

# Critic

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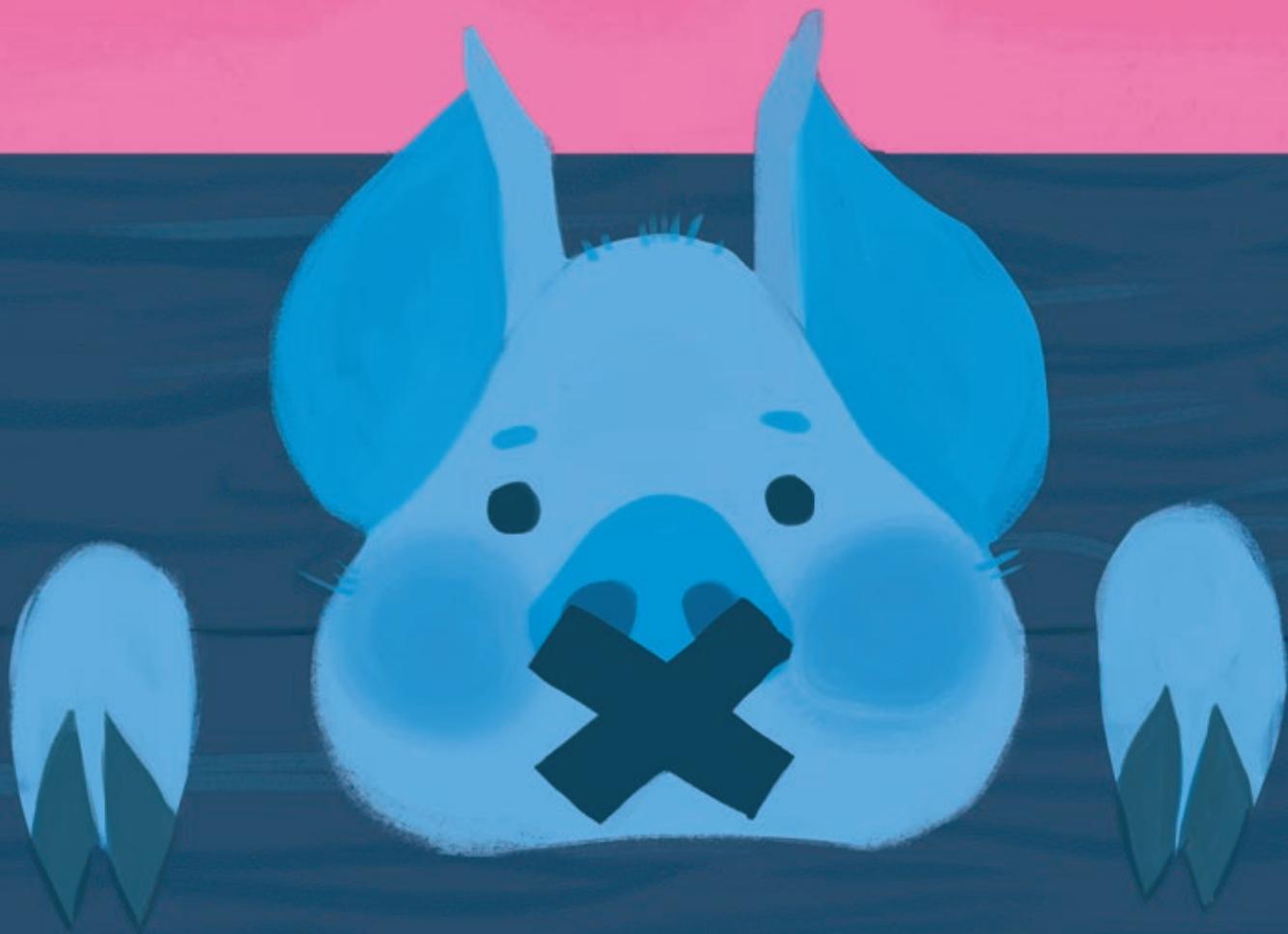
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// YARNS WITH CANDIDATES // CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE // RUGBY WORLD CUP // RED PEAK IN THE MIX // NEWS IN BRIEFS //



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## FEATURES

**18 THE NUCLEAR CLUSTERFUCK**

Nearly a century after one of our own first split the atom, many New Zealanders are living in a bubble regarding the nuclear issue. Offering a glimpse into the horrifying nuclear clusterfuck that faces the planet, this piece is dedicated to anyone who watched *The Dictator* or *The Interview* and wondered – even for a second – “what’s really going on with all those bombs?”

BY PAUL WINTER

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## OUSAA KILLIN' THE VIBES

Last week, we published the blurbs for the 2016 OUSA executive candidates. They sent us their blurbs so that you could have an idea of what they stand for.

To those campaigning, you are trying to be student politicians. Can't you rise above the dirty politics? Most students don't care about the stuff you want them to. Really, we just want to laugh at your videos.

Get your shit together and focus on a decent campaign instead of bitching at each other or Critic. Do some research to get some decent policies thought out instead of being so concerned as to how you can stop someone else winning.

It will make you look far less foolish than you look right now.

After years of Critic publishing the candidates' blurbs in whatever order we fancy and even occasionally endorsing candidates, this year some people had to have a whine. Apparently having your blurb positioned under the title is enough to sway the election and to order them in the order we received them wasn't fair enough.

The options given to Critic by the OUSA acting president and returning officer were to "either pull Critic or cut the six pages out of issue 24". Now, due to our "refusal to remove the relevant blurbs", OUSA are looking at "possible penalties". Yes, we are still confused why anyone thinks this is a decision for OUSA.

The issue for the exec (four of whom are running for the 2016 executive) is that five of the blurbs, which were first under the headings, belong to those running on the same ticket. A ticket is a bunch of candidates campaigning together and this year, and one in particular this year seems to be the big threat.

In this issue, we go a bit more in-depth than just self-promoting blurbs, asking the candidates how they will implement their policies and why you should vote for them. Someone will probably have a cry about this issue too, but hopefully they won't try to cut pages out.

Watching the discussion in the forums last week, it was impossible not to be bias towards certain candidates and doubtful of others. Just like you, we can spot a moron when we see one. The good candidates did what we should expect – they had prepared answers, they were talking to students, and they did the research behind their ideas.

Also, there's a thing called media independence. It means that we, as media, can say whatever we want.

Two weeks of lectures left! Play nice xxxxx

**JOSIE COCHRANE,**  
CRITIC EDITOR

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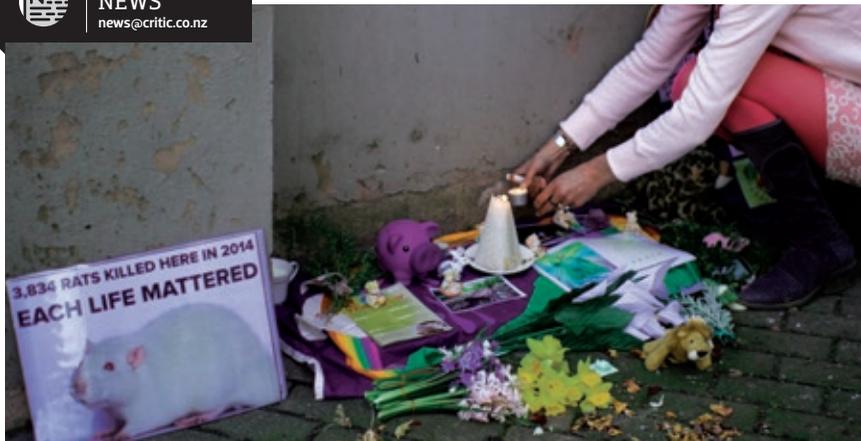
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# Critic

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## Vigil for Pigs Shot at Otago

» "WE'RE DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT TO THEM"

BY LAURA MUNRO

**A**nimal rights activists held a silent vigil at Dunedin's vivisection laboratory last week after learning live pigs were shot in the head during back-spatter experiments.

Back-spatter is the term given to blood and tissue that issues from the entry wound caused by a bullet and moves back towards the person shooting the firearm.

The vigil came just days after animal rights organisation, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), publicised the nature of the experiments.

The experiments were part of a collaboration between the University of Otago, the University of Auckland and the government-funded Institute of Environmental Science and Research.

Justin Goodman, director of PETA US's Laboratory Investigations Department, called for an end to such experiments in a press statement.

Goodman said not only is the "shooting [of] a living being" to test back-spatter "appalling" and "indefensible", it is also "bad science".

Goodman said manikins and computer modelling can be used in place of live animals, and can

also garner a better result. "[T]here are anatomical differences between humans and animals that cannot be ignored," he said.

A university spokesperson said the project was undertaken to help confirm whether a model head, which had been created for studying back-spatter, provided the same results as an actual human head.

"The project's purpose was to investigate the biomechanical basis of back-spatter from close-range gunshots, an area that had been little studied."

"[Back-spatter] is often important evidence in homicide cases and its accurate interpretation can be key to exonerating the innocent or convicting the guilty."

Since the data to validate the model head was obtained through the study, "no similar experiments are planned".

Carl Scott, spokesperson for the Dunedin Animal Rights Collective, also spoke of alternatives.

"Many alternatives exist which allow scientists to collect the data they need, yet don't require any animals to be killed. Also, because pig's skulls are so different than human skulls, it is difficult to imagine how the data they collected could even be useful," said Scott.

Scott said the reason for the outcry after PETA's announcement is due to the nature of the

experiments and the type of animals used.

"Vivisection has been talked about for many years, people are aware that happens," said Scott. However, people have a "soft spot" for pigs.

"They're very intelligent animals, a lot of scientists say they're more intelligent than dogs and as intelligent as a three-year-old child, and yet we're doing God knows what to them ... The violent nature of the experiments just has that feel of outrage about it."

The university spokesperson said the experiment went through a "robust animal ethics approval process" and was "conducted humanely".

The five animals were anaesthetised and "deeply unconscious", and a veterinarian was present for the procedure. The spokesperson said the animals were "closely monitored for signs of pain and none were observed".

Scott called for public discussion about granting rights to animals. "We believe the time has come for some serious public discussion about granting rights to animals; not mere welfare reforms ... It's time we started addressing this enormous and urgent issue collectively as a society, and started making the necessary changes," he said. ●





# EXECRABLE

## The Secret Sessions are Back

BY LAURA MUNRO

**A**n emergency executive meeting was held last Wednesday, three days after voting for the 2016 executive opened.

Admin Vice President Isaac Yu ran the meeting because the current president, who is running for re-election next year, was "out campaigning". The finance officer, who is also running for president, and the international officer, who is running for finance officer, were absent too. We aren't printing candidates' names because candidates complain all the time about everything and we wouldn't want to be giving additional exposure to some and not others.

The meeting was called to amend the dates for the executive's third quarter reports. Yu said the dates needed to be pushed back due to both the "unusually long election period" and the "large number of executives running for re-election", which means the reports can't be publicly motioned until the period is over. The reports have been shifted to Thursday 1 October.

Yu said he had received the "official wording" for the questions in the upcoming referendum. Five questions were submitted, all by one person according to Yu.

The added questions were whether students support OUSA's increase in funding to clubs and to groups that promote causes students have a "specific interest in", such as child poverty and environmentalism. Students will also be asked whether they support the Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival, and if they support OUSA's decision to leave NZUSA.

Critic was then kicked out of the room for strict committee as the executive were discussing issues of "personal privacy". ●

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WEIRD TOGETHER  
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# Ex-Cop Announced as Otago Proctor

» REPLACES THOMPSON WHO HELD POSITION FOR 15 YEARS

BY JOE HIGHAM

**M**inistry of Justice official and former police officer Dave Miller has been announced as the university's new proctor.

Miller is to replace Simon Thompson, who held the position for 15 years and retired on 25 September. Miller will begin his tenure on 28 October.

Miller, who is finishing up in his position as Otago/South Canterbury courts service delivery manager, considers himself "very connected with Dunedin and Otago".

His long police career, includes being a part of the Armed Offenders Squad, during which time he was called to the Aramoana massacre. He was also a police dog handler during the student riots of 1990.

Miller says he took the role as he hopes to "make the university a great place" by ensuring students "are in a safe and secure learning environment".



He said his "ability to work with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds" is a "key part of policing". He said the "communication and leadership skills" he learned with the force will help in his role as the proctor.

In a University of Otago press release, Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne said she is "delighted that someone of Mr Miller's calibre and experience will take up this important position in the University community".

Acting OUSA President Isaac Yu said the proctor has an "incredibly important role as they serve in a pastoral care role from the point of view of the university".

"In a perfect world," said Yu, the proctor "would be someone who is seen as tough but fair and someone who ultimately has the students' best interests at heart when it comes to managing issues." ●

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# 2016 Presidential Candidates

» CRITIC HAS A YARN

BY LAURA MUNRO

## PAYAL RAMRITU



Payal passionately discussed her neighbourhood project. Critic asked Payal to point out the biggest weakness of each of her fellow candidates, considering she has worked on the executive with all three. She felt Laura could be "intimidating", Nina was "too young", and Paul was "unable to look at the bigger picture". When asked which candidate she would prefer to work under if she were to win Welfare Officer instead, she declined to comment.

This year Payal has generally been the only one to go against her executive on certain issues, which she said she doesn't regret. When asked how she would handle an executive member who acted the same, Payal said she would rather the executive have differing opinions and they work through them.

Payal has spent "zero, zilch, nada, nothing yet" on her campaign so far.

## NINA HARRAP



Following heavy criticisms of Nina's policy that she will buy a student bar, we asked how it will be financially feasible. As Dunedin bars are constantly closing due to lack of income, Nina said it will be "more than a bar". During the week it will also hold events for clubs and they will have to pay a small fee in exchange for discounted drinks as well. We asked how it will be more financially viable than current bars with discounted drinks going too and she said she had crunched the numbers. Unfortunately she was unable to provide these prior to Critic going to print.

Nina said she plans to lobby the government and hold protests in order to change legislation to benefit students.

Nina's campaign video, **Shake It Off – Vote Nina for OUSA President 2016**, has been viewed more than 500 times on YouTube.

Nina has spent \$128.97 on her campaign so far.

## LAURA HARRIS



Laura was almost too well prepared for this interview (sorry, guys, we tried to push, but she wouldn't budge). Laura attempted to run for Education Officer in the by-election earlier this year, but lost to Zachariah Al-Alami. When asked why students would vote for her now when they hadn't previously, Laura said she has attempted to show students why she would be a good president.

Laura admitted that she had voted for leaving NZUSA when she was on the executive last year, though said that at the time she expected a new system to be put in place by now. Critic asked Laura to point out a weakness of each of the other candidates, which she said she didn't want to "engage in". When asked if she would point out a strength, she also refused.

Laura has spent \$351.87 on her campaign so far.

