- ▶ Negotiated student access to the

most important committee in the University – the Vice Chancellor's advisory group

- ▶ Lobbied MP's and decision makers on rental standards, living allowances and the 7EFTS cap

Next year I will ensure great scarfie traditions continue, increase funding for sports and international clubs, and invest in student led social enterprises.

Most of all I will listen to what you want and continue to deliver results.

Vote Paul Hunt for OUSA President!

Nominated by: Hilla Fukofuka
Seconded by: Macaela Joyes



NINA HARRAP

Kia ora, I'm Nina and I'm excited to run for OUSA President in 2016.

If elected, I will have three main goals. Firstly, I'll buy or lease a student bar to provide entertainment and a safe drinking environment tailored to the student budget.

Secondly, I'll work with the DCC to introduce a housing warrant of fitness city-wide.

In 2013 Dunedin successfully trialled a WOF scheme; I want to make it permanent.

Thirdly, I'll work with other students' associations nationwide to lobby the government. My main priorities will be to abolish the 7EFTS student loan cap and to tie the allowance and loan rates to the rate of inflation, at the very least.

It's been a great year for me as your Finance Officer. I'm especially proud of the bottle buy-back recycling program I initiated and I'm excited to continue innovating at OUSA.

Vote Nina to get shit done in 2016.

Nominated by: Mia O'Keefe
Seconded by: Lawrence Hamilton



PAYAL RAMRITU

Vote Payal for President!

I am an effective executive member who as President will steer the executive to reflect core OUSA principles of inclusivity, responsibility, and relevancy.

We have the resources to reach a more diverse range of students than we currently do, and ensure that every student has the best University experience that they can.

As President, I will advocate strongly on behalf of students while fostering links with both the University and the DCC, a role I have already been delivering on.

I would also be a strong representative on the University Council.

I will ensure that we work closely with other Students' Associations to collectively tackle issues that affect all students, such as housing and student loans/allowances.

I will prioritise the improvement of the mental health and the quality of rental housing for students.

We can and should be doing more.

Vote Payal for President!

Nominated by: Ryan Edgar
Seconded by: Steph Bennington

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE-PRESIDENT



JARRED GRIFFITHS

Hey everyone I'm Jarred and I am a fourth year Law and Politics student. With your support, I hope to be your Vice-President for 2016.

Students can't afford OUSA to be silent while education continues to become less accessible and more expensive.

As your elected Vice-President I will:

- ▶ Work with the President to deliver on their priorities
- ▶ Make Executive Officers attend relevant training so they do the best job possible

I'm running this year because I think OUSA can do better for all students.

If you want to see real change at OUSA, vote Jarred for Vice President.

Nominated by: Anna Goble
Seconded by: Laura Harris



BRONWYN BAILEY

Hey everybody, I'm running for VP 2016. I aim to bring a fresh energy to OUSA and represent all students!

OUSA awareness is dropping lower than Carol's tinder match count, and I would like to see this turned around. As a student's association, its' role should be well known to enable better representation of students.

I also believe it's important OUSA gets behind campus groups and social causes that you, the students, choose to pursue.

I support an increase in funding and involvement of OUSA in this area.

For an active and passionate OUSA, Vote BforVP!

Nominated by: Sarita Christensen
Seconded by: Michael Bollen



LYNC ARONSON

Having spent the last year serving on the Brain Injury Association Otago committee, board meetings are nothing new to me. With a clear direction and a strong desire to serve, I will prove a successful OUSA Vice President.

One thing you must appreciate, is that I am a first year university student. However! This will be compensated for by the extensive communication channels we have in place to ensure that, even post election, your voices will be heard. You will have an approachable and responsive VP.

Check out our Facebook for a full policy list. - Search: Vote Lync Aronson.

Nominated by: Farrukh Sarwar
Seconded by: Lauren Henderson

FINANCE OFFICER



CIARAN CULLEN

Hi I'm Ciaran, a third year Politics and History major interested in making OUSA work harder for you. Working harder means managing money so the resources are there to provide services and advocate effectively for you.

OUSA must work to improve your >>

>> experience at university. I'll work to bring real change to the Executive and:

- ▶ Increase funding for advocacy and campaigns
- ▶ Introduce a grants system for students in financial hardship
- ▶ Negotiate longer hours for Link food

Vote Ciaran to guarantee OUSA has the money to campaign on issues that will improve your experience at Otago

Nominated by: Callum Grimmer
Seconded by: Henry Brockway



JESSE HALL

I am an Accounting and Chemistry double major heading into my sixth year at university. For 2015 I have been the Treasurer for Law for Change Otago where I was successful in setting up and implementing an easy to follow book keeping practice that will benefit many Treasurers after me. I believe I have done all I can for LFC and so in 2016 wish to broaden my horizons and become the Finance Officer for the OUSA. My goal for 2016 is to implement sustainable practices within the organisation to ensure efficient budgeting while providing high quality student services.

Nominated by: Erwin Ricketts
Seconded by: Caleb Blackbeard



TOA SAILUSI

I am running for OUSA Finance Officer because I believe I can strategically make a difference in the lives of students. Students' financial struggle is Real!

Short term Goals:

- a)** Find alternative ways to enhance FREE BREAKFAST and CHEAPER LUNCH for students around Campus.
- b)** Improve the MARKET DAY by promoting food booth where cheaper foods can be served.

Long term Goal

- a)** Improve OUSA financial accountability and transparency.

Nominated by: William Bunge-Krueger
Seconded by: Kaitaumana Penaia

EDUCATION OFFICER



ALEXIA COCHRANE

Hi, I'm Alexia Cochrane! I'm passionate about education, and study a Bachelor of Education Studies. I think this will make me an effective Education Officer for you and all students.

Real change is needed in the Education Officer role. That's why I'll:

- ▶ Campaign for a professional practice component (to develop professional skills) to be included in all courses.
- ▶ Make graduation photos free
- ▶ Set up an OUSA textbook exchange
- ▶ Push for increases to student support – especially student allowances and living costs.

You deserve the best education at Otago. I promise to do my best to give you that!

Nominated by: Lisa McKillop
Seconded by: Georgia-McKeller Wallace



DIEGO SANTAGATI

Hey, I'm Diego Santagati and hopefully also your next OUSA Education Officer, you may have seen me around Dunedin working at the local Starbucks and passionately listening to music as I make my way around. I am currently studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics and I feel like a lot of what I'm learning will help bring a broad range of idea and perspectives to this position. If you're reading this then you're interested enough to vote so make it count and vote Diego Santagati!

Nominated by: Eliza Chen-Stuart
Seconded by: Justin Lo



ZACHARIAH AL-ALAMI

Hey all, I am going for Education Officer—again. The University is going through change. I have heard your requests. If reelected I will:

- ▶ Continue with my campaign with 'raising the 7 Efts' limit
- ▶ Get our exam timetables out earlier (flights are cheaper if booked sooner).
- ▶ Get Podcasts/Slides for most if not all lectures.
- ▶ Continue with the endorsement of Hyde St

Together with you guys. I want to break down the barriers of bureaucracy. And make views of students known.

- ▶ Vote Zac for a representative of students.

Nominated by: Tasman Walker
Seconded by: Natasha Amarasehara



MATTHEW SCHEP

Hi all! I am Matthew; I study Education and Politics at Otago, and I currently sit on the Executive Board of United Nations Youth NZ as the National Education Officer.

If elected, I will

- ▶ Pursue avenues to increase student representation and voice on educational issues
- ▶ Review, and move to strengthen, the class rep system
- ▶ Advocate for better academic support systems for students with mental health issues

As a graduate in the field of education, and with proven leadership and executive experience, I believe that I am well equipped to take on the role of 2016 Education Officer.

Nominated by: Bokyoung Mun
Seconded by: Leon McCarthy

provide warmer flats.

- ▶ Encourage greater student interaction, so positive ideas can be heard.
- ▶ Push for change to the current student allowance/EFTS system to get Government working for students.

For strong, meaningful policy that will help each and every one of you. Vote Bryn for Welfare.

Nominated by: Lark Hare
Seconded by: Junior Soonthorsaratul



PAYAL RAMRITU

I'm Payal and I want you to vote for me to be your OUSA Welfare Officer for 2016. I have proven myself as an executive member who can work hard and get results. So far, I've organised puppy and kitten rooms, fun clothes swaps, free tote bags, as well as working on more serious issues such as improving flats, supporting our queer and disability communities, and submissions to the DCC on student issues. I want to continue this work in 2016. If you want someone who will work to make Otago a better place for all students, vote Payal!

Nominated by: Ryan Edgar
Seconded by: Steph Bennington

Kia ora koutou katoa, hi everyone!

My name is Mariana and I am running for Postgraduate officer! I studied science and arts in my undergrad, and am currently working towards a Masters of Entrepreneurship.

I understand university life: from the first lecture to building your networks to graduating and now studying at a post-graduate level.

If you elect me I'll bring my university & life experiences, as well as my cultural upbringing to the table. I'll use my experience to bring real change to OUSA, and make sure OUSA represents postgraduates, and all students, well.

Vote Mariana for Postgraduate Officer.

Nominated by: Elizabeth McLean
Seconded by: Carrie Clifford

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER



RACHEL GOH

HELLO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS! Why vote for me? Well, if you want someone experienced, capable, and also receptive to change then I'm the person for you! I've spent the last 5 years here (just give me PR already haha), and I've witnessed and learned so much with my work with the International Office, International Cultural Council, and other cultural clubs. I know how international events work, but I also want to kick things up a notch with bigger events for YOU. More importantly, I really believe in being accessible, as I want YOU to have an awesome Otago experience. Thank you!

Nominated by: SengWai Cheah
Seconded by: Eric Lim

WELFARE OFFICER



BRYN JENKINS

Having taken a gap year to be able to afford university, I strive to get the most out of it. It is my goal that you have the best opportunity to do so too...

As Welfare Officer I will,

- ▶ Ensure kitchenettes are available in all main University areas.
- ▶ Work with Dunedin Curtain Bank to

POSTGRADUATE OFFICER



MARIANA TE POU

CAMPAIGNS OFFICER



SEAN GAMBLE

Hey, I'm Sean! I am a 3rd year Law and Politics student. I believe OUSA should be constantly campaigning to improve the experience of all students.

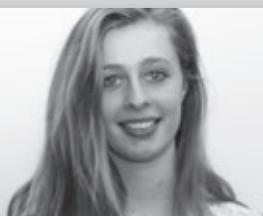
This year OUSA could have fought harder against the 7EFTS cap for medical students and the closure of the Design School. Students deserve OUSA to be relentless in its advocacy for them.

As your Campaigns Officer I will:

- ▶ Campaign against university fee increases
- ▶ Create a 24 hour study space
- ▶ Engage students in OUSA campaigns
- ▶ Work with Executive Officers on campaigns within their portfolios

Real change is needed at OUSA. Vote Sean for Campaigns.

Nominated by: Brittany Reddington
Seconded by: Thomas Stevens



FREYA STRAWBRIDGE

Hey everyone,

My name is Freya and I am running for campaigns officer. I have been involved in numerous campaigns and groups throughout my life such as Amnesty International and SAFE and fervently believe the biggest change comes from social pressure. I can't promise that I will be the most expert or

polished candidate, but do promise that I won't shy away from a challenge, I will get fully amongst a bit of controversy and will always be willing to listen to the students.

Your support would be tops, so cheers and chuck me a vote!

Nominated by: Helen Willis
Seconded by: Jack Ferrick

RECREATION OFFICER



MATT ROSS

Otago Uni is much more than getting a degree, it's an entire experience and I'm here to make sure that can happen for everyone in 2016!

My key focuses:

- ▶ More incentives to join and start clubs
- ▶ More access to resources for clubs and awareness on how to apply
- ▶ More hype and diversity for OUSA events
- ▶ More support from OUSA for all sports teams

Why vote for me?

- ▶ President and founder of a club for almost a year
- ▶ Proven leader and great team player
- ▶ I would vote for you!

Matt Ross for Recreation 2016!

Nominated by: Henry Brockway
Seconded by: Felix Mouttaki



WILLIAM GUY

Hi I'm William Guy! I'm a second year Pharmacy student and I'm running to be your OUSA Recreation Officer for 2016.

I'd like to make real changes so that OUSA better supports our clubs and societies. That's why I will:

- ▶ Increase funding available to clubs
- ▶ Introduce more resources for clubs, like more storage space and cheaper access to transport
- ▶ Implement a paid Sponsorship and Grants Manager to support clubs to apply for external funding

As the current University Vice President of UN Youth, I know our clubs and societies need greater support. With your vote, I'll make that happen.

Nominated by: Josiah Hunt
Seconded by: Jesse Ben

COLLEGES OFFICER



BAYDEN HARRIS

I'm Bayden Harris and I'd like your vote to be OUSA's next Colleges Officer! I study Law and History, and last year lived at Hayward College.

