

# Critic

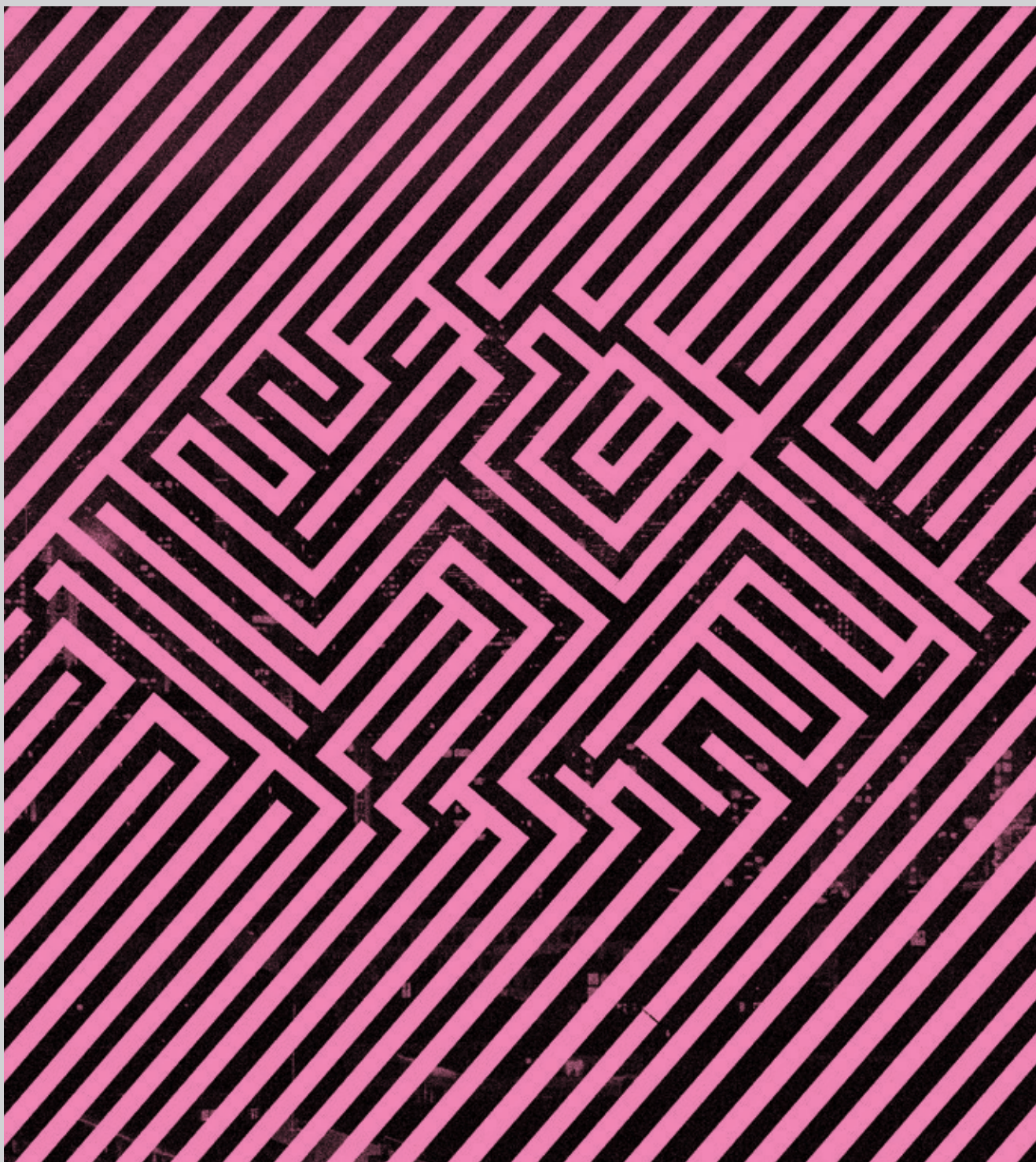
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BY JOE HIGHAM

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## Fucked Up?

»MAKE UP FOR IT. NEXT TIME, DON'T BE MEAN

That was a bit embarrassing wasn't it, Cantá? A dumb decision to print it and even more embarrassing that you paid for it. For those who missed the piece that Cantá has got in a wee bit of trouble for, "The Epidemic of Virtual Butt-hurt" was written by a Queen B who has a rant at someone who wrote an article about "virtual rape" on Grand Theft Auto and how "even in video games, women can't escape rape."

Queen B ranted on about what a "dense bitch" this woman was and refers to her in several other unnecessarily horrible ways. Better that I don't spread the bad taste.

I nearly said that I think a blank page would have been better. But that's not true; I actually think the topic of that article should be something that is discussed. The fact that a game allows you to do that sort of weird shit is exactly that ... fucking weird.

But neither the original writer or the author of Cantá discusses the pervasiveness of the rape culture. Or the fact that the assaults happen just as much (on the game) to guys — it's not just towards women on this game.

A few people defended the article on freedom of speech grounds. I'm all for that, but say something productive. Or be a dick, but expect to be slammed for it. Expect to lose the support of the students you're supposed to be giving a voice to.

In 2005, Critic made an even bigger stuff-up. In a 2005 issue, now banned, there was an article published called "Diary of a Drug Rapist", intended to be satirical. Satire is meant to be funny. I'm yet to see someone successfully make rape funny, so how about we just don't even try?

It's pretty hard to offend me — yes, I have my opinions on what is gross (the Cantá article was), stupid (again, the Cantá article was, but so are shitloads of other articles) or just plain unnecessary.

But people make mistakes — own up to it. Make sure it doesn't happen again, hope that there hasn't been too much damage, and then hope that the backlash dies down.

When Critic screwed up 10 years ago, a lot of things were put in place to make sure it didn't happen again. We now have an ethics checklist, enhanced employment agreements ... and a lesson learnt. A lesson we won't forget.

Part of saying sorry is asking what you can do to fix it and it might pay to do just that this time. Actions will always do more than words ... and that's coming from an aspiring writer.

Lots of love,

**JOSIE COCHRANE**

CRITIC EDITOR

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# Critic

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# The Real Cost of Hyde

» COUNCILLOR SAYS HYDE IS A SLUM FULL OF PIGS

BY JOE HIGHAM

**T**he annual Hyde Street Keg Party, which took place on Saturday 21 March, has come under scrutiny due to its apparent cost to taxpayers.

Last week, *The Wireless* published an article quoting Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull stating, "The public resource that goes into that one day is about \$125,000." Cull said this ballpark figure was given by a Southland District Health Board member during a tertiary sector group meeting. The meeting involved Otago University, Otago Polytechnic, the Dunedin City Council, the Dunedin Police and Public Health South. Regarding the figure, Cull told *The Wireless*, "We need to start thinking about whether that's the best use of taxpayer money."

Reid could not be reached to confirm this figure, though Dunedin City Councillor David Benson-Pope said the cost is "in terms of staff time and [work on the event] before, during and after." Benson-Pope, who is openly opposed to Hyde Street in general, said the party costs the city "well over \$100,000."

Benson-Pope said Hyde Street is "an embarrassment." He added, "I am embarrassed as a Dunedin resident to have a slum like that in the middle of the town ... if you give people pigsties to live in, do not be surprised if they act like pigs."

When questioned about the party specifically, he said, "I'm not against people having a good time, and if they want to do it in the street that is fine, provided it's safe."

According to OUSA President Paul Hunt, OUSA spends \$22,000 on health and safety. Being the main organisers of the event since 2013, OUSA pays for most of the direct costs associated with the party. Hunt said 45% of the cost is spent on security; 27% on traffic management, infrastructure and fencing; 30% for the St. John Ambulance Service; and 8% on food.

"The cost to the taxpayer would be the cost of having the police at Hyde Street, but it's not uncommon for the police to be at events," said Hunt. "Other taxpayer costs would be Dunedin Hospital and healthcare facilities."

OUSA figures from Hyde Street 2014 show that there were one third less arrests than 2013, 45% less casualties treated by St Johns, and 50% less total cases seen.

The party has come under threat in recent years due to the continuing debate between councillors, police and residents regarding a North Dunedin liquor ban. There have been calls for Hyde Street to be scrapped altogether. Cull stated: "It was getting to a point where [the DCC was] worried someone was going

to get badly injured or killed." This said, Cull praised OUSA and the university on the "fantastic job [they have done] making [the Hyde Street Keg Party] safer and more acceptable in the last few years."

Asked whether he believes the event should continue in the future, Cull said, "You do have to ask about the normalisation of very large street parties with very large intakes of alcohol."

Dunedin North MP David Clark said as a solution that "those costs be sheeted back to those who generate them, and often that sorts out problems." Benson-Pope also suggested "the people who should be paying for [the clean up] are the people who are making the mess, not ratepayers."

Dunedin Police have issued a media release stating: "OUSA [has always] done a great job in assisting the residents of Hyde St to organise this event. We encourage those attending to enjoy themselves within the bounds of the law and to keep themselves safe and look after their friends. We'd also like to take this opportunity to remind students who are attending the party to ensure that their flats are secured while they are at the party. Over the last two years there has been an increase in burglaries in the Hyde Street area while the party is on."



# OUSA Refuses to Pay \$22,500 Owed to NZUSA

BY LAURA MUNRO

President Paul Hunt began the meeting by commenting on the executive's performance so far this year. He said although they are "kicking into gear well," the team is still only running at "six gears out of ten."

OUSA has officially put in its submission regarding the proposal to abolish the two exam-free days in the second semester. The executive opposes the idea, unless it sees "data that shows there will be a significant reduction in double-exam days." Hunt said the argument that there would be a reduction in double-exam days was "only speculative."

NZUSA was a topic of discussion once again, and the executive has decided to "reallocate the \$22,500 it owes to NZUSA."

"We think there are better uses of that money," said Hunt, despite the NZUSA constitution requiring OUSA to pay. He said OUSA will "seek to work with NZUSA and other universities about the best way to proceed from this point ... We owe it to the students ... by paying the \$22,500 that blocks projects which are more beneficial to Otago students."

The NZUSA constitution states that when an association decides to withdraw from NZUSA, they have a one-year withdrawal period.

During this period, the association is required to pay the yearly fee of \$45,000 to give NZUSA time to adjust its budgets. Hunt said if NZUSA is warned now that it won't receive the second instalment, then it has at least three months to make any adjustments. "In the real world, that's plenty of time," he said. There were no opposing opinions among the executive.

NZUSA President Rory McCourt has also asked to attend the Hyde Street Keg Party for 2015.

"For R U Ok in particular, [Laura Harris — 2014 Education Officer] wants to make sure [volunteers] have some kind of handle on what they should be doing at any given point ... so [she is] strongly opposed to Rory attending Hyde, even if he's there to help out."

Hunt commented that NZUSA is "always interested in coming down for the publicity opportunities, Clubs Day and Hyde Street. But not so vigorous in terms of some nitty-gritty issues in terms of educational achievement and university budgets. It would be good if they had a bit more interest [in such issues]."

The executive has a meeting lined up with McCourt on Wednesday 17 March. McCourt requested that student media not be present, but "given there are large sums of money at stake," Hunt and the executive decided that

student media should be there.

Discussion is still underway regarding the possible affiliation of a pro-life group. Jonathan Martin is working with the group to draw up "a fair and adequate constitution," and a vote will take place in an executive meeting on Monday 23 March.

Renewing OUSA's membership to VSA was brought to the table again. Hunt was supportive of paying the membership fee as it is "consistent with OUSA's promotion of volunteering." He asked the executive if anyone had a differing opinion on the matter, and it soon became obvious that the majority of the team missed out on last year's debate over the issue between executive members.

"That's part of being a governor," said Hunt, "you think before the meeting." Hunt said the VSA decision "is a classic example of an issue which shouldn't require three months to work out. Executive members need to be active in searching the information they want before next week." Renewing the \$100 membership will be put to vote on Monday 23 March.

Meeting duration: 25 minutes. That's got to be a record. ●

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# By-Election Nominations

» FEROCIOUS COMPETITION FOR TWO TOP SPOTS

**F**ollowing the departure of the OUSA Postgraduate Office Claire Mitchell last month, and OUSA's International Officer vacancy for over a year, a by-election is being held for the two positions. Nominations closed last Thursday and the competition is fierce. We wish all candidates the best of luck with this week's voting opening on Tuesday 24 March at 9am and closing at 4pm on Thursday 26 March.

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICER



**Toa Sailusi**

My name is Katoa and many of my colleagues called me "Toa," I'm a Polynesian descendant.

"Let us dare," the mission of the school is our individual's commitment to work together towards peace internationally. The integration of our various differences into one body is my mission for this position!

Living in Hawaii, Japan, Australia, growing up in Fiji, Tuvalu, and many other parts of the world, speak volume to my global experiences.

I believe this opportunity will inspire me to become a "warrior" for a change in the world. I'm counting on you.

Vote for Toa the "warrior!"

Sincerely,

**Katoa (Toa) P. Sailusi**

**Nominated by:**

Phaedra Lameko

**Seconded by:**

Riiti Conway



**No Confidence**

No confidence here! I am really keen to be a part of the fabulous group of people who are your 2015 executive.

My hobbies include snails, thunderstorms, and sitting around tables for a great deal of time discussing issues that no one really cares that much about.

I would be perfect for the position of International Officer as I am 1/8th Scottish and have a world map from Typo above my desk. I have also seen Slumdog Millionaire twice now, so I can relate to people from all walks of life.

I once brought a \$10 bracelet in support of the Kony 2012 Campaign to help those less fortunate. I am a giver.

Please vote for me!

**Nominated by:**

Sometimes confident

**Seconded by:**

Kind of confident

## POSTGRADUATE OFFICER



**Christopher  
(Chris) Jackson**

A funny thing happened to me on the way to University yesterday. A friend of mine texted, "Chris, you should be postgrad rep. You should do it because you would be very good." To which, I confusedly replied, "What? Why?...wha?" (actual representation of the texts).