## PAUL HUNT



After a year as president, Critic asked Paul what he would do differently considering students lost a seat on the university council this year whilst Victoria University Wellington Students' Association managed to maintain both seats. Paul said he would begin campaigning earlier and be a bit more ruthless, but wouldn't go as far as storming the clocktower.

Paul also refused to answer the question on the other candidates' weaknesses. When asked if he feels he supported all of the initiatives of his executive, he said he believes he has. We asked if he Paul thinks there's a risk of being out of touch with students when you're heading into a second year without study, but he believes he takes more steps than most to ensure he is still in touch with students.

Paul is running on a ticket with four others and is yet to show us a snazzy video.

Paul has spent \$90 on his campaign so far.

# OUSA Executive Forums

BY BRIDIE BOYD AND JOE HIGHAM

## Presidential Candidates



**PAYAL  
RAMRITU**

**P**ayal went for an unusual tactic during the debate, claiming she doesn't need to run "any bullshit campaign ... I'm

already doing the work, making things happen right now."

The MC, and current OUSA acting president Isaac Yu, told Payal she had been accused of not being a team player in her current role as Welfare Officer. She argued this was untrue and said even if she personally disagreed with an initiative, she would support it and make it happen.

One of Payal's main platforms is her rental home improvements, and she said she has

drafted a letter template for tenants to send their landlords.

Payal modestly claimed that her biggest weakness was thinking she "had to be someone else" and that her biggest strength was her lack of self worth, saying "it's a quality everyone wants in a leader".

When asked what she would name a bar, she passed.



**NINA  
HARRAP**

**O**verall, Nina spoke confidently. Her main policy areas are a housing warrant of fitness, more government

funding for students, and to buy a student bar.

When asked why she did so little in her role as Finance Officer to reduce OUSA's financial dependence on the university, she argued that her role on the exec was "not a public one" and that she had been working on ways to reduce dependence.

The audience tended to criticise Nina's promise to buy a student bar, claiming that students already have a bar (ReFuel) and buying

another wouldn't be financially viable. Nina claimed that ReFuel is only a failure because of its location, so she would buy a bar in or near the Octagon, which Critic notes has some of the highest rent in Dunedin's CBD. Nina said if the bar did fail, she would sell "Throwback" for a profit.

Nina said her biggest weakness on the executive was not being able to separate her personal and professional capabilities, and her strength was her accessibility.



**LAURA  
HARRIS**

**L**aura went through her policy spiel: scrapping the seven-EFTS limit, and improving flats and student services.

Laura said the biggest issue facing students is a lack of student representation nationally and she wants a new national model of student presidents to be created. She voted to leave NZUSA in 2014.

When asked why she didn't deliver on her 2014 election promises as Education Officer, Laura said she had completed two out of three but, due to time constraints, struggled to keep her promise on student allowances.

An audience member why she should be president when her policy ideas could all be delegated to other branches, e.g. free flu shots was to do with Student Health. She believes the president "has to delegate", which she would do.

Laura said her weakness on the exec was "doing more than my job" and that her strength was that she has "no political aspirations".

Although against the idea, Laura would call the student bar "The Craftie Scarfie".



**PAUL  
HUNT**

**P**aul spoke of his desire to empower students, specifically through clubs and societies. He also mentioned

that the mental health of students was decreasing due to financial stress.

Paul was accused by the the MC of being an apolitical president, which he denied. He said his philosophy is that he prefers to take issues to the table and work through them.

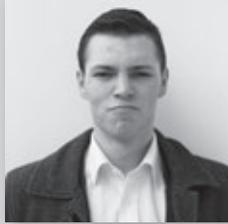
When asked to talk about a key part of his campaign, Paul said he wanted to invest in student entrepreneurs and offer them a financial kickstart. Paul then lapsed into financial jargon

while the eyes of audience members glazed over.

Paul said his biggest executive weakness was not being "out there" and in touch with students, for example, "I don't have Yik Yak." He said his biggest strength is that he has already been president.

Paul's student bar would be named "The Scarfie". How original.

## Admin VP



**LYNC  
ARONSON**

**L**ync, the only Admin VP candidate running individually, is a first-year health sci. Lync says he has experience working in a position of "authority". He wants to advocate for podcasting in all courses, as if we haven't heard that one before.



**BRONWYN  
BAILEY**

**B**ronwyn, who is running on a ticket with current president Paul Hunt, said she plans to lobby the DCC. She also plans to lobby the university to get a student bar on campus and highlight "the danger of drinking in flats".



**JARRED  
GRIFFITHS**

**J**arred wants OUSA to "stand up on issues". When asked by candidate Nina Harrap if his work for David Clark will hinder his ability to lobby a large number of MPs, Jarred said this is a strength because he has more contact with MPs than any other candidate.

## Finance Officer



**TOA  
SAILUSI**

**T**oa wants to improve the quality of OUSA's free breakfasts — he said it would "only cost \$50 to feed bacon and eggs to 200 students". Toa is currently the International Officer, which he says has given him leadership qualities and motivation.



**CIARAN  
CULLEN**

**C**iaran has no formal financial education, but has "taken an economics paper in first year". He said he will seek advice from OUSA staff and fellow executives, and was quick to call out the idea of buying a bar, calling it a "ridiculous idea".



**JESSE  
HALL**

**J**esse says he wants to "cut costs and increase revenues". He said he would have invested in the Cook if it were for sale, and says he would invest in the hospitality sector as Finance Officer, despite so many local bars recently closing due to financial difficulty.

## Education Officer



**DIEGO  
SANTAGATI**

**D**iego said he will make podcasts available for all lectures. When asked how he would do this, considering many departments are against podcasting due to student grades falling, Diego paused before saying "I don't know". We'll leave it there.



**ALEXIA  
COCHRANE**

**A**lexia believes we are here to be educated. No shit. Like the last 10 speakers, she and her ticket think "student associations should be unified". When asked which house she would be placed in had she attended Hogwarts, she said Emma Watson.



**MATTHEW  
SCHEP**

**M**atthew said OUSA's withdrawal from NZUSA gives students "less of a voice". Matthew says a new model should be put in place, like every other candidate. Matthew wants to reorganise the class rep system.



**BRYN  
JENKINS**

## Welfare Officer

**B**ryn was no stranger to the pity card, saying he had to work for two years to save for university. Bryn denied he is out of touch with students since he lives in Knox College (don't they all). Bryn wants curtains in flats.

# All the Awards at Blues and Golds

» MATT SMAILL WINS COACH OF THE YEAR

BY LAURA MUNRO

**S**tudent achievements in sports and culture were celebrated at the OUSA Blues and Golds awards last Thursday.

The Blues award for Sportsman of the Year went to Fa'asui Fuatai, who has been selected for the All Blacks' 7s squad after playing in the University of Otago Premier team. The Blues award for Sportswoman of the Year went to Stephanie Botting, who competed at the Life-saving World Championships in France last year. She came second in the Women's Single Rescue and third in the Women's Mass Rescue.

The award for Coach of the Year went to Matt Smaill, who coaches rowing.

Golds cultural awards went to Liam Kernaghan for baggiping, Chantelle Shatford for highland and national dance, and Ailis Oliver-Kerby for theatre.

Blues sports awards went to Chanmony Khieng, Soraya Umaga-Jensen, Katarina Schwarz, Patrick Dawson, Anya Noble, Sarah MacGibbon, Francois Cuccurullo, Lachlan



Davidson, Maddi McLean, Sebastian Buddle, Connor Harrison, Sarah Simpson, Hannah Kennedy, Hazel Cunliffe, Natasha Bonham-Carter, Fa'asui Fuatai, Brendon Timmins, Sean O'Connell, Stephanie Botting, Sophie Wilkinson and Soraya Umaga-Jenson.

The University of Otago Graduates' Association award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Culture went to Mariana Te Pou for Māori culture and David Stock, Hamish Annan, Jordan Dickson and Luke Agnew for theatre. Kane Welsh won the award for dance, SengWai Cheah for Malaysian culture and Laura MacKay for community service.

The University of Otago Graduates' Association award for Outstanding Contribution to

Sport went to Maddison Crawford for basketball, Conrad Goodhew for rugby and Tamati Brooks for squash.

Society of the Year went to the Otago University Medical Students' Association, the Malaysian Students' Association and the Sri Lankan Students' Association. OUSA Club of the Year went to the Otago University Debating Society, the Otago University Snow Sports Club and the Otago Campus Badminton Club.

Tash Austin of the Otago University Medical Students' Association received the Silver Service award. It was noted that she had been instrumental in gathering over 20,000 signatures to petition against the seven year student loan cap. ●

# DCC to Buy New Lightbulbs

» NIGHT SKY TO BE A TOURIST ATTRACTION FOR DUNEDIN

BY EMILY DUNCAN

**T**he DCC has announced a new draft energy plan that will showcase Dunedin's night sky as a tourist attraction.

The initiative aims to replace all of Dunedin's outdoor lighting with LED technology in order to reduce light pollution, giving a clearer view of the stars and the night sky.

Replacing the bulbs comes as part of the council's asset renewal, and all bulbs will be replaced in one go.

The DCC said it hopes the "Night Sky City" focus will be a drawcard for tourists and photographers.

DCC Corporate Policy Manager Maria Ioannou said the DCC's plan is unique: "There is no other city in New Zealand using LED technology to light cities."

Ioannou said the idea would be to

celebrate the night sky in a suburban setting, creating the opportunity to do "fun things" at night such as festivals and events.

Ioannou said that Dunedin already enjoys some beautiful night skies, but the plan aims to combat some of the challenges in maintaining the current quality of night skies as the city develops.

The council is yet to decide which type of LED light bulbs would be the most suitable.

The energy plan, which comes under Dunedin's Economic Development Strategy, aims to support and foster Dunedin businesses by looking at future energy solutions. Ioannou said the plan also focuses on tackling poor housing, which will benefit the economy by increasing demand to local

suppliers for materials such as insulation.

The plan also looks at options around electric vehicles, suggesting the council could invest in charging services and add hybrid cars to their own fleets. ●

# Cake, Coffee and Chemistry

» LAB CAFÉ OPENS IN CENTRE FOR INNOVATION

BY INDIA LEISHMAN

**A** new chemistry-themed café, The Lab, has opened in the university's Centre for Innovation. The café replaces the Fix café, which closed last July.

Kate Cooper, the manager of the Staff Club, said the Centre for Innovation approached her about the potential for a new café. She said the centre wanted to create a space where staff and students could meet on campus.

"With the space being empty for quite some time, the tenants were quite keen to create a hub for those working in different areas of the building," Cooper said.

Cooper said after much discussion, a chemistry theme seemed an "obvious" choice because of the labs around the café.

Cooper said the budget for the café was tight, but the Chemistry department was able to help with the project, which was "challenging" but fun.

The Lab's day manager, Olly Smith, said the Chemistry department gave them recyclable chemistry equipment, including glass beakers and funnels, which are now used as flower vases and sugar dispensers.

"We contacted the chemistry department to get them on board with the project and they were more than happy to be involved," Smith said.

Smith said the Marketing department also helped create signage for the café.

Since its opening, Cooper says the café has been extremely popular. She said the café's goal was "always to be unique and have a point of difference ... we're trying to be a bit innovative". ●



# Pentagon Programme Deemed a Failure

» US AND RUSSIA INCREASE INVOLVEMENT IN SYRIA

BY OLIVER GASKELL

**A**round 75 fighters trained by American, British and Turkish military forces have entered Syria, a monitoring group has claimed.

The trained fighters crossed over from Turkey on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 September. They are now north of the Syrian city of Aleppo.

The fighters were trained and equipped by a Pentagon programme that US officials recently announced had fallen short of its aims.

A top US general told the senate that of the thousands of fighters the US military was supposed to train, only four or five remained in active service on the battlefield.

The Pentagon is expected to initiate a major overhaul of the programme, following a review of an initial group of 54 rebels that came under attack and suffered severe casualties.

Officials said the attack demonstrated that larger groups are necessary to stand a fighting chance against ISIS soldiers.

The fighters who have entered Syria have been supplied with four-wheel drive vehicles, mounted machine guns and ammunition. Warplanes from a US lead coalition are bombing ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

Russia also deployed fighter jets in Syria, shortly after holding talks with US officials about military action.

US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter spoke with his Russian counterpart last Friday, as Russian military involvement in Syria continues to escalate.

According to a statement released by the Pentagon, Carter and Russian Defence Secretary Sergei Shoigu had a "constructive conversation" where they agreed to "further discuss methods for deconfliction in Syria".

The statement said Shoigu told Carter that recent Russian military activity is defensive, and

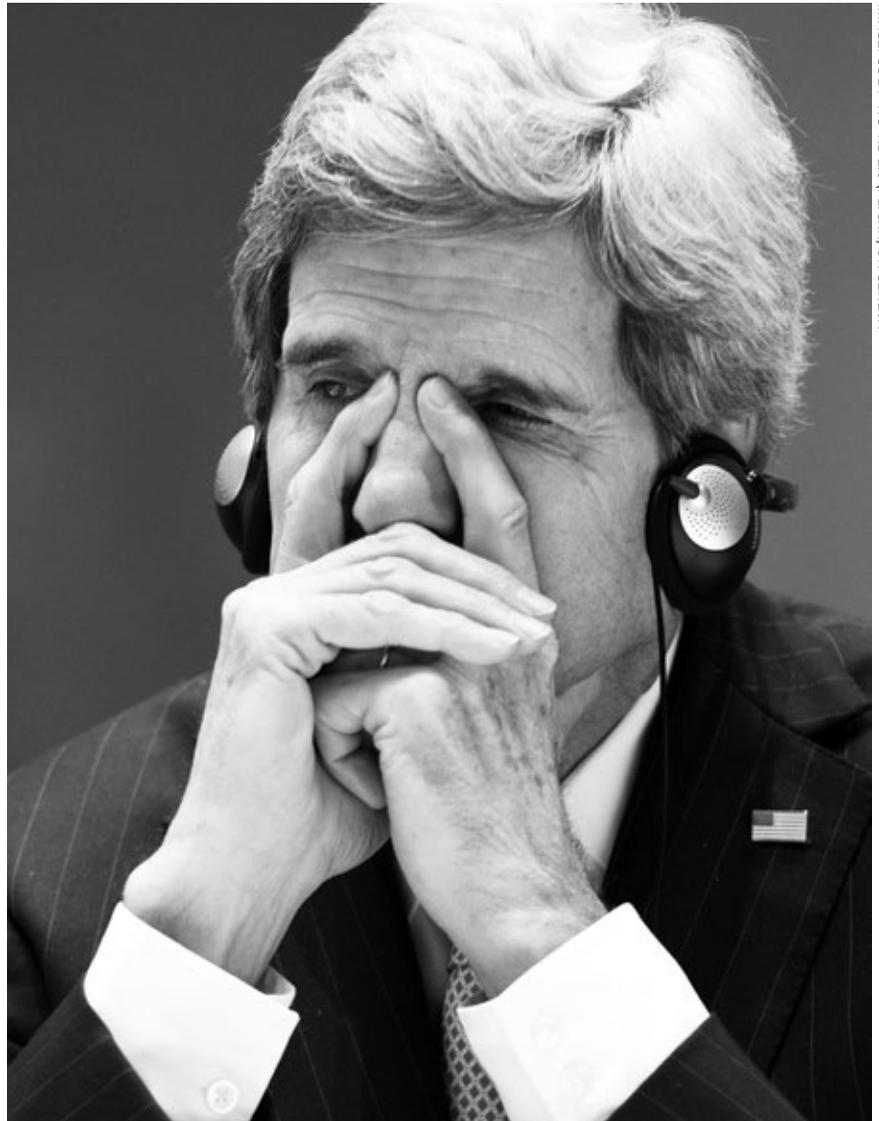


IMAGE: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (FLICKR) UN GENEVA

he aims to support Russia's obligations to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

US military officials have said they are wary of Russia's aims with Syria, though they need to coordinate with leaders with aircrafts operating in the area.