Having experienced hall living, I believe OUSA can do a better job engaging with students living in halls

That's why I'll bring real change to the College Officer role and:

- ▶ Increase the visibility of OUSA in halls
- ▶ Campaign for better flatting advice for first years
- ▶ Make sure Hall's are spending activity fees on students
- ▶ Create a College-President network to push issues

Vote Bayden and make OUSA work hard in Colleges!

Nominated by: Henry Brockway
Seconded by: Felix Mouttaki

2016 Te Roopu Māori Election NOMINATIONS

TUMUAKI (PRESIDENT)

SECRETARY

CULTURAL & EDUCATION OFFICER



ROBERT POMARE

Kia ora,

Ko Rob Pomare taku ingoa
Nō Te Whānau ā Apanui me Ngai Tai
ngā iwi
Engari, Nō Ōtepoti taku kainga ināiane.

So I am running for the role of Tumuaki for
Te Roopu Maori (TRM), and believe in the
three area's of focus need to be on:

- > Awhinatanga
- > Manaakitanga
- > Whanautanga

With the support of the Taura Māori of
Otago University we will achieve these
three area's for our

Māori students. "A home away from home"

Ka Kite ano
Nā Rob



GRACE WILLIAMS

"Kia Ora, my name is Grace and I hail from
Rotorua. I believe I am capable for role as
Te Kaituhi as I have experience in adminis-
tration duties. Coming from a large whanau
I know the importance of organisation and
believe that being Te Kaituhi would be a
suitable role for me. I am passionate about
giving back to Te Rito as they have sup-
ported me immensely through my journey
through uni so far. My belief is that giving
back to the people in any way, shape or form
is ultimately what brings importance and joy
in my life."



FRANCIS BRADLEY

Kia ora whānau! Or i te reo pākehā, "Sup gees
and geezettes!"

Nō Ngāti Kuri ahau. Ko Te whakama-
haratanga te marae. Kei Kaitāia tōku kāinga.
My name's Francis, and I'd be honoured
to represent you, ngā tauira Māori! I hope
to encourage you all to embrace who you
are, as Māori, and be proud of where you
come from, by being part of Te Roopū Māori
events, and embracing whakawhanaun-
gatanga. As Culture and Education Officer,
I'll always do my best to tautoko you in
academics and taha-Māori, by being open,
positive, and most importantly, being there
for you!

Kia ora tātou!

VOTING OPEN ALL WEEK

voting.ousa.org.nz



IMAGE: CC BY-NC 2.0 (Flickr) Josh Zahary

Germany Imposes Border Controls for Refugees

» AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA AND THE NETHERLANDS FOLLOW SUIT

BY **SANA BASHARATI**

Germany has imposed a temporary control on its border with Austria in an attempt to deal with the unprecedented influx of refugees into the country.

More than 13,000 refugees arrived in Munich on Saturday 12 September. A day later, Thomas de Maizière, Germany's interior minister, announced the new policy.

De Maizière has ordered an interruption of trains passing between Germany and Austria, and spot checks are set to begin in traffic across the German-Austrian border. During the policy announcement, de Maizière said refugees couldn't choose their host countries.

"The aim of this measure is to limit the current influx to Germany and to return to orderly entry procedures," announced de Maizière. "[This is a] signal to Europe: Germany is facing up to its humanitarian responsibility, but the burdens connected with the large number of refugees must be distributed in solidarity within Europe."

In a letter to fellow members of Germany's Social Democratic Party, Sigmar Gabriel, vice-chancellor of Germany, said "Germany is strong and can handle a lot". However, "in the past few days we have experienced how, despite our best efforts, our abilities have reached their limits".

Gabriel said indications are that "in this year we will not see 800,000 refugees, as predicted, but a million".

The controls seem to have worked on a small scale as the influx of refugees into Germany dropped by about half on Monday. However, the move caused a backlog of traffic along several roads and two main European highways, resulting in many angry commuters.

Shortly after Germany's announcement, Austria, Slovakia and the Netherlands also adopted border controls for Syrian refugees.

The prime minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, defended his decision in a press conference, saying Hungary is "not going to seal the border hermetically".

"We are simply enforcing the laws which were already in force until now. Even until now, Hungary's border should not have been crossed at any other place except the border crossings," he said.

It is unclear how long the German border controls will remain, but Bavarian interior minister, Joachim Herrmann, has said they would last "at least a week".

For refugees, the border controls have brought a new wave of anxiety as many have travelled for weeks hoping to make it to Germany. However, the Dublin Regulation, which means refugees cannot choose their asylum country, still holds. Refugees must apply for asylum in the first country they arrive in.

Through a spokesperson, Angela Merkel, Germany's chancellor, announced on Monday that controls did not mean the border had closed, or that Germany would stop providing asylum.

"We will manage ... [but] nobody said we would manage it all overnight." ●

11 Refugee Children Killed as Boat Capsizes

» HIGH WINDS BELIEVED TO HAVE LEFT 34 DEAD

BY **EMILY DUNCAN**

A boat carrying refugees between Turkey and Greece has capsized, killing 34 people. Of these, 11 were children and four were babies.

The boat, which was said to be overcrowded with Syrian refugees, capsized off the coast of the Greek island, Famakonski. The cause is believed to be high winds.

The disaster came just a day after two other boats carrying refugees capsized, resulting in the deaths of five people.

A coastguard managed to pluck 68 survivors from the water, and a further 29 managed to swim to safety.

The tragedy is believed to be the largest recorded death toll from any single accident

in Greek waters since the refugee crisis in Europe began. The incident occurred as Athens furiously defended its handling of the mounting refugee crisis in Europe and appealed for more help.

Greece's interim prime minister, Vasiliki Thanou, has called on the European Union to agree on a more comprehensive refugee pol-



Californian Wildfires Consume Over 130,000 acres

»STATE OF EMERGENCY AS 23,000 PEOPLE LEAVE THEIR HOMES

BY **GEORGE ELLIOTT** /

California has declared a state of emergency as wildfires consume more than 130,000 acres of land.

State authorities have said the two wildfires, dubbed the "Valley fire" and the "Butte fire", have destroyed more than 700 homes and displaced over 23,000 people.

Flames have reached up to 60 metres high, eye-witnesses told a local newspaper.

The Valley fire started in Lake Country near the state's capital Sacramento on 12 September. It later moved towards the centre of the previously evacuated Middletown.

One person, disabled 72-year-old retired teacher Barbara McWilliams, has been confirmed dead. McWilliams, who lived in Lake Country on Cobb Mountain, had advanced

multiple sclerosis and was unable to escape her remote home.

A dozen firefighters are also in hospital with severe burns. Governor of California, Jerry Brown, warned in a press conference last week that further casualties are likely.

"These fires will take lives, and they will cause injuries," said Brown. "We have to do the best we can because we are really in a battle with nature. Nature is more powerful than we are."

California's Forestry and Fire Protection Department spokesperson Daniel Berlan told Agence France Presse that high temperatures and years of harsh droughts are to blame for the giant wildfires.

One-third of Californian homes are in areas prone to wildfires, according to data from the

US Forest Service. In a recent report analysing climate data, the Forest Service estimated that 4.5 million homes in California are in areas where residential developments are built very close to forests.

The Forest Service said further devastation is likely as people continue to build houses close together in areas vulnerable to wildfires.

Democratic Party senator from California, Dianne Feinstein, has said budget reform is needed to prevent the state's infamous wildfires. Feinstein argued that federal funds should go towards prevention efforts like removing brush and dead trees.

"California is suffering from one of the worst fire seasons in decades," she said in a press release. "Unfortunately, the way we pay for fire-fighting activities worsens the situation." ●



icy. Thanou has described the crisis as a wider European and global problem.

Greece's marine minister Christos Zois issued a statement to highlight the "daily superhuman struggle" of Greek coastguards to "save thousands of people" who are "victims of human smugglers".

Despite almost daily tragedies that result

from the exodus, refugees are not deterred from attempting to reach Greece's eastern island in an attempt to escape the deadly situation in Syria. Most refugees who successfully reach Greece quickly head north to other countries, with Germany being the most favoured destination.

Germany's government has said it has

taken in too many refugees too fast, straining the country's ability to provide accommodation, and it has implemented emergency border controls.

Figures from the UN's refugee agency UNHCR calculate that over 380,000 migrants have arrived in Europe by sea this year. ●

Veteran Politician is Australia's New PM

» ABBOTT ROLLS GILLARD, TURNBULL ROLLS ABBOTT

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

Liberal Party MP Malcolm Turnbull has become Australia's fourth prime minister in 27 months.

Turnbull, who requested a leadership ballot after months of openly criticising now former prime minister, Tony Abbott, won the vote 54–44.

In a press conference before the ballot, Turnbull said that Abbott "has not been capable of providing economic leadership".

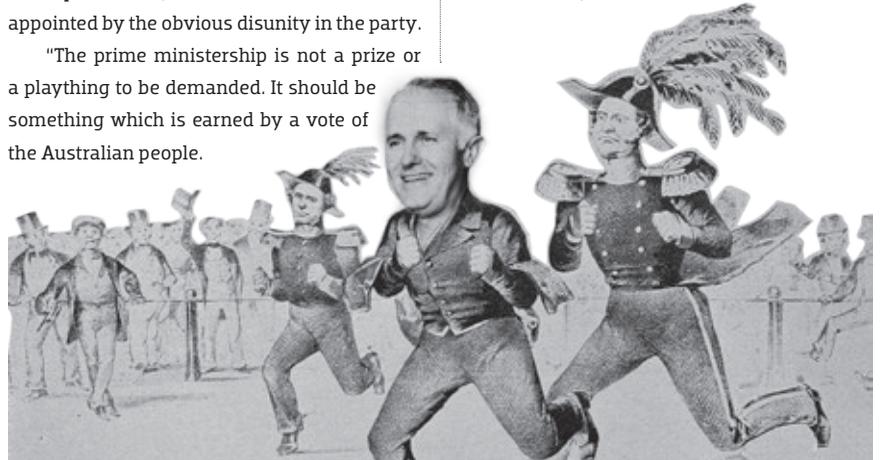
In his final speech as the prime minister, Abbott said: "I want our government and our country to succeed. I always have and I always will."

"This is not an easy day for many people in this building. Leadership changes are never easy for our country ... My pledge today is to make this change as easy as I can."

Turnbull's leadership challenge was the third attempt during Abbott's term as prime minister. While announcing the imminent spill motion, Abbott indicted he was disappointed by the obvious disunity in the party.

"The prime ministership is not a prize or a plaything to be demanded. It should be something which is earned by a vote of the Australian people.

I firmly believe that our party is better than this, that our government is better than this and, by God, that our country is so much better than this," said Abbott. ●



UK Labour Party Heads Left

» LEADER TO TARGET INEQUALITY, INJUSTICE AND UNNECESSARY POVERTY

BY **HENRY NAPIER**

After Ed Miliband's departure last week, Jeremy Corbyn has been elected as the new leader of the UK Labour Party.

Although an unlikely candidate, Corbyn won by a landslide majority with 60 percent of the vote. Corbyn received 251,000 of the 422,000 votes cast.

Party members, registered supporters and affiliated supporters can vote for party leaders.

The election of Corbyn, a self-proclaimed socialist, has been labelled as a shift towards the far left of the ideological spectrum. In his victory speech, the new leader indicated his leadership would return the party to its ideological roots.

Corbyn said people are "fed up with the inequality, the injustice, the unnecessary poverty ... those issues have brought people in in a spirit of hope and optimism".

"During these amazing three months, our party has changed. We have grown enormously, because of the hopes of so many

ordinary people for a different Britain, a better Britain, a more equal Britain, a more decent Britain," said Corbyn.

Corbyn's surprising election is part of a trend of support for more radical left-wing agendas throughout Europe and the UK. Earlier

this year, the Scottish National Party won all 52 electoral seats in Scotland, adding to the dismal election result for the Labour Party, which had previously retained most of the seats.

Corbyn's election has also been described as the end of the "Blairite" ideology, referring to policies popularised by former prime minister, Tony Blair.

Bryce Edwards, politics lecturer at the University of Otago, argued on TVNZ's Q+A that the shift to the left was the result of "spin-doctor politics".

"I think it's a reaction against years of that middle-of-the-road politics in Britain and the "Blairite" years," argued Edwards.

"It takes a while sometimes for these reactions to occur, but it's also a reaction against fake politics, that sort of spin-doctor politics, and that's why we've had the grass-roots movement, and that's really what his victory has been about," Edwards said. ●



IMAGE: Wiki Commons (Gary Knight).



In My Opinion: Henry's word

Labour Needs Ardern

Little's deputy but refused out of loyalty to her long-time pal and political mentor, Grant Robertson. I strongly suspected this myself because of how adamant Ardern had been about only being deputy to Grant Robertson. However, my opinion was changed during my first-ever conversation with Dunedin North MP, David Clark.