The ordeal forced me to think about previous experience in leadership roles. I am no stranger to commitment and my family always taught me to only take on responsibilities that you can fully commit to. Like all postgrads, I question my own time constraints and limitations—know that by declaring I am whole-heartedly looking to serve.

**Nominated by:**

Jayde Fleet

**Seconded by:**

Ben Riordan



**No Confidence**

I am no confidence and I want to be your new Postgraduate Officer.

I haven't yet completed my degree, but I postgraduated NCEA level 3 with Merit last year.

**Here is my poem:**

I'm pretty damn passionate,  
about being the postgraduate.  
In Starters I'm Jammin it,  
My posters will be laminate.  
I'm a fresher, I'm contaminate.

If you vote for me, I promise to complete at least four of my ten hours a week.

**Nominated by:**

Sometimes confident

**Seconded by:**

Kind of confident

# Yelling down Microphone to Keep Rights We Have

» 30 ATTEND NZUSA AND TEU CAMPAIGN AGAINST DUMB (POTENTIAL) COUNCIL CHANGES

BY LAURA MUNRO

**O**n Thursday 19 March, the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) launched a joint campaign with the Tertiary Education Union (TEU) at Otago University. NZUSA President Rory McCourt led the launch alongside TEU National President Sandra Grey.

The campaign, which was launched on the steps of the registry building, is an attempt to maintain democratically elected seats for students and staff on New Zealand's eight university councils.

In February, the government amended the Education Act by removing the legal

right of staff and students to have a place on university councils. The campaign asks each university to ensure at least one third of seats are left for staff and students who are elected democratically.

Grey said in a press release, "The government never gave a justification for removing the legislated right for staff and students to have democratically elected representatives on councils or for diminishing the size of councils."

"We know that despite the government's efforts to put councils in the hands of ministerial appointees and business executives,

universities and wānanga still want their staff and students to have a voice on their councils."

McCourt said, "Staff and students are the people that make universities great. We're the ones doing the teaching and learning, and asking the big questions."

"The evidence, and overwhelming international experience, shows that these important perspectives add value to this kind of institution, and protect it against top-down groupthink. The importance of this cannot be overstated in the context of a ministerial power-grab," said McCourt. ●

## NZUSA President Makes Final Plea for Membership

» IF OUSA AND VUWSA DO NOT RETURN, NZUSA TO END IN JUNE

BY LAURA MUNRO

**L**ast week, New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) President Rory McCourt met with OUSA regarding its withdrawal from NZUSA last year, shortly after VUWSA (Victoria University Students' Association) also withdrew. NZUSA's constitution states: "A constituent member may terminate its membership by giving 12 months notice in writing to the president at the registered office, and discharging all financial obligations to NZUSA within that 12-month notice period."

Because OUSA only withdrew last year, it still has a 12-month withdrawal period from that date. This requires it to pay the \$45,000 fee for the following year. OUSA was aware of this upon withdrawing, and the \$45,000 was planned for in its 2015 budget. Although it has paid the first instalment of \$22,500, OUSA has — in the words of President Paul Hunt — decided to "reallocate" the funds.

In an executive meeting last week, Hunt said OUSA believes "there are better uses" of the money. "We owe it to the students ... by paying the \$22,500 that blocks projects which are more beneficial to Otago students."

The following Wednesday, McCourt met with Hunt and fellow executive members. For the first hour of the meeting, McCourt argued

his case as to how NZUSA benefits OUSA and its students, calling it "a consolidated body" which is able to "build relationships" with students around the country as well as government organisations and parliament.

OUSA believe the \$45,000 yearly fee could be used on "independent lobbying" from OUSA itself. Hunt said OUSA's concerns were that it "does not have control over what the central organisation [NZUSA] prioritises." He spoke of a "disconnect between the association (OUSA) and the central body (NZUSA)."

"Basically," said Hunt, "we give that 45k to you, but why can't we use that 45k ourselves and pursue the particular issue relevant to the exec member?"

McCourt focussed on the benefits of having a central organisation, "Independent lobbying is not seen by the sector, or by ministers, as legitimate. They don't want to deal with eight different associations."

Discussion eventually shifted to the \$22,500 owed by OUSA. McCourt said, "The impression [he] got from the board [was] that they fully intend to recover what is owed from this association, but it is up to them how they intend to do that and they haven't made any decisions."

"We've sent a letter to OUSA, and VUWSA will receive one shortly, informing both associations that we sought legal advice about the liabilities of the organisation to pay its fees, [and that] the constitution is enforceable."

VUWSA has not yet paid any of the \$45,000 it owes. The outstanding \$67,500 NZUSA is owed had been allocated towards their 2015 budget. According to McCourt, NZUSA would be forced to close in June if fees are not paid. Aside from funding, this is also due to the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) refusing NZUSA a seat from June if VUWSA and OUSA stick with their current position of withdrawing from NZUSA.

CUAP is a committee of NZ universities and decides on a range of university matters, including the approval of new programmes and how they are taught. The student seats would remain but by another process, not necessarily chosen by elections.

"If OUSA and VUWSA do not reconsider, then I think it's appropriate to take action to wind up NZUSA at that point. If we are unable to represent the students nationally ... then why do we exist?"

"There's no point in limping on if we don't represent the voice of students," said McCourt.

# Failure to Launch

» PAM DELAYS NASA BALLOON LAUNCH

BY OLIVER GASKELL

**T**he National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) launch of a Super Pressure Balloon (SPB) was recently delayed due to concerns about the impact of Cyclone Pam. The launch, which was scheduled to take place on Sunday 15 March, was delayed until Friday 20 March.

The balloon was set to launch from the Central Otago town of Wanaka, departing from Wanaka Airport.

Debora Fairbrother, the Chief of NASA's Balloon Program Office (BPO), said that "Cyclone Pam has affected the conditions in the stratosphere" and that "the predicted flight path of the balloon has changed due to the instabilities in the atmosphere."

In a press release, NASA said balloons are "one of the best kept secrets in the science community" and that "they provide invaluable science at a relatively low cost, and they offer scientists an opportunity to test

ground-breaking instruments before they're considered for free-flying spacecraft."

According to Fairbrother, Wanaka was chosen for the launch of the SPB because "[NASA] scientists required a mid-latitude southern hemisphere location ... factors that went into the decision [were] low population densities ... flight trajectories, availability of equipment to rent, facilities for integration, high-speed internet and accommodation for staff."

The Queenstown Lakes District Council issued a statement on their Facebook page on the Saturday before the original launch: "The NASA team at Wanaka has advised they won't be attempting a launch tomorrow morning ... a decision about the possibility of a Friday launch will be made by 2pm tomorrow."

Fairbrother said that "our team [at NASA] will evaluate the conditions on a daily basis" to decide whether a launch is viable. Fairbrother



also added, "there are key considerations for an optimal launch day ... the surface weather, the safety analysis of the balloon's flight trajectory from Wanaka to the east coast of New Zealand, [and] what the balloon is predicted to do in the stratosphere."

The launch is set to be a "test flight of the 18.8 cubic foot super pressure balloon," and the goal is "for 100 days duration," said Fairbrother. The previous record for SPB duration is 54 days.

NASA says the SPB will "boost tourism and support the economy for Wanaka, the region and New Zealand." ●

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# BOUNCING OFF THE HALLS

## Just a Quickie with Your Classy Companion

**T**orua College gets us off to a terrific start, with rampant stories of debauchery echoing from every dingy corner. One night in the "party unit" and things quickly got out of hand, with a few frothing freshers punching holes in the roof and just generally tearing up the place. With what seems total obliviousness to the best thing about hall living (free heating), a couple of crazy cats ripped the heaters off the wall and smashed furniture. We're sure this is going to go well for future students freezing their nips off.

However, even this mindless destruction could not top what one grubby Toroa girlie did after Ori Week. After a huge night at Toga, this tragic Toroa toddler mistook her mattress for a porta-loo and released her bowels over and across her fresh white sheets. Shaking and humiliated, the now thoroughly emptied gal looked around desperately for a way to cover up the shameful act. The solution? Flipping over her mattress and leaving it for an entire week — only for the not-so-sweet aroma to eventually reveal her disgusting deed to her gagging neighbours. Mmmm ... pungent.

At the not-so-prestigious college on the hill, some foxy Knoxies have been getting rather


frisky. For two freaky freshers, a serendipitous meeting on the shuttle from the airport to the college soon became steamy, with the two lovebirds barely making ten minutes from meeting in the taxi to dancing the horizontal tango in their newly christened rooms.

There must be something in the water at Knox, as two sub-wardens have also caught the lovemaking bug. The two subbies have allegedly been taking joint showers — obviously in a desperate effort to conserve water and halt the rapid effects of global warming. Good on you, Knox; you're really doing your part to save this planet.

Selwyn College never fails to provide some interesting stories, with one rookie consuming far past her limit and bailing off a two-storey balcony. Thankfully she hobbled away with only a sprained ankle and some lost dignity — although knowing this pie-stealing plebeian personally, there wasn't all that much dignity left to lose.

That's all for now, folks. Until next time, stay with us as we continue to track the literal comings and goings of 2015's new intake of alcoholics. ●






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# The CCTV Debate

BY CHIEF REPORTER **JOE HIGHAM**



Closed-circuit television, or CCTV, is a method of recording the events that occur in a specific area. In particular, the cameras are used to monitor criminal activity. One of the largest users of CCTV in the world is the United Kingdom, which, according to Big Brother Watch, a privacy pressure group in the UK, has over 51,000 CCTV cameras controlled by local authorities alone.

The Dunedin City Council has 14 CCTV cameras recording footage of the Octagon, day and night. The cameras constantly record the actions of those who frequent the CBD. According to the Dunedin City Council website, during "busy times, such as Friday and Saturday nights, [CCTV cameras] are monitored by trained volunteers working under police supervision." Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull said, "according to police, [the cameras have] had a salutary effect in the Octagon."

Cull said that due to the success of the Octagon cameras (introduced in 2010) and the problems of disobedience in North Dunedin, there have been discussions about extending CCTV to parts of the area. "It was a suggestion made by one councillor in response to some of the issues that have arisen [in North Dunedin]."

Cull called a summit around a week ago and invited the CEO of Otago Polytechnic and the vice-chancellor of Otago University. CCTV

expansion "was mentioned but no one has got to a solutions stage yet, we're more talking about achieving consensus on what the issues are," said Cull.

CCTV makes it easier for criminals to be detected, identified and prosecuted. Dunedin City Councillor David Benson-Pope said it is "hard to catch the one person behind five others who lobs a bottle at a cop," but this could be easier with CCTV.

"I think if we don't get hold of [the problems currently caused in North Dunedin] ... it is inevitable that there will be a proliferation of cameras to give people the ease of getting evidence," said Pope. With student behaviour called into question following Orientation Week, more and more people are eager to see the programme extended into the student quarters to manage the disobedience there. Lee Vandervis of the DCC was of this opinion: "we need police to put some of their CCTV cameras [in Dunedin North], because of the extreme cost of some of the vandalism."

If CCTV in North Dunedin is part of the future plan for the area, the cost to ratepayers will be a significant issue to consider. The network of Octagon cameras installed in 2010 cost around \$200,000. Of this, \$150,000 came from ratepayers and the rest was from community organisations.

## SECURITY NOTICE



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According to Cull, one of the key considerations is "whether you feed it to monitors with people watching or whether you just record." This is an issue because of the significant cost difference between the two options.

Another issue raised by Dunedin City Councillor Hillary Calvert is that of CCTV cameras' ability to prevent criminal behaviour. She stated: "If you knew if you threw bottles you would have a picture of yourself quite clearly on CCTV and someone would come and pick you up and charge you with [an offence] ... you wouldn't do it. Or you certainly wouldn't do it twice."

However, not everyone is keen to see this programme executed. One issue for such a move is about the fairness of the implementation. North Dunedin is an electorate populated largely by youths. 15–29 year olds currently make up 37 per cent of residents, compared to the national average of 19 per cent in New Zealand electorates.



Some have reservations that expanding Dunedin's CCTV from the Octagon to cover North Dunedin will create a "surveillance state" for the area. This is an issue MP David Clark is openly cautious of.

"I'm sure there might be odd occasions where a CCTV camera can assist if there have been a lot of assaults or other serious crime, as then it would be hard to oppose it," said Clark. However, "I would be wary about a blanket surveillance initiative. I think that stifles freedoms and protests and any number of other things you find in a democracy."

Pope agreed on this point, "I would prefer to avoid the proliferation of cameras if we can ... If we can sort out [the problems of North Dunedin] by a combination of other means we would be better to do that."

Cull said the caution surrounding a possible surveillance state is a "perfectly legitimate concern." However, "we are not putting it in people's bedrooms, we're talking about public places. So it is nothing that police or Campus Watch cannot do already."

Another problem with such a move is who controls the footage once it is recorded. Hilary Calvert has stressed that she would like to see CCTV implemented but she is "against

CCTV cameras that are put up by any authority." Calvert said this includes the university and police.

"The police have access to [the Octagon CCTV recordings] and they would be able to put out, for everyone's understanding, what problems there are at any particular time of night. They don't, they choose not to. They can pick and choose [what to reveal]," said Calvert.

"While I'm very positive about information for everyone in the public place, I'm not at all positive about the university or the police having information that they can then pick and choose about whether they share it and which pieces they share, so they can edit it or not share it. That's a really bad plan," she said.

Jon Heslop, a third-year university student and 2014 resident on Castle Street, is wary of the potential damage to the cameras, "The [CCTV cameras] would be the first thing to be vandalised. "People don't like being watched. For most, Castle Street is their first taste of freedom, away from parents, teachers and RAs," he said.