Last Wednesday, Secretary of State John Kerry said he had spoken with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and was told that Russian movements in Syria were focused on the battle against ISIS. However, Kerry was sceptical about Russia's intentions.

"I'm not taking that at face value, because we look at the type of airplanes or the type of munitions and so forth, and it obviously raises much more serious questions about what is happening," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Kerry also said last Friday that the US government is committed to "finding a political settlement with respect to Syria, which cannot be achieved in the long-term presence of Assad". ●



# 13 Killed in Chile Earthquake

» EARTHQUAKE LEAVES 9000 HOMELESS

BY **BRIDIE BOYD**

**T**hirteen people were killed in Chile after an 8.3 earthquake struck the nation on 16 September. A tsunami followed shortly afterward.

The earthquake occurred offshore from Iliapel, Chile, just before 8pm. The earthquake's epicentre was 143 kilometres north-north-west of the city of Valparaiso. The tremor was also felt in the capital, Santiago.

Roughly one million people were evacuated from the coastal area, and the evacuation was completed only minutes before the tsunami hit the shorelines.

Six people are still missing, and 34 have

been reported as injured.

Over 9000 people have been declared homeless due to the destruction. However, government officials say they are still assessing the quake's impact.

Deputy Interior Minister Mahmud Aleuy said the government hopes to have surveyed all affected people by Friday 25 September.

Public Works Minister Alberto Undurraga toured the area, and said that only a quarter of the debris removal and cleanup work had been completed. This was before the nation suffered from an aftershock measuring 6.5 that caused further damage on Monday.

On Monday 21 September, President Michelle Bachelet promised financial aid to victims. The Chilean government is offering one-off payments to affected families. The government also plans to use emergency funds to help the worst-hit fishing and port industries.

The payments include \$1500 to rebuild houses and another \$700 to replace lost goods.

"We know that any measure does not compensate for losses suffered during this new natural catastrophe, but we want people to know that the government is not going to abandon them," said Bachelet. ●

# Greek Prime Minister Takes Out Second Elections

» PM RESIGNS, BECOMES PM AGAIN

BY **GEORGE ELLIOTT**

**A**lexis Tsipras and his left-wing anti-austerity party Syriza have won their second election in less than nine months.

The snap elections were called earlier this year after Tsipras resigned in late August amid the Greek financial crisis. Tsipras said shortly after his resignation that he felt his government required a fresh mandate from the public.

The need for a new mandate came after a hotly debated bailout deal was finalised with Greece's international creditors.

The 20 September poll saw Syriza garner 35.46 percent of the vote, winning 145 seats

in the 300 seat Hellenic parliament. The party lost four seats.

The main opposition party, New Democracy, trailed behind at 28.10 percent of the vote and won 75 seats, down one since January.

"I want to be honest with you. We did not achieve the agreement we expected before the January elections," Tsipras said in a statement after announcing his resignation.

The results shocked Greek political pundits and upset pollster firms. In the weeks leading up to the election, opinion polls had Syriza and New Democracy neck and neck, with the difference within the margin of error.

Although safely in front at the end of

election day, Syriza found itself just shy of an outright parliamentary majority. The lack of majority has forced Syriza to return to its pre-election partnership with right-of-centre nationalists, the Independent Greeks. The Independent Greeks are a splinter group of former New Democracy MPs.

Controversial far-right ultranationalists, Golden Dawn, drew 6.99 percent of the vote to win one new seat, securing 18 seats in total.

Turnout was at 56.57 per cent of Greece's registered voters, a 7.05 percent drop from January's election. ●

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# Red Peak Climbs into the Mix

» FIFTH FLAG TO BE ADDED TO REFERENDUM

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

**P** rime Minister John Key has confirmed that the Red Peak flag design will be included in the first referendum, scheduled for November.

Last week the Green Party submitted a bill under urgency to parliament, seeking to amend the selection process to allow for five flags rather than four.

The Red Peak design has had a surge in support since the release of the final four flag designs. The Green Party then announced legislation that would allow for the groundswell of support for Red Peak to transition into the referendum process.

The bill, titled New Zealand Flag Referendum Bill 2015, was authored by Greens MP Gareth Hughes. In a press statement released by the Green Party, Hughes said Red Peak should be included to give New Zealanders another option.

"My Bill is about giving New Zealanders a choice following the groundswell of support for



the Red Peak flag to be included as an option in the upcoming flag referendum," said Hughes.

"Regardless of whether MPs want to change the flag or not, the referendum is going to go ahead anyway so it may as well include an option that a large number of Kiwis want."

The bill, which went into urgency last Wednesday, required the consensus of all 120

members of parliament, but was opposed by NZ First's 12 MPs.

Following the Green Party announcement, the National government indicated that the legislation would be adopted as a government bill if it failed to receive full cross-parliament consensus. ●



**L** ast week the prime minister was asked the same question a record seven times, six times with exactly the same wording. Key was forced to masterfully deflect the long-time opposition favourite: Does he stand by all his statements? However, this time the old Trojan-horse question was accompanied by reference to Key's seven years as prime minister.

The question read: "Does he stand by all his statements after almost seven years as prime minister?" Five opposition MPs asked this question; Andrew Little even asked it twice. Obviously this was a collective tactic from the opposition, but it begs the question: Why?

Key's seven years as prime minister and six before that as an opposition MP have

equipped him with a particularly strong resilience. If the goal was to irritate him to the point of anger, it fell very short. If it achieved anything at all, it provided an amusing question time.

Key, clearly pre-empting the colluded onslaught of the replicated question, responded to every question with the quip, "Yes, especially the statement where I said [insert dig here]."

Key's first question was asked by Labour Party leader Andrew Little, to whom he responded by saying: "Yes, especially that one where I said, man, he really does sound like a broken record." The benefit of being in government, among other things, is that you usually have a large number of fellow MPs, which gives the subtle advantage of having a significant crowd to laugh at your insults, irrespective of their wit.

I don't know what Labour, the Greens and NZ First were thinking when they got together and decided to do this, but you have to hand it to Key — he's a master at saying a lot without saying anything. If only the opposition would take some notes. ●

# News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



## World Watch

### 1 FRANKFURT, GERMANY

Construction work has unearthed the skeletons of 200 French soldiers from the army of Napoleon Bonaparte. The soldiers are believed to be from Napoleon's Grand Army retreating from Russia in 1813. They probably died from battle wounds or typhus. More than 30 skeletons have been excavated, with more occurring over the next few weeks.

### 2 CHINA

China will soon have an amusement park dedicated entirely to British-themed teddy bears. The site will cover nearly 1000 acres in a district south of Beijing, and at its heart will be a teddy bear museum. Costing US\$7.8m, the park is a joint venture between the UK-based Great British Teddy Bear Company and a Chinese architectural firm, which hopes to attract 250,000 visitors annually.

### 3 SPAIN

A refugee father who was tripped by a Hungarian camerawoman while holding his son is to start a new life in Spain. Osama Abdul Mohsen, who coached a football team in Syria, will now work at a sports school near Madrid. Miguel Angel Galan, the director of the CENAFE football school in Getafe, on the outskirts of Madrid, said officials had decided to "help a fellow coach".

### 4 ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, has read out the wrong speech at the opening of parliament. Mugabe read out a speech that he gave during his state-of-the-nation address on 25 August, when he was heckled by opposition MPs. Tensions were high ahead of the speech, and the state broadcaster cancelled its live feed fearing further disruptions.

### 5 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Copenhagen has approved funding for more than 23,000 new trees to be planted next year as part of its quest to become the world's first carbon-neutral capital city. The city council has earmarked US\$560,000 of its 2016 budget to the project, with a long-term goal of planting 100,000 new trees in the Danish capital over the next decade.

### 6 FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

A woman living in a mobile home that was "booby trapped" with more than 3714 swords, knives and other bladed weapons has been arrested. Police said blades were hanging from the ceiling of her mobile home about 50 miles north of Tampa. When officers arrived, she barricaded herself inside and then lunged at an officer with a sword-like weapon.

### 7 RUSSIA

Russia summoned Poland's ambassador to protest at the removal of a Soviet-era statue in a Polish town on the 76th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland, highlighting increased tensions between the neighbours. Following communism's collapse, Poland embraced democracy and joined the European Union, and has recently been among the fiercest critics of Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea.

### 8 BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Civil engineering students from Queen's University Belfast and local school children have set a new world record after designing and building a footbridge made entirely from Meccano. The temporary bridge, spanning over 100 feet across Belfast's Clarendon dock, has been recognised by representatives from Guinness World Records as the world's largest Meccano structure.

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# Grapevine

*"I ended up feeling sick, dizzy and hallucinating, everything I saw was green. And I had a massive erection that would not go away. The paramedics were very professional but you could see they were trying not to laugh. The doctors and nurses told me off."*



## Daniel Medforth

A 35-year-old British man landed himself in hospital after he took 35 Viagra pills in one hour, resulting in constant erections for five days. Daniel Medforth was dared to take the pills and did so "for a laugh". After being sent home from hospital, he was forced to spend several days in bed as the erections continued.

*"The mandate that the Greek people have given is a crystal clear mandate to get rid of the regime of corruption and vested issues. We will show how effective we will be. We will make Greece a stronger place for the weak and vulnerable, a fairer place."*

## Alexis Tsipras

Greece's left-wing leader, Alexis Tsipras, has emerged triumphant from a snap general election after securing a dramatic victory over his conservative rival, despite a turbulent first term in office. Some had said that the race was too close to call after he accepted a crushing Eurozone austerity programme during his first term. Although Tsipras's Syriza party did not gain an outright majority, it will immediately set about forming a stable government.



*"We need to get to the negotiation. That is what we're looking for and we hope Russia and Iran, and any other countries with influence, will help to bring about that, because that's what is preventing this crisis from ending. We're prepared to negotiate. Is Assad prepared to negotiate, really negotiate? Is Russia prepared to bring him to the table?"*



## John Kerry — US Secretary of State

US Secretary of State, John Kerry, says Syrian President Bashar al-Assad "has to go", but that the timing of Assad's departure should be decided through negotiation. Speaking after talks in London with Philip Hammond, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Kerry called

on Russia and Iran to use their influence over Assad to convince him to negotiate a political transition.

*"The Syrian people have lived through war, they are very traumatised. We cannot go back to Syria, we have spent days on the road and don't know if at the end we will have a home. Every day we are told something different — that this border is closed or open — and no one knows what is true anymore."*

## Iman — Syrian refugee

Chaos continues to reign across the European Union's peripheries as tens of thousands of refugees attempt to find their way through a bottleneck of closed Balkan borders toward northern Europe. More than 20,000 people streamed into Croatia in less than 48 hours after Hungary sealed its border with Serbia on Thursday. Croatia is only a stopping point for most people, but they became stuck after Hungarian and Slovenian authorities attempted to stop people from using their countries as a corridor to Austria and Germany.



# FACTS & FIGURES



## 322km per hour

The speed airbags explode at.

## "Naked"

Means to be unprotected, "nude" means unclothed.

## 12 letters

The number of letters in the Hawaiian alphabet.

## 211

The fastest typist can type at 211 words per minute.

## Papaphobia

is the fear of popes.

## 440 hours

The world record for rocking non-stop in a rocking chair.

## 230 years

The number of years of peace in the last 3500 years.

## Fingernails

Grow nearly four times faster than toenails.



# South Africa Defeated By Japan: Blame the Seagulls

» JAPAN GAIN FIRST WIN SINCE 1991 WORLD CUP

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

**T**he Japanese team really lived up to its nickname when a gutsy performance saw them pull off a last-minute 34–32 victory over two-time World Cup winners, South Africa.

Don't think the game was just handed to Japan though; they worked their red and white socks off — especially fullback Ayumu Goromaru who scored 24 points with tries, conversions and penalties to keep Japan in the game right up until the moment that Napier-born and ex-Otago winger Karne Hesketh scored deep into injury time to secure a historic victory. The shock result came after Japan captain (and Chiefs flanker) Michael Leitch turned down the chance to kick a late penalty goal that would have seen them draw the game.

Fumiaki Tanaka, Highlanders halfback, was named man of the match. The experience that Fumi gained over several seasons in New Zealand has been invaluable to the Japanese team.

This was the perfect way to kick off the World Cup, fuelling the speculation that this will be the most competitive edition in the tournament's

history. A justified prediction as the Springboks had never before lost their opening game in the tournament, and their starting XV was their most experienced side ever with 851 caps.

The shock result sees South Africa slip from third to sixth in the World Rugby rankings while Japan climbs up two places to 11th, signalling that they are not the underdogs they once were. Japan coach Eddie Jones called the result "a pretty humbling experience" and is excited about the team's future prospects as Japan prepares to host the World Cup in 2019.

It was not all bad news for the Springboks though as they managed to pick up two bonus points for their efforts, but they will be extra nervous for their next two games against Samoa and Scotland — games that they would have identified as posing a much tougher test than Japan before the World Cup began.

Although they have played in every edition of the tournament, you have to go back to 1991

for Japan's only previous World Cup victory when they beat Zimbabwe 52–8 in Belfast. Two draws against Canada in 2007 and 2011 complete the list of their World Cup "successes".

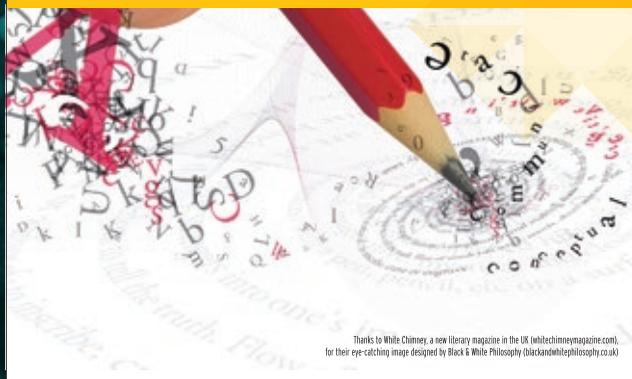
While Japan's coach Eddie Jones was realistic about the luck involved in their last-gasp victory, the South Africans have been less gracious in defeat. The Springboks cited seagulls and, more specifically, seagull shit as the cause of their loss to Japan.