I smugly told him what I thought of the make-up of the new leadership, an opinion he very politely and quickly dismantled. He said that Annette King was the best possible choice for a deputy to complement a first-time leader and a relatively inexperienced MP. King has been around for a long time and has proven herself as a highly effective operator — just watch her on the Paul Henry Show on a Friday morning. What King brought to the leadership was strong and effective management of a somewhat displaced Labour caucus following a dismal election year.

Andrew Little's instincts were right. King has managed the caucus well. However, it's nearly been a year since Little became leader. His initial assurance that a new deputy would succeed King was one of his best decisions, and its true effects have not yet been realised.

Appointing a new deputy is a good move for the same reason as Jacinda Ardern is a good candidate: politics is about perception. Annette King provided smooth sailing for Labour through the aftermath of the 2014 election but, 12 months on, it's clear that the storm is mostly gone. Now is the time to refine a new and different perception of Labour, one that actively highlights the diversity it so often promotes. Electing Jacinda Ardern as deputy leader would be a definitive example of how Labour sets itself apart, and would perhaps even help to win an election. ●

Jacinda Ardern is young, popular and a woman. Those qualities have been entirely absent from the Labour Party leadership since Helen left. It's about time they were brought back.



The last four leaders of the Labour Party have been relatively interchangeable, at least on the surface. Phil Goff, David Shearer, David Cunliffe and Andrew Little all share certain elements of identity: white, middle-aged, male. The obvious issue arises with each successor having great difficulty defining themselves as distinct in the eyes of an increasingly indifferent public.

This is one of the main reasons that Labour has had trouble distinguishing itself from National. Evidently, the most popular character-type for a white, male New Zealand politician has been the "average Kiwi bloke". John Key has

cemented this image for himself since he rose to power in 2006, producing the crushing reality for white, male opposition leaders that they are competing for the status of the easy-going guy that loves beer and rugby and also just happens to be prime minister.

So, in short, the opposition needs a change, at least in appearance.

Cue Jacinda Ardern. Young, enthusiastic and a woman. All distinctly different elements from the previous line-up of interchangeable leaders. But we're talking about the deputy leadership ... for now.

When Andrew Little became leader at the start of the year, he appointed — to the surprise of many — veteran MP Annette King as deputy leader of the party, with the condition that after the first year she would be replaced. Speculation arose that Ardern was originally tapped to be



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News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



World Watch

1 TOKYO, JAPAN

An endangered lemur is being sent from Japan to the Channel Islands in the hope that she will find a mate. Tokyo's Ueno Zoo is sending Ala, a female aye-aye lemur, on an "extended romantic vacation" to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Zoologists are hoping she will "enjoy a fling" with a male aye-aye during her time at the facility.

2 VLADIMIR REGION, RUSSIA

Russian families are able to "borrow a babushka" as part of a charity service aimed at increasing pensioners' quality of life. The "granny for an hour" charity project means that families with small children can borrow an older person to "render help and assistance" several times a week. Around 35 elderly volunteers have already signed up, and there are plans to expand the scheme into Moscow.

3 SOUTH KOREA

More than 44,000 mobile phones are being distributed to South Korea's military personnel — but they can only receive calls. The phones are being given to members of all four branches of Korea's armed forces to make it easier for them to stay in touch with friends and family while in their barracks. The one-way phones will only be allowed during free time in the evening and before a 10pm curfew.

4 IRAN

A judge has started sentencing criminals to buy and read books instead of handing down prison terms. Judge Qasem Naqizadeh is using the alternative to avoid the "irreversible physical and psychological impact on convicts and their families" that a prison term might bring. Individuals must write a summary of the books, which is returned to the judge.

5 BERLIN, GERMANY

The giant head of a statue of Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin has been unearthed, 24 years after it was buried in a German forest. Workers dug up the granite structure from woodland outside Berlin, following a campaign by historians. The head was once part of a 19m monument to the leader, which towered over the east of the city.

6 MADRID, SPAIN

A Spanish pensioner has placed a newspaper advertisement offering 5000 euros to any employer who would hire his 39-year-old son, a "desperate" unemployed father of one. Concerns about Spanish unemployment, the second highest in Europe at 22.4 percent, are at the centre of the campaign for a general election to be held in December.

7 MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

A trailer hauling thousands of pounds of hamburger crashed and caught fire on a western Michigan highway causing an extensive backup amid the smell of burning meat. The driver told police "he was reaching for something behind his feet and was distracted" before the refrigerator truck crossed the median strip, turned onto its side and burst into flame. Crews were on the scene for nearly five hours cleaning up.

8 TURKEY

An internationally acclaimed Turkish journalist has published a column full of gibberish in mockery of a criminal case against him. Prosecutors accuse Yavuz Baydar of insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in two columns. He denies that his columns amounted to insults. Baydar's is the latest in a string of newspaper protests by opposition media in Turkey.

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since 1975

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NO CORKAGE CHARGE. FULLY LICENSED
DCC BYO ACCORD APPLIES

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Poppa's - Mmmmm!

Grapevine

"As a big developing country, China is confronted with multiple complex security threats ... the PLA also carries out military operations other than war, including domestic emergency rescue and disaster relief, international peacekeeping and international rescue ... China also has to cope with threats of regional terrorism, separatism and extremism activities. So, China needs to maintain a certain scale of troops, which is completely for a purpose of defence."



Senior Colonel Yang Yujun

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) will reduce its forces by some 300,000 troops, President Xi Jinping announced, though with more than two million service members, the country will still field the world's largest military. Xi announced the cuts as evidence of China's commitment to world peace; however, a

closer look suggests the move is another expected step in a military modernisation programme that has spanned three decades.

"Things can and they will change. I say thank you in advance to us all working together to achieve great victories, not just electorally for Labour, but emotionally for the whole of our society to show we don't have to be unequal, it doesn't have to be unfair, poverty isn't inevitable."

Jeremy Corbyn — British Labour Party leader

In a major upset that could make the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union more likely, the country's Labour Party has elected leftist Jeremy Corbyn as its leader. Corbyn won nearly 60 percent of the vote in a four-person field despite opposition from some of the party's most senior figures. Corbyn was not initially favoured to win, but he struck a chord with many Labour supporters by offering wealth taxes and nuclear disarmament.



"They came because they were promised things, and a better life. But they don't live better here, and it's very expensive. They don't want money, they don't want anything from this country. They want to go back. They are appealing to the United Nations, or any country in the world, to get them out of here."



Ali Jalil Ahmad — Uruguay's Islamic Center

Five Syrian families that were given asylum in Uruguay in 2014 are demanding they be taken somewhere else, complaining of conditions that "don't allow them to live". The families have been living in Uruguay for almost a year. But, the families gathered at Independence Square in Montevideo, just outside the presidential offices, holding bags with all their belongings.

"This step became necessary. The great willingness to help that Germany has shown in recent weeks — by full-time employees and especially by the many thousands of volunteers — must not be overstrained."

Thomas de Maiziere — German Interior Minister

The German government has announced that it would implement temporary border checks after being overwhelmed by waves of migrants and refugees entering the country. Berlin announced that the measures would be taken first on the southern frontier with Austria, where migrant and refugee arrivals have soared since Angela Merkel effectively opened Germany's borders. Germany said it has taken in at least 50,000 migrants and refugees in the last week alone.



FACTS & FIGURES



0.0001 seconds

The Earth's revolution increases by this much annually.

Your birthday

You share it with at least nine million other people in the world.

20 million tons

The weight of the average iceberg.

28 miles per hour

The speed at which the initial spurt travels when a man ejaculates.

"Arachibutyrophobia"

The fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth.

178

The average number of sesame seeds on each McDonald's BigMac bun.

500,000

The number of detectable earthquakes in the world each year.

11

The age of the youngest pope.



Thousands Run in the Dunedin Marathon

» OTAGO STUDENTS RACE TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

Nearly 2000 people took part in the 37th annual Cadbury Dunedin Marathon on Sunday 12th September. A group of 21 Otago students used the event to raise \$4,800 for the Do It In a Dress campaign, raising money for One Child - an education initiative for young girls in Africa.

The first person to arrive at the finish in just 2:45:40 was overall winner Romain Miroso. He was closely followed by the quickest woman, Mel Aitken, who posted a time of 2:56:56. Tony Payne won the half marathon in 1:08:25, backing up his win in last year's full marathon in style, while Rachel Kingsford set a new women's half-course record with a 1:19:30.

All of the MSGA runners completed either the quarter or half marathon. The money raised will go towards upgrading school facilities, individual education scholarships and community health and sanitation facilities that all make it easier for girls to go to school.

Adele Macgregor, the Otago co-ordinator for the Medical Students for Global Awareness (MSGA), helped organise the fundraiser. MSGA is a nationwide network of medical students who are passionate about addressing health

inequities on a local and global scale.

Macgregor was inspired to do the event after attending a conference in Sydney last year: "Chantelle Baxter, the founder of the One Girl charity organisation spoke to us and told us of her journey. Her story really hit home."

The One Girl organisation works with young girls in Sierra Leone and Uganda, "which are some of the worst places in the

world to be born female." In Sierra Leone, as few as 1 in 6 girls are able to attend school.

MSGA plan on continuing their work with One Child in the future, adding "The dresses are being handed down to our second-year students, so I'm sure they will be doing something similar next year." ●

doitinadress.com/team/elm-diiad-team-2015




Need an MP?

David Clark
MP for Dunedin North

I'll be on campus in the Link from
1:00pm - 2:00pm on Friday 25th September

- 03 474 1973
- david.clark@parliament.govt.nz
- fb.com/DavidClarkMP

Labour NZ

Authorised by Dr David Clark, 32 Albany Street, Dunedin

The 2015 Rugby World Cup Kicks Off

» ALL BLACKS ENTER AS FAVOURITES TO DEFEND TITLE

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

It seems like only yesterday that Richie McCaw was proudly holding up the William Webb Ellis Cup in the middle of Eden Park and John Key was performing his infamously awkward triple handshake after the All Blacks won the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

Pool A has been labelled as the "group of death", and hosts England are far from guaranteed an easy passage into the quarter-finals, with tough matches against the Aussies and co-hosts, Wales. Home-ground advantage will count for something though — as proven twice by the ABs. The lower ranked Fijians are more than capable of causing an upset, so it's only 19th-ranked Uruguay that are a near

certainty to head home early.

South Africa are favourites to top Pool B, but who will join them in the next round is a tough call. Japan has not won a World Cup match since 1991, and the United States' record is only slightly better. Scotland have been the Six Nations wooden-spooners for three of the last six years, so that could leave the door open for our bros from Samoa to make it to the knockout stage.

The top-ranked All Blacks look to have the easiest passage to the knockout stages in Pool C, having never lost to any of their four opponents. Namibia is the lowest ranked team in the tournament, and Georgia isn't the most

feared rugby-playing nation. This means the match between Argentina and Tonga could

well decide who goes through alongside the ABs, provided everything goes according to plan.

Pool D should see Ireland easily through as they have won the Six Nations in the last two seasons. France should also make it through at the expense of their neighbours Italy and could well be the All Blacks' opponents in the quarters. Relative minnows Canada and Romania would probably be exceeding expectations if they managed to pick up any points.

As is always the case at major tournaments, there is room for some surprising results. However, if everything goes to plan, the All Blacks have a great chance to make history and become the first three-time champions and also the first to win back-to-back World Cups. We are backing black and will have plenty of coverage of the 2015 Rugby World Cup in our last two issues of Critic for the year! ●



ROAD TO THE FINAL

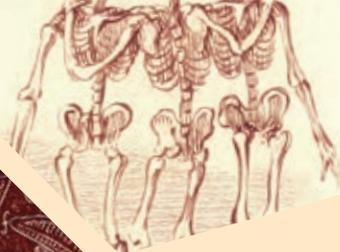
POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D
Australia (2)	South Africa (3)	New Zealand (#1 in world rankings)	Ireland (6)
England (4)	Scotland (10)	Argentina (8)	France (7)
Wales (5)	Samoa (12)	Tonga (11)	Italy (14)
Fiji (9)	Japan (13)	Georgia (16)	Romania (17)
Uruguay (2)	USA (15)	Namibia (20)	Canada (18)
QUARTER-FINAL 1: Winner Pool A vs Runner-up Pool B	QUARTER-FINAL 2: Winner Pool B vs Runner-up Pool A	QUARTER-FINAL 3: Winner Pool C vs Runner-up Pool D	QUARTER-FINAL 4: Winner Pool D vs Runner-up Pool C
SEMI-FINAL 1: Winner of QF 1 & 2		SEMI-FINAL 1: Winner of QF 3 & 4	
FINAL: Winners of semi-final 1 & 2 meet at Twickenham Stadium in London on 31 October			



ARCH210 Special Topic: Archaeology of Maya Civilisation

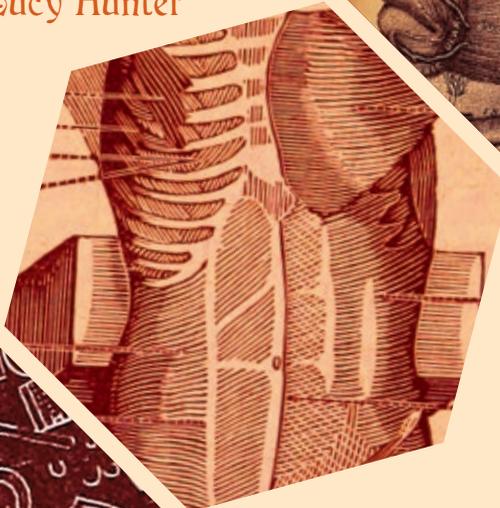


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dignity deathⁱⁿ

Lucy Hunter



“Say you want to leave your body to us, we may get it almost straight away, within a couple of months, or we may wait several decades for it” says the friendly operator at the anatomy museum on Tuesday morning.