"Putting cameras around the streets is imposing that sense of supervision again. Castle Street has a law of its own, which is do what

you want, but don't be a dick; Campus Watch understand this, the police understand this, but I don't think the proctor, armed with video tapes of our activities, will get it. I've never felt threatened on Castle, or in Dunedin in general, and I don't see why CCTV is necessary. If lighting a couch just requires spray-painting a camera lens then you bet it will keep occurring."

Otago Director of Student Services Karyn Thomson says the university cannot form a view until it receives details of what the DCC is intending to propose. In regards to student safety, Thomson said "The university has sought to reduce problem behaviour through a number of initiatives, including Campus Watch's pastoral care and the Code of Student Conduct." Additionally, they "have worked closely with the Otago University Students' Association over recent years to promote more moderate drinking and responsible behaviour by students."

"In most instances," says Thomson, "the majority of our students conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, but there has always been a minority whose antisocial behaviour is unacceptable. Activities such as lighting fires, breaking glass bottles and the like will not be tolerated as they greatly endanger their own or others' safety and well-being." Thomson says each case is "dealt with separately," but consequences can range "from warnings to expulsion."

OUSA President Paul Hunt said, "[OUSA] do not support surveillance in North Dunedin. Often, you can't actually use CCTV footage to prosecute [offenders]. It's very difficult to catch arsonist when they operate in enclosed spaces."

"What the research shows on CCTV is that at the very start of its implementation you might have a very small deterrence affect. But then after that point, the benefits become negligible and people who want to deliberately commit crimes go elsewhere," said Hunt.

Cull concludes: "If it can make people safer, and help prevent or detect arsons, then it's a tool to be considered." A decision is yet to be made. ●

**"I would be wary about a blanket surveillance initiative. I think that stifles freedoms and protests and any number of other things you find in a democracy."**





# Green Co-Leadership Contest

BY POLITICS EDITOR HENRY NAPIER

**I**n January of this year, the Green Party co-leader Russel Norman announced his resignation. Although he will remain as a list MP for the party, his decade-long run as co-leader will come to an end in May.

Norman highlighted it was time to "find a new challenge for [himself]." He also stated his wishes to "spend a bit more time with [his] family." Norman's partner, Katya Paquin, recently gave birth to the couple's third child.

The Green Party is now working to find Norman's replacement to join the remaining co-leader, Metiria Turei. The party's constitution requires that there be both male and female co-leaders, and therefore only male party members can run for the

role. Turei has stated there are "plenty of high-calibre men" to choose from.

Party members, Gareth Hughes, James Shaw, Kevin Hague and Vernon Tava, are all gunning for the role. Last week the four featured on a live debate on TV3's *The Nation* and were asked a range of questions, including where they will take the party, their political hero and their favourite animal.

During the debate, contestants were quizzed on their knowledge of the major economic issues of the day. All four have been criticised for failing to answer basic questions such as the current official cash rate and the rate of inflation. Russel Norman has been regarded as providing the Green Party with economic credibility.



## JAMES SHAW

**Born:** 1973 (age 42) in Wellington

**First elected to Parliament:** 2014

**Current positions:** Green Party Spokesperson for Economic Development, Commerce, Trade and Investment, Tourism, Small Business, Sustainable Business, State-Owned Enterprises, Open Government, Electoral Reform

**Past Positions:** President of AIESEC, Consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), Venture Manager at the Akina Foundation

**Education:** BA in International Political Economy, Victoria University of Wellington. MSc, Responsibility in Business Practice, University of Bath

**Favourite Animal:** Whale

### Stance on Issues:

**Economics:** Green economic, social and environmental policies are designed to work together. Economic tools should be used as way to develop and strengthen the environment and New Zealand people.

#### National-Greens Coalition:

Shaw would not have a National-Green coalition.

**Spying:** Spying for trade and security is normal and acceptable; however, transparent oversight is necessary. The public needs to have a thorough understanding of what is happening.

**Where to now?** Expanding the vote to over 15 per cent.



## PROFILES

## KEVIN HAGUE

**Born:** 1960 (age 54) in Aldershot, England — has lived in NZ since 1973

**First elected to Parliament:** 2008

**Current positions:** Green Party Spokesperson for Housing, Health and Wellbeing, ACC, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Biosecurity and Customs, Cycling and Active Transport, Sport and Recreation, Rainbow Issues, Rural Affairs

**Past Positions:** Director of the AIDS Foundation, Chief Executive of the West Coast District Health Board

**Education:** BSc in Mathematics and Physics, University of Auckland

**Favourite Animal:** Weka

### Stance on Issues:

**Economics:** That social justice and the environment are two sides of the coin of degradation. Right now used as resources extracted by the economy; for this to change, the priority needs to change. The economy should be used as a ways and means of protecting and strengthening society and the environment.

#### National-Greens Coalition:

Hague agrees with the Green Party members that a National-Green coalition is "highly unlikely."

**Spying:** Spying domestically is okay, but with extreme oversight. Spying internationally is not. Hague wants to shut down the GCSB.

**Where to now?** The Greens need to get into government. Hague wants to implement the policies that the Greens campaign on.





## GARETH HUGHES

**Born:** 1981 (age 33) in Gisborne

**First elected to Parliament:** 2010 (not elected, entered on list following retirement of Jeanette Fitzsimons)

**Current positions:** Green Party Spokesperson for Broadcasting, Energy, Mining, ICT, Libraries and Archives, Research, Science and Technology, Tertiary Education

**Past Positions:**

Coordinator for Greenpeace

**Education:** BA in Religious Studies, History and Politics, Victoria University of Wellington

**Favourite Animal:** Maui dolphin

### Stance on Issues:

**Economics:** New Zealand's people and New Zealand's environment have to be prioritised over the economy.

**National-Greens Coalition:** Hughes doesn't believe a Green-National coalition could ever exist, based on National policy over the last two terms of government.

**Spying:** The New Zealand Police should have spying capabilities for domestic purposes, but with appropriate oversight. New Zealand shouldn't be involved in Five Eyes and shouldn't spy on other countries.

**Where to now?** Hughes is happy where the Greens are. He wants to continue being the Progressive Left branch of New Zealand politics.



## VERNON TAVA

**Born:** 1977 (age 38 approx.)

**First elected to Parliament:**  
Yet to enter parliament

**Current positions:** Auckland Council Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee, Deputy Chair of the Hearings Committee, Solicitor at Auckland Community Law

**Past Positions:** Teaching Fellow at University of Auckland

**Education:** Master of Laws with First Class Honours, University of Auckland

**Favourite Animal:** Maui dolphin

### Stance on Issues:

**Economics:** Believes in sustainability. Sustaining the environment comes down to social responsibility. Economics should be used as the means for doing so.

**National-Greens Coalition:**

Tava believes in working with whichever parties will advance Green policy. He sees the issue of sustainability as "beyond the left-right spectrum" and something that needs to be addressed immediately. In short, Tava would consider a National coalition.

**Spying:** Spying is acceptable as long as it has a firm oversight, preferably not by politicians either.

**Biggest Threat to NZ:** New Zealand industries are damaging the environment.

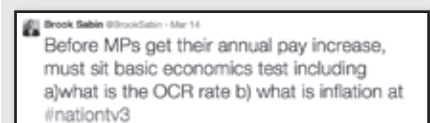
**Where to now?** The Greens would be a party that advocates for sustainability. Tava believes the Greens should be involved in every government for that reason

## A New Direction

The leadership race spawned a new debate on the direction of the Greens. During the debate, three of four candidates were adamant that a National coalition was off the table. However, newcomer, Vernon Tava, was more open to the idea. He maintained that sustainability was "beyond the left-right [political] spectrum." This led to his views that the Greens should work with anyone who is prepared to consider their policies.

The 2014 election saw the Greens begin in a tight coalition with the Labour Party. The agreement ultimately fell apart when both parties were at odds over various economic policies. The notable top tax rate policy proposed by the Greens was publicly rejected by Labour leader at the time, David Cunliffe, in 2014. The policy had income earners over \$150,000 per annum being taxed at 40%. However, since the change of leadership in the Labour Party, the close relationship between Labour and the Greens has diminished.

Political columnist for the *New Zealand Herald*, Fran O'Sullivan, highlighted that it is unrealistic to expect Andrew Little will pursue a coalition with the Greens for the 2017 election. In her view, Little intends to return the Labour Party to a position where it can rival National. The change in Green leadership potentially marks a new direction for the future of the party.



# News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



## world watch

### 1 MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Zhanna Nemtsova, daughter of murdered Russian opposition politician, Boris Nemtsov, has laid blame for the murder on Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin condemned the murder and vowed to find the killers; however, Zhanna Nemtsova claims that Putin is at least "politically" to blame for creating the atmosphere in which the prominent opposition politician was murdered.

### 2 FERGUSON, MISSOURI

Thomas Jackson, the police chief of Ferguson, Missouri, has agreed to resign following the killing of an unarmed black teenager in the town last August. The killing sparked nationwide protests and called into question racial equality in the United States.

### 3 LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

A micro-pig café is set to open in London. The café will allow customers to eat and drink alongside the tea-cup-sized animals and will feature "pig-inspired" beverages. Micro pigs cost around £700 and can live for up to 18 years. The café aims to increase awareness of the challenges of owning micro pigs as a pet.

### 4 NORTH KOREA

The leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-Un, has become an unlikely supporter of feminism. Kim Jong-Un sent his congratulations and gifts of cosmetics to the wives of airmen for International Women's Day. He did not actually meet any of the women.

### 5 NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

A chihuahua was found stashed in a woman's check-in luggage at a New York City airport by a transportation security officer during the x-ray process. According to the owner, the chihuahua was not meant to be travelling with her, but had snuck into her luggage. The chihuahua and its owner were happily reunited.

### 6 SHANGHAI, CHINA

The wife of a cheating husband got her revenge by cutting off his manhood, not once but twice. The jilted wife found an image sent by the husband to his mistress and stormed into the room where he was sleeping and attacked him. He was then taken to hospital for emergency surgery; however, the wife went to the hospital and cut it off for a second time, reportedly throwing it out of a window where it was lost.

### 7 OREGON, UNITED STATES

An Oregon State University spokesperson has confirmed that a 19-year-old student shot an adult film in the library of the main campus. The student who participated in the adult film is no longer a student of the university and was charged with public indecency. The film shows the student undressing in a section of the library marked "geography, anthropology and recreation".

### 8 IOWA, UNITED STATES

A billboard in Iowa has been causing drivers panic when they mistake a man on the billboard as a real person attempting to commit suicide. The billboard was advertising a local car dealership but has since been removed after a complaint by the town sheriff.

### 9 ANZOATEGU, COLOMBIA

A Colombian mayor has apologised for hiring two male strippers to perform on International Women's Day. The mayor of the central town is quoted as saying, "To be honest, I was completely unaware that muscular men would dance in their underwear."

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# Grapevine

"Contestants put their all into this competition and they should expect to receive feedback and criticism that is professional and constructive. We no longer have confidence that Kills and Moon are the right people to perform the role of X Factor judges and they will leave the show, effective immediately."



**Mediaworks chief executive Mark Weldon** spoke out after the husband and wife judges were sacked from X Factor NZ last week. Natalia Kills and Willie Moon bullied a contestant on live TV, accusing him of having no originality due to his choice of hair cut and suit.

"It's only in the community's benefit to have people who are completely locked out of the employment market to be re-absorbed. The alternative — i.e. leaving gang members to their own devices — is hardly attractive."

The Mongrel Mob and Black Power, formerly warring gangs, are set to take up contracts in Dunedin from the DCC's Parks and Recreation department. Initially there will be a trial period, but there are plans to extend the initiative. **Council Events and Community Development Manager, Rebecca Williams**, said that the council "recognises that there are many who struggle to find employment" and that the council should play a role in helping those people out.



"We are responsible pet owners, and we are begging to be able to take our pets to the vet without fear, or even just go outside and let them feel the sun or the grass between their paws."



The **City Board of Health in New York** has refused to lift the long-held ban on keeping ferrets. The ban was initially instigated in 1999 by New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as a safety measure against rabies. The City Board of Health voted 3–2 in favour of removing the ban, with three abstentions; however, it needed six votes to pass the motion.

"Can you prove that David Seymour, ACT MP for Epsom and friend of the National Party, is a real person and not in fact a hologram created by you, whose functions include agreeing with everything you say and being the butt of jokes for a while?"

Prime Minister John Key's office received a **strange request** under the Official Information Act, asking whether David Seymour is a hologram. Seymour has offered to prove he is not a hologram by allowing people to touch him for \$5. Funds raised will be donated.



"There are similarities between me and captain hook in that I am a... piratical buccaneer, living on the high seas, stealin' and a-robbin' and loathing the perpetual innocence and childhood of Peter Pan."



**Russell Brand** on his likeness to Disney villain, Captain Cook.

## FACTS & FIGURES



### Jack Daniel's

It is illegal to purchase this whiskey in the town in which it is produced.

### Scotland

It is illegal to be drunk and in possession of a cow.

### Duelling

Legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

### Men

Can be allergic to their own semen.

### 333

Squares of toilet paper on a roll, on average.

### 200 calories

Burnt during during **30 minutes** of active sex. I.e. Not starfishing.

### Asexual

Approximately **one per cent** of people around the world are not attracted to either sex.

### Six million

parts in a Boeing 747–400.



## NO SHORTAGE OF SPORTS

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

### Highlanders Continue to Impress ...

**A**fter a good night out last week, I was woken up outrageously early the next morning thinking there was an albatross or one of Daenerys' dragons attempting to nest on our roof. Upon investigation I found that it was just the Sky TV man installing a new satellite dish, which means I can finally gorge myself on all the True Hollywood Stories and Sky Sports I can handle without having to rely on a pixelated and pirated live stream and an overheating laptop. Success.

The timing couldn't have been better as I declared myself too hungover to walk five minutes down the road to the stadium to

see the Highlanders taking on the Waratahs, choosing instead to settle on the couch. It was shaky start from the Landers, who finally got going to come back from 0-12 down to lead 14-12 at half-time after the big winger Wase Naholo sprinted in from 70m out after some brilliant defensive work from Malakai Fekitoa.