Springbok team managers are reportedly "furious" that their training was disrupted when a flock of seagulls took over their training pitch at the fancy Eastbourne College in Sussex. "They were making a horrendous mess," according to the groundskeeper.

It's not clear exactly how this would have affected the team, but the groundskeepers have now enlisted the help of a hawk named George to scare away the pesky gulls. Apparently 30 rugby players wasn't enough. ●



## ENGL127 Effective Writing



Thanks to White Chimney, a new literary magazine in the UK ([whitechimney.com](http://whitechimney.com)), for their eye-catching image designed by Black & White Philosophy ([blackandwhitephilosophy.co.uk](http://blackandwhitephilosophy.co.uk))



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# All Blacks Shake Off Rusty Start against Pumas

» AN INTIMIDATING NEW LOOK FOR THE PLAYERS

BY DANIEL LORMANS

The All Blacks certainly looked the part in their new high-tech carbon-woven jerseys, which are the "blackest All Blacks jersey ever", according to makers Adidas.

Ex-England captain Matt Dawson put out a parody video called the "Hakarena", inspired by the catchy 90s Spanish dance song "Macarena". The Ngati Toa Rangatira iwi which owns the original "Ka Mate" haka denounced the parody as "distasteful and ignorant" and an attempt to "turn a Māori practice that's part of New Zealand's unique identity into something silly".

It appears that the attempts to cheapen the haka backfired — Richie McCaw showed his intent to lead from the front, staring down the Pumas from the tip of their new "arrow" haka. This new formation was well received by the huge crowd of over 89,000 at Wembley Stadium in London, in what was a record attendance for a RWC match.

The massive crowd witnessed the All Blacks

surviving a brave onslaught from Argentina as the defending champions were made to work hard before eventually prevailing in a 26–16 victory.

With Japan's memorable upset over South Africa dominating the headlines, the Pumas looked like they could spring a few surprises of their own as they resisted the All Blacks' attack, restricting their scoring to Dan Carter penalty goals that gave the All Blacks a slender 13–12 lead at halftime.

The first half was full of drama as McCaw was sent off after the TMO caught the skipper's sneaky but cynical leg trip, which halted a possible Puma counter-attack. Richie caught a lot of flak for getting himself sent off, with even coach Steven Hansen calling his foul "dumb". McCaw has a reputation for pushing the limits of the rules although this was only his fourth send off in his 143 test matches. The All Blacks found themselves down to 13 men at one point as Conrad

Smith also saw yellow for interfering in the ruck.

After a shaky start, the All Blacks improved dramatically in the second half, and the introduction of Sonny Bill-Williams, whose selection garnered a lot of criticism, gave the All Blacks a new dimension with his classic off-loading game allowing them to get on the front foot. The rewards duly came with tries to Aaron Smith and Sam Cane as the Pumas tired and the All Blacks' superior fitness kicked in to enable them to close out the game much more convincingly than they began.

This will likely be the All Blacks' toughest pool test, and their matches against Namibia, Georgia and Tonga should see them retain their record of never having lost a RWC pool match. These games will see the whole squad getting a chance to prove their worth and the highly anticipated return of winger Waisake Naholo into the black jersey (and his black boots) to justify his risky selection. ●



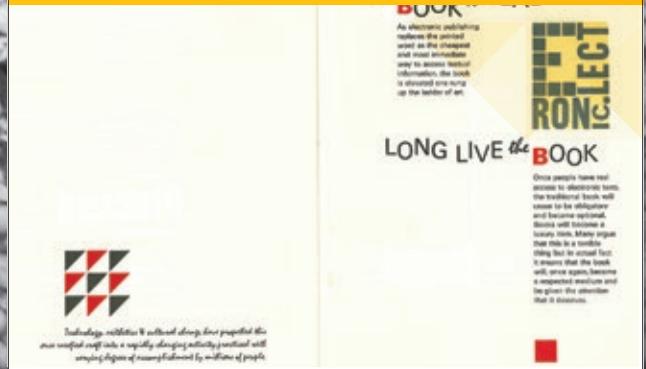
## ENGL251 Special Topic: Word and Image: Four Fantasy Worlds



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PAUL WINTER

# THE NUCLEAR CLUSTERFUCK

**||** We all know that the atomic bomb is very dangerous; since it could be used against us, we should be ready for it! Remember to duck and cover, kids. Duck and cover like your pal Bert the Turtle and you'll be safe!"

This is an extract from a 1951 civil defence film. The film featured "Bert the Turtle" — a shy, anthropomorphic reptile — and a softly spoken but unmistakably American narrator. It gave safety instructions to school children about what to do in the aftermath of an atomic explosion. Films like this were shown across the world, New Zealand included. Your grandparents probably saw one. They probably mimicked Bert's "duck and cover" in the same way we practise fire drills.

Today, turtles like Bert have no place in New Zealand schools. Since David Lange's famous "uranium breath" quip at the Oxford

Union in 1985, Kiwis have put the nuclear issue in the country's "problem solved" box. Nukes are wrong, anyone who can't see that is a fool and it's just a matter of time before the rest of the world realises this and gives them up. These words are pretty much gospel from the Cape to Bluff.

Unfortunately, nearly a century after one of our own first split the atom, New Zealanders are living in a bubble. For the rest of the world, the nuclear issue is far from solved. In this article, I offer a glimpse into the horrifying nuclear clusterfuck that faces the planet. This piece is dedicated to anyone who watched *The Dictator* or *The Interview* and wondered — even for a second — "what's really going on with all those bombs?"

So, first things first, an instruction manual for all of you wannabe dictators (I'm looking at you, politics undergraduates). How do you build an atomic bomb?

## NUCLEAR BOMB RECIPE

You need two things to build an atomic bomb: radioactive isotopes and a delivery system. Either a bunch of highly enriched uranium isotope 235 or a pinch of the manufactured element plutonium will work. Plutonium doesn't occur naturally and must be reprocessed from used uranium. But don't let that put you off — plutonium produces a more powerful chain reaction (the more powerful the reaction, the bigger the bang) and is the most popular road to a bomb. Uranium is pretty ubiquitous. Most nations have at least some naturally occurring uranium ore. New Zealand prospected for it on the West Coast in the 1950s. However, you need highly specialised equipment to extract and enrich the isotopes, and even more is needed to reprocess it into plutonium.

Turning your isotopes into a detonable device is the easier side of the nuclear equation. You can purchase most of the required kit on the legitimate arms market. The Saudis, for example, have plenty. Just grab a few million greenbacks and head down to one of the dozens of yearly arms expos in Abu Dhabi.

With uranium all over the place and weapons systems easy to get hold of, you'd think building a bomb would be a cakewalk. However, plenty of countries have tried and failed. Libyan despot Muammar al-Qaddafi discovered the hurdles of trying to build a bomb when it cost him over \$500 million and took 30 years to build a device. In 2001 he turned over to the international community a hodge-podge of bits and pieces. Turns out, Qaddafi had — in nuclear terms — bought the wing mirrors of a Porsche, the keys to a Ferrari, the engine of a Honda and the chassis of a Fiat. He had then asked a team of underpaid, under-qualified scientists to assemble everything.

The assembly problem isn't unique to Libya. Argentina — on its own nuclear quest — bought the work of a scam artist. An Austrian scientist, Ronald Richter, tricked Argentinian dictator Juan Perón

into thinking he knew the secrets of nuclear fusion. The confidence trickster was given the keys to his own island and a generous personal stipend. Yet Richter knew next to nothing about nuclear physics — but he did know how to play on the mind of the Argentinian president. Years later he was unveiled as a fraud.

Finally, in 1993 and to the alarm of the international community, it was discovered that Saddam Hussein had bought a veritable mountain of nuclear kit. Fortunately, he'd set his incompetent (but nasty) security chief to work on the project. Poor management meant that Iraq botched its shot at a bomb.

## THE STATE OF PLAY

The world has more than 16,000 nuclear weapons, so clearly some countries have managed to build a bomb. So far, nine states have nuclear weapons: Israel, India, the US, Russia, Pakistan, North Korea, France, the UK and China.

Aside from the cost, aspirant nuclear states face other challenges. A highly complex web of international regulations aims to reverse the spread of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is the keystone. 196 countries are party to the treaty, which pledges to limit proliferation and reduce the number of nuclear weapons. It is the most widely ratified arms control treaty in the world and is often held up as a symbol of international peacebuilding.

So, with such widely recognised international law in place, why are we worried?

## NUCLEAR TERRORISM

One of the biggest worries is terrorism. Since 9/11, stopping terrorist nuclear proliferation has been a key foreign policy goal of the US, the UN and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). But, to be honest, they needn't worry. As we learnt from Qaddafi, Saddam and the Argentinians, it's hard to build nuclear

bombs. If a state with enormous industrial resources can't construct a bomb, it seems unthinkable that a motley crew of piratical nutjobs could.

Thanks to its highly successful media campaign, IS looks like some new and horrifying beast revelling in its own bloodlust. In reality, IS is best understood as part of a wider pattern of non-state terrorism stretching back thousands of years. Since the 1950s, terrorists and nuclear bombs have coexisted. Terrorists have never managed to construct anything close to a viable atomic weapon. The technology required is prohibitively expensive.

The real concern is not that the IS will build a nuke but that it might either get hold of "loose nukes" or buy them. The nuclear black market became an area of real concern after rogue scientist AQ Khan stole nuclear plans from Europe and sold them to his native Pakistan as well as North Korea, Libya and Iran. The nuclear black market is the focus of intense global intelligence gathering. IS would really struggle to find a seller of nuclear tech today, let alone import and use it. "Loose nukes" are much more worrying. Developing nations struggle to police their nuclear facilities and may be unable to repel a smash-and-grab assault on them. It wouldn't be a surprise to see IS try something like this on Pakistan's creaking and bloated nuclear infrastructure. Or perhaps Iran's ...

## IRAN

If we are to believe the rhetoric of some commentators in the United States, Iran represents the greatest nuclear threat to the world today. Although nuclear weapons are fundamentally incompatible with Muhammed's core teachings, the Islamic Republic has slowly developed the capability to enrich uranium. On the last count, Iran could enrich to 20 percent, well beyond the 2–3 percent threshold for civilian purposes, but still shy of the 90–95 percent needed for weapons grade. After a horrendous and protracted war with neighboring Iraq from 1980 until 1988, Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini wrote

in a private letter that in *extremis* his country would need to rely on "nuclear or atomic weapons".

Until recently, Iran's nuclear weapons intent (or lack thereof) was an international sideshow. Extensive economic sanctions were levelled at the country in the 1980s, and the problem was set aside. A once vibrant economy was ostracised from international markets and experienced hyper-instability domestically. Iran has bottomed out at -10 percent GDP growth four times since 1980, primarily because of international pressure.

A few months ago, however, the stand-off between Iran and the international community began to thaw. In July, the US completed a deal with Iran that — at least rhetorically — forestalls nuclear weapons development by capping uranium enrichment at 20 percent. The deal is set to last 10 years and imposes international inspections and the threat of "snap-back sanctions".

Given the trials and tribulations of the Iranian nuclear project — particularly the extensive costs — you could well ask what the point was. The answer is fairly simple. The Iranian revolution has never been secure. Domestic dissenters, regional rivalries and international opprobrium beleaguered the Islamic Republic from its inception. George Bush Jr compounded this when he fingered Iran as a member of the "Axis of Evil". The US proceeded to chase the Taliban out of Afghanistan, pull down gold statues of Saddam in Baghdad, and abandon Gaddafi to rebel forces. Iran's clerics must have wondered when their time would come.

Basically, for ageing despots and autocrats who live in palatial opulence and subject their citizens to atrocities intolerable in the twenty-first century, a nuclear bomb is the ace in the hole. The threat of nuclear war is too great a deterrent for the US to attempt a regime change. This is probably the best way to understand Iran's approach to nuclear weapons — as regime insurance.

Speaking of regime insurance ...

## NORTH KOREA

North Korea is the nation most synonymous with nuclear weapons. More than any other country — Iran included — North Korea (or, more correctly, the Kim dynasty) leans on the bomb for political survival.

North Korea began developing nuclear weapons in the 1980s when its Chinese and Soviet allies turned Janus-faced. The Chinese and Soviets moved closer to South Korea, isolating their belligerent little North Korean brother. After an abortive attempt to bring North Korea back into the global community in 1993, North Korea ratcheted up its nuclear programme. It left the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003. It tested its first nuclear device in 2006. Since then it has increased its plutonium production and its ability to deliver a device. North Korea is estimated to have somewhere between five and 20 nuclear devices.

North Korea's bombs are part of a concerted strategy of regime insurance. The Kims use the threat of the bomb to keep international busy-bodies away and to symbolise the nation's strength to its own people. North Korea's nuclear arsenal is the ultimate propaganda tool. North Korea regularly demands recognition at the highest echelons of international power. It often insists on negotiating bilaterally with the US on nuclear issues. At the same time, the Kims denigrate millions of starved, deluded North Koreans by showing off their nuclear brawn in the streets of Pyongyang.

Nuclear bombs are only part of North Korea's survival strategy. Stringent sanctions and capital regulations in place since the early 1990s have starved the country of hard currency. But the country has found canny workarounds to the trade blockade. Until recently, North Korea produced billions of dollars in counterfeit US currency. A 2008 sting on Asian financial institutions used as a front to channel North Korea's fake currency put a stop to this (we think). In response,

Pyongyang's opium production exploded. By collectivising farms and forcing peasants to cultivate poppies, North Korea has rapidly replaced Afghanistan as the hub of the world heroin trade.

It would be no surprise to hear of Kim Jong Un dining with the world's most wanted drug lords and gangsters. The nation needs cash to survive. The worry is whether North Korea's thirst for hard currency will ever become so insatiable that it sells nuclear secrets. Some evidence suggests it has already colluded with Iran on this front. Perhaps it's just a matter of the right price.

Yet even if the world manages to avoid nuclear terrorism, disarm North Korea and keep Iran from the bomb, the nuclear problem won't disappear.

## GLOBAL ZERO?

August this year was the 50th anniversary of Hiroshima. Increased cries for total disarmament came in the wake of memorial services across the world. Global Zero has been the most vocal. Global Zero is a transnational organisation aiming to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world from 16,000 to — you guessed it — zero. Aside from New Zealand's own very active wing, Global Zero has many highly respected and surprising supporters, such as Henry Kissinger, the twentieth century's own Machiavelli.