Chris Smith is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and guided tours of the museum. He shows me around— the plaster casts of bodies, the delicate membranes encasing a bottled digestive system, and a plastinated female torso. He lifts off the front of her abdomen to show me how the guts fit inside, and explains how they squash up during pregnancy in answer to my question of whether your organs can move around inside you. I'm agog at this ex-person. Is it a "she" or an "it"? How can he just touch her like that? Why have they chosen to leave the body hair on her? How long will she be around for?

Chris kindly shows me into the dissecting room. 32 body bags are lying on tables in the meticulously clean, tidy, brightly-lit space. There is a distinct but not overwhelming odour. It's different to what I thought it would be – neither chemical nor fleshy, more of a sour smell. An old smell. I wonder what the people inside the bags look like after half a year of dissection. We exchanged some hushed words about the careful respect with which the students treat the cadavers. Many choose to reassemble the bodies they have dissected before they go to be cremated after a year on the students' slabs. Overhead speakers play The Red Hot Chili Peppers.

"If I wanted to examine your body after you died, of course the quicker I could get it the better" says the delightful old anatomist to me on Tuesday over coffee. "Nice and fresh, and then I could do whatever I wanted with it quickly, you know."

But he may not be able to get my body as fresh as he would want it. "You would have to act in some pretty unethical ways to get it that quickly. Whereas, if someone has donated their body, you get it pretty quickly and there are limits. But sometimes you've got to accept it will not be ideal." Scientists who use human tissue are aware of the tension between sourcing ideal material to do the research they would like to and the necessary ethical constraints around doing that.

Emeritus Professor D. Gareth Jones is an anatomist, neuroscientist, and bioethicist. He spoke to me about the "bleak and questionable past" of anatomists, particularly in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He has devoted a lot of effort to improve the relationship between anatomists and the communities they rely on for bequeathed bodies. As an anatomist, he says, "One of the things that you realise is that you are doing things to bodies which no one else can do in this society." He gives the example of an ordinary person keeping a dead body at home for a long time, and even cutting them up. "Now, we look upon that as being deeply pathological and not the sort of thing normal people will do. But when you think about what happens in an anatomy department, in the dissecting room, you are doing these sorts of things –things that are not allowed to be done by anyone else within the society at large. You can only do this because of the goodwill of that society."

Gareth has worked passionately to encourage anatomists around the world to cultivate a trusted relationship with the people in their community. He told me about the yearly thanksgiving ceremony put on by Otago medical students to honour the donors whose bodies they work with, the work of anatomists and biological anthropologists to deal with ancient remains respectfully, and the ethical conundrums surrounding some of the older specimens in the anatomy and pathology museums. Gareth is strongly opposed to the use of unclaimed bodies in anatomy departments, a practise that still exists in some countries. "Obviously that person has never given his or her consent for their body to be used in this way."

Plastination is a fairly new process in preserving animal tissue, and has presented bioethicists with a new set of ethical concerns. In 1977, pathologist Gunther von Hagens developed the technique of replacing water and fat in animal tissue with certain plastics, creating specimens that can be touched, do not smell or decay, and retain most properties of the original sample. Gareth and his co-author Maja I. Whitaker explain how plastinated human specimens are far superior to anatomical

models "because they illustrate real human material with its considerable anatomical variability mirroring what is found in the more traditional dissecting room." The plastinates are virtually indestructible, a quality von Hagens believes is a form of immortality for his donors.

Von Hagens has perfected his techniques and used them to create whole human plastinates for public display in what he calls the "democratisation of anatomy." In his infamous Body Worlds exhibitions, plastinated people are posed to resemble athletes: a basketball player, a ballet dancer, and a gymnast to name a few. Some of the more controversial exhibits portray plastinates having sex, a pregnant woman reclining placidly with her abdomen gaping open to reveal a foetus, and various whimsical scenes of plastinates playing games or instruments. The exhibits show off, as Gareth and his co-author write, "skill of a level that cannot truly be appreciated by those without dissecting experience." But some anatomists find the displays distasteful, and even unethical, as they push the limits of what is educational anatomy into the realm of sensational, shocking entertainment.

Gareth is one of these anatomists. He is struck by the way the plastinated people are shown as though they are alive, when "they're as dead as anyone. They're shown with serene looks on their faces. They seem almost happy, enjoying themselves." The ballerina, he says, was almost certainly not a ballerina when she was alive. In fact most of the corpses used would have been very old people, made to look young. Actual anatomical information on the plastinates is scant and a minor part of why most people would go to see the exhibitions. "There's this entertainment element to it, which is not necessarily bad, and I suppose we like to be entertained by a lot of things, and we can learn from them, but a lot of people feel uneasy about the actual tension here."

Why do we care so much about what happens to our dead bodies, and the remains of other humans? Why does human dignity continue to be important after we have died, when our bodies are, technically, inanimate objects?

"So if you died and you'd said "I want you to do x and y to my body"" says the

enthusiastic bioethicist to me on Tuesday afternoon, "If we don't do that or we do something different, we're not carrying out your wishes, it seems like we're doing something wrong. But, given that you're dead, how can anything be bad for you now?"

I spoke to bioethicist Dr Mike King about the special concern we as people have for the treatment of human bodies. He has co-written work with Gareth and Maja on Gunther von Hagens' plastinates. "There seem to be a lot of contradictions around these bodies. They seem very lifelike, and yet they're dead. Their internal organs are put on the outside and exposed. They are both real and artificial. There are ways in which people relate to them, in some sense, as a future "them", yet it seems somehow other than them. All these kind of dualities around them."

When it comes to carrying out the wishes of people who want certain things done to their bodies, there seems to be a natural intuition surrounding what we should and should not be allowed to do. "Human dignity" is a term used by some philosophers to describe the sense that by being human we all possess a special value that can be destroyed or desecrated by certain acts performed on our bodies. So when someone like Gunther von Hagens offers the option of plastinating, posing, and displaying dead human bodies, many people are offended by what seems to be a lack of respect for dignity in the treatment of human remains.

Human dignity permeates the thought behind the socially accepted treatment of corpses. The New Zealand law against necrophilia explicitly mentions "indignity to any dead human body or human remains " as a reason to make it illegal. Some philosophers back dignity, or an innate respect and reverence for any human body, because it seems instinctual and universally important.

Mike questions the concept of innate dignity with regard to dead bodies: "To say all humans have a dignity is one thing. But more needs to be said. What is this special value or quality, and what properties does it depend on? Is it another word for our autonomy, or is it some other value, that can conflict with

our autonomous wishes? Crucially, do our bodies continue to have it after we die?" We can't make sense of the "interests" of a corpse in the same way we can with a living person, who can experience benefits and harms. But there continue to be strong arguments for and against "posthumous harms." Perhaps some interests persist after we die, but it is a complicated area and not universally agreed upon.

The concept of human dignity seems to limit what people can have done to their own bodies. "Say I wanted – I don't really want to give an example – but something really undignified done to my body after I died, that any reasonable person would think was undignified, then human dignity could give a reason for someone to say that my wishes ought not to be carried out. Rather than respectful treatment being the carrying out of my wishes, in fact it's a constraint on what wishes I can have that can be carried out."

The acceptable treatment of human bodies varies so widely in different cultures that if somebody from one society were to look at another's funeral customs they may assault our sense of "dignity" for corpses to the point of offence. "Sky burials" in Tibet involve leaving a corpse in the mountains to decompose and be eaten by vultures and other animals. Some cultures still practise ritual cannibalism of the recently deceased as part of the grieving process. We in New Zealand tend to embalm our dead, a strange thing to happen to a "person" if you stop to think about it.

What is the harm in allowing people to choose their own, perhaps unconventional treatment? Keith Richards said recently that he would like his children to snort some of his ashes when he's cremated, just like he did to his father's. Some tattoo artists are offering a service where human ashes are mixed into ink and tattooed into loved a one's flesh. Australia's first "body farm" opened in April, where people can donate their bodies to be left to decay in different outdoor environments for homicide investigators and students of anatomy and other sciences to study. More extreme, what about the case of Armin Meiwes, a German who found somebody to agree to be killed and cannibalised by him? If two people enthusiastically consent to Gunther

von Hagens arranging their corpses so they are copulating for perhaps centuries to come, who are we to stop them?

When people bequeath their bodies to the medical school, they expect strict codes of dignity to be mandatory. So if the medical school were to offer to fulfil the wishes of anybody who wanted to have their dead body mounted on a horse or skinned for display, many potential donors could be put off in the name of human dignity. That's where Gunther von Hagens comes in. If you want your body to be playing a Stratocaster or pole-vaulting into mid-air for the foreseeable future, he may be able to make that wish come true.

Mike is curious rather than uneasy about some aspects of these exhibitions. He believes the cadavers used in the displays have an interesting aesthetic element, and they are "often given the same fantastic qualities as fictional monsters." The exhibits' uncanny contradictions of life and death, animation and in-animation, real and fake, and the incredible technical skill of the displays can have legitimate value aesthetically, a continuing topic of debate among anatomists.

I think back to the dissection room, the altruism of the donors, the good intentions of the medical students, and the things done to the cadavers that would be pathological in any other setting. Respect for dignity can be a confusing idea for treatment of dead bodies. Reminding medical students that they should respect the dead body seems like the right thing to do, but this requires some work to make sense of, since it seems to conflict with the way we show respect for dead bodies in other areas of our life. "That means these situations can be quite demanding and go against what you would normally do in any other part of your life. Dead body? You'd be sad, you'd be at a funeral. Now you're in a room, you're cutting it open, you're sawing it, you're skinning it, all kinds of difficult things to do. The way you overcome that is you remind yourself this person wanted it done."

So if you were dead, and I had your body, what would you want me to do with it?

by Mandy Te & Gini Jory

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Written during what France hails as its Golden Era, Gaston Leroux's novel, *The Phantom of the Opera* stood out for several reasons. While his contemporaries were writing stories that reflected reality and our everyday lives, Leroux had returned to the gothic genre — one of mystery and supernatural events. It also reflected the history of the French Revolution, with references to class disparity through his characters and the structure of the story's setting — the Paris Opera House, the Palais Garnier. Last Thursday, the Dunedin show of *Phantom of the Opera*

opened, so we take a look at the story behind the production.

Leroux's novel was based on events that occurred at the Palais Garnier in the nineteenth century. At the time of Leroux's novel, it was thought that a ghost haunted the Palais Garnier, a mysterious phantom, malevolent in nature. They would ward him off by placing a horseshoe above the entrance to the right stage wing. Many claimed they heard voices around box five, and it was believed that it was the ghost of the mysterious Erik. Witnesses even claimed to have seen the ghost in

Erik's usual garb, including the black cape and mask that have become the trademark costume of the Phantom today.

Another influence was an old myth concerning the use of a ballet student's skeleton in an 1841 production of *Der Freischütz*. Historically, there were underground tunnels and a lake beneath the Palais Garnier, and the chandelier did fall, starting a fire and killing a woman. It is also believed that the character of the Phantom was based on a real person, involved in the building of this opera house, who had his own

private box, number five, as does the Phantom in the story. This original Erik fell in love with a singer and, upon being rejected, kidnapped her. She was, however, found and shortly afterwards left Paris, reflecting the relationship between the fictional phantom and Christine Daaé in the novel.

The Phantom of the Opera focuses on the story of a young opera dancer, Christine Daaé, and the mysterious Phantom of the opera who, while teaching her to sing, falls in love with her. Once Christine is given a lead role at the opera house, Erik (the phantom) kidnaps her in an attempt to convince her to marry him. Christine soon realises he is the ghost believed to haunt the opera house. When she returns safely, she reunites and falls in love with her childhood sweetheart, Raoul. Unsurprisingly Erik is not impressed by this union, and the love triangle eventually leads to a dramatic and violent end. This all takes place while the characters rehearse and perform operatic shows under the phantom's threat of impending disaster should anything not be to his liking.