After half-time, Ben Smith and Patrick Osborne piled on two more tries early in the second half. This was before digging in with a trademark Highlanders defensive effort to hold off a late fight-back from the Waratahs. An impressive bonus-point win over the defending champions. ●

### Warriors Return to Winning Ways

**W**e also had the Warriors late kick-off against the Raiders last Sunday night. If this game is an indicator of the season to come, then the Warriors are going to continue their unpredictable and frantic playing style, which is both incredibly exciting and equally nerve-wracking. Australian commentator, Andrew Voss, summed the Warriors up well when he said, "They are nervous leaders who play like they're ten points behind when they are twelve points ahead." We wouldn't have it any other way though.

Losing to the Knights in the first round was not the best start for the Warriors, putting them on the back-foot from the start of the season, which has become a bad habit over the last six years. This meant that their hard-fought 18-6 win over the Raiders in Canberra was crucial, as the NRL ladder is notoriously difficult to climb once you fall behind.

A nice-looking run of four home games over the next six rounds should see the Warriors firmly camped in the top eight if everything goes to plan. After a disappointing last couple of seasons under several different coaches, only a return to the finals will be a satisfying conclusion for the Warriors in their 20th year in the competition. Keep the faith. ●



### Formula Yawn

**T**he Formula One season kicked off last week with the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, one of the only races of the year that is on at a reasonable time for New Zealand viewers.

The form shown in pre-season testing suggested nothing other than a Mercedes-Benz-dominated race, and this is exactly what happened — with reigning champion Lewis Hamilton leading his team-

mate Nico Rosberg home miles ahead of everyone else. In fact, it was such a boring race that I will say no more about it.

After "accidentally" switching to the E! channel after the chequered flag, I ended up missing the most entertaining part of the whole race weekend when, for some unknown reason, Arnold Schwarzenegger conducted the post-race podium interviews. I saw the clip later on YouTube and Arnie worked the crowd

beautifully, busting out some of his famous one-liners and even getting Hamilton to claim "I'll be back" for the next race in Malaysia.

Hopefully this first race will be like the first lecture of the semester. Poorly attended, a mess of administrative problems and technical difficulties, and ultimately irrelevant in the grand scheme of things. ●



# CRICKET CORNER

**A**fter a long and drawn-out month of group games, the Cricket World Cup finally kicks things up a gear for the knockout rounds. By the time we go to print, the Black Caps should have gone to Wellington and beaten the West Indies in their quarterfinal and be preparing to take on South Africa in Auckland. In case I have just jinxed it for us, now is a good time to look back at the best performers of the tournament so far.

## BEST GAME: NEW ZEALAND VS. AUSTRALIA

Things were looking a bit too easy for the Black Caps at Eden Park as they dismissed the Aussies for just 151 runs after 33 overs. In typical style, McCullum smashed a quick 50 before Mitchell Starc started bowling people out left, right and centre. Luckily Kane Williamson held his nerve through this middle-order meltdown and thumped a six to win it in the 24th over.

## RUNNER UP: BANGLADESH VS. ENGLAND

It was all action in Adelaide in what was a must-win game for both sides. Bangladesh set a reasonable but attainable score of 275, and then it was a tense game right up until they bowled England out for 260 with just one over to spare. The crowd goes wild, the Tigers secure their spot in the quarterfinals and knock England out of the tournament. Great stuff from one of the "underdog" teams.

## TOP BOWLERS

**1st:** Mitchell Starc (AUS) was the top wicket taker with 16 wickets, had the best averages and was second only to Southee with his 6 for 28 against the Black Caps.

**2nd:** Trent Boult (NZ) was the second-highest wicket taker with 15. Also bowled the most maiden overs with 11.

**3rd:** Tim Southee (NZ) had the best individual figures with his world-record-equalling, seven-wicket bag against England (for only 33 runs) and taking 13 wickets overall.

## TOP BATSMEN

**1st:** Sangakkara (SRI) hit four centuries on the way to the highest total of 496 runs over the group games. He also smashed the most fours with 54.

**2nd:** Brendon McCullum (NZ) had a fearsome strike rate and topped all the batting stats for the Black Caps.

**3rd:** Chris Gayle (WI) hit the highest total in a game with his knock of 215 against Zimbabwe.

## GOOD ON YA MATE AWARD: IRELAND

Good craic from the Irish who won three games and only missed out on the quarterfinals due to a slightly lower run rate than the West Indies whom they were equal with on points. It is a shame that the ICC is reverting back to a ten-team format for the next World Cup in 2019, which means that the best-performing "minnows" (Ireland and Zimbabwe) probably won't be there. Not a smart move if they want the game to grow in the smaller nations — hence the outrage on Twitter.

## NAMED AND SHAMED AWARD: ANYONE INVOLVED WITH ENGLAND

I don't mean to pick on them but it couldn't be anyone else, could it? Political infighting meant that some of their best players were left at home, and you could see squad captain Eoin Morgan visibly regretting his decision to defect from Ireland. England should consider themselves lucky to have qualified as hosts for the next tournament in 2019. An unbalanced squad was woefully underprepared and then full of excuses when it was too late — hence the outrage on Twitter.



Why don't you tell us what you really think, Paul ...



You will see more overtaking with me ripping past Cumby in my mum's Corolla ...



I would have saved this joke for their game against the Force ...



Not the most dedicated fan, but the hashtag makes it all ok ...



Some England fans finally found something to cheer about ...

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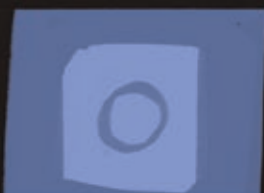


FEATURE  
features@critic.co.nz

# *the* #fitspo *movement*



by SARAH TEMPLETON



It's clear that with the major role social media play in our everyday lives, when trends start to develop on our favourite sites, we sit up and take notice. The rise of #fitspo on Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter and Instagram attempts to push people, including myself, to take more notice of how we are moving and what we are eating. Fitness bloggers like Melissa Chalmers, producer of the Health Spot on Facebook, constantly post "fitness inspiration" for their hungry followers.

Chalmers' interest in "fitspo" blogging began just before her wedding in 2012, with the goal of "getting in shape" for her big day. The Health Spot was started as a page to track her journey for her friends, and "it quickly grew with so many young girls that wanted healthy inspiration!" Chalmers' statement that she "lives and breathes 'fitspiration' all day long" sums up the nature of

The very word "fitspo" evolved from the trend of "thinspo", which erupted into a public concern a few years ago. The trend of posting pictures of emaciated figures, usually young women, on the internet to inspire sufferers of anorexia was hotly debated in the media. The call to action led social networking site, Tumblr, to ban the hashtags #thinspo and #pro-ana (promoting anorexia), stating on their official page that "we won't allow blogs dedicated to triggering self-harm." Nowadays, the hashtag #fitspo (promoting fitness rather than thinness inspiration) has replaced #thinspo in the promotion of body ideals; it turns the focus to being fit as opposed to being skinny (apparently).

Many social media users run "fitblrs", fitness-based Tumblr pages dedicated to the fitspo lifestyle. However, for those susceptible to body

hashtag on social media triggered a relapse of her mental-health issues. On her blog, XOJane, she revealed:

"To the susceptible, it's a disorder in disguise of health, bad habits masquerading as good ones. It's a massive trigger that can send you spiralling into a dark world of disarray ... Soon I was just like the rest: re-blogging pictures of skinny girls with their running shoes on and their bones sticking out, beside photos of avocado on toast, beside memes with mantras and rules, so many fucking rules."

Dr Tamlin Conner, a psychologist and researcher at the University of Otago, has a measured take

"To the susceptible, it's a disorder in disguise of health, bad habits masquerading as good ones. It's a massive trigger that can send you spiralling into a dark world of disarray ... Soon I was just like the rest: re-blogging pictures of skinny girls with their running shoes on and their bones sticking out, beside photos of avocado on toast, beside memes with mantras and rules, *so many fucking rules.*"

many the blogs. When asked about the popularity of fitspo in social media, Chalmers said, "I love that this generation is hungry for knowledge and truth!" That truth appears to revolve around Nike Frees, smoothie bowls and "gym selfies", all buzzwords which would have sounded like nonsense language ten years ago, but are now part of social media's everyday lexicon.

In the face of the fact that currently one in three New Zealand adults is obese or overweight, the motivation to eat better and exercise should be a positive thing. Even the world of #fitspo can be upbeat and positive, but it is a thin line. The photos of underweight and extremely muscled fitness paired with slogans encouraging you to push yourself to the limit are where the problems lie.

dysmorphia, these pages can be just as triggering. There is a popular fitspo mantra that "strong is the new skinny", and herein lies the issue. Idealistic body adjectives promote treatment of the body as a trend, something to be obtained to fit in with what is fashionable and the social norm. When you compare the images associated with both fitspo and thinspo, it can be difficult to notice a difference between the two. Charlotte Hilton Anderson, author of memoir collection *The Great Fitness Experiment* made her views on the matter clear, "fitspo is just thinspo in a sports bra", and describes the way both promote an unrealistic ideal of exercise and dieting, a point of view that has been taken up by many critics of the fitspo movement.

For recovering anorexia sufferer, Sheena Lyons, following and posting under the #fitspo

on the correlation between fitspiration and thinspiration, acknowledging that "there's definitely a blurred line between the two. Looking at these kind of images, it's possible it could lead a person to looking at more thinspiration images ... A possible gateway as it were." She was quick to acknowledge, however, that while these images may trigger a relapse or issues for some users, everyone reacts differently to different things. So it may not be a good idea to tar all fitspiration images with the eating-disorder brush.

While fitness-related blogs and the hashtag #fitspo are meant to motivate and inspire, looking at images of idealistic body types has been proven to significantly lower self-esteem. In 2004, 145 university students participated in a study; half were given 30 minutes to view 40



# “fitspo is just thinspo in a sports bra”

full-page photographs from summer issues of three mass-circulation magazines, *Cosmopolitan*, *Vogue* and *Glamour*, before answering a series of randomly ordered questions on body dissatisfaction. The other half viewed neutral “control” images not associated with women’s bodies or fashion ideals. The finding was that “women who had been exposed to thin-ideal media images reported increased body dissatisfaction compared to the women in the control condition.” Interestingly, although the same body image issues can occur (more recently there have been rising cases of muscle dysmorphia; a disease where predominantly males view themselves as too small and have an obsession with gaining muscle), a study published last year found that, for males in their early twenties, comparison with these fitspo images could act as positive motivators rather than sources of body dissatisfaction. However, more research is needed before this generalisation can be made across different age brackets.

A significant issue faced in the drive to achieve perfection for those that run fitblr is a sneaky undercurrent of body shaming. In an attempt to display a new kind of healthy, women are being encouraged to fit within a niche body ideal that is neither over or under the ultimate goal weight, and that openly condemns those who are. The popular fitspo slogan “only dogs want bones” is meant to poke fun at those who don’t fit into the muscled aesthetic that drives fitspiration, but manages to wipe out a significant portion of the population. Paired next to a picture stating “suck it up now so you don’t have to suck it in later,” which encourages the idea that having anything to “suck in” is undesirable.

Dr Conner was particularly concerned about the psychological impact of the language that is

repeatedly used. The phrasing of fitspo slogans can be seen as “almost priming some aggressive concepts”, which mirrors a current trend “for this high punishment kind of boot camp ... it’s very different to other trends of fitness.” Dr Conner observes that “pushing yourself right to the edge” in fitness, as is encouraged in these images, creates a “hostility almost against your body ... to be successful you have to fight and be aggressive. Your body is weak, separate from you, needs to be tamed and beaten ... I would prefer to see a less aggressive relationship with one’s body.”

This fad is also based — without explicitly stating it — on the sexualisation of the body. As blogger Kevin Moore put it in his own examination of fitspo, “strength only sells when it’s sexy.” Many of these images are emblazoned with slogans like “Currently in training to be the hottest girlfriend you ever had” and “The harder you work the weaker his knees get.” A major focus of fitblrs and images in the realm of fitspo are to emphasise a heavily sexualised view of women, encouraging them to exercise as a way of obtaining sexual confidence. This was raised by Dr Conner as she viewed some of the fitspo images, and she questioned whether this would even be motivational, as is the supposed goal. She points out that in the photographs, “They’re not actually showing her head ... it’s bodily focused. So that’s a bit concerning. You know, when you start cutting off heads and only showing mid-sections and body parts, it tends to objectify.”

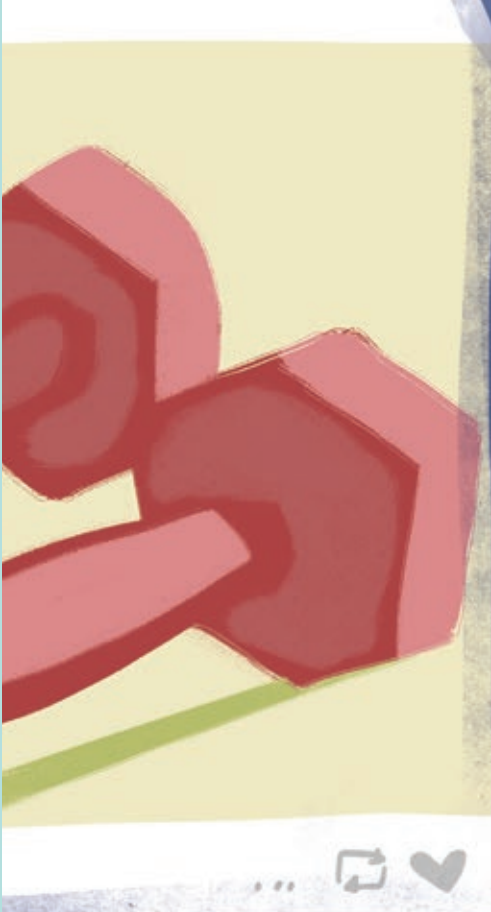
There is no such thing as a free (#clean #paleo #postworkout) lunch. There is always money to be made, and the world of fitspiration is its own niche economy. Many of the fitness models, athletes and competitors featured in fitspo images dedicate their lives to exercise and training, and the images of their bodies in Lululemon tights and Nike sneakers are no accident. These brands

have become synonymous with the fitspo principles many people enact in their everyday life. Health and fitness become trendy when an idealised image of them is repeated enough. The immediacy and personal nature of social media may convince a user they are not being manipulated, but fitness models such as Instagram sensation, Jen Selter, are fulfilling their end of some pretty weighty sponsorship deals when they post their images. Often advertisements for brands like Nike float around social media with the hashtag #fitspo attached to them and are reblogged as a means of inspiration, but it needs to be remembered they started off as just that.