Global Zero's aim is certainly noble. However — setting aside the difficulty of getting everyone to voluntarily and permanently give up nuclear weapons — we need to make sure that a world without nuclear weapons would indeed be safer. We can't unlearn the facts of nuclear fission or fusion. If a third world war broke out, we could logically expect belligerents to engage in an arms race to nuclear capability. What then? The first state to develop the bomb would have an overwhelming incentive to strike — possibly through nuclear force — at their rival's nuclear infrastructure. Paradoxically, it could be that nuclear war is more likely in a disarmed world.

Disarmament is an important objective. But disarmament alone won't necessarily make the world safer. Unless — by some divine intervention — we experience a global bout of amnesia that wipes out all nuclear know-how, the threat of nuclear war will be ever-present. The real cure is creative ways of reducing the incentives for war. Peace will result in disarmament, not the other way around.

That is, provided there's a world to save ...

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The planet faces two primary human-caused threats. One is climate change, the other is nuclear war. Climate change threatens famine and floods as the world adjusts to human-driven changes in the atmosphere. And even a "minor" nuclear "skirmish" in South Asia (which seemed probable in the 90s) would plunge the planet into irreversible nuclear winter. These spooky futures might appear, at face value, unrelated. Look deeper, however, and there's an intractable dilemma.

We must divest from fossil fuels to avoid climate change. Nuclear energy is cleaner and cheaper (but it's still not perfect). Some nations — France, for example — have made nuclear energy the cornerstone of national energy production. Overall, this is good for the planet, and more and more countries see nuclear as a real alternative to fossil fuels.

The problem is that the technology that produces nuclear energy is barely a stone's throw from weaponry. Specialists call nuclear kit "dual-use" technology. You can use the same tech to illuminate lightbulbs or exact genocide.

It seems we are stuck on the horns of a dilemma. A viable alternative to fossil fuels is within reach. Yet it holds the key to our own destruction. But what can we do about it?

## NEW ZEALAND

Remember little green New Zealand? Ipukarea of PM David Lange and scientist Ernest Rutherford. Despite long being in the thick of global nuclear issues, 30 years after the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior, Kiwis have put nuclear issues to the back of their minds.

I concede that we Kiwis seem to face more pressing foreign policy concerns. For starters: why are we letting in only a few hundred and not a few thousand Syrian refugees? What will happen with our trade with China currently shitting its financial pants? What will happen when our big dirty real estate bubble bursts? How can we support our Pasifika neighbours to develop ways to adapt to climate change? These questions all require a great deal of thought. That said, it's best not to forget that we remain a pudgy, sweaty (male) finger-press away from Armageddon.

I don't want my children to have to watch Bert the Turtle in school. New Zealand has a seat on the UN Security Council, giving us an unprecedented opportunity to bring key issues onto the international agenda. We only have until 2016, so how can we use this opportunity to untangle the nuclear clusterfuck?

We should push for tighter international export controls on nuclear material. We should ensure international weapons inspections agencies are well funded. We should use our seat as a soapbox to admonish nuclear powers for not reducing their stockpiles. We should support (and not side-step, as the Hon Murray McCully did in 2012) the idea of a new global convention on nuclear weapons to supersede the rather elderly Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which turns 50 in 2018. We should work to make nuclear weapons obsolete by helping the world become a more peaceful, secure place to live.

Most of all, we should talk about the issue. Let's pick a fucking flag, then get back to doing what Kiwis do best. We excel at leading on the big international issues, nuclear weapons included. So, let's do that ■



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# ETHERWOOD

## Etherwood **Blue Leaves**

» **DRUM AND BASS** | MED SCHOOL; 2015

REVIEWED BY **VERONIKA BELL**



**D**rum and bass is a genre of electronic music with heavy basslines and fast breakbeats, usually around the 160–180 bpm margin. Over the years, drum and bass has developed an unfair stigma in society that really pisses me off. There's an unflattering conception of D'n'B that it is all about filling a nightclub with pillled-up "fuck-boys", and the occasional female body to break up the mass of male stench.

Although these clichés aren't totally unfounded, they focus solely on the testosterone-reeking rave context in which D'n'B is usually digested. But drum and bass can be enjoyed when completely divorced from its stereotypical nightclub habitat. Rich with melody and instrumentation, Etherwood's latest LP *Blue Leaves* is a perfect example of this.

Arriving two years after Etherwood's self-titled debut album, *Blue Leaves* showcases the Briton's fearsome knack for electronic music production and composition. The album explores the sensuous and technicolour side of drum and bass. Alongside Etherwood's

perfected production style, *Blue Leaves* features instrumental dexterity and vocal performances from Etherwood himself.

*Blue Leaves* is a captivating listening experience, which grabs the listener with its first note and doesn't let go. I was absorbed from the first track "Souvenirs", which features the caramel drawl of Zara Kershaw. Her powerful vocals complement the song's piano chord progressions, and intricately intertwine with a spine-tingling bassline.

Each track effortlessly liquefies into the next, creating a lush plethora of instrumentation, cinematic sequences and beautifully interwoven vocals. Orchestration gives the album an ethereal elegance that is far too rare in the world of drum and bass. Etherwood's delicately crafted melodies sweep over landscapes of fast electronic rhythms.

Eva Lazarus lends her crystalline voice to summer-ready single "Light My Way Home", as well as "Revive", a cheeky collaboration with D'n'B producer, Logistics. The latter track exemplifies just how well Etherwood can bring

two worlds of sound together. He allows euphonious and mellow instrumentals to form the core, while adding a drum and bass twist to give the track its modern edge.

"Breathe It In" is my favourite on the album. The track starts slowly, transitioning through spherical sequences of deep bass notes and sky-scraping overtones. Tie it all in with a euphoric drop, and you have a magical concoction that doesn't require any drug to enjoy it.

The album ends with a track called "The Last Hour" that, interestingly, isn't drum and bass at all. "The Last Hour" focuses on a picturesque rolling piano melody. A violin harmony resonates over the top of the piano chords, later enriched by an orchestra of strings and woodwinds. The track is a breathtaking denouement, leaving the listener craving more from this ultra-talented composer and producer.

Combining virtuosity and intellect with a dash of mainstream magic, Etherwood's *Blue Leaves* is well worth your time. It just might be the drum and bass album you've been waiting for. ○



# Best and Worst Lyrics

» BY **BASTI MENKES**

**T**he poetic addition of lyrics to our music over time has resulted in some truly stunning lines of verse, as well as a few crimes against the human intellect. Basti Menkes shares some of the greatest and the most cringeworthy moments in our lyrical history.

## THE GOOD

### Pink Floyd, "Time"

"And then one day you find ten years have got behind you.

No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun."

### Radiohead, "Paranoid Android"

"When I am king you will be first against the wall,

With your opinion which is of no consequence at all."

### Blur, "Out of Time"

"Feel the sunshine on your face; it's in a computer now,

Gone to the future, way out in space."

### Paolo Nutini, "Comin' Up Easy"

"It was in love I was created and in love is how I hope I die."



### Run the Jewels,

#### "Close Your Eyes (And Count To Fuck)"

"Liars and politicians, profiteers of the prisons

The forehead engravers, enslavers of men and women

Including members of clergy that rule on you through religion

They'll strip your kids to the nude and then tell 'em God'll forgive 'em."

### Akron/Family, "Before and Again"

"All of my dreams are memories that I can't place to a time or a face

But my body knows of the ribbons and bows that I once was tied in, in my mother's skin."

### Swans,

#### "The Seer Returns"

"I'm down here naked, there's a hole in my chest.

Both my arms are broken, pointing east and west."

### Joanna Newsom, "Only Skin"

"Scrape your knee, it is only skin  
Makes the sound of violins."



### John Lennon, "Imagine"

"Imagine there's no heaven, it's easy if you try.  
No hell below us, above us only sky."

### Neil Young, "Hey Hey, My My (Into the Black)"

"It's better to burn out than to fade away."

### Kate Bush, "Sunset"

"Who knows who wrote that song of summer, that blackbirds sing at dusk?"

This is a song of color where sands sing in crimson, red and rust,

Then climb into bed and turn to dust."

### NaS, "N.Y. State of Mind"

"I never sleep 'cause sleep is the cousin of death."

### Cage, "Agent Orange"

"Pour beer out for yourself because you're walking dead,

I'll burn your house down like a fucking Talking Head."

## THE BAD

### Bjork, "Hope"

"What's the lesser of two evils: if a suicide bomber made to look pregnant manages to kill her target, or not?"

The lesser evil would be this lyric not existing in the first place.



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### Oasis, "Stand By Me"

"Why do you need a reason for to feel happy?"

You've just given an English major a reason for to feel awful.

### Shakira, "Whenever, Wherever"

"Lucky that my breasts are small and humble, so you don't confuse them with mountains."



What was the risk of that ever happening?

### Van Halen, "Why Can't This Be Love?"

"Only time will tell if we stand the test of time."

As epiphanic as "only your exam grades will tell if you did well on your exam."

### Lil B, "Wonton Soup"

"Bitches suck my dick because I look like J.K. Rowling."

Never underestimate the fervency of the Harry Potter fandom.

### David Guetta feat. Akon, "Sexy Bitch"

"I'm trying to find the words to describe this girl without being disrespectful ... damn, you's a sexy bitch."



Appreciate the sentiment, guys, but maybe give that another go.

### Insane Clown Posse, "Miracles"

"Fucking rainbows after it rains, there's enough miracles here to blow your brains! I fed a fish to a pelican at Frisco bay; it tried to eat my cell phone, he ran away ... fucking magnets, how do they work?"

If you still doubt the existence of miracles, this song will surely change that.

### Des'Ree, "Life"



"I don't want to see a ghost, it's a sight that I fear the most, I'd rather have a piece of toast, watch the evening news."

Wow, that got fucking mundane very quickly.



## ...AND THE YEEZY

"I'm like the fly Malcolm X: buy any jeans necessary."  
("Good Morning")

"And if you fall on the pavement, that's yo ass fault!"  
("See Me Now")

"In a French-ass restaurant, hurry up with my damn croissants!"  
("I Am a God")

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2016



# Cinnamon Churros with Salted Caramel

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

## INGREDIENTS

MAKES AROUND 20 SMALL CHURRO STICKS

### FOR THE CHURROS

- 1 cup water
- 100g butter
- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- oil for frying
- ½ cup caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt

### FOR THE SALTED CARAMEL

- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- 300ml cream
- salt to taste

## METHOD

1. To make the caramel sauce, melt the sugar in a small- to medium-sized saucepan over a high heat, and continue to heat until it turns a rich amber. Remove from the heat and gently pour in the cream while stirring. The caramel will bubble like crazy so be careful and keep stirring. Once all the cream has been added, return to the heat to thicken it slightly and to darken if you feel it isn't dark enough. Once the caramel has cooled to a lickable temperature, gradually add in the salt until it is to your satisfaction.
2. To make the churros, take a medium-sized saucepan and boil together the water and the butter so that the butter melts. Sieve in the flour, baking powder and cinnamon and beat strongly with a

In my opinion, churros are some of the best doughnuts ever. Why, you ask? They have the greatest surface area to volume ratio, meaning more crispy, sweet, cinnamon bang for your buck.

I recently (aka yesterday morning) came back from a trip to South America. Over there they make these slightly fatter and inject them with dulce de leche or chocolate sauce. They sell them on the side of the road for, like, a

dollar. While these are just the measly dipping variety, I shall be on the case of the injectable churro quick smart because they were just too good not to happen.

Either make up a salted caramel sauce as below or be a little more Argentinian and use the nearest thing I can find to dulce de leche here in New Zealand, Nestlé Highlander condensed milk caramel. ○



- wooden spoon over the heat until a thick dough forms that comes away from the sides. Remove from the heat and transfer the dough into a cake mixer with a paddle attachment. You can also do this next step by hand with a wooden spoon if you wish.
3. Beat in the eggs and vanilla one at a time until each egg is fully incorporated and the dough gets progressively stickier and fluffier with each addition. After the last egg, beat for another minute or so to remove any lumps and to make the batter extra smooth.
4. Heat 5cm deep of frying oil in a medium-sized saucepan to 180 degrees Celsius (a candy thermometer is handy). To test whether the oil is hot enough, drop a small ball of batter into the oil — it should bubble fiercely almost immediately and float to

the top. By the time the ball has turned dark brown, it should be cooked all the way through. If it isn't, turn down the oil a little.

5. Transfer the batter to a piping bag fitted with a star nozzle. Hold the bag over the saucepan of oil and pipe out 10cm strands of batter. I use a pair of scissors to cut my batter ribbons. Fit as many as you can in the pan without the churros overlapping. Fry until they turn a dark golden brown. Transfer to a plate covered in paper towels to drain for a minute before tossing them in the sugar mixed with the cinnamon. They are now ready to be dipped into caramel!



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## Art in Law XIV, Bare With

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BY SUSAN NUNN

The Dunedin School of Art and the University of Otago Law Faculty have collaborated to bring a twice yearly art exhibition to the corridors of the Richardson Building on the Otago campus. Initiated originally by Peter Stupples, the exhibitions are curated by Marion Wassenaar and have been running for seven years.

The current exhibition, which runs across three floors of the Law Faculty in the Richardson Building, has had many of its viewers talking, and there is no doubt that the three artists, Victoria Stevens, Brittany Waszczak and Kiri Mitchell, intended to engage the public in a discussion.

Victoria Stevens describes herself as "a mature, white, middle-class female". Stevens has presented a triptych of images, "Clitoris Allsorts I, II, and III" (2014) — each image is an embroidery on paper depicting a synchronised swimmer's legs above the water.

Brittany Waszczak, in a feminist critique, seeks to convey the notion of abjection through her work. She has been influenced by Julia Kristeva's 1982 work, *Powers of Horror*, as well as Jacques Rancière's, *Aesthetic Revolution and Its Outcomes* (2002), which led her to conclude that while beauty may have some rational properties such as order, symmetry and proportion, it is an attribute not explained by reason alone.

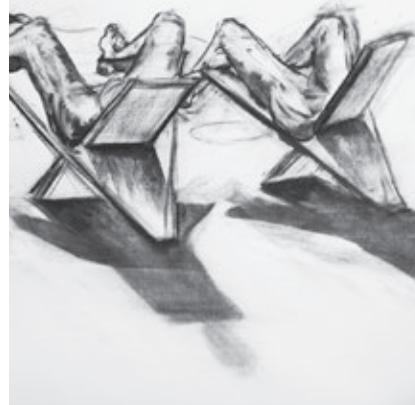
Waszczak informs us that the embellishment of the merkin on the stained and outdated male underwear, from her series "Skid Row", is a form of ironic pretence that comments on anxiety in a complex situation. Through media and advertising, the pressures imposed on young women about how they look have become pathological as a new generation of young men are repulsed by the au naturel.