Originally written as a serial novel from 1909 to 1910 and published in a single volume in 1911, the original story was similar to the version popularised in musical form with only a slightly different ending. Many people believe that The Phantom of the Opera began in 1984 with the creation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version. The adaptations include theatre, film, children's books, comics and even games. It is referenced in pop culture innumerable times, and is the longest running show in the history of Broadway. There's even a Bollywood adaptation, Hameshaa,

but this is drastically different to the original.

After the success of Cats and Song and Dance, Andrew Lloyd Webber felt a need for romance; in fact, romance was something he had wanted to write his whole life. Lloyd Webber stumbled upon what he was looking for in New York, in the form of a second-hand copy of Gaston Leroux's novel. The music created by Lloyd Webber is one of the main reasons that The Phantom of the Opera has remained so popular. Michael Crawford, the original Phantom in this production, has the well-earned reputation of being one of the best phantoms, winning a Tony award for Best Actor in a Musical in 1988.

Visual aspects have always played a large part in the story of The Phantom of the Opera, whether through the horror of the Phantom's disfigured face or through the costumes or the visual effects that create the lake and smoke used in the Lloyd Webber production.

Nigel Donehue, one of the production managers for the Dunedin production set to open on 17 September, said that he fell in love with the musical in 1987 when his mother bought him the cassette. He said that the success of the musical is because anyone can relate to the story: "It is a story of unrequited love from a man who has been shunned by society through no fault of his own, who just wants to be loved, so expresses his despair and longing through his music." While the cast and crew have been preparing for the opening night for months, they have only had four full rehearsals where everything was put together. A production this massive requires a lot of people to help with it. Nigel explained that "more than 100

crew backstage (including floor crew, lighting, sound, makeup, wardrobe, props and stage managers), 23 in the orchestra, and 50 company members on stage" are involved. "It is a big job organising everyone."

Technical Stage Manager Garry Gibson "enjoys the challenge of making sure it all works on stage for everyone." He believes that it is the impressive technical aspects of the production that make it so successful, and the fact that it is such a powerful love story.

Ballet Choreographer, Robyn Sinclair, describes the show as "visually spectacular, it has romance, humour, special effects, dance, surprises, amazing set and costumes". The Dunedin Theatre Company's adaptation has involved a unique creative vision – one that has involved the community. Having first seen the show in New York with Michael Crawford as the Phantom, Sinclair found herself "skipping home afterwards", and she knows her excitement will be shared with Dunedin audiences. "They will be as enthralled by the overall spectacle and performances they see from our fabulous company," she remarked.

The show opens on 17 September and runs through until 26 September at the Regent Theatre ■



IMAGE: CC BY-NC 2.0 (flickr) Sleeves rolled up



The (Un)happiest Place on Earth

» BY JESS TAYLOR

As negative as it sounds, I've never been to the self-proclaimed "happiest place on earth". But chances are, neither have you. As touristy and overrun as Disneyland sounds (in all of its five locations), the internationally known amusement park is a staple on almost all bucket lists. There's just something about that fantasy pink and blue castle, the fake princesses and the fireworks shows that's endearing. Disneyland is comfortable and pleasant. Disneyland allows us to reminisce about our childhood through rose-tinted glasses, as if it was all Mickey Mouse, castles and rainbows. Disneyland is what we expect.

However, the amusement park agenda is being rewritten by notorious English street artist, Banksy. Banksy has coordinated the perfect antidote to our ample supply of Disney-style amusement parks, and it is as dreary as Disneyland is overwhelming. He calls it "Dismaland", an interactive "bemusement" park, a "festival of art, amusements and entry-level anarchism". Dismaland is a temporary art project running from 22 August

to 27 September 2015, and while it features the works of 64 different artists (including himself), it epitomises Banksy's disconcerting tongue-in-cheek style.

While Banksy is known predominantly for his clever street graffiti, Dismaland is his creativity on crack, as he brings his vision together in huge 3D displays. Where Disneyland aims to provide a carefree environment with an infectious sense of childhood joy for those of any age (however artificial) and an escape from the real world, visitors to Banksy's Dismaland are treated to what has been described as an underwhelming and confusing experience. They brave the park's immense queues for the privilege of wandering among bedraggled rides and bewilderingly confrontational art works. Tickets are cheap, at just £3 (NZ\$7.21), but incredibly hard to come by as people from all over the UK flock to England's Weston-super-Mare to experience Banksy's drab twist on the conventional amusement park.

Dismaland is packed with works. One that is particularly confronting, especially for the

English, is a portrayal of a dead princess in a written-off pumpkin carriage, guerrilla-style photographers swarming around her to get the perfect shot. While remaining an aesthetically appealing princess scene, this work, of course, references the untimely death of England's beloved Princess Diana and forces us to reflect on our celebrity-worshipping culture. How far will we go to invade and uncover the lives of those whom our society deems important — and at what cost?

Another particularly poignant and relevant work is a "game" where people pay money to drive a boat filled with migrants around a little pool. Grimly, they have to navigate through other migrants' bodies — there are no destinations the boats can reach and unload, which is an uncomfortably realistic reflection of the current international migrant issue.

Banksy's Dismaland has certainly been an unprecedented work and artistic experience. While the project initially garnered interest because of Banksy's notorious and intriguing reputation, it has become clear to visitors and critics alike that Dismaland is just one in a long line of Banksy's works that will cement him as one of England's most innovative street artists. This project also highlights another of Banksy's strengths — his malleability as an artist, an ability to keep getting bigger, bolder and weirder.

Banksy and a carefully chosen 63 collaborating artists not-so-subtly break down the traditional amusement park experience, dissembling our idea of the park as an inherently perfect and happy place where we can indulge in superficial enjoyment, ignoring the hardships and awkward questions of reality. Banksy injects these uncomfortable references into Dismaland because he doesn't want us to be able to escape political and social issues as we often can — he throws them back in our face like we've paid to see them. ◉





INGREDIENTS

SERVES FOUR BIG APPETITES.

- dash of oil
- 1 onion, sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, diced
- cumin seeds
- mustard seeds (if you have any)

- 2 cans of tomatoes
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp spice mix (garam masala/King Masala/noodle mix)
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- chilli — fresh, flakes or powder (optional)
- 2 cans of chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- ½ can of coconut cream
- 1 cup veges (frozen beans or a stir-fry mix will do)

METHOD

1. Splash the oil in a heated pot and add the onions, garlic and a good sprinkle of seeds. Sauté until golden but don't let them burn.
2. Add tomatoes, salt and spices. Stir and simmer to reduce the tomato juice. It should be orange coloured from the turmeric.
3. Add the chickpeas and cook until they are tender.
4. Add coconut cream, stir, then add the vegetables. Keep it on the heat for a few more minutes.
5. Serve with rice. Garnish with fresh coriander.



Coconut Chole Curry

BY KIRSTEN GARCIA

I'm blessed to live with an authentic Indian who teaches the Indian cooking classes at OUSA. I get one-on-one lessons when we flat cook, so I've come to master this curry business.

As my first appearance in Critic, I'm going to share with you my ultimate crowd-pleaser meal. I wanted to give you something you can make for the flat that's cheap, hearty and fancy enough to make it seem like you put in more effort than you did.

Chole is Indian for chickpeas. The fusion with coconut cream is a South Indian trait. Without even trying, this also happens to be a vegetarian/vegan-friendly meal. The flavour is all from the spice mix! Add those chillis if you like the heat. My fave mix is King Masala, which you can buy from the Indian store. One time I ran out and I compromised by using the packet flavouring from Korean instant noodles. It might have been the MSG, but it worked! Don't be scared — try it with your own leftover noodle flavourings at home. ●





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Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

» DIRECTED BY **ALFONSO GOMEZ-REJON**



REVIEWED BY **MANDY TE**

Based on the young adult novel of the same name, *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* offers the audience a refreshing take on the on-screen adolescent journey — one that is amusing, self-aware and skillfully made.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl is shown through the eyes of Greg Gaines (Thomas Mann), a self-loathing senior at Schenley High School. Greg goes through life with a non-committal attitude, navigating his way through his school's cliques by being a social butterfly, but one who does so in order to be overlooked. He

even prefers to call Earl (Ronald Cyler II) — his only real friend — his "co-worker". In their spare time, the pair produce amateur remakes of their favourite films together, replacing them with titles such as *Sockwork Orange*, *The Rad Shoes* and *2.48pm Cowboy*.

Describing himself as "terminally awkward" and having "a face like a little groundhog", the protagonist is, like the other characters, easy to like. The director's peculiar approach in incorporating Earl and Greg's own films gives *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* a down-to-earth atmosphere — one that the

characters also embody.

When Greg's mother informs him that his old childhood friend Rachel Kushner (Olivia Cooke) has leukemia, she forces Greg to visit her, much to his dismay. What begins as a mother-arranged playdate becomes a genuine friendship as Greg and Rachel get to properly know each other. However, as Rachel goes through chemotherapy and eventually decides to stop treatment, the pair get into a fight, pushing Greg to acknowledge his lack of selflessness and to grow from this revelation.

However, there are times when Greg's flaws and perspective are incredibly insular. With the storyline being told from Greg's point of view — one where he has to go and spend time with Rachel — *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* sometimes falls into trope territory. His parents, Earl and Rachel are all used to blatantly point out his lack of empathy, and thus they help Greg develop. But, interestingly enough, the audience isn't entirely sure whether he does fully outgrow this flaw.

Whilst Alfonso Gomez-Rejon's film poses some critical thoughts on its narrator's privileged perspective, the director boasts an inventive sense of style, and the film features a wonderfully apt cast that provides the audience with a film worthy of its 2015 Sundance Film Festival prizes. ●

A Walk in the Woods

» DIRECTED BY **KEN KWAPIS**



REVIEWED BY **NITA SULLIVAN**

On this occasion, audience attendance was sadly indicative of the film's quality.

Based on travel writer Bill Bryson's 1998 book, *A Walk in the Woods* recounts some of his 3500-kilometre tramp through the Appalachian Trail. Living a comfortable life in New Hampshire with his English wife, Catherine (Emma Thompson), Bill (Robert Redford) doesn't expect to write any more books. However, after attending a wedding and taking a walk near the Appalachian Trail, Bill decides to walk it with his ol' mate, Stephen Katz (Nick Nolte); the pair reconnect on this trip after having a falling out some 20 years ago.

Redford and Nolte's acting efforts aren't bad by any stretch, but at its heart *A Walk in the Woods* is essentially a collection of mildly funny and heart-warming anecdotes,

strung together by some natural scenery and grumpy, old, bickering men. Bryson's book, which worked well as an ambling monologue with intermittent musings and quirky anecdotes, unfortunately proves too slow-moving for the narrative-driven film adaptation.

The film's major downfall is in its details. Both men are twenty years older in the film than the book, and Katz looks nowhere near healthy enough to be walking anywhere. The recurring interactions that Bryson and Katz have with young and enthusiastic hikers (their jargon-filled trumper chat is annoying) and Katz's constant crude humour take away from any character development. This contradicts the film's premise. Bryson's insistent facts and observations about their natural setting are annoying and tiresome, doing little to speed up the meandering plot or encourage



any thematic growth.

There's nothing remotely deep about these two men's tramping experience. *A Walk in the Woods* fails to explore anything more complex than the fact that Bill Bryson and Stephen Katz are two men walking around and getting old. ●



Straight Outta Compton

» DIRECTED BY **F. GARY GRAY**



REVIEWED BY **SIOBON INU**

Before the film's release, *Straight Outta Compton* was gaining traction and hype — with suggestions of Oscar nominations, and also criticism of the film's erasure of domestic violence and abuse. Despite the main cast being unknown talents, the hype concerning *Straight Outta Compton* is, in every respect, well-deserved. It is a compelling watch.

The biographical film follows the rise and fall of N.W.A., an American hip-hop group that used music to discuss the harsh realities of their lives. Made up of Eazy-E (Jason Mitchell), Dr. Dre (Corey Hawkins), Ice Cube (O'Shea Jackson Jr.), MC Ren (Aldris Hodge) and DJ Yella (Neil Brown

Jr.), N.W.A.'s combined talent and street bravado revolutionised hip-hop music, turning it into an outspoken tool to address the "thug life" of gangs, drugs, violence and police brutality. Despite the group's success, their newfound fame not only places them on the musical map but also on the federal radar — resulting in jail time after a concert in Detroit.

Straight Outta Compton focuses just as much on the group's bond as it does on the music they made. When Jerry Teller (Paul Giamatti) begins managing the group, cracks start to show between Eazy-E and the other members, who are paid less despite putting the same work into

their music. Tensions arise, and when both Ice Cube and Dr. Dre leave, major revelations about Eazy-E's health and Jerry's embezzlement are exposed. But these eventually lead to the group's reunion and rekindling of their friendships, which had first brought N.W.A. together.

The characterisation of each N.W.A. member by an almost unknown cast is remarkably well done. The hard "hood" exteriors of the rappers are exposed for what they are — mere exteriors. The audience is given tough, vulnerable and flawed characters. Unfortunately, the female characters are reduced to long-legged groupies, single mothers, drug addicts or pregnant wives.