In an interview with radio show, *The F Word*, creator of website, *Beauty Redefined*, Lindsey Kite acknowledged the consumerism driving the inspiration, stating “These companies make huge money off of people feeling like they’ve got flaws that need to be fixed right now.”

So, the question is, how do we manage this trend, which shows no sign of slowing, and still keep up with our daily social media rituals? Dr Conner gave me a few simple ways to keep sane and keep my head together. The key is balance. She recommends: “Take a walk outside, disengage. Moderated use of social media, try not to compare yourselves to others, either in your social media sphere or these women and magazines. Surround yourself with people who can challenge you but also support you, and a balance of exercise in moderation and eating well.”

There’s plenty on the internet that doesn’t promote unrealistic body ideals, so try to take a break from the unrelenting fitness inspiration on social media. Search a little less #fitspo, and maybe a little more #catbreeding. Trust me. You’ll thank me later ■



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# DROP OUTS: AN EDUCATED DECISION

BY KIRSTY GORDGE

**S**tudents drop out of universities across the country and throughout the world. Do they lack money or motivation, is it the cold weather, or is the student life just too hard? Or do some students simply not see the point anymore?





Data released by the Tertiary Education Commission shows more than one in five New Zealand students drop out of university in their first year. In 2010, the national retention rate for first year university students was 81 per cent; in 2011 it was 79 per cent; in 2012 it was 82 per cent; and in 2013 it was 84 per cent. The retention rate in New Zealand is pretty stable even if it isn't excellent.

The latest research from the Ministry of Education shows that in 2012 of the full-time domestic students who started study in 2011, Asian students had the highest first-year retention rate: 89 per cent were still enrolled in 2012, or had completed a qualification. This compares to 84 per cent of European students, and 74 per cent and 79 per cent for Māori and Pasifika respectively.

Of the same students who started study in 2011, 84 per cent of women and 80 per cent of men were still studying in 2012, or had completed a qualification.

Overseas, England's University of Bolton had the worst drop-out rate in the UK last year with 21.4 per cent of students reportedly quitting after their first year. It is estimated that 45 per cent of undergraduates in England fail to complete their degrees.

The total figure of university drop-outs in Britain has risen 13 per cent in one year. Imogen Jenkins, a BSc (Hons) Medical Science student at the University of Leeds in England, said the majority of people in her high school enrolled in university to continue their education. The shortest degree is three years and, before 2011, the average fee was £3,375 per year (roughly \$7,000 NZD). After 2011, some fees increased to £9,000 a year (\$18,100 NZD). Jenkins believes this contributes to the increase in the drop-out rate: she believes the fees are not worth it if students are not enjoying the course.

The drop-out rate in the Netherlands is also fairly high. A majority (84 per cent) of the university's students are first-year students because few reach beyond their first year. Ag-

riculture seems to have the highest drop-out rate, followed by education. Students 19 and older are twice as likely to drop out as students under 19.

In Finland, university is free. And there are almost zero dropouts. The government pays for your degree and gives you the equivalent of the student allowance (weekly payments you don't have to pay back). The only reason you might need to get a loan is to upgrade your apartment or to go travelling. Lotta Moisala studies at the University of Helsinki and is working towards a Masters in Psychology.



It will take her five and a half years to complete her degree, which will likely get her a job straight out of university as the competition isn't huge and "the future looks bright" in her discipline. So what's the catch with Finland? Free education? Free living costs? No debt? Well ... you have to be a genius to get in.

Moisala applied to her course along with 1800 other students and was one of only 55 to get in. This worked out as three per cent of applicants. The number of dropouts is minimal; likely a result of students working their butts off to get in and not wanting to throw it away after one year.

In America, the top retention rate is 99 per cent, which is the rate at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, and Yale University as surveyed by U.S. News and World Report. Seven other universities follow closely behind with 98 per cent, and another 16 have 97 per cent retention rates. However, nationally, as many as one in three students don't return for "sophomore year" (second year) for reasons including academic struggles, family issues, financial strain and loneliness in colleges.

Someone who did make it to sophomore year is Isabel Lanaux, a student from the University of Southern California in New Orleans currently on exchange at the University of Otago. She said most students who make it to the first semester of their third year go on exchange, as college is "one of the only opportunities for this extended type of travel," and Emma Howey from Wellesley College in Seattle agrees with her, saying it was just time to get away. Lanaux chose Otago because of our great outdoors, and thinks that the domestic fees here are less expensive than in the US.

At Lanaux's high school, almost all of Year 13s went on to university, and she expects that this figure is a lot lower in New Zealand. At Howey's school, about half of the graduates continued to tertiary level. The typical degree in the States is four years, and even if you have a scholarship the cost could still be up to USD\$100,000 (NZ\$132,000)! The chances of getting a job straight after graduation are pretty high if you know the right people. Howey doesn't know anyone who has dropped out at home, and Lanaux only knows a couple of people who have failed after one and a half to two years. The norm in this situation is to return home and attend a community college.

The University of Auckland and the University of Otago have the lowest first-year drop-out rates in New Zealand. But in 2012, 14 per cent of Otago students still dropped out. So why do students in New Zealand drop out of their degrees?



Student health services provide cheap counselling services to help students cope with the unique situation that is university. Being straight out of school, dealing with the additional workload and intense social scene, and often suffering some form of homesickness can place extra stress on anyone. There is also the matter of no individual attention, which many will be used to at home. Residential assistants are there to help with this transformation, but it's certainly not the same as some one-on-one family time.

Seeing as New Zealand usually weighs heavy in the alcohol consumption basket, research into the possibility of alcohol causing drop-outs seemed necessary. Professor Doug Sellman, Director of the National Addiction Centre, shared his thoughts: "We are likely to

in 2009 showing that nearly 40 per cent had binge alcohol in the past week." He claims that "[New Zealand's] relaxed attitude towards alcohol will continue to have an enormous and unnecessary amount of harm occurring including the tragedy and waste associated with alcohol-induced university drop-out."

While this is all very likely (we all know people who should party less), alcohol doesn't have to be the big ugly reason every time.

Other students choose to change their type of degree. Rhoda Miller, a first-year Health Science (FYHS) student of 2013, dropped out of her course after one semester because she did not enjoy it and, as a result, wasn't achieving the grades she wanted. Dropping out of FYHS is not uncommon. She states that at

intended to open Leatham's eyes to what he wants to do and who he wants to be, and the "pseudo-adulthood" environment meant he met like-minded people. Leatham said he felt "more and more stifled by the institution of education" and that "the cost of conformity was a means to some storied end" like job security, career prospects and competitive employment, which are not "paramount values" for him.

His leaving university was more to do with the fact that he didn't believe it was what he wanted to do at that particular time. He is not alone in this, as he knows two other people who also didn't see uni as an important life step and left their degrees unfinished after two years of study. Leatham would absolutely consider another degree in later life if it turns

**"[New Zealand's] relaxed attitude towards alcohol will continue to have an enormous and unnecessary amount of harm occurring including the tragedy and waste associated with alcohol-induced university drop-out."**

be comparable to universities in other Western countries, with the most important drug problem by far being alcohol." Interestingly, he comments on the apparently overlooked issue of how long alcohol actually stays in our bloodstreams: it can be there up to 72 hours later. So after a big night on Saturday, your Sunday, Monday and Tuesday are "down the toilet with your vomit."

Sellman reminds us of the yin and yang of recreational drug use — what goes up must come down, and if you make these big Saturday nights a routine for the year, then "more than half the time is devoted to alcohol intoxication and subsequent detoxification." He also said that "a web-based survey of 2,500 undergraduates in New Zealand (not a random sample) was conducted in New Zealand

least 50 per cent of the infamous "Health Scis" at her hall dropped out of their courses and changed to a different degree by the second semester. Students often change to entirely different courses, possibly at entirely different tertiary institutes.

Brody Leatham is a former Otago student who left his degree behind in 2013. When asked about his reasons, he said the word "drop-out" is an interesting term. He expands on this: "If I run a bath and it gets cold after a while, I really begin to wonder what I'm sitting there for! Is it worth finishing everything you start?" Undergoing a Law and Arts degree was leaving the bathwater cold for Leatham. He left after three and a half years, \$28,000 in debt, which he calls "an expensive decision-making process." However, university was always

out he needs one to succeed in a particular venture. He now resides in Mount Maunganui and is looking for employment there. At least he's enjoying the great weather.

Evidently, dropping out doesn't have to be a bad thing. Neither does changing your course. It may be expensive, but that's why we love the interest-free loan. The help and support are there if you are struggling. The choice of courses is there if you are bored. And if you really don't want to be on your course, or struggle to see where it may take you in life, why not make a change? ■



# THE STORIES WE'RE SOLD



BY JOSEPH HIGHAM

Any news outlet will promulgate a particular set of stories and demote others. Whether it is small scale and harmless, or targets whole groups, religions or communities of people, over time the outcome can be devastating.





**M**edia is the plural of medium: "one of the means or channels of general communication, information, or entertainment in society, such as newspapers, radio, or television, that influence people widely." Some subjectivity is inherent in any medium. In print media, the editor selects which articles go to print and then arranges them in the manner they see fit. Indeed, as the circulation of print media becomes more and more obsolete in our daily habits, the decisions made by the editor and their assistants may well become more wide-ranging, honing the content to suit their target audience.

## THE STUDENT IDENTITY

When a small number of students burn couches, the newspapers view students as a homogenous group, with headlines that proclaim "Students At It Again" collectivising us into 19,000 arsonists. The reason behind this is simple yet effective. It is to vilify a minority in order to gain readership and circulation of the publication among the majority, in this case locals. The infamous stories of student behaviour, especially in relation to Orientation and Hyde Street, perpetuate the campaign against the group and prompt emotive responses from locals, in turn spurring newspaper sales.

Earlier this year, Jessica Richards, a second-year law and politics student at Otago University, was photographed by the *Otago Daily Times* "passed-out" in the streets of Dunedin — except she had not passed out at all. Speaking last week, Jessica said she had only had a "few drinks at the flat then decided to go to town. On the way to town, along Frederick Street ... I tripped over. I was having fun and mucking about! It was completely harmless and I remember it all!" After becoming the picture-girl of university debauchery, Jessica felt "embarrassed and awful, like I had done something wrong, like I was a bad student ...

when really all that happened was I fell over."

Jessica discovered the picture after it was posted online. Thankfully she was able to convince the paper to remove the photo, but she recognised that "if they hadn't taken it down, it may have been a problem for [my] future employment opportunities." One would hope the photographer would have checked on Jessica's state in order to verify how intoxicated she was, both to validate the story and to check she was okay.

In a recent interview with *The Wireless*, Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne said

**"IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, THE NEWSPAPERS WILL HAVE YOU HATING THE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING OPPRESSED, AND LOVING THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING THE OPPRESSING."**

she does "find some media are on the hunt for stories about bad student behaviour." During her tenure, she has continued measures implemented by the previous Vice-Chancellor, David Skegg, to counter-act the perception of students as drunken, hedonistic and debauched. The media practice of not presenting the full story to readers is another problem Hayne has identified as part of why the university is seen as troublesome. She stated, "Some of the mayhem is not caused by students, but by others. Rarely do journalists confirm that the perpetrators of particular events are actually students, and often they are not."

When asked about the ODT's portrayal of bad

student behaviour, ODT editor, Murray Kirkness, said, "certainly we want to sell as many papers as we can, and we don't make any bones about that. The difficulty that we face is that there are so many forums by which people access their news." He went on to say: "There is a realisation that if we don't sell enough newspapers that has consequences." But he also added: "If you put it into some context and publish 310 newspapers a year ... how many feature students misbehaving?"

## THE MUSLIM STORY

The story we get from mainstream media about Islam is likewise partial. Head of Department for Media and Communications, Associate Professor Vijay Devadas said, "Something negative is more newsworthy. Positive things have been happening for a long time, such as robust and engaging interfaith dialogues and movements to tackle stereotyping, but that is not news." The fact this occurs through the messages being promulgated in the media acutely influences public perspectives on key issues involving the Islamic community.

Many news outlets construct subtle messages that demonise and scapegoat the religion while at the

same time neglecting to cover stories that show the religion or its followers in a positive light. It is human nature to be wary of people who believe something different to you, and the media can prey on that wariness to increase their circulation figures. For example, consider the abhorrent killings of three Islamic students in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on 10 February this year. An atheist, who declared his reason was to avenge Islam for the insult it had caused him, committed the act. Coverage of this event from Western news outlets was appallingly less than that given to the *Charlie Hebdo* atrocity in Paris, which occurred in early January. The lack of coverage led many Islamic communities to protest on the



streets of their towns and cities, holding placards stating, "Muslim Lives Matter Too."

Those who watched or read coverage of the Chapel Hill attack may have picked up on the description of the perpetrator. He was referred to as the "murderer" or the "killer", but interestingly enough, never the "terrorist". Terrorism is defined as "the use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes." This definition fits almost perfectly what Craig Stephen Hicks did when he shot the three students in cold blood due to ideological differences. The word is selectively used to the point that the head of BBC Arabic no longer wants the term used. The BBC's editorial guidelines say: "The word 'terrorist' itself can be a barrier rather than an aid to understanding. We should try to avoid the term, without attribution. We should let other people characterise while we report the facts as we know them."