Stevens and Waszczak have given the viewer food for thought, but it is Kiri Mitchell's body of work that has many viewers commenting on this exhibition. Mitchell has constructed scenarios that critique how men and women interact, exploring the sexual politics of these exchanges in a bizarre environment where women are represented both as female archetypes and anonymous birthing sacks. These scenarios are presented in dioramas, utilising sets from the creation of a stop-motion film that illustrates the grey area of sexual politics where there is no clear villain or victim, the place where desires and needs collide and compromises are made. The film engages with humour and pathos and has a horror movie undertone where the fate of the male characters is precarious. The work explores and references the works of Michel Foucault and Barbara Creed.

The female body as a resource is depicted at its most extreme through the collection of menstrual blood, which is used to activate the growth of an external birthing sack. The sacks are made available to the male characters as places to take comfort and pleasure. The preparation and maintenance of the sacks is a messy affair conducted behind industrial closed doors.

With a strong drawing practice, Mitchell uses preparatory charcoal sketches to develop narrative in the stop-motion film, and these are displayed alongside the dioramas and throughout the floors of the exhibition.

This exhibition is thought provoking. Whether you are comfortable with the feminist, abjection and gender issues raised is up to you, but this exhibition will give you something to think about after you leave. ●



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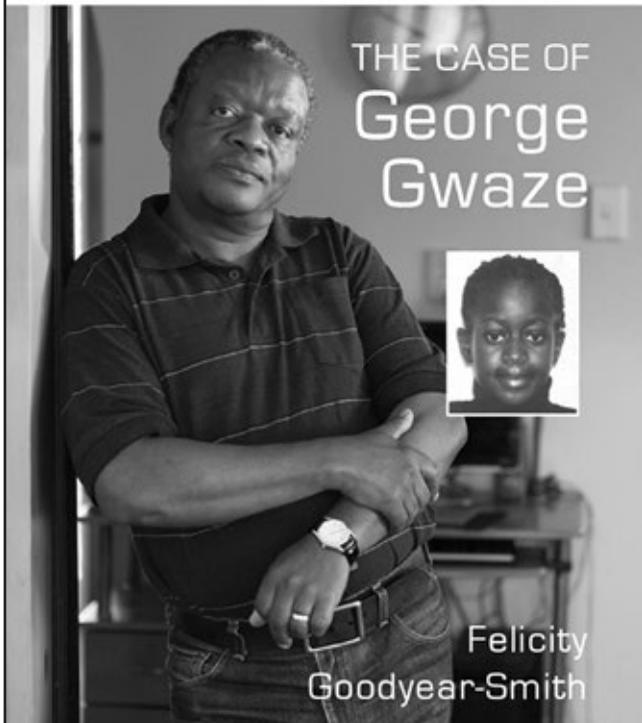
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# MURDER THAT WASN'T



## Murder That Wasn't: The Case of George Gwaze

» WRITTEN BY **FELICITY GOODYEAR-SMITH**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

**M**urder That Wasn't: The Case of George Gwaze, by Felicity Goodyear-Smith, is a work of true crime. It tells of Charlene Makaza's death and how her adoptive father, George Gwaze, was twice charged and twice acquitted of raping and murdering her. Goodyear-Smith first examines Charlene's family background, medical history and resulting death, then she looks at why medical staff and law enforcement became convinced a crime had been committed and the ramifications the resulting case against Gwaze has had for the New Zealand legal system.

Unusually for true crime, Goodyear-Smith takes the position that no crime actually happened. Charlene contracted HIV at birth from her mother. Both her birth parents died, and Charlene and her older sister Charmaine were adopted by their mother's sister Sifso and her husband George. For various reasons, Charlene went undiagnosed — although her superficial infections were treated, their underlying cause was not. She died suddenly, and medical professionals with no experience of, or education in, how advanced untreated HIV/AIDS presents in children mistook her symptoms for signs of sexual assault.

Because the medical professionals were unable to accurately interpret what they saw, her cause of death was reported to the police as suffocation following rape. The police had no reason to think there was any doubt about that diagnosis or the fact that a crime had been committed, and proceeded accordingly. As a result, the Gwaze family suffered terribly. Their privacy was invaded and their possessions confiscated. The family was torn apart.

Goodyear-Smith writes with clear prose and talks about science without being alienating. The only wrong note she hits is an odd one. In Chapter Four, Goodyear-Smith says: "The family were told that local Māori must be brought in to conduct a cleansing ritual on their house before they could return. This did not fit in with their own deeply held religious beliefs." That is all the detail she goes into and it leaves a wealth of questions unanswered, including whether the ritual actually happened.

Finally, during the book's conclusion, she expands on this slightly, saying: "The police required local Māori to perform a cleansing ritual on the Gwaze house before the family could return home. This could be considered culturally inappropriate to a deeply Christian African family." Regardless of the Gwaze family's beliefs, this seems baffling. Do Christchurch police officers make a habit of insisting upon cleansing rituals? Even the people for whom such rituals have great importance surely wouldn't all appreciate having them ordered on their behalf by the police. For me, this needed further elaboration.

Murder That Wasn't is upsetting in a number of ways. Injustice is never fun to read about, although it is important to be aware of it. Goodyear-Smith makes it clear how this injustice happened, with a special examination of bad science and how to prevent it. She concludes that the case against George Gwaze should be learned from, lest the many mistakes that were made be repeated. Anyone with an interest in New Zealand law, professionally or personally, should read her work. ●

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## DeadCore

» PC | DEVELOPED BY 5 BITS GAMES; PUBLISHED BY BANDAI NAMCO

REVIEWED BY **CAMPBELL CALVERLEY**



The first-person platformer is a very unstable genre. First person makes it disorienting — you can't see your feet and the camera is often shaking. Games like *Portal* and *Mirror's Edge* are examples of such first-person platforming where experimentation has paid off for the former and not the latter. The bottom line seems to be that the more realistic such a game is, the less fun it is to play.

Enter *DeadCore*. This is a game where realistic physics are chucked out the window in favour of throwing yourself around an astonishingly large playing field — this is pretty much all the game consists of. There is no humour in the game, but the setup is kind of ridiculous: you are a faceless nobody with a gun, and your sole aim is to climb a seemingly endless tower of *Tron*-like mechanisms, traps and laser walls of death. You'll get a genuine rush from soaring through the air. The mechanics of the game have been tweaked to the point that you have a very comfortable level of control over your character.

What follows is a series of challenges to get from point A to point B as quickly as possible. One major flaw in the game is that you never

really know where point B is, leaving you feeling rather lost if the path isn't intuitive enough. Fortunately, this is not often the case. The game is quick to remind you that your aim should be to finish the levels with speed rather than care, and oddly enough it does this by giving you a gun. It has three functions, and none of them are lethal. You can use it to shoot gates open or disable hostile machines; it displays your speed-run time and ammunition; and it shows an energy meter for a forward-propulsion ability.

The abilities you gain throughout the game — double-jumping, dashing, charging energy — are drip-fed to you as you progress. Rather than a series of tutorials, the game gives you a new ability and then immediately presents you with the next challenge. As a result, the game challenges the player so much that gameplay never stagnates and finishing levels is very satisfying. Each level is more difficult than the last, and you have to learn to use all of your abilities in various combinations — while reacting to hostilities — in order to proceed. This method of teaching-through-playing works throughout almost the entire game, but later levels are borderline impossible due to the steep difficulty curve.

Where the game falls slightly flat is in its story and length. The story is nonsensical: you find yourself falling through computer glitches as though you are an AI, you find yourself in a room near the bottom of the tower and, though tension builds through storms swarming around the tower as you near the top, there is no resolution at all. You can collect and read logs, but they add nothing to the experience of the game — they feel crowbarred in. But the game doesn't really need to have a plot; its presentation is lovely and the gameplay is fun, so why would you need a narrative excuse to catapult yourself around with glee?

As for the length of the campaign, it is crushingly short. There are only five levels, which are over too quickly. To be fair, there is some replay value in trying to beat your fastest time or trying to find collectible secrets scattered throughout the levels, but this gets boring quickly. There are usually multiple paths through a level, some more intuitive to find than others. However, as mentioned, this can make the player feel lost and frustrated.

*DeadCore* cries out for user-generated content, but there is no outlet for this. It feels like a missed opportunity, if nothing else. Don't get me wrong: this is a slick and very fun game. I just wish there was more of it. ●



## 6 Years

» DIRECTED BY **HANNAH FIDELL**



REVIEWED BY **MANDY TE**

**H**annah Fidell's *6 Years* takes a beautiful and authentic approach to the demise of a young couple's six-year relationship. However, it falls just short of capturing the same empathy from its audience.

Melanie "Mel" Clarke (Taissa Farmiga) and Dan Mercer (Ben Rosenfield) are young university students who have been together for several years. With Dan interning at a local record label and Mel training to be a teacher, the pair have their future planned. However,

their friends and even family members are wary about the relationship, expressing concern that being tied down for so long and at such a young age limits their experiences and opportunities.

After a drunken night out, Mel goes to Dan's house and the pair get into an argument when he learns that she was drink-driving. Furious at his lecture, Mel shoves Dan into a dresser, accidentally injuring him. The couple end up in the emergency room and Dan lies

about how the injury happened. This experience is the catalyst for what ensues. Dan kisses his co-worker and, as a result, Mel begins to violently lash out — leading to a string of dramatic events that signal the disintegration of their relationship.

With astounding cinematography, Andrew Droz Palermo captures the honesty and naturalness of the couple's intertwining lives, not only expressing how dedicated they are to each other but also the growing toxicity in their romance — a toxicity that seems inevitable to the audience. The leading actors' performances amplify the film's rawness; they convincingly cultivate a longstanding chemistry that runs high on emotions. Although their performances are realistic, especially in conveying heartbreak, the events that take place are melodramatic, tarnishing the actors' authenticity and creating moments of bewilderment for the audience. This film doesn't quite measure up to others in its niche; *Like Crazy* and *Falling Overnight* never cause the audience to wonder whether they're watching a soap opera because these films simply show us perspectives we can empathise with.

Visually stunning and with performances that carry the film despite its melodrama, *6 Years* offers interesting and captivating insights into a relationship that just isn't meant to last. ●

## 13 Minutes

» DIRECTED BY **OLIVER HIRSCHBIEGEL**



REVIEWED BY **GRETA MELVIN**

**U**nderdogs and people who fight for the greater good are often portrayed as wholesome characters whose only flaw is that they care too much. Based on the true story of Georg Elser, a German man who attempted to assassinate Adolf Hitler, *13 Minutes* is a carefully composed film that focuses on the lead up to this event and on a protagonist whose motivations showcase all the gritty facets of his character.

A few hours before Hitler is due to give his annual speech, Georg (Christian Friedel) can be seen setting up a bomb in the Munich beer halls. However, his suspicious behaviour had already attracted the attention of the Gestapo, Nazi Germany's secret police force, and they capture him as he tries to flee the scene. Georg's bomb does go off but, instead of

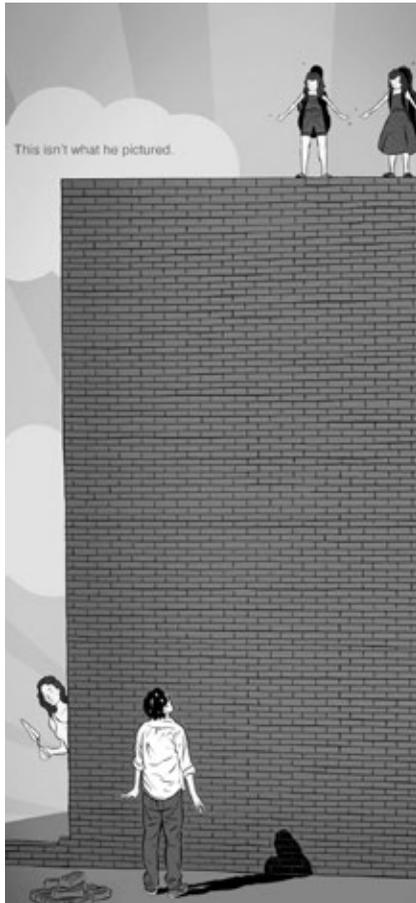
killing Hitler, he ends up injuring several civilians and killing eight people. Hitler had left 13 minutes early and, inadvertently, saved his own life.

Eventually discovering the blueprints for the bomb, the Gestapo interrogate and brutally torture Georg. The protagonist's initial unwillingness to cooperate is shown through his refusal to even state his own name and birthdate for the record. Georg eventually begins to cooperate and the audience is shown his backstory through a series of flashbacks, revealing his Catholic faith, his association with — but non-commitment to — left-wing politics, his complicated affair with Elsa (Katharina Schüttler) and, most importantly, his refusal to be caught up in the town's frenzy of admiration for Hitler.



The director's preoccupation with Georg's biography rather than the event itself makes the protagonist realistic and vulnerable. However, in doing so, he also offers a film that is very grave and almost documentary-like. This works in Hirschbiegel's favour through the film's romantic subplot involving Elsa. Looking at those scenes in isolation, the audience feels as though Georg is a coward, instead of a hero. Presenting Georg as a conflicted character makes him relatable — he does not fall within the superhero archetype.

With Hirschbiegel's stylistic approach to *13 Minutes*, the film offers an emotive account of a fascinating historical story, leaving the audience with the dreaded question of "what if?" ●



## People Places Things

» DIRECTED BY **JAMES C. STROUSE**

REVIEWED BY **NITA SULLIVAN**



**P**eople Places Things follows Will Henry (Jemaine Clement), a Kiwi man who teaches at a local university in New York. He is also a graphic novelist and spends his evenings writing his own semi-autobiographical novel. During their five-year-old twins' birthday party, Will walks in on his wife, Charlie (Stephanie Alllynne), who has just slept with her new lover — a pudgy off-Broadway monologist.

The film jumps to Will, a year later, as a dishevelled and somewhat hapless father who just wants to spend his time having fun with his daughters. Eventually, Will gets dragged back into the dating game after his student, Kat (Jessica Williams), asks him over for dinner and reveals that she wants to set him up with her mum, Diane (Regina Hall), a literature professor from Columbia University.

Clement offers the audience a solid lead performance; the snapshots of his class provide humorous chapters, allowing Clement to shine as he sarcastically chides the less astute members of his class and occasionally allows

his messy private life to spill into his professional sphere. His character's relationship and scenes with his daughters seem genuine and anchor the film — Will's love for the girls gives the audience a different perspective on the human messiness of the rest of the film.

Will and Diane's romance is enjoyable, but it's a shame that this particular plotline feels somewhat underdone. Frustratingly, the director's energy is focused on exploring Will's relationship with Charlie, his annoying and self-absorbed ex. The audience can see how incompatible Will and Charlie are, but Strouse perseveres in the hope that the protagonist will finally process his feelings. Unfortunately, this personal development takes away from the development of other relationships within the film — the strong supporting cast is underused.