Straight Outta Compton deserves praise for its gripping storyline and for giving the audience a deeper appreciation for rap and hip-hop music. ●

Z

» DIRECTED BY **COSTA-GAVRAS**

CLASSIC

REVIEWED BY **SIMON KINGSLEY-HOLMES**

Any similarity to real persons or events is not coincidental. It is INTENTIONAL."

With one of film's most boldly provocative opening statements, *Z* offers a thriller that hits the ground running. The audience is thrown full force into a poorly veiled satirisation of Greek politics.

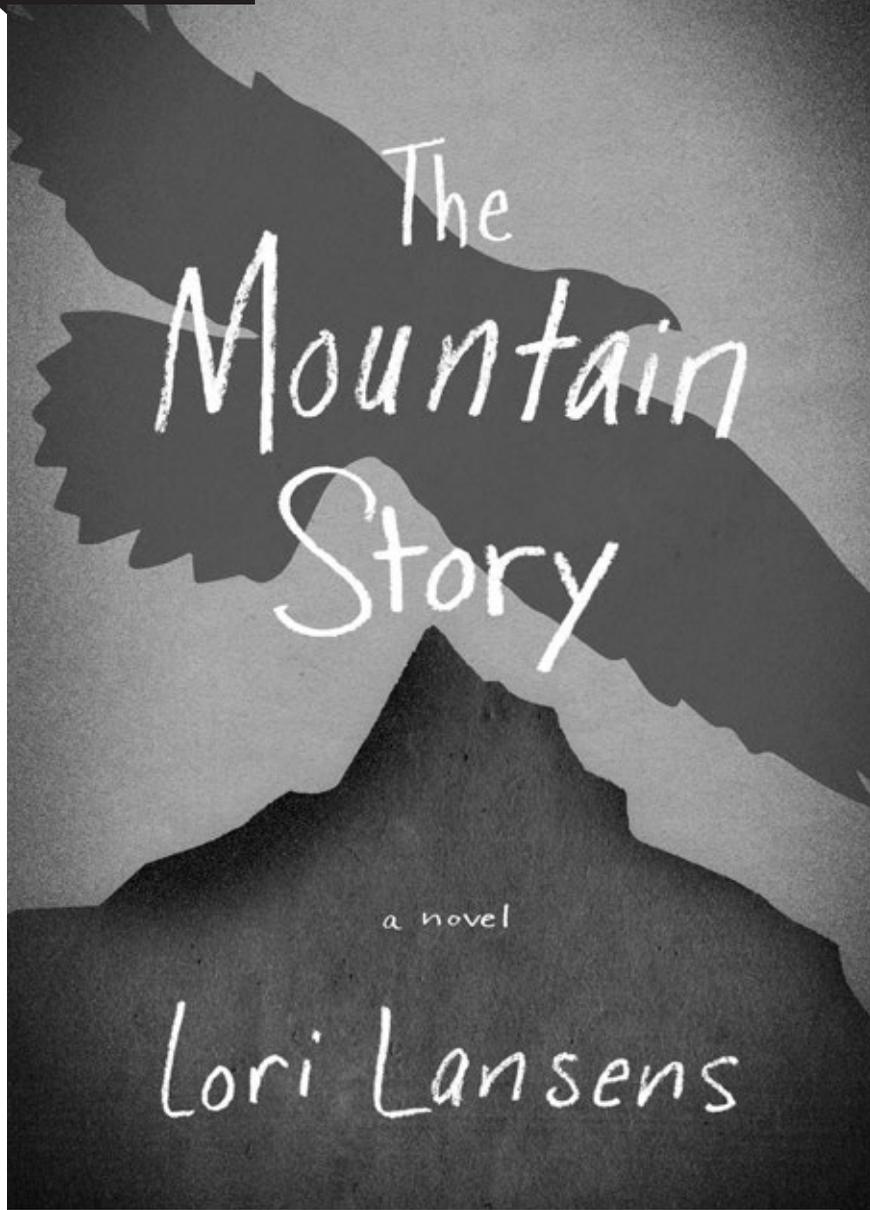
Screened in the Cannes Classics section of the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, *Z* is a (not-so-fictional) tale depicting the public assassination of a prominent left-wing politician. After delivering an unwelcome speech on nuclear disarmament, the Deputy (Yves Montand)

is struck by a man driving past in a delivery truck. While it's clear to the audience that he was not "run over by a drunk driver", the Greek police and military flagrantly attempt to cover up the Deputy's death. However, the hospital quickly dismisses their claim, proving through an autopsy that the Deputy was not involved in a hit-and-run. Very soon, news of the police conspiracy reaches the community, and an examining magistrate (Jean-Louis Trintignant) begins to investigate the case. With the help of a photojournalist, he uncovers evidence that throws the audience into a

socio-political scrum of power relations, faces and job titles, including bureaucrats, wives, journalists, heavies, informants, witnesses and generals — all of which reveal the corruption that takes place behind the government's closed doors.

With a terrific ensemble of actors, *Z* reveals the mechanics of silencing a country. The film's antagonists threaten and beat anyone who rebels, their power making them fearless when it comes to illegality.

Costa-Gavras is a master of the suspenseful, political thriller; he stays in the moment with a stylishly shot film that keeps the period alive — providing us with the prize of the truth and revealing that our rivals are those who lead us but seek to beat us into a state of compliance and apathy. ●



The Mountain Story

» WRITTEN BY **LORI LANSENS**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

The Mountain Story, by Lori Lansens, is a survival novel. On his 18th birthday, Wolf Truly takes a tram up the mountain he spent much of his adolescence exploring with his best friend Byrd. A year before, Byrd was in an accident on the mountain that Wolf feels responsible for. This, along with the heavy thought of Wolf's unreliable and unscrupulous father who recently killed two people while driving drunk, weighs down on Wolf while he travels. With no one left to care about and in the depths of depression, Wolf plans to commit suicide upon the mountain.

During the trip up, he notices three women. There's an elderly woman in a bright-red poncho who appears to be an experienced mountain climber. Another woman, in her late thirties, is freaking out over the altitude and insists on talking to Wolf, despite his evident reluctance. There is also a teenager, around Wolf's age, who is wearing impractical lime-green sandals. They all turn out to be members of the same family. The teenager is named Vonn Divine, her mother is Bridget, and Vonn's grandmother is Nola. They're there to find a lake unmarked on tourist maps,

which Nola used to visit with her husband before he died. Nola doesn't remember the way, and although Wolf wants to get on with his own plans, he feels he must help the three get to the lake.

Ensuing circumstances leave them trapped, with no way to return to the marked trails and narrow hopes of being found by rescuers. As soon as it's clear what danger they're in, Wolf decides that he no longer wants to die. The following struggle to survive is intercut with flashbacks to Wolf's troubled childhood and, as the four grow closer and more desperate, terrible secrets are revealed.

Some of the circumstances behind the group's suffering are perfectly feasible. Wolf elects not to take his usual rucksack and supplies with him because, obviously, he has no reason to suppose he'll need them. Vonn's impractical footwear also has a reasonable explanation. However, parts of the story feel a little overdone. Wolf's slowly revealed backstory contains an amount of misery that would be believable in real life, since some people are simply unlucky, but it does feel slightly contrived.

By eking out this information over the course of the book, reserving it to supplement shocking reveals, the reader is unlikely to feel put off by Wolf's unfortunate backstory while reading. But when reflecting on *The Mountain Story* afterwards, the number of tragedies that Wolf has to deal with and important secrets he has to keep is nearly ridiculous. The number of times Vonn's mother, Bridget, messed up also felt exaggerated. She ran off the trail, failed to cross over the improvised log bridge, lost the canteen and spilled the mints. It all seemed a bit much.

Despite occasionally veering near melodrama, *The Mountain Story* is a tremendously good read. Lansens is a master of sensory detail and realistic dialogue, and she never wastes a word. The themes of survival and family are satisfying on a primal level. And although she reveals a lot, Lansens leaves the reader with many things to think about. If you like survival stories, *The Mountain Story* is definitely worth reading. ●



Tales from the Borderlands

» DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED BY TELLTALE GAMES

REVIEWED BY **BRANDON JOHNSTONE**



A Telltale Games masterpiece has almost become a cliché. Tackling some of pop culture's largest franchises, from *Back to the Future* to *The Walking Dead* and *Game of Thrones*, Telltale Games crafts surprisingly captivating stories while avoiding covering old ground or clashing with continuity. For those who are unfamiliar, think of these titles as choose-your-own-adventure books in game form, with predominantly point-and-click gameplay and a story where you influence the plot by making a character's significant decisions.

Tales from the Borderlands is no different and no less engaging than the developer's previous titles. The game, a sequel to *Borderlands 2*, is set a little after villain Handsome Jack's psychotic power-play. Located on the Mad Max-inspired wasteland planet of Pandora, the player switches between control of lower-level Hyperion (formerly Jack's weapons manufacturing company), employee Rhys and con artist Fiona on their quest for riches. The story is told in medias res with your characters, who are being held hostage, explaining the events that led to their capture. Events include Fury Road-esque vehicular madness, a rocket to space and, of course, the fallout of the flawlessly written and voiced Handsome Jack.

Care has clearly been taken to make *Tales* accessible to an audience unfamiliar with the increasingly intricate world of *Borderlands*. By centring the game on an entirely new cast of characters and surrounding those characters with the established world, the scale of Pandora and its environment doesn't feel so overwhelming. There's certainly a lot of fun to be had between the witty writing, colourful characters and often goofy action scenes, whether you've visited Pandora before or not. However, at its heart, this game is a beautifully written love letter to *Borderlands*. The unique comic book-like visual style and grim-but-silly tone of the series are used in full force. Music is possibly used even more effectively than in other *Borderlands* games, with an impeccable sense of how to give a giant monster chase scene more punch and how to add charm to a tongue-in-cheek 80s action homage.

Characters from the *Borderlands* universe pop in and out of the narrative; even the most obscure characters and items from previous instalments show up in a way that feels genuine. Side characters such as the Jack-obsessed Professor Nakayama are referenced, consistent terminology is used for the technology and weapons, and the game's attention to finer details really brings it all home. Case in point, while Rhys and Fiona are tied up, your captor

is holding a rare shotgun from *Borderlands 2* called the Conference Call — there's no mention of it, it's just there.

The sum of these finer touches is a world that feels part of a cohesive universe and surprisingly doesn't waver from the feel and continuity of the rest of the series, despite being made by a different developer. Telltale Games has clearly worked very closely with series creator Gearbox Software on this title — the love woven in is palpable. The creators of the series have said they have planned out much more of the universe than what is seen in the series so far, or may ever be. This work clearly informs the decision making behind the scenes, solidifying the overarching narrative and the player's immersion.

Tales is being released online episodically, with four out of five episodes available now. Episodic releases can be pretty frustrating, and *Tales* is no exception as most episodes end with a powerful cliffhanger or gut punch of some sort. There's nothing to do but wait it out. This format has, however, really driven the online community into a frenzy of excitement, comparing morality choices and theories on the plot's resolution in the downtime between each release.

Tales from the Borderlands is an absolute must-have for anyone even slightly invested in the *Borderlands* universe, combining over-the-top action and genuine heart. Provided you submit to the heavy storytelling and morality mechanics, you're in for the ride of your life. ●



Kadington **Don't Kick the Cat, EP**

» **DANCE** | SPIRITED; 2015



REVIEWED BY **VERONIKA BELL**



The world of visual arts gave us Banksy, a mysterious graffiti artist who uses a distinctive stencilling technique and dark humour to critique modern life. Banksy's iconic political and social commentary has appeared on walls and buildings around the world.

The music world now gives us Kadington, an equally enigmatic figure. There's something fascinating about a hidden artist. That's part of why Banksy has been so successful — no one knows who he, she or they really are. But I wasn't sure a musician could pull off this smoke-and-mirrors approach. I couldn't see how to create a personal connection with a piece of music without knowing something

about the artist who created it. Kadington changed this. I am now totally convinced that Kadington will be the "next big thing".

Kadington made his, her or their mark on the world by producing the official soundtrack for the highly anticipated *Breakneck* video game. This game was designed by world-renowned app creators, PikPok. Kadington's soundtrack for *Breakneck* is raw and aggressive. In contrast, Kadington's new EP is like being blindfolded and taken on a blissful journey through a musical forest.

The five-song EP offers a glorious insight into what a full Kadington album would be

like. Seamlessly looping a solid body of sound with shimmering overtones, the opener "Candyman" perfectly introduces Kadington's production style.

"The Rise and Fall" shows an edgier side to Kadington, serving as the EP's punchy "club banger". By the third track, "Town Hustle", I was transcended into a side of Kadington that showed more euphoric production balanced with dark tones. This brooding power is decorated with upbeat and positive sound-bites, which make it really difficult to sit still while listening. "Ghetto Blaster" embodies a slower sound yet to be fully explored by Kadington.