## WHO MAKES THE NEWS?

When stories that aid certain agendas are printed in favour of more balanced, truthful and unprejudiced news stories, the public is betrayed by the industry. Associate Professor Vijay Devadas said, "[I] think it is brutally ideological, that the people who run the media are actually committed to a practice of discrimination and demonisation." While news outlets need to make money in order to survive, and may be justified in appealing to the audiences' needs and wants to do so, the plugging of agendas is completely unjustified. Malcolm X once stated: "If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing."

A key individual to pinpoint in relation to this subject is Rupert Murdoch, who owns NewsCorp. According to *The Conversation*, NewsCorp "account[s] for 59 per cent of the sales of all [Australia's] daily newspapers, with sales of 17.3 million papers a week, making it Australia's most influential newspaper publisher by a considerable margin." Moreover, his company gives him a huge amount of influence, and this does not just extend to the shores of our Australasian neighbours. NewsCorp is a media giant with an asset list of hundreds of newspapers, including some of the world's largest circulated newspapers, such as the *Sun*, *The Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*.

Devadas believes that the domination of media by one man is concerning: "Any monopoly of the media is terrible because ... if the media is seen as a stage for democratic rights to be expressed, and debates to take place, then Rupert Murdoch

has no business owning so many per cent of the media in Australia." Indeed, the power that comes from owning large swathes of the print media in a country is clear. For example, Murdoch was able to exert significant influence in the election of Tony Blair to prime minister of the United Kingdom in 1997, as well as throughout Blair's ten-year tenure.

Communications took place between Blair and Murdoch three times in the ten days leading up to the controversial invasion of Iraq — this was disclosed when Gordon Brown took over as prime minister. A Freedom of Information request by a Liberal Democrat peer, Lord Avebury, was the catalyst for their disclosure and, according to the *Guardian*, he said: "Rupert Murdoch has exerted his influence behind the scenes on a range of policies on which he is known to have strong views, including the regulation of broadcasting and the Iraq war. The public can now scrutinise the timing of his contacts with the former prime minister, to see whether they can be linked to events in the outside world."

Clandestine communication between a media mogul and the prime minister must surely raise the eyebrows of even the most fervent supporters of the government. Two people who hold a considerable amount of power discussing events in such proximity to the illegal invasion of a country must be looked back on and criticised publicly.



## FINDING OUR VOICES

So what can be done to counter this rotten machine that plays such a prominent role in our daily lives? We can do one of two things: firstly, we can go along with it, with our silence implying approval of both the message and the manner in which the message is communicated. On the other hand, we can attempt to use the technology at our fingertips to flood the world with more articulate, balanced and sensible prose, prose that does not unjustifiably target a minority in order to boost sales. As young people, we have a duty to attempt to stamp out these practices both among our peers and also among the industry that promulgates such agendas. Write knowledgeable blogs, call out the media for getting it wrong, express informed views on Twitter, post educated messages on Facebook, and use all of the resources available to help change the status-quo. These platforms provide ample opportunity to change the face of media and journalism.

The power of the media is such that they play a huge role in what people think about a certain subject and can influence the position of local and international decisions. The propensity for this influence to be abused is worrying, as much of the time it is subtle. This needs to be challenged not only by the young journalists of the future but by everyone. ■



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# Mediterranean Lamb Burgers

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

I compensate for my lack of a Victoria's Secret-worthy bod by seducing men with my charm, wit and culinary efforts. My usual go-to involves spaghetti and meatballs made from scratch, as carbs and meat tend to go down a treat in most males. This time I felt the pasta fest that I usually do wouldn't cut the mustard and opted to make burgers instead.



A Tinder date once gave me this epic burger cookbook (Burger Gourmet in case you were wondering). I thought it was a fantastic gift, even though it could be misinterpreted as a subtle "bitch, make me a sandwich" hint. From this book I became inspired to combine together dried fruit and nuts with lamb mince to create a Mediterranean-inspired delight.

McYachty (he likes boats and it rhymes with hottie ...) very much appreciated this feast. I think I may even get a call-back audition ...

FYI aubergines are in season right now, so enjoy them while the price is right.

## METHOD

1. Mix together the lamb mince, prunes, raisins, almonds, garlic and a sprinkling of salt. Shape into four equal patties just larger than the buns and put to one side.
2. Mash together the feta and three tablespoons of hummus into a paste.
3. Slice up your red onions and sauté them on a medium heat with a splash of oil. Once translucent add in the brown sugar, balsamic and a pinch of salt. Continue to cook on a low to medium heat until darkened and caramelised (about ten minutes). Place to one side.
4. Lightly brush both sides of each aubergine slice with oil and a sprinkling of salt. Bump the temperature of the frying pan to a medium high and cook both sides of the aubergine slices until they have browned and the texture has gone from firm to soft, with the edges caramelising slightly. Splash some more balsamic vinegar over the top while they are cooking for extra flavour. Place these to one side once done.
5. Cook the patties on a medium heat until browned on both sides and cooked through the middle. It is ok if they are a little pink, provided the mince is super fresh. Once cooked, return the aubergine

## INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

- **500g** lamb mince
- **3 cloves** garlic, minced
- **¼ cup** prunes, finely chopped
- **¼ cup** raisins, chopped
- **¼ cup** raw almonds, chopped
- **4** burger buns
- **4** slices (1cm thick) of whole aubergine (aka eggplant)
- **100g** feta
- **3 tablespoons** hummus, plus extra to spread on the buns
- **1 large** carrot, peeled into flat ribbons
- **handful** of fresh mint leaves
- fresh rocket
- **2 large** red onions
- **2 teaspoons** brown sugar
- **2 tablespoons** balsamic vinegar
- cooking oil
- salt and pepper

and onion to the pan to warm through. Halve and toast your buns slightly either side under the grill or in another pan.

6. Spread the feta and hummus mixture over the base of each bun, followed by a small pile of the red onions. Place an aubergine slice on next and then a patty over the top. Stack up the carrot ribbons, mint leaves and a small handful of rocket. Spread more hummus on the inside of the crown of the bun and place on top. If you are worried about the structural integrity of the burger try securing it with a trimmed kebab stick.

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## Chappie

» DIRECTED BY **NEILL BLOMKAMP**

REVIEWED BY **MAYA DODD**



**H**ave you ever heard people say, "there goes [insert minutes, hours, seconds here] of my life that I'll never get back"?

Deon Wilson (Dev Patel) spent — or wasted, depending on how you want to look at it — the better part of three years creating an artificial intelligence (AI) that could be transferred onto a robot. Following the refusal by his superior, Michelle Bradley (Sigourney Weaver), to utilise the AI that he had created, Deon takes matters into his own hands by stealing a damaged police robot known as droid 22 and saves it from demolition. On his way home, Deon gets kidnapped and threatened with death by Ninja (Watkin Tudor Jones), Yolandi (Yolandi Visser) and Amerika (Jose Pablo Cantillo) after they fail a drug run for their gang leader, a terrifyingly pissed-off man called Hippo (Brandon Aurret) who's on their case.

Hippo and the rest of his gang force Deon to reboot the robot so that they can use it to fight for them. By installing his AI software, Deon manages to reboot the police robot; when the robot awakens, it is with consciousness — and

so police robot droid 22 becomes the affectionately named Chappie. What follows is a lacklustre movie with poor casting, subpar acting and a downright atrocious wardrobe.

Set in 2016, Chappie boasts a fashion sense that is closer to post-apocalyptic, and I dearly hope it is a trend that never again sees the light of day. Seriously, what is with Vincent Moore's (Hugh Jackman) haircut? While the hipster man bun may be "à la mode," the mullet is definitely not!

The one positive aspect of Chappie is that the film does not follow the stereotypical AI storyline where the creator is eventually overthrown by his/her beloved creation. At the end of the day, Chappie is just deceived into partaking in illegality and, ultimately, his consciousness remains tediously, mind-numbingly "good".

I would take Bicentennial Man over Neill Blomkamp's pathetic attempt at a blockbuster any day. At least the acting in Bicentennial Man is convincing and the wardrobe is believable. ●

## The Salt of the Earth

» DIRECTED BY **JULIANO RIBEIRO SALGADO & WIM WENDERS**

REVIEWED BY **HARLAN JONES**



**I**f People are the Salt of the Earth" Sebastião Salgado informs us — hardly a surprising conclusion from a successful social photographer. The observation establishes the impetus for the documentary, which quickly moves from being a biopic about Salgado into a wider meditation on human nature. The documentary posits that society and political institutions are the causes of human suffering and that, in the state of nature, humankind is pure and peaceful.

The film largely follows a traditional linear structure, mapping Salgado's discourse on people onto developments in his own life. There are, however, a few bizarre deviations, particularly in early parts of the documentary,

focusing on the impact of Salgado's absence and how his work affects his son, who is also one of the documentary makers. I found the film's apparent disinterest in this subject particularly disappointing as it would have at least given the documentary more objectivity, which it clearly lacked. This was an issue that was especially highlighted at the conclusion of the film, which became a personal appeal from Salgado, the father, to avert climate change and protect nature. The subjective nature of the film, however, is partially redeemed, or at least justified, by an early disclaimer from Salgado — and if photography is someone refracting his vision of the world through glass, then the documentary is Salgado refracting his worldview through film and the filmmakers.



It is precisely this subjective element, though, that makes the film a success. Salgado's talent is striking, and having him explain the psychology of each photo leaves the audience with a sense of overwhelming beauty, even amid the mind-shattering horror of the world it depicts. The sense of calm that comes with the knowledge that all people, regardless of geographic or cultural division, are united and equally a part of nature ultimately makes this documentary worth viewing. ●



## Kidnapping Mr. Heineken

» DIRECTED BY **DANIEL ALFREDSON**

REVIEWED BY **SHAUN SWAIN**



Films "based on a true story," especially ones about kidnap heists, usually fit into one of two categories. Category one: documentary footage that is so intensely dramatised that it becomes almost fictitious. Category two: documentary footage that sticks diligently to historical fact and becomes a narrative documentary. *Kidnapping Mr. Heineken*, however, somehow fits between these two

ends of the spectrum by dramatising the facts that seem false and downplaying any fabrications that actually seem factual. In the process however, the film misses the mark in several ways.

The film is set in 1983 and tells the story of several childhood friends committing the titular kidnapping of the heir of the Heineken beer empire, one of the richest men in the world at

the time, which results in the largest ransom ever paid. The film attempts to sell itself as a deconstruction of the heist genre by showing the gritty truth of what it means to "get away with it." However, few liberties are taken with crime journalist, Peter De Vries', source material on the event, and any thematic elements in the story fall short when they are restricted by the open-endedness of reality.

The film is well acted, but most of the "well" comes from Anthony Hopkins as Freddy Heineken, who is infinitely more charismatic than his captors Willem Holleeder (Sam Worthington) and Cor van Hout (Jim Sturgess), stealing the show from them whenever he appears. This is not to say that Worthington and Sturgess perform badly but rather that their shifting American/Australian/British accents tend to throw off any consistency in their characterisation, creating something of a mess.

*Kidnapping Mr. Heineken* is average at best. Despite how much this film tries to be something different or revolutionary for the genre, it is just another typical kidnap heist film. With that said, and bearing in mind its loyalty to the source material, *Kidnapping Mr. Heineken* provides a fair amount of historical insight, but really is just another action thriller to slot in with all the rest. ●

## Dunedin Fringe Festival Dance/Theatre Performance: Bbeals

» CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN **FOOTNOTE NEW ZEALAND DANCE** AND **DANSES EN L'R**

REVIEWED BY **RACHAEL HODGE**



As one dancer rightly pointed out, Bbeals "sure was no swan lake." To say the least, Bbeals, performed by the New Zealand dance company, Footnote, and a French company, Danses en l'R, was interesting. I wasn't sure what I was expecting from the show. However, I was pleasantly surprised.

At first, I, along with most of the audience, had no idea what was going on. The production is loosely based on the American film, *Flashdance* — a film I hadn't seen before watching Bbeals — so I missed some references during the performance, but with limited dialogue and dancers making strange animal noises, the storyline was difficult to follow from the beginning. However, Bbeals is still an enjoyable performance to watch as it explores some very powerful themes relevant

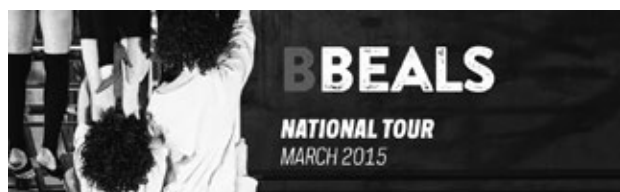
to modern society.

Undeniably, the dancers are very talented. With dancers moving through the crowd and talking to the audience throughout the show, the audience interaction is refreshing but also reminds us that we are merely spectators; this is a powerful technique, as the show quickly goes from a light-hearted atmosphere to being dark and sombre.

There are no barriers for the dancers: sex, nudity, drugs, suicide and other forms of abuse are explicitly shown. Gender inequality

and sexual harassment in the workforce are major themes in Bbeals; female dancers are exploited, victimised and physically assaulted by their male counterparts. A "cult" develops around the actress, Jennifer Beals, who played the character, Alex, in *Flashdance*. The stupidity of celebrity worship is illustrated, calling the followers of their religion "the Maniacs" after a song in the film.