Despite some abandoned plotlines and unexplored character depth, *People Places Things* is an easy watch. ●

## Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials

» DIRECTED BY **WES BALL**

REVIEWED BY **MAYA DODD**



**M**aze Runner: *The Scorch Trials* is the second instalment of *The Maze Runner* series, following the survivors from the first film as they discover that the world outside the maze is just as dangerous as the one within it — if not more so. I first stumbled across Dylan O'Brien two years ago in the hilariously carefree film, *The Internship*. Although his portrayal of the cute, angsty, smartphone-obsessed nerd was brilliant, his role in *The Maze Runner* franchise is much more attractive and thrilling.

After being rescued from the maze, Thomas (O'Brien) and his friends find themselves in a concrete safe haven. However, they soon realise that they're actually in a prison. Believing that a third party has rescued them, Thomas discovers that the organisation, World in Catastrophe: Killzone Experiment Department (known as WCKD), is behind the whole thing and that they are harvesting blood from

the kids who survived the mazes.

Thomas convinces his friends that they need to escape and, with a short detour to pick up Teresa (Kaya Scodelario), who had been separated from the boys, they evade the countless men with guns, the electronic concrete doors, the spotlights and the motor-bikes, and disappear into the night. The gang's search for the Right Arm, a rebellion group hidden in the mountains, leads them across a desert, where they come across Cranks for the first time. Cranks are the zombies of this post-apocalyptic world, born of something both human and alien. The kids from the mazes are immune to the disease, which is why WCKD is so intent on harvesting their blood in the hope of finding a cure. Eventually Thomas and the rest of his group make their way to the Right Arm's base — but not without danger and betrayal.

Although the film is bursting with excellent



special effects, it was filled with too much action for my liking. As they say, "slow and steady wins the race" — something the director should have taken note of. There was never a pause in the hectic storyline, and the characters were always running. If it wasn't WCKD chasing them, then it was the Cranks, or the normal people surviving out in the real world who knew about the price on their heads.

Despite my adoration of Dylan O'Brien, *Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* had a busy plot, which I found exhausting rather than entertaining. ●

# University Book Shop



## LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a  
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### Logan was a loose unit

Hi Critic,

Does anyone actually care about the OUSA elections? The whole thing is so irrelevant. I would be surprised if anyone other than the candidates gave a shit.

When I started at Otago, Logan Edgar gave a presentation to all the freshers, welcoming us to Scarfie life. That was cool and I looked up to him with the impression that he must be pretty influential. I myself thought that

maybe that was something I would aspire to in my final year.

However, as the years ticked over I realised that being on the exec didn't really mean much. Every year the uni is plastered with campaigns from different randoms that I know nothing about.

Hyde Street now sucks, the Cook has gone. I wasn't here for Gardies but surely that was much cooler than the "Marsh building". So what are the exec doing? How are they stopping our student culture from being pulled apart by the university? They aren't really.

I just think everyone is getting hyped up about these elections, pissed off and over intense. The last few presidents haven't inspired me. I probably couldn't even tell you their names. Let us focus on our exams rather than your joke of an election.

I'm trying to study and I don't want your bribes.

Gemma x

but upon further inspection, I noticed that one of these candidates shares a remarkable feature of the last name variety with a certain Editor of a certain student magazine, but like I say, I'm not a conspiracy theorist at all.

Oh, to set the record straight, while I didn't turn up specifically to watch our executive in action, I did end up listening in to the meeting and while it was interesting the first time, I definitely couldn't do it every week. Critic, you guys are champs.

Regards  
Sushi-Eating Student  
**Liam Goodin**

Hi Liam,

Not a coincidence at all - all blurbs were listed in the order they were sent to us. One of the contestants and I do share a last name. We also share parents.

And thanks for the compliments - we struggle to get through the thrilling exec meetings each week. I'm sure your friends on the exec fill you in on the excitement though.

Much love,  
**Josie / A certain editor of a certain student mag**

### There's a \$400 limit to campaigning but who has that spare cash?!

Dear Critic,

I have some concerns on the current executive elections:

They are closer to exams than they should be. This is inconvenient not only for those that are voting, but also for the candidates themselves as it is hard to run a campaign in the period leading up to exams whilst studying.

Also, because voting is open for nine days instead of the usual four, does this favour candidates with more funds to run their campaign? The candidates that have a lower budget for campaigning must now sustain their campaign for longer; to compete, and have a shot against those that have greater expenditure.

Sincerely,  
**Concerned Student**

### Waaaaaaahh!

Dear Critic,

I'm sure we've all seen the "Vote Real Change for OUSA" 'political party' that has seemingly invaded our campus with spray-painted "vote for" slogans, but imagine the bewilderment I found myself in when I opened Critic this week and read through the bios for our candidates for next year's OUSA executive to find that not one, not two, but ALL of the candidates that are running under "Vote Real Change for OUSA" were the first person to be featured in each category. Now I'm not a conspiracy theorist, but someone has definitely used up all of their jet fuel with no melted steel beams to show for it. When I first saw this, I thought "it's just a happy coincidence",

### Good idea, number 1 fan xx

Hey Critic,

Exams are looming, so I'm sure I'm not the only one who's running out of inspiration where procrastination is concerned (my mind is already pulling out the ol' tiresome, coffee-stained list of possibilities: cute cat videos, cleaning my room, googling random things like "help me" and "why am I doing this to myself"). On my more desperate days I even use you as a distraction, Critic. As a student magazine you have to admit that providing a means of procrastination is one of the major reasons for your existence... And probably the reason for your popularity.

Anyway, I was looking through the article

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databases and there are actually some really great ones that I can see myself spending hours with, like Digital Theatre Plus. I figure that I could go through databases and find the fun ones I never knew existed because I didn't study jazz music, for example, but I can't be the only one who wants to make some cursory use of these things before I leave and forget about them because wow subscription fees.

Why don't you run a feature on which ones we should look at and why?  
Would be cool.

Freya

## Love nature maaan

Dear Critic,

Today, the worst has happened - I began to empathize with dear old Carol (you lot remember her, ay?)

See, for the third time in the past month I bore witness to the naked beauty that is some of my fellow students. And when I say naked,

I mean, bare naked. At 2 in the arvo. On Leith St. Which made me suddenly understand why Carol hates students.

Now I'm all up for naked shenanigans (and who isn't?) but it's really not the best idea to do a nude stride in public during the day - if not for the poor innocent children you may scar, but perhaps for the fact that it is illegal, and will get you up to a 2 year sentence in prison, according the Crimes Act. Which is probably not worth the bottle of scrumpy you're getting for performing this task.

Please, for the sake of my eyes, for the children, and possibly for your future criminal record, please stop streaking during daylight hours.

Thanks,  
**Scarred for Life**

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Change of dates for the Referendum and the Referendum forum // Referendum now being held  
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Yik Yak

To all those like me who are vowing to get our lives together with early starts, exercise, healthy eating, lots of water, and productive time management over exams: we're fucked and I give us a day.	24
Constantly tired, constantly hungry, constantly horny	26
A middle-aged lady tried to tell me that the expensive makeup brands I buy are no better than cheap stuff. Sorry honey but your blue eye shadow and flaky mascara aren't helping your case...	43
When you just want to go home and have a nap but have to drive around for thirty minutes to get a park 🤔	18
The awkwardness of the first sober kiss	19
It seems like the more I need to pee the harder it is to get out of bed	5

Eating so fast you have to stop for breaks to breathe	67
I don't always celebrate Christmas but when I do I buy candy canes from the warehouse in September	51
The day after a one night stand: yolo that was fun. Four days later: omg I think I love him...	27
No pda in the library please I am trying to study	27
My best friend prefers older men. She just set a new record when a 50 year old had an awkward breakfast with us this morning. I don't understand this.	49
So the news just did a story on the fucking bro code. Slow news day I guess	71
Randomly developing a crush on someone in your lecture.	40

## GET OUT OF THE GHETTO

**With summer just around the corner, this week Jess Ford and Alex Iverson give you a rundown of their trip out to the peninsula.**

**W**e started off with a stop at Glenfalloch Woodland Garden where we tried out their electric bikes. Whether you want to keep pace with the traffic around the peninsula or have a leisurely, scenic ride, these will sort you out. They cost \$30 for half a day of pedalling, but that gave us just enough work to feel good about ourselves but not quite enough to break a sweat. We resorted back to the car after a couple of hours though!

Day-tripping on a budget, we brought a picnic with us to eat at Macandrew Bay beach but there a plenty of places to stop for food on

the way. This stunning little cove has a view of the other side of Dunedin like you've never seen. Driving in, we saw a group of people enjoying a few cold ones and basking in the sun in front of a boat shed, inciting major FOMO. Bring the beers!

In the afternoon, we eventually found ourselves at the Royal Albatross Centre. Here you can see the world's only mainland breeding colony of royal albatross, the historic Fort Taiaroa and the little blue penguin colony at Pilots Beach. The albatross can be spotted in September and, if you're lucky, apparently you can sometimes see the chicks take flight for the first time as they take off to South America. At night you can watch hundreds of blue penguins waddle onto Pilots Beach after a day's feeding.

We checked out the Armstrong disappearing gun and some of the old rifles used when the land was fortified during World War II. This place has a long history, from Māori settlement, to the arrival of the sealers and whalers, to the early European immigrants to New Zealand.

Having never left the ghetto that is North D, we drove one last stretch to Sandfly Bay. You can stop by Larnach Castle on the way but we were quickly running out of daylight. The sanddunes are awesome and don't worry about getting bitten by sandflies at the beach! The bay was named after the sand, which flies from the dunes surrounding the bay on a breezy day.

With the variety of wildlife, history, activities and scenery, it makes for a day trip that even beats movies in bed. ●

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## Exam Stress

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

Dear Ethel,

Shit! It's only two weeks until exams. I'm streeessssed out. I really don't know if I'm going to make it. I feel like dropping out. What can I do?

**Y**ou're not alone ... exams are really stressful — for some students more than others. It's really important to look after yourself in the time leading up to, and during, exams.

How you look after yourself is up to you, but here are some suggestions to consider. Start getting to the OUSA Rec Centre for free breakfast. Aside from the fact that it's FREE, it's a great way to start your day.

Think about what you need to achieve before your exams. Think strategically: in what subjects is it most important for you to achieve higher marks? Make a realistic schedule for study that reflects what is possible.

Set aside some "top-me-up" time each week. That is time for you to do what you LOVE and what makes you feel great. That might be taking a yoga class, hanging out with a mate, watching reruns of *Friends* or *Dr Who*, making brownie, eating chocolate brownie, running ... whatever does it for you. But this time has to be sacrosanct, i.e. NOTHING can interfere with it!

Eat well: plenty of fruit and veg, carbohydrates and protein (good for the ol' brain). If you can't afford to eat well, come and grab a food pack from OUSA Student Support.

Student Health run workshops specifically designed to help you cope with exam stress. Check out their website for details on when and where. The Student Learning Centre also has heaps of ideas, tricks and tools to help you manage your time and workload as you head towards exams.

Study with people. Book a room at the library or at OUSA Clubs and Socs and get stuck in collectively. When you've done the time you had set aside for study, go and grab a coffee and relax.

During exams, you can pop into Clubs and Socs and score a free sauna or game of squash. And, of course, you can drop into the Student Support Centre at 5 Ethel B any time at all for a whine, a cry, a minor meltdown or some practical support and advice. Whatever you need!



## Health Cuts

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

**H**ealthcare in New Zealand has been underfunded to the tune of \$1.7 billion in recent years, according to independent economics advisory firm, Infometrics.

If you are studying health sciences, you may be directly affected by changes in our health system. The lack of funding and the loss of accreditation for training in intensive care and orthopaedics mean students interested in these specialties at Otago are having to look elsewhere. It is high time the government stepped up and addressed the serious health challenges we have down this end of the country.

Even if you're not studying health sciences, you'll probably agree that people in the South deserve decent healthcare just as much as everyone else. Yet our DHB is struggling more than most. It has tired buildings and funding that doesn't match what is received elsewhere in the country.

Our healthcare workforce works harder and for less than other DHBs around New Zealand. They can't afford to do anything else. The Southern DHB ends up with less funding per person than almost any other in New Zealand, once funding transfers are counted.

Across the spectrum, politicians agree that it is Dunedin's turn for a hospital rebuild. Creating the health facilities our community should expect will also mean a \$300 million construction project for Dunedin city.

Like his predecessor, the current health minister is making slow progress on a rebuild. He took a long time to make the decision to sack the previous DHB board and replace it with his own commissioner. In September, he finally appointed the group tasked with overseeing business case development for the rebuild — several months later than expected.

Dunedin South MP Clare Curran and I are hosting Labour's health spokesperson Hon Annette King for a public meeting on health cuts and the New Zealand health system on Monday 28 September. It will take place at 12 noon in the Knox Church halls on George Street. Annette will speak from her past experience as health minister and answer questions.

Dunedin needs a modern hospital, just like every other major city in the country. We need our funding reviewed so that students' training is secured, and our healthcare can be properly funded. If you've visited a hospital, I hope you will consider attending the forum with Annette.

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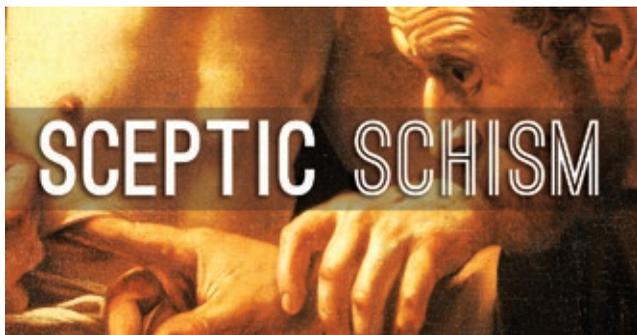
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## Political Leanings

BY WEE DOUBT



## STIs

BY T. ANTRIC

Conservatives are a bunch of meat-eating, game-hunting, tax-decreasing, hard-drinking, Bible-bashing, black-and-white-thinking, immigration-hating, oil-fracking-loving, morally dogmatic philistines. Liberals are a bunch of bike-riding, tree-hugging, whale-saving, big-government-promoting, tax-increasing, flip-flopping, wishy-washy, namby-pamby bedwetters.

These definitions are lifted from Michael Shermer's book *The Believing Brain*, slightly altered for a New Zealand setting. They are stereotypes, but most people identify more with one side and not with the other. Choosing what you identify with should be a rational, personal decision, but it is actually highly likely that your political leanings are the same as your parents'.

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt proposes five innate and universal psychological systems that give humans a sense of what we believe is right and wrong. These are harm/care (the ability to empathise), fairness/reciprocity (a feeling of justice or injustice over exchanges), in-group loyalty (the prioritising of people close to you over strangers), authority/respect (the acceptance of social hierarchy), and purity/sanctity (the avoidance of things or behaviours we believe are unclean).