The closing track "Breakneck" ends the EP on a resounding high note. This track reminded me of cutting serious shapes in an underground rave.

Don't Kick the Cat has left me riddled with curiosity as to what will be featured in a full-length Kadington album. Unlike many homogenous, ode-to-David-Guetta dance albums, each song on this five-track EP has a distinctive and exploratory production style. I am eagerly awaiting what this new enigma on the block will come out with next. ●



“One moment you’re being serenaded by fiddling valkyries, and the next a low-resolution ice demon is screaming in your ear.”

Myrkur **M**

» **BLACK METAL** | RELAPSE, 2015

REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

In a genre of stylistic sameness and poor gender diversity, one-woman black metal outfit Myrkur is a welcome breath of fresh air. Danish muse Amalie Bruun has emerged at long last with *M*, her debut LP as Myrkur. After a promising EP last year, Myrkur’s first full-length album has been hotly anticipated by the black-metal community. Press shots of Bruun standing in dark Scandinavian woods and posing with direwolves only added to the sense of gothic mystery surrounding *M*. Released on the legendary Relapse Records and featuring creative input from members of Ulver and Mayhem, *M* certainly has some reputable names associated with it.

Does *M* live up to its self-imposed hype? The answer is a tentative yes. *M* is a wonderfully atmospheric eleven-song suite with plenty of

room for improvement. As foretold by gloomy lead single “Hævnen” (reviewed in Issue 20 of *Critic* this year), Myrkur leaps between a frostbitten, aggressive brand of black metal and a sweeping folk-meets-classical grandeur straight from the *Skyrim* soundtrack. I enjoy both sides of Myrkur’s sound, as conventional as the harsh stuff is or as lovably lame as the Middle Earth segments are. What needs tweaking, however, is the ugly thrash-metal guitar tone of the former, and the often jarring transitions to the latter. One moment you’re being serenaded by fiddling valkyries, and the next a low-resolution ice demon is screaming in your ear. Myrkur often doesn’t traverse these styles as smoothly as she should. The seams of *M* are a little glaring as a result.

Forgiving some ramshackle structuring and

the overall lack of polish, there are some moments of real beauty to be enjoyed on *M*. Opener “Skøgen Skulle Dø” pinches the melancholic melody from Davy Jones’ locket in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films for a wonderful journey through the Scandinavian wilderness, juxtaposing the Enya shtick with scabrous metal sequences more convincingly than anywhere else on the album. “Hævnen” is still a sepulchral treat, particularly in its lavish classical outro. “Norm” closes the album with gorgeous lilac ripples of piano, capturing that velveteen sadness Kate Bush was basking in on *Hounds of Love*. It is on this solemn and achingly beautiful note that Myrkur leaves us. *M* might not have completely satisfied me, but it has left me optimistic for Myrkur’s future. ●

University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

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REPLYING TO: TPPA NO WAY?

Dear Politics Editor, Henry Napier;

Implying those opposed to the TPPA are 'gullible idealists' is rude, and undermines the intelligence you claim to wield.

The reality is those backing the TPPA know global resources are being consumed unsustainably. They are seeking new places to stake claims and extract wealth...and the

Pacific, including our small resource rich country, is rife with untapped potential. They certainly don't care about advancing this country or providing jobs; they want to make money! This is not a sinister conspiracy - this is indeed, as you put it, "business as usual".

Traditionally individual companies utilise lobbying and 'donations' to amend legislation that prevents their activities. The TPPA reflects a conglomeration of businesses, working to achieve this with one foul swoop - through the expansion of power the ISDS has. This is evident in the Wiki-leak documents.

And what can we hope to receive? Token payments mostly (such as the 1% proposed gold mining deal), oh, and having to clean up any mess left behind (Rena oil spill/ Serco prison 'fight-club' anyone?).

The TPPA is about corporate control, seeking to exploit local economies, consolidating big business. It demands our full attention and active participation - Show Us Ya Text!

Dirty politics isn't just a book,

Cam Wood

Keep the chat coming.

Dear Critic,

I couldn't help but respond to Henry's deflationary reading of the TPPA. He observes that we are already bound by Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions. This parallel legal system furnishes foreign investors with greater rights than New Zealanders and would be significantly broadened by the quantity and quality of TPPA parties - US investors have initiated twice as many claims as the second most litigious home state.

The examples marshalled by Henry show how the mere threat of ISDS creates a chilling effect on legislation. We have stalled our tobacco plain packaging pending the outcome of Australia's battle and two cases arising from the Argentinean crisis reached opposing results despite identical facts. Such uncertainty is unacceptable when the average cost of a successfully defended claim is US\$8 million and the USDA has projected a modest 0.01% difference in New Zealand's real GDP in 2025 relative to a baseline scenario premised on the existing legal framework.

Henry believes the TPPA is "politics as usual". The impetus is quite the opposite. Expropriation protections allow investors to discipline governments such that they promote privatisation and the rolling back of regulation, effectively quarantining perennial problems from party politics.

Oliver Hailes

NOTICES

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But then a short summer and long winter?!

Dear Critic,

The spring madness is in the air, and the necessary study and assignments having been slayed by the desire to sip alcoholic beverages in the sun.

This also happens every year.

So, I totally think the university should out exams in a different season...have them all midwinter so I don't have to worry about fake tan and studying at the same time...

If you could advocate this strongly in your forthcoming issues, I think the winter exam notion would gain more traction.

Thanks!!!
Marie

All the love for free food

Hey Scarfies,

Hey Critic,

Just wanted to do a shout out to the BREAKFAST CLUB who do free breakfasts erryday to feed our hungry tummies!

They are the best and always make for a good start to the day :)

Love
no longer hungry student xx

LETTERS POLICY

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

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PACIFIC VOICES XII



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Thursday 24 September 2015
10.40am-5.00pm

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University of Otago, Chief Operating Officer

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Yik Yak

They think i'm a basic bitch but little do they know, my favourite part of a Thursday night is Hunting Aotearoa	27
To the guy who was at new world today and picked up tampons, chocolate and a bunch of flowers, you're doing it right :)	230
Flatmates having sex next room and here I'm having my second dinner.	49
Went for a job interview at McDonalds wearing a suit..... Apparently I'm over qualified! 😊	59
Going into Kmart to buy a drink and coming out with a new baking dish, some Simpsons undies and a kids bike for a child you don't have	228
I ❤️ taking a big shit when all the flatties are out of the house	67
It freaks me out thinking that in 10 years time I will probably have children, a mortgage and a partner	66

Suck my dick world, I just cooked the exact right amount of rice.	67
At this point in our relationship, I'm offended if you don't screenshot my nudes 📸	49
I considered doing the Cadbury Marathon, but then I found out it involved exercise. Very misleading indeed.	118
If the flag changes there will have to be another IOS update to change the emoji 🇳🇿 🇳🇿 🇳🇿	66
Why would you date someone who isn't over their ex? That makes you a rebound. Are you a side order? Are you a garlic bread?	135
Is it normal to cry when flying away from your family?	27
Remember the days when your "sent" text messages were in a different folder to the "received" messages, so you had to find what you sent in order to understand what you just received 🤔🤔	262

in 20 years time: "mum, how'd you meet dad?" "well son, he commented 'snap, OP?', and it was love at first yak."	126
Sending a generic Snapchat to see if things are still awkward between us	66
When you're 10 friends deep into stalking someone on social media. I need help.	68





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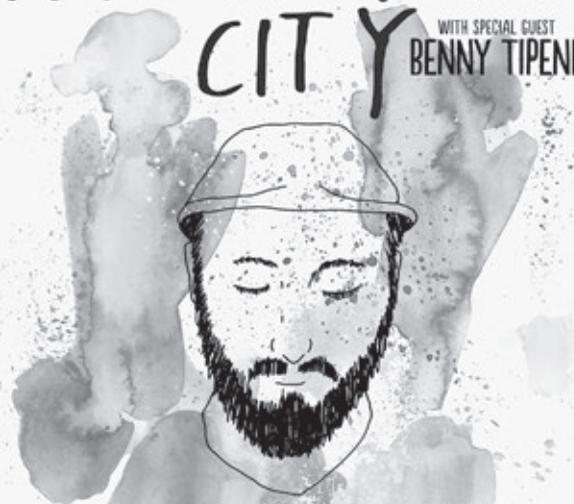
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Flatmate in Trouble

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

Dear Ethel,

I'm really worried about my friend. This guy, who's kind of in our close friend group, sexually assaulted her at a party. I don't think it's the first time he's done this either. The tricky thing is that we're all at the same college and it's got weird with our friends since then. It's like they're all sucking up to him and avoiding her. I'm the only one who's trying to look after her but she's really not OK and I don't know what to do.

I'm so sorry to hear about your friend. Sexual assault and rape are far more common than we think – for some reason they've become taboo topics that are not spoken about. For people who have been the target of assault or rape, this silence is dangerous. Even worse is the sort of victim blaming that you hint at in your letter: where people side with the perpetrator and exclude or blame the survivor.

You are already doing the first and most important thing that you can do, which is caring about your friend. Right now, she needs all the friendship, care and support that she can get.

Although it's hard, talking to the right people is really important so that the person can find support and begin healing. Encourage your friend to talk to someone; a counsellor, Rape Crisis (474 1592), Youthline (0800 376633) or an advocate at OUSA Student Support, who can connect with other specialty support services. We can also advocate for the student with college heads and University staff, or help them if they decide to make a complaint through the justice system, which can be daunting.

Experience of sexual assault and rape may severely impact on mental health so we would highly recommend seeing a professional counsellor or psychotherapist. We can refer students to a number of professionals experienced in this area. We can also assist when study has been impacted by these experiences, ensuring the student receives considerate, confidential respectful support from the institution.

Continue to be the great friend that you are and encourage your friend to seek additional help. It's also important that you get some support. You don't have to 'go it alone'. Please feel free to drop into 5 Ethel B so that we can make sure you're looked after too.

The more we connect with safe support, the more strength we build to help others and promote spaces where any inappropriate sexual advances or conduct will not be tolerated, where perpetrators are held accountable for their actions, and where survivors receive the love and support they need.



Louise Nicholas: A True Kiwi

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

The story of Louise Nicholas is familiar to many New Zealanders. Her battle with the police force over accounts of rape and abuse as a teenager in the 1980s was fought publicly. Since then, she has become a strong advocate for sexual violence prevention.

My colleague Clare Curran, the MP for Dunedin South, has secured Louise Nicholas for the fourth annual Dame Dorothy Fraser lecture, to be held on Monday 28 September.

Our culture needs to change. Louise Nicholas continues to speak out against sexual abuse and family violence in New Zealand. It is estimated that 1 in 5 Kiwi women experience a serious sexual assault in their lifetime. Yet only around 10 percent of sexual abuse crimes are reported. People like Louise Nicholas ensure that sexual violence is openly discussed, and that issues of underfunding and under-reporting can't be ignored.

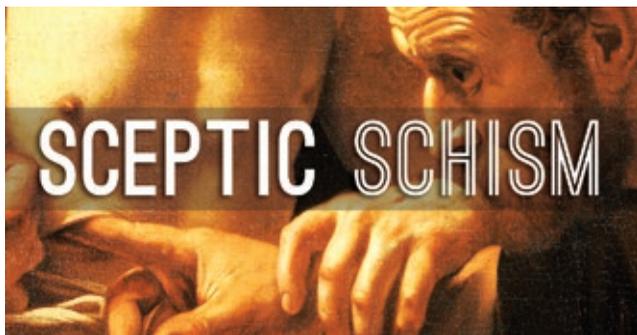
Earlier this year, my colleague Kelvin Davis walked from West Auckland to Cape Reinga to raise awareness for MASSIVE – Men Against Sexual Violence. Kelvin encouraged people to "speak out, intervene and educate" on sexual violence in New Zealand. His campaign had cross-party support. But there is much more to do. The government must stop starving Rape Crisis centres and Women's Refuges of funding. They help some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

I encourage everyone to attend the Dame Dorothy Fraser lecture. I was a fan of Dame Dorothy's. She was a Dunedin community stalwart, serving on numerous health boards and as a city councillor. This lecture series honours her memory. She was a trailblazer for women, and a strong advocate for her community who always had a twinkle in her eye. The lecture series has previously starred the Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, CTU President Helen Kelly, and former MP Dr. Marilyn Waring.

Louise Nicholas was New Zealander of the Year in 2007, and was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2015, in recognition of her courage, tenacity and efforts in sexual violence awareness. She now works with the police to help train officers in how to deal with rape victims. People like her are true heroes of our society.

Event Details

- › Dame Dorothy Fraser Lecture
- › 6:45pm – 9:15pm, Monday 28 September
- › King's and Queen's Performing Arts Centre, 270 Bayview Road, Dunedin
- › Louise Nicholas will be introduced by Labour's Deputy Leader, Hon. Annette King.
- › Email dunedinsouthlecture@gmail.com for ticketing information.