Nothing about this performance is politically correct, but it is a powerful performance by very talented dancers. The ensemble of the dance company is mesmerising and, like true theatre, it leaves the audience wanting to see more long after the curtain closes. ●





## Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds **Chasing Yesterday**

» **POP, ROCK** | SOUR MASH; 2015

REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

**N**oel Gallagher has to be one of the most tragic figures in rock history.

Okay, he's not quite up there with Daniel Johnston or Syd Barrett, but he is pit-eous in his own way. Like The Beatles (yes, it's sentence three and I've already made that comparison), Oasis started out as lovable British lads who sang rollicking love songs. I won't pretend the heights of Britpop were as towering as Beatlemania. But boy, could Noel write stadium-sized pop rock. "Live Forever" was gorgeous. "Supersonic" was better. "Wonderwall" got played to death by mainstream radio, but not without good reason.

Sadly, Noel is as creatively complacent as AC/DC. As much as he might praise The Beatles for their innovation, he never jumped off the deep end like they did. He's been dressing his music up in references to revolution since day one, and yet he still has never taken a walk on the wild side. The closest he came was on the much-maligned Oasis albums *Be Here Now* and *Standing on the Shoulder of Giants*. Contrary to popular belief, I would call those the best records Oasis ever made.

Why? Because on songs like "Fade In-Out" and "Who Feels Love?" and "Gas Panic!" (all of the songs with ugly punctuation

in the title, apparently), we actually got to hear what an experimental Oasis might sound like. And it was glorious. Swirling, psychedelic, elemental and glorious. Suddenly, those lofty choruses had something interesting propping them up.

Noel must surely see that so many comparable bands made their best material after turning their musical eyes to the horizon. Radiohead. Blur. The Beatles. How Noel can gush over albums like *Sgt. Pepper's* and *The White Album* and not want to make such wonderfully weird music of his own is something that keeps me up at night. This conservatism, this utter staidness, continues to haunt him. Even after Oasis imploded and he began flying solo as Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, he still can't let go of stadium rock. Yes, the first High Flying Birds record made a couple of small attempts to mix things up, the piano-driven dance track "AKA ... What a Life!" being the best example. But bloody hell, Noel. As long as you maintain this blokeish sobriety, you're never going to fly as high as we'd like you to.

Granted, new album *Chasing Yesterday* is a tad more experimental than the last High Flying Birds record. If Noel still hasn't

let his hair down on solo album number two, he has at least loosened his tie. On tracks like opener "Riverman", there is a sense of bluesy, breezy, "Time of the Season"-esque cool. The fact that he chose a track as slow-burning as "Riverman" to kick off the album, instead of one as staggeringly pompous as "Everybody's on the Run" on the last LP, does suggest some degree of artistic development. And when he does return to stadium rock on "In the Heat of the Moment" and "Ballad of the Might I", there is more rhythmic anxiety than we're used to.

But it isn't enough. If I could somehow divorce my misgivings towards Noel from my experience of *Chasing Yesterday*, I'd probably give it a higher grade. But I can't. All I'd be doing is encouraging Noel to play it safe once again on *HFB3*. As somebody who once called Oasis their favourite band, I've been waiting an ungodly amount of time for Noel Gallagher's earthshattering "experimental album". I thought we might get it when he was working with pioneering electronic group Amorphous Androgynous. But after teasing us with the sublime "Shoot a Hole into the Sun", the collaboration fell through. I even held out hope for *Chasing Yesterday* being that record. But no. He's clung to his dad rock sensibilities and delivered yet another tepid album that only ever hints at greatness. For most of its duration, Noel doesn't try to explore new ground as much as recreate the anthemic glory of his *Morning Glory*? days. *Chasing yesterday* indeed. ●

**NOEL  
GALLAGHER'S  
HIGH FLYING  
BIRDS**





**GASP**

» **INTERVIEW**

BY **DANIEL MUNRO**

**G**ASP is a DJ and producer based out of Dunedin, and is set to support Raiza Biza and Jay Knight at Refuel on the 23rd of April. At just 17 years old, Eden Burns is making waves locally and internationally. With recognition from both *Vice* and *Mix Mag*, Critic caught up with him to check out what he's been up to.

**CRITIC: To start off, I'll give you a topic and you decide if it's over-rated or under-rated.**

**GASP:** Sweet, let's do this!

**CRITIC: House music in New Zealand?**

**GASP:** Under-rated. I mean some house gets some recognition (like that Disclosure shit), but 90s house is definitely under-rated here.

**CRITIC: New Zealand producers?**

**GASP:** Definitely under-rated — It's beginning to change, but we have a lot of talented producers sitting in their bedrooms not getting the recognition they deserve.

**CRITIC: Ralph Lauren Polo?**

**GASP:** Hugely over-rated. It's the Tyler the Creator, Supreme Cap thing again. When Tyler the Creator came on, everyone was wearing a Supreme Cap; Yung Lean's been blowing up lately. Now everyone wears Polo caps.

**CRITIC: I saw you did a remix for Brooke Fraser's "Kings and Queens" last year. How'd that come about? You two are a weird combo.**

**GASP:** Sony just hit me up for it. I had been talking to some of the Sony A and Rs, so that could have something to do with it.

**Critic: So were you talking to Sony about a deal?**

**GASP:** Na, it was just a talk really. I've also

had meetings with Universal and Saiko who manage Lorde and Mount Eden, but again they were just talks. It's cool that they know about me though.

**CRITIC: Do you think it's hard being only 17 in the music industry?**

**GASP:** It's kind of easier with the internet now. It can work both ways though; sometimes people will hear my stuff and be, like, "Wow, he's only 17? This is good!" Other times they won't give me a look because I'm so young.

I've also struggled with gigs. I've been kicked out of shows down here I was going to because I'm not 18. One time they'd booked me, but when I got there they said they didn't know I was 16 and that I couldn't play. Another time I had to wait outside for, like, three hours until my set, then as soon as I was done they kicked me back out. It happens a lot.

**CRITIC: So are you looking forward to being able to go to gigs once you finally crack 18?**

**GASP:** Yea definitely, especially Rhythm and Vines and stuff. I played at Rhythm and Alps and Rhythm and Vines ... Well, actually, I missed my set for Rhythm and Vines. Peter Chin, the mayor of Dunedin, he had a heart attack on my plane so they had to turn it around.

**CRITIC: Aw F\*\*K!**

**GASP:** Yea, I still went up and got to hang out,

but, yea, it'll be really good to go to the festivals and party a bit when I'm 18.

**CRITIC: Do you think there's a reason for the lack of a scene for your genre in Dunedin / the South Island in general?**

**GASP:** There's not really a scene anywhere — in New Zealand anyway. Especially the newer stuff. I mean, my older stuff was easier to get and understand, but my new EP's a bit different, a lot more 90s house- and techno-influenced stuff. There's just not really a scene here.

**CRITIC: So you're paving the way then?**

**GASP:** Haha, I guess you could say that. There are a few people in Christchurch that I'm teaming up with, and they're doing a similar thing.

**CRITIC: You were a part of the secret club with Kamandi and Polo. How'd that come about?**

**GASP:** Polo basically just told me he was starting up this collective and asked me if I wanted to be a part of it.

**CRITIC: That would be sick. So I see you're playing with Raiza Biza and Jay Knight in April. Have you played with any of the Young Gifted and Broke guys before?**

**GASP:** I know Raiza Biza and also know Jay Knight fairly well. I've played a couple of shows with them, but none of the other YGB guys.

**CRITIC: What artists influence you?**

**GASP:** I'm really into Bambounou — he's a DJ from Paris. I also really dig bands like the Smiths, the Cure, the Chills — that kind of older rock stuff. I really like all the guys from Flying Nun and what they did based out of Dunedin.

**CRITIC: Any artists you've been working with or would like to work with?**

**GASP:** I've been working with a guy called Daffy from Bristol England and Scheme from Christchurch. In terms of who I'd like to work with, I don't know, to be honest. 50 Weapons would def be the dream label to get a release on though.

**CRITIC: What is coming up from you this year?**

**GASP:** I'm currently working on my EP, which I'm hoping will be released on vinyl. Also my track, "Lagoons", is appearing on a compilation album under Armader records.

**CRITIC: We are looking forward to the release!**



## The Rise and Fall of National Women's Hospital: A History

» WRITTEN BY **LINDA BRYDER**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

**T**he Rise and Fall of National Women's Hospital: A History is exactly that. Author Linda Bryder covers the history of the National Women's Hospital in Auckland, beginning with the political and social circumstances that led to the hospital's opening in 1946, and ending with the conditions that led to it becoming a unit of Auckland City Hospital rather than an independent entity. The in-between chapters each take an issue of healthcare, such as fertility or premature birth, and cover how this issue was treated over the decades the hospital was running. Bryder covers a variety of ethical dilemmas and political squabbles, using the existence of the hospital as a focus to explore broader issues of medicine's relationship to women.

Rather dishearteningly, nearly every issue Bryder raises is still a point of contention today. People are just as likely today as they were in the forties to debate whether it's worth trying to keep premature babies alive. Sex education is still poorly implemented, thanks to people who insist that teenagers will only try to have sex if they are taught how to do so safely. What women want from their hospital experiences and what they get is still a Venn diagram with an unsatisfactory degree of

overlap. Women in this country still have to meet arbitrary, if poorly enforced, standards in order to get an abortion. Hospitals remain over-crowded, under-funded places of stress and misery, although it's less likely that a nurse will slap you than apparently it once was. It's not all doom and gloom — we've gotten much better at keeping babies alive, for instance — but a lot of this book shows just how inevitable progress isn't.

Bryder, as generally befits a historian, keeps her views on these issues practically invisible. Some of the arguments made by historical figures in this book induce in me icy contempt, but Bryder manages to retain seeming impartiality around these hot-button issues with remarkable equanimity. The lone exception is her view of the Cartwright Inquiry, which was an important legal case that served as one of the harbingers of doom for the National Women's Hospital's independence. Bryder staunchly asserts that it was the result of journalistic misunderstanding and essentially a scandal about nothing; Bryder's written a whole other book about the event.



This history is also filled with delightful minutiae. The New Zealand Family Planning Association was originally called the Sex Hygiene and Birth Regulation Society, which means there's an alternate reality where I used to bunk off high school to accompany my friends to Sex Hygiene. Someone once seriously said that the husband being present while the wife gave birth would ensure their marriage became "indestructible for all time" and was not met with howls of laughter. In 1948, five per cent of people seeking treatment for infertility had not actually managed to have the sort of sex that results in conception.

The Rise and Fall of National Women's Hospital is fascinating, although it isn't going to make you feel completely positive about the advancement of the human race. It simultaneously tells the story of incredible progress while making it hard to feel like we've really gotten anywhere. National Women's Hospital began with successful fund-raising and ended with far too many cockroaches; I do hope it's not an allegory about humanity. ●



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## Zoe Crook & Aodhan Madden **Suspicious Minds**

» **BLUE OYSTER ART PROJECT SPACE** | FRINGE FESTIVAL

INTERVIEW BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER

**T**he first time I met artists Zoe Crook and Aodhan Madden was at the Blue Oyster Art Project Space while they were partway through initial preparations for their Fringe Festival performance piece, "Suspicious Minds". They had moved the office to a back room, covered the entire front window and planned to set up a whiteboard with a seemingly random list of nouns, which they planned to tick off each day.

The second time I met the artists was on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral. Both artists were still dressed in the blue overall and karate pants attire, but this time Zoe held a bucket and sponge to clean the steps with and Aodhan held a copy of *The Art of War* to read to her from while she cleaned. The two sat down with me to discuss their experiences in Dunedin and observations created from these.

**AODHAN:** I feel like we look like a church ornament with our clothes.

**ZOE:** We've been told we look very religious.

**AODHAN:** What place does religion hold for people when they are trying to assess something? Today viewing someone as looking religious feels like a person is saying, "you don't fit into the normal order; therefore, there must be some sort of higher cause for you to be

doing this or you must be with God." But we're not in that sense. We're interested in the divine but not in an active way with this project.

**ZOE:** We don't want what we're doing to be definitive ...

**AODHAN:** ... or programmed, but there are things that we've become interested in through our processes.

**ZOE:** The act of being is very much a part of the performance — walking through public space, being in the public eye, interacting in the supposed social side of the city.

**AODHAN:** It's been interesting when we've gone to Glassons and Hallensteins. The shop assistants clearly know we're something else and we're not there to buy the product. This division becomes uneasy. There's disruption and confusion.

**ZOE:** We went into these stores and attempted to investigate and understand what it is to be a man or a woman. We had a conversation between us about what symbols were in the store.

### What uneasiness was created?

**ZOE:** The shop assistants didn't know what to do. We stood in the middle of the stores and had a conversation. Their initial reaction was

to find out what we want because then they can help us and make a sale. But we didn't want to buy anything, so we didn't — in their eyes — belong in the store. They didn't understand our intentions.

**AODHAN:** We also went to New World and we walked around the store, making random decisions where to go. If our paths met we had this briefcase that we would change over. People were generally freaked out. The management thought we might have something to do with the baby milk scandal in New Zealand.

**ZOE:** Maybe in the same way the Glassons and Hallensteins shop assistants didn't know how to deal with us. Maybe because they couldn't put us in a box, they resorted to thinking that we might have been there to steal something.

### And so you were creating suspicious minds?

**You were going into spaces that had clear constructs on how you should act, and by not following these norms (in a completely harmless way) you were immediately seen as suspicious and negative.**

**AODHAN:** So much of our show has hopefully been about engendering some kind of suspicion in the viewer or interactor.

**ZOE:** Oh, everyone is pointing out the vomit on the steps. Maybe I should get onto that. We might properly clean the steps before church tomorrow.

### So you're pretty open-minded with your schedule?

**ZOE:** Yeah, that's part of it. We feel like it needs certain things that are planned, but it also needs to be open in order for us to think about it in that sense.

**AODHAN:** We couldn't determine what we're going to do each day without the day before and the day before that.

**ZOE:** The more understanding we can have, the more pertinent the judgments we can make.

**AODHAN:** Art just goes on and on and on and on. Our performance also goes on and on and on and on. ●

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## Dying Light

» **PC, PS4, Xbox One** | DEV: TECHLAND; PUBLISHER: WARNER BROS

REVIEWED BY ISAAC YU



**M**uch like fresher flu, zombies are hard to escape at the moment. Books, movies, TV shows, games: *Dying Light* is the latest triple-A attempt to cash in on the zombie craze following the giant let-down that was *Dead Island*. Made by the same developer, Techland, *Dying Light* takes the *Dead Island* formula of find zombie, kill zombie in an open-world sandbox (complete with your *Left4Dead*-style special zombies) and finally manages to get everything right the third time around.

*Dying Light* is a slick first-person survival horror set in the fictitious but vaguely Middle Eastern city of Harran, which has been quarantined following the outbreak of zombies. You play as Kyle Crane — an undercover Special Forces operator of the Global Relief Effort (what would happen if the CIA decided to pose as a humanitarian NGO) sent in to find an incomplete cure in the hands of your local psychotic warlord. In a nice little twist on the conventional zombie story, your character is bitten within moments of arriving and needs a constant supply of a drug known as Antizin in order to keep the symptoms at bay.

Aside from the mediocre writing, the rest of the game is incredibly well polished. The presentation is stunning; even without fully

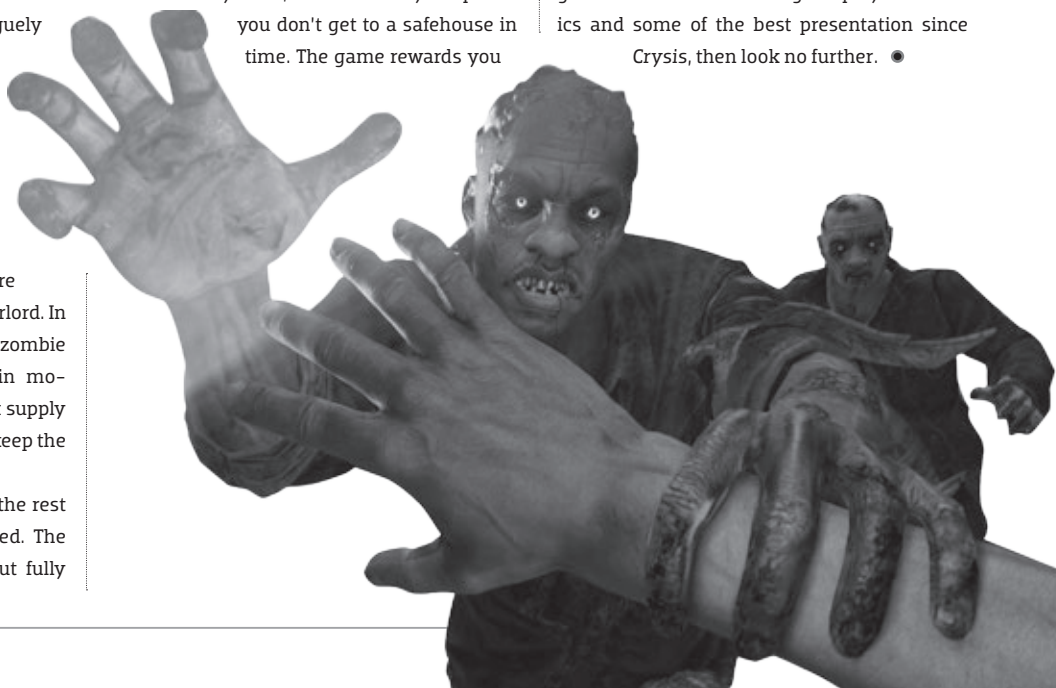
maxed-out settings, the streets of Harran look incredible with the dynamic lighting and eerily realistic shadows. Unlike most "survival horror" games which pay lip service to the horror elements with some cheap jump scares, night-time in *Dying Light* is legitimately need-a-fresh-pair-of-pants frightening. While your average zombie isn't too scary, at night special zombies known as Volatiles come out of the woodwork. Unlike their shambling counterparts, these zombies will actively hunt you, scale terrain as quickly as you do, and will tear you apart if you don't get to a safehouse in time. The game rewards you

with double experience points during night-time to compensate for the additional laundry you now need to do.

The game runs a cool role-playing, game-style, level-up system where you have three skill trees: Survival, Agility, and Power, with you gaining experience in each tree separately based on how you play and what you do. Doing quests or helping other survivors provides you with survivor points, scaling walls and doing random acts of parkour provide you with agility points, and re-enacting American History X on a zombie's head will grant you power points. Each tree is quite unique and adds more options for how you can play the game — giving you more things to craft, more cool parkour tricks, or more ways to carry out your rampage. The gameplay is incredibly fluid and freeform as each weapon in melee combat has its own feel within the physics engine, while the well-designed environment makes the parkour a treat as you have an unparalleled amount of freedom and mobility.

*Dying Light* doesn't waste time with thousands of cut scenes, loading screens or trying to take itself too seriously; instead it emphasises the freeform and fun nature of its gameplay. It's a hyper-violent sandbox, where the sand has been replaced with sharp pointy things and leaves everything else up to you. If you're looking for another serious, "oh the humanity / what have we become" zombie game in the vein of *The Walking Dead*, you'll be disappointed. If you're after well-written and relatable characters, you'll want to throw something after listening to another holds up, spork "quirky" NPC. However, if you want a game that has some solid gameplay mechanics and some of the best presentation since

*Crysis*, then look no further. ●



# horoscope

Do you struggle with making basic life decisions? Worried about never bumping into your campus soulmate, or whether to eat two-minute noodles for every dinner this week? Fear not, chums, for I, Madame McMystery, have gazed deep into the cosmos to reveal the secrets the planetary alignments hold in store for you!

(Disclaimer: Madame McMystery is not responsible for any physical or emotional damage caused by the interpretation of her predictions and subsequent actions influenced by them).

## Aries



**H**appy birth month, Aries! I foresee cake, free shots and bad decisions in your immediate future. In saying that, if you shotgun a Cruiser (passionfruit flavour) before making any major life decisions this month, you are guaranteed to make good choices.

## Taurus



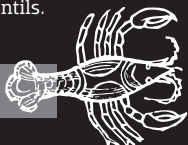
**T**he man of your dreams will be drinking SoGos on Castle Street this Thursday at 11pm. He is easily charmed by girls who can ride unicycles while singing show tunes. Act accordingly.

## Gemini



**T**ry going vegetarian for a bit. The person you've been making eyes at during lectures will think you're way deep and you'll get their number for sure. Only downside is that you will have to pretend to be interested in their conversation when they start telling you about 101 ways to cook lentils.

## Cancer



**A** flat dispute will be resolved by a Russian-themed party. Knocking back shots of vodka in your singlet and shorts in the Dunedin night will force certain flat members to concede that it isn't heat-pump time, and you can bond over dreadful cabbage soup.

## Leo



**I**t looks like the position of Mars has got you a little riled up this week! Release that tension through a kickboxing class, listening to classical music or via a passionate make-out session with that person you've got a love/hate (sexually charged) relationship with.

## Virgo



**T**he moon is in your sector this week, Virgo. Its current arrangement between Jupiter and Saturn means you can do basically whatever you want this week without any repercussions. You are a god (or goddess) among men (or women). Carpe diem.

## Libra



**W**hy must you wear clothes to class each day? Why do they keep fire exit doors shut all the time? Why is breaking and entering such a big deal if all you want to do is borrow some milk from the neighbours? Fight the man! In an unrelated note, I see trouble with the law in your immediate future.

## Scorpio



**Y**our special someone has figured out that you gave them their cold. Feign innocence and sweeten them up with chocolate. Suggest that as you have the same cold, there's no harm in hooking up as you heal.

## Sagittarius



**C**ontrary to your beliefs about coming out of the 12-day drinking marathon that is O-Week relatively unscathed, I think you'll find it in your best interests to get an STD check. Fingers crossed it's not syphilis!

## Capricorn



**G**ood news: You're getting some this weekend! Bad news (depending on your age): they'll be a fresher. Probably should've seen that coming, since they were taking tequila shots and dancing to LMFAO in Capone when you first laid eyes on them.

## Aquarius



**T**he planetary alignment of Mercury and Venus this week means only one thing. Super gross food poisoning. I'm talking unspeakable quantities of unmentionable substances out of both ends. To stay safe, stick to eating plain toast with a cup of tea all week.

## Pisces



**S**omething's fishy this week (and it's not you! Get it? Because you're a fish sign LOL). Go into full spy mode and figure out what in the blazes is going on. A trench coat, dark sunglasses and a tape recorder are all necessary if you want to get to the bottom of this.

# University Book Shop



## LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a  
**\$30 BOOK VOUCHER**  
From the University Book Shop

## OMG. OMG. OMG. Ed, Babe, Call us.

Ed, ay amor,,

I would like you to know that your blind date last week moved me to tears. It might have been the onions I was chopping, but I think it was the fact that I too am a self-proclaimed abstainer of the alcohol. Only too well do I understand the difficulties faced by us endangered species when attempting to navigate the vomit maze that is student-ville.

In any case if you would like to enjoy some truly sober company, I hear the mocktails at Lone Star are particularly good. My details are with Critic, the choice is yours.

Yours truly,

**An Ed-mirer**

## Hypocrite #guilty pleasure

The Bachelor. Are you fucking kidding?

That stupid, sexist, disgusting show sets feminism back at least 30 years.

All this shit about X Factor? Well, yea of course bullying is awful, and yes they should be fired but the whole country is clearly nice enough to tell the judges to fuck off.

What bothers me is that no-one has told those girls to get some self-respect. They make me embarrassed to be female.

And guys, you should be embarrassed that The Bachelor is representing you.

And everyone. I am embarrassed that I still watch it.

### A self-respecting woman

## You're being too nice about this

Dear drunk students,

I am a 5ft, 120lb girl and I drive a 50cc scooter. It may be seem a pathetic vehicle to a BMOC but it gets me to where I need to go. However, I would appreciate it if, when trying to impress your mates, you did not attempt to jump on the back when I'm stopped at the traffic lights, or run in front of me when I'm driving home after work and you're walking into town. I'm guessing you're a fresher and I wouldn't want to ruin your chances of getting into med with a head injury (I'm guessing you're probably a physics ace, so you work out how much damage an 80kg bike travelling at 55km would do. Or check it with your lecturer. I don't care either way).

Much appreciated,

Girl driving the lame chick equivalent of a Harley

**Rebekah Mapson**

## Nudey rudey

Dear Josie,

Enough of fools, so what the nudey rudey thing gets up their nose. Female nudity was part of the womens liberation movement, a continuous trope of western art, ubiquitous at Woodstock, fashionable in the '80's, now it seems everyone bathes in their clothes. Is your body built for strength, comfort, or speed? Will you peak athletically and slide onto your couch, toodle along maintaining your vbody line in disciplines that sustain and give you joy, or be a



still, content tubby wubby with a husband loyal to your passionate cooking skills.

Why do guys hunt an old, really pissed off, siberian tiger with all those lovely little cows hanging about? So easy to catch if you humble yourself and pay her attention, ask her out and treat her like a lady, and everyone loves a polite drunk. The late Professor Bill Dean could fall out of a taxi, be helped up the yard, tumble in the flower bed all the time, in perfectly modulated english, boast of his cattle in Australia, whinge about the morning lecture, and say a grateful thank you as he lurched to the door.

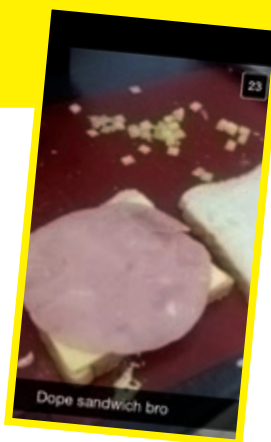
Yours faithfully,

**Sue Heap**





**SNAPS**  
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#### LETTERS POLICY

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

## NOTICES

### // PERSONAL PERFORMANCE COACH //

Brian Johnston is based in the Otago Business School. [brian.johnston@otago.ac.nz](mailto:brian.johnston@otago.ac.nz). Assisting students with reaching their academic potential and achieve a life/work balance. [www.otago.ac.nz/study/phd/performancecoaching.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/phd/performancecoaching.html)

### // HORRORFORMS //

**March 27 2014.**

Come see a fine array of Dunedin heaviness and groove in the pit at the fantastic Re:Fuel Bar. Gold coin before 10pm / \$5 after 10pm.

Ignite The Helix, Abstract Survival, Tsunami, Goats Az. R18!

### // Funding for Student Performances //

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[www.otago.ac.nz/performancefund](http://www.otago.ac.nz/performancefund)

or email:  
[kylie.ravenwood@otago.ac.nz](mailto:kylie.ravenwood@otago.ac.nz)

Closing date for applications to the Division of Humanities Performing Arts Fund:

**22 April 2015**

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## Soul Mates

BY WEE DOUBT

**R**omantic comedies, love stories, dating websites and the wedding industry would have you believe that somewhere in the world there is a person for you, and not just any person but your "soul mate". One day you will find the only person who really knows you, who understands you and, most importantly, will love you for the rest of your life, or even for eternity. So if there really is just one person in the world for you, how likely is it that you will find them?

If there really is just one person for you in the world, that's bad news. Randall Munroe, author of a book dealing with absurd hypothetical questions called *What If?*, calculated the likelihood of finding your one true soul mate. Assuming your soul mate is alive at the same time as you, and that you would like to meet someone within your age group, Munroe estimates the number of times people make eye contact with strangers every day and calculates the likelihood of you finding your special someone to be 1 in 10,000. This is assuming you will recognise each other and fall in love the instant your eyes meet.

Munroe puts the average number of living candidates for your soul mate at half a billion, but if there is only one person in the world for you at any point in history, that number climbs to one hundred billion. With only seven billion people alive now, 90 per cent of our soul mates are dead.

But it gets worse. Your soul mate may not be born yet! Putting aside the inevitable destruction of the Earth