Put simply, liberal and conservative priorities are irreconcilable because each group prizes different social values. Haidt has had over 300,000 people online rank these values in order of importance. His findings show consistent differences in the values of conservatives and liberals. Conservatives tend to value in-group loyalty, authority/respect and purity/sanctity slightly more than harm/care and fairness/reciprocity, while liberals place the latter two at the top of their priorities.

I tried for some time to confront my biased, liberal upbringing. Conservative people have admirable traits: on average, American conservatives give 30 percent more money to charity (even when controlled for income), do more hours of volunteer work, are more likely to report being "very happy", and have lower rates of mental illness. But no matter how hard I try, I cannot accept that hierarchy, purity and loyalty to an in-group could be more important than fairness and caring for everybody. I may have been primed toward this bias from conception, and it is statistically likely that I will stay liberal until I die.

80 percent of all sexually active adults will get an sexually transmitted disease (STI) at some point in their lives. STIs are stigmatised and shamed, which simply contributes to them being spread more. Having an STI is not a death sentence or something to be ashamed of, but they can be quite unpleasant. There are a few things you can do to lower your chances of getting an STI.

Use condoms or dental dams. I know I always bang (heyyy) on about this, but seriously. Unless you are exclusive with the person you're sleeping with, or have recently both had STI checks, always use some form of barrier protection.

If you shave, wax, pluck, epilate or otherwise remove or alter your pubic hair, don't do so the day of having sex. I know it's part of the pre-town shower ritual, but waxing or shaving creates tiny tears in the skin, which gives more chance for an infection to get in. Instead, do your thang to your pubic hair the day or so before.

In this vein, use lube! Lube reduces irritation and chafing and reduces the risk of tears. It's a common misunderstanding that lube is only useful for anal sex, but it's great for all types of sex. Except oral. I don't recommend ingesting lube (though most are perfectly safe). When they say blueberry flavoured, they lie. I've never had blueberries that taste quite like plastic, cough medicine and vagina juices before.

About vaginas: if you have one, always pee after sex. I know you're warm and comfy and just want to go to sleep now, but get up and go to the bathroom. When things are all up in there, whether it's fingers or objects or penises, bacteria can get pushed into the urethra, causing a urinary tract infection (UTI), which are not fun. All the cranberry juice you'll be drinking to try get rid of it will make you need to pee all the time anyway.

If you have had sex with someone new and didn't use a condom (or even if you did), it's a good idea to make an appointment at Family Planning or Student Health and go get a check-up. They're all lovely, and if you have contracted something, the majority of STIs these days are treatable. If you wait about two weeks for your appointment, then anything that is going to show up will already be there, so results will be conclusive and give you some peace of mind.

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**T**he exam cycle is coming around again — following closely will be a nudge up in the average level of stress throughout North Dunedin. It seems like two out of every three students have that haunted look, as if the grim invigilator is two steps behind them (and the third just hasn't realised how far away exams are).

For many, one of the worst contributing factors to exam stress is lack of, or poor quality, sleep. Everyone knows getting a good night's sleep involves getting to bed at a decent hour. And it's true, but if you do that, it's impossible to fit in those extra few unproductive hours of Facebook-YouTube-YikYak-Central-Library-socialising while avoiding study.

The habits that feed into your sleep are "sleep hygiene". Consistency about getting up at the same time is the most important factor for students — the weekend "catch-ups" do not help you deal with the next Monday. Don't go to bed thirsty either. Exercise helps, but this can be something as straightforward as a brisk walk, no need to don the trendy gear and get judged at Unipol. Avoid stimulation for a short while before going to bed. This includes caffeine, nicotine and alcohol, as well as backlit screens (smartphones, tablets and laptops all count). Find your own way to spend 30 minutes chilling out before you put your head on the pillow and remember to keep the bed for sleep only.

One of the things that makes it harder to get a good night's sleep is the inner mental hamster getting thrashed every night once you actually put your head on the pillow. Some of the steps above can help reduce this, but talking to people is a good option — a lot of ways to get help with stress are available on campus.

It's been shown that sleep deprivation reduces cognitive function, and students with awareness of sleep hygiene typically get better sleep than those without. Spend a few weeks improving your sleep habits, and after exam time you'll consider it worth it.



**P**eople often ponder what is the most urgent environmental issue confronting us. Is it climate change, species extinction or human overpopulation? The answer could be any of these. It is hard to predict which environmental issue may lead to an irreversible collapse in the planet's life-supporting systems. David Suzuki, a Canadian ecologist and environmental activist, points out that there isn't one single act that will repair our planet. He believes the overarching problem is the environmental ideas and values we hold today.

These ideas and values manifest as environmental issues. Since the industrial revolution and the shift of human populations from natural environments to urban cities, we have become disconnected from nature and the ecological systems that support life. Indigenous people and those well connected to the natural world appreciate that no element in our world stands alone. Every natural element is deeply interconnected. From micro-organisms to elephants, from soils to the oceans, nothing exists in isolation. Every entity has a role to play in maintaining the planet's health.

It seems like our disconnection from nature has also disconnected us from this simple and fundamental idea of how the world operates. Just like the Buddhist idea of karma, every negative action we take against the natural world compromises its ability to support us. "Ecosystem services" describes the way humankind benefits from ecosystems. They are often used to inform decision-makers and reflect the interconnectedness of the natural world, and how it has to be considered to support life. This is a politicised idea of the appreciation we need for the planet's health to support us.

How we view the plant forms the way we treat it. We need a global paradigm shift to perceptions of the natural world that align closely with indigenous environmental beliefs. If we can view rivers as the veins of the world, the mountains as ancient deities, the oceans as rich pockets of abundant life and our planet as our mother, we will begin to appreciate the interconnectedness of life and treat the world with greater respect.

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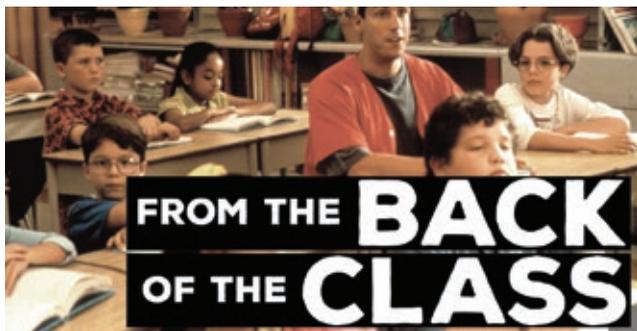
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# FROM THE BACK OF THE CLASS

## Voodoo Child

BY FINBARR NOBLE

**A** head of one of the world's many religions died in the last fortnight with little international fanfare. Max Gesner Beauvoir was the spiritual leader of Haiti's voodoo faith, a biochemist as well as a voodooist. Beauvoir became the Supreme Serviteur in 2008.

Voodoo originated in Africa, but in 1510 the Atlantic slave trade began bringing grief and tragedy to the world and many unwilling Africans to the Americas. Among this forced tribal exodus were the Yorubas, the Dahomey and the Ewes, all of whom had well-established voodoo traditions, including snake worship and priesthood. In 1729, the Dahomey conquered their neighbours the Ewes and sold many into slavery in exchange for sweet European goodies. Ironically, many Dahomey and Yorubas were themselves kidnapped, and among all these slaves were voodoo priests. Within a generation of their arrival in the Americas, these priests had established temples and followings even while under captivity.

Religion, of course, can be not only a divisive force but a unifying one. Stolen from Africa and brought to the Caribbean, slaves were split from their tribes and often forcibly Christianised. Amid these broken tribes and families, many slaves found solace and unity in their ancient rituals. Voodooos believe in the existence of one supreme god, an abstract omnipotent, yet unknowable, force. Beneath this god lie spirits or Loa, who rule over worldly affairs such as family, harvest and justice and to whom offerings are made, with each Loa having a preferred day, colour, fruit and so on. Loa also exist within nature, for example as rivers, oceans and lightning.

Of course, upon the slaves' arrival in the New World, their Christian masters weren't too happy about this competing spirituality and tried to stamp it out. In French Haiti, the Catholics believed in a supreme god with saints who intercede or "talk to him" on behalf of mortals through the power of prayer. Voodoo practitioners quickly realised the parallels, and so a semi-substitution was made with the Loa often taking the names and attributes of Catholic saints. Voodoo practitioners also liked the elaborate ceremonies and costumes of Catholicism (who doesn't), which they adopted and adapted for their own rites.

Voodoo is now an official religion of Haiti. Anyone seeking further misinformation should watch the 1973 Bond film, Live and Let Die.



## Harry Getting Support

BY STEPH TAYLOR

**'Excited' by new varsity role**

If you haven't heard, the uni has a new proctor scoping the campus out. Having served in Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands will no doubt prepare him for the battleground of Castle Street.

**'Ginger extremist' convicted**

A British court has convicted a man of plotting a chemical attack and planning to kill Prince Charles to pave the way for the ginger-haired Prince Harry to become king. As a ginger myself, I have to say these actions aren't representative of all gingers.

**Pope downsizes for US motorcade**

Unfortunately the Popemobile isn't being given a spin in the USA during the Pope's first trip there. Instead, he is cruising around in an average Fiat.

**Once lush apartment wrecked by fish tank above**

If you're a somehow rich student looking to invest in a bit of property, check out this absolute steal in Wellington, which features a lookout in its ceiling that is oddly in the shape of a fish tank.

**No copyright on 'Happy Birthday'**

You're out of luck, with a US judge ruling that no one has copyright for one of the world's most recognisable songs.



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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](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz). But be warned – if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a Critic writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

## Jolene

25 minutes late?  
Up to fucks.

**A** solid 25 minutes late I walked in and we introduced ourselves as he was seated at a table amongst a 20th birthday party.

Having recently started new meds, I was stone cold sober for the entire date so I ordered a mocktail. Conversation flowed well, but he was quickly working, glass by glass of wine, through the bar tab.

By the time the food arrived, I was hoping that it might sober him up a little. He seemed like a lovely guy and I wanted to get to know him a bit better. He informed me that he lived with 18 other guys and was a big fan of skateboarding. A lady from the birthday party came over and helped herself to some of the food and then about 15 minutes later, embarrassed, came over to apologise. It was at this point I realised that my date was beyond drunk. Instead of accepting the apology and moving on, he continued to offer food to the poor lady and other party-goers, until I interrupted and forced him to stop. It was time to go.

I really should have gone home at this point. Especially when, while walking toward the Octagon, a condom fell out of his wallet, which he immediately denied was his. However, he had mentioned he had the new 'Inside Out' movie. I had wanted to see it since it came out, so, I saw an opportunity and I took it. We started watching the movie and he immediately removed his pants and got under the covers, looking at me strangely when I didn't join him in spontaneously disrobing. He was fairly attractive sure, but I just met the guy.

I was happy to make out and keep it fairly innocent, explicitly stating early in the night that I wasn't going to have sex with him. There was some innocent fumbling before I put a stop to everything and decided to settle with the movie. He left the room, a bit put out by me not wanting to go further and I watched the end by myself. After turning down his multiple attempts to pay for a cab home, I went to my friend's leaving party around the block for the rest of the evening.

The movie was great, but the date not so much.

## Adam

Ditched mid movie?  
Also up to fucks.

**I** was just settling in for my usual 6pm, 'finish the day on a high' bong, when I get a call for this gig. No deliberation was needed as my recent dry spell made this opportunity not to be missed.

I spent the hour beforehand chipping away at a bottle of red, putting the smellys on and checking my new hair cut was in shape.

Arriving 10 minutes 'fashionably' late went unnoticed as I ended up waiting a further half an hour for her to show up. Unsurprisingly from her appearance she informs me she isn't drinking, the classic "I'm on medication".

After usual formalities, the chat was marginal. She was nice but after hearing she went to St. Margaret's, I knew I was in far too deep. I had a feeling we had different expectations for the night; her: out to find a husband, and me: out to get drunk.

So I spent half the time texting around and seeing what everyone else was up to, with a slight intermission to hear about her trip to Nicaragua – good chat but lasted around about two seconds so had to quickly think of other possible movements for the night. I was then asked "what are we doing after this". It was obvious she wanted the post-drinks (or lack-of in her case) hang out so I offered some Netflix and chill, thinking that this slow night could have a happy ending. Netflix and chill amounted to an hour long gobby, and some lazy attempt at watching Inside Out.

After a few 10-minute trips to the lounge for beuges and one drunken bail resulting in a now broken coffee table, she got the hint and I politely offered her a ride home (only politely – on top of the red, I'd smashed the bar tab by myself so there was no chance of a ride).

Overall good story to tell, not a great story to live.



## OUSA Vice President's Column

### Bob's Your Uncle – Nepotism and You

Every year around election time things start to shake up on campus. Campaign season kicks off with candidates walking around campus, popping into halls, speaking at lectures or knocking on doors to let everyone know that they are running and that you should vote for them. Criticism is levied against the current exec – whether fair or unfair – promises are made, and the word change is dropped more frequently than the bass on Castle.

Because it is widely accepted that student elections are a glorified popularity contest, I'd like to talk about nepotism and how you should be a sceptical voter. Nepotism essentially boils down to the old saying "It's not what you know, but who you know". That is, people getting positions

based on personal connections rather than merit. The old British expression "Bob's your uncle" traces its origins to Prime Minister Robert Cecil appointing his nephew Arthur Balfour as Chief Secretary of Ireland in 1887, despite him being a bit of an idiot. In typical British fashion, the expression carries sarcastic and bitter overtones – meaning that sometimes life boils down to how well you did in the lottery of birth.

When it comes to people you know running, whether they're your mate, your flattie, or someone you cheekily swiped right to on Tinder, don't rush blindly to the voting booth with their name as the only candidate deserving of your vote. Look at their policies (or lack thereof), ask them questions, do some background research or go to the candidate forums – the beauty of living in the age of Facebook stalking is that information is always out there. Ask yourself if you think they are the best person for the job from what you know about them – especially if you know them as a mate – and don't be afraid to call them out on something if you think they're bullshitting.

Every year the exec loses officers like freshers lose their dignity, and one of the major reasons is that the candidate has bitten off more than they can chew, or that they just weren't suited for the role despite all the campaigning. Tacking an additional 20-30 hours of commitment on top of your studies each week takes its toll on anyone, and there is a radical world of difference between saying you're going to do something and actually doing it.

So go out there and vote, get involved with the process by asking questions, be sceptical of the candidates – especially if you know them. Don't be afraid to vote no confidence if you don't think they're up to par. Democracy is a two way street and we all have to play our part. **You have until 4pm on Wednesday** – so jump online to [voting.ousa.org.nz](http://voting.ousa.org.nz) and cast your vote now.

Isaac Yu  
[adminvp@ousa.org.nz](mailto:adminvp@ousa.org.nz)

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OUSA is supporting a project to develop videos for students, to play via our YouTube channel. The idea is to have awesome content made by students, for students. Contact Jiro, our Digital Content Intern – [jiro@ousa.org.nz](mailto:jiro@ousa.org.nz) – to find out more and get involved!

**Check out our existing stuff**  
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