Intuition

BY WEE DOUBT



Pornography

BY T. ANTRIC

If you decide whether to have tea or coffee in the morning, there's probably no radical analysis of the situation going on in your head. If you sense straight away that your friend is happy to see you, you don't have to stop and slowly analyse their body language and speech patterns to work it out. If you play in a band with the same people for a long time, you can start to feel so "in tune" with each other it can feel like you are communicating psychically. It's magical. Intuition is real and helpful, to a point.

Intuition is defined as "something that is known or understood without proof or evidence". Natural News has a section called "Intuition News, Articles and Information". Stories include a woman who shunned cancer treatment to treat herself "intuitively" (without proof or evidence). I had a family friend who did just this — he decided that he could "sense" the cancer was gone from his body. Sadly, he passed away.

Intuition can also be used to justify prejudice if we trust gut instinct over analysis. Bioethicist Leon Kass has written on "the wisdom of repugnance", claiming that a common feeling of revulsion toward something is enough to conclude that the thing is offensive or wrong. While this may be helpful in some cases — eating rotten meat is usually bad for you — it could also be used to propagate terrible ideas. In the past (and even now), people may have "intuitively" thought that certain races of people are inferior to others, that women shouldn't be able to vote and that homosexuality is deviant human behaviour, simply because of a gut instinct. But if you find something repulsive, you need to be able to step back and ask why that is. Most people would find it revolting if some people enjoyed smearing poo over themselves while they have sex. But is it wrong? If all the parties involved are consenting adults who know how to avoid getting sick, who is being harmed?

Intuition is useful to us, but it can be used in place of "what I want to be true". Nobody wants to have chemotherapy or to have their dearly held beliefs challenged. But assuming that your guts are better at thinking than your head can sometimes lead to tragedy.

Pornography is a controversial subject, but it is now perhaps the most widely accepted and pop-culture-okayed controversial subject (although the discussion seems to be different for anyone who is not a boy). Nearly every boy I know is unapologetic about indulging in porn. Porn is so frequently consumed that there's no second guessing why certain boys start a morning lecture with their laptop's brightness right down, screens tilted forward, hurriedly smashing the volume button just in case (no, you're not being subtle).

Some people argue, however, that pornography is damaging the way we have sex — that teenagers are more likely to be pressured into doing sex acts they don't particularly want to with their partners because said partners have seen it done in porn and want to imitate it. On the other hand, things that once upon a time would have been considered "kinky" are becoming more by the by; enjoying a fist clutching your throat seems to be a normal part of a one-night stand now.

Porn could be adding to the list of what makes us self-conscious. There are things we never thought to be aware of until we watched porn: unrealistically large penises, perfectly even, small labia, smooth mons pubises with no hair or razor burn or ingrown hairs. Labiaplasty is cosmetic surgery that removes some of the labia of the vulva in order to make the vulva look more like that of a porn star's. There are never awkward moments in porn, no weird noises or fumbling while you try to get the condom on or try to find the right direction to point the damn thing. Everything is exaggerated and over the top — like moaning and screaming at things that in no conceivable way could ever feel good. (Please, stop putting stiletto heels in vaginas. I'm serious. Why are you doing that? Does this porn director genuinely think that is a thing women who have sex with women do? Trust me, we're not that desperate for a phallic stand-in that we use our shoes.)

I know we all like the unrealistic fantasy and something we don't have to think too hard about, but imagine how great sex could be if everyone who watched porn was being taught good information about sex, sexuality and safe sex — things that feel good, not just look aesthetically pleasing on camera, things that encourage healthy sex habits and open communication.

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Healing Broken Skin
BY ISA ALCHEMIST

We were told as children not to pick at scabs, as parents and teachers believed that exposing wounds to the sun would speed up their healing. There was some wise advice in this because picking off scabs with sticky fingers may introduce fresh infection. But these days there is a newer direction called "moist wound healing". Those crusty little scabs hinder the key drivers of healing that our bodies produce, preventing them from getting to the injured tissue.

As soon as possible, wash the area under warm water for a few minutes. Then apply an antiseptic, preferably an iodine-based liquid, to the wound. The trick is to wipe it on and off, which is easy with a liquid. With ointments or creams, use a cotton bud and spread it over the area, then wipe off. It's not like icing a cake, but more like cleaning a table with the goal of not leaving puddles or piles. Then cover it, but not with a bandaid, which would be like wrapping hot chips in plastic. Avoid gauze or crepe bandages too as these will stick in the wound and slow healing. One of the newer film or gel dressings is perfect. Even more convenient are the new hydrating gels, which can be applied directly. If you do use a dressing, leave it on as long as possible.

Dressings or bandages can be purchased quite cheaply as individual squares of varying sizes. Moist wound healing also reduces pain, and will prevent or reduce any scarring, and you will be delighted at how much quicker the healing process is.

The same principle of cleaning and covering applies to any area where the skin breaks down: pimples, blisters, bites, scratches and sunburn (I hear there was an outbreak of sun recently!). Watch out for the signs of infection too, which include redness, swelling and heat — head to the doctor if these occur.



Shrinkage
BY VIBHUTI PATEL

I Koro" is an Indonesian word meaning "shrinkage", which accurately describes what people fear when they have genital retraction syndrome, as it's called in the Western world.

People with this syndrome have an overpowering belief that their penis (though, it has been known to occur in women with the case of breasts) is retracting and will eventually disappear into their body. This syndrome has even led to epidemics, which have affected hundreds of people at a time and caused mass public hysteria and panic. Although reports of the syndrome are most prominent in Asian countries, it has been known to occur in people from around the world.

In China, koro is thought to be caused by evil female fox spirits and is characterised by the overwhelming state of panic or anxiety experienced by its sufferers. While it is physiologically possible for the volume of the penis to temporarily decrease when it's cold or when its owner is extremely stressed (this is called vasoconstriction), Chinese culture holds that koro is prolonged and leads to the loss of sexual power, impotence and eventually death. They see it as a reduction in the male's "yang" — which disturbs the harmonic, life-sustaining equilibrium of yin-yang. This is not ideal at all from their standpoint, and so sufferers are hastily treated with traditional Chinese medicines. Similar superstitions regarding koro are held by various cultures worldwide.

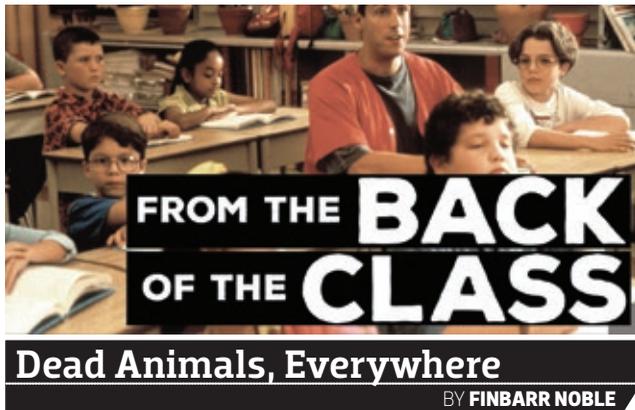
Even though many people believe genital retraction will eventually result in death, sufferers have actually died trying to stop this from happening by resorting to some pretty gruesome measures. Men have been known to anchor themselves to clamping devices, and women have inserted iron pins into their nipples in an attempt to stop their supposed retreat. Even if these measures didn't kill the sufferers, they always caused severe physical injury, bruising or infection.

Researchers don't yet know the exact cause of koro. Personality and psychosexual history may play a role, but it's interesting to note that the syndrome tends to be most common in cultures where reproductive ability is a highly valued marker of a person's worth.

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Senator Hiram Johnson is supposed to have opined that the first casualty of war is truth. Hillary Clinton has said that "women have always been the primary victims of war". I myself have stood in the war cemeteries of northern France and seen the white stakes above the graves of the young men, stretching out in serried ranks further than the eye can see. Yet among all these groups of casualties there is one that often goes un-noticed, a group of combatants who have even less choice about going to war than the men who were sometimes drafted: the animals.

Animals, of course, have been used since the dawn of organised warfare for transport, communications and even as a weapon in their own right, but we may not immediately associate them with use in modern warfare. Some nations, like the brave/crazy Polish, were still

conducting cavalry charges during World War Two, the most mechanised war the world had seen! However, by the twentieth century most animals were used for transport, communications and detection. During World War One, a 16-million-strong army of mules, donkeys, cats and the odd camel was deployed, resulting sadly in nine million of their furry little lives being cut short.

Some animals even have their own heroic war stories, like Cher Ami, a carrier pigeon who saved the surviving soldiers of the US 77th Infantry Division in 1918. Fewer than 200 men were left alive from a 500-strong unit and were pinned down in the Argonne Forest in north-east France. The Germans had them surrounded on three sides and were picking them off with gun fire, while their own artillery was helpfully shelling their escape route. There were no radios in the trenches and the communication wires had been destroyed by shellfire. Three pigeons were released. Two were killed at once and Cher Ami was hit too, but she kept flying. Blind in one eye, with an open chest wound and a leg hanging by a single tendon, she flew 25 miles to deliver the group's position to HQ. HQ was then able to stop shooting at their own men, which allowed the survivors to escape (and Cher Ami survived).

Among a myriad of other animals, some 20,000 dogs were also used to carry messages as well as helping the wounded, sniffing out the enemy, hunting rats, pulling gear and generally acting as morale boosters by lending a sense of normality to an otherwise hellish existence.

Animals are still used by the military today. The US has dolphin spies, the British have mine-detecting seals, and research is underway into bomb-sniffing bees.



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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.

Jacqueline

I don't know, at least she can write.

After arriving late at Di Lusso, I spotted a pleasant enough looking guy who was immediately introduced as my date. Unfortunately, things went downhill from there.

he normal chat started where you ask all the basic questions in hope of finding a common interest or just creating a good chat, but I am still unsure if this managed to happen at all. The majority of the time I was speaking to a brick wall and "I don't know" was the answer to any open ended questions.

The one conversation he started that had a hope of being entertaining, was that he wanted to plan a hilarious write-up for you readers. But alas, as soon as I asked if he had any ideas, I was greeted again with the classic "I don't know" response. We were left back at square one with no writing on his poor post it notes he had brought along for the occasion.

He invited me back to drinks at his flat then to continue to a party afterwards. I was in a weird situation already and didn't think things could get much worse so I agreed to tag along. I WAS WRONG! Whilst being shown around his flat and discovering his bed covered in rose petals, I still was not keen. As the tour proceeded to the lounge I saw the "drinks" at his were actually four people sitting on the couches staring at me. More red flags were raised and it was time to get out of there.

Due to the lack of creativity earlier and no desire to meet up again to plan his amazing write up, I suggested the idea of ripping each other out and being brutally honest. Flowing on from this, I made a joke in front of his flat mates regarding his poor chat and small penis, which didn't go down well. It was the perfect opportunity to leave and never return.

Sorry Critic, no raunchy sex in toilet cubicles or inappropriate three-somes. Just awkward small chat and no desire for another blind date! Lets see if he managed a creative write up for me – "I don't know" what to expect!

Jonny Drama

We are called Critic! Not The Critic. You just don't know.

I had just handed an assignment in on a Thursday afternoon and came home to a phone call from the critic. Morale was high and so was I.

The girl and I turned up to the bar at approximately the same time. I took one look at her and felt my morale hit the ground. Cupid must have missed his flight because I was not feeling the love at this point in time. I am no scientist but I could tell that there was no chemistry involved with this girl.

We sat down, smashed our plate of food, had a few tasty cocktails while the chat flowed like a frozen river. She was asking me if I could write her part in the Critic because she was too lazy. Where did the Critic find this girl? On Tinder? I kept suggesting we should do something outrageous, so at least we would have something to write about.

It was like trying to milk a stone - she was drier than the Sahara. We left the bar together and made the hike back home from the Octagon. All my flatmates were on the piss so I thought that maybe I could flick her off to one of them.

Unfortunately they weren't having a bar of it. Thanks for the dud.

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Voting happens online at voting.ousa.org.nz from 9am Monday the 21st of September, until Wednesday the 30th of September at 4pm. There is a static polling booth in the Link, opposite the Archway Shop from 10am to 2pm on week days and on the last day from 10am to 4pm – **free chocolates for every-one voting at the polling booth!**

Forums and Debates

- There will be a Presidential debate at 8.30am on Monday the 21st September, live on Radio One and vid-streaming live on www.r1.co.nz
- The Presidential Forum will be held in Burns 1 Lecture theatre at 5.30pm on Thursday the 24th of September. **Pizza will be supplied by Poppas Pizza. - thanks Poppas!**
- Administrative Vice President, Finance Officer, Education Officer, and Welfare Officer Forum: Tuesday the 22nd of September at 1pm, in the Main Common Room in the Union.
- Recreation Officer, International Students' Officer, Campaigns Officer and Colleges Officer Forum: Friday the 25th of September at 1pm outside the Main Common Room (MCR) and food court in the Union.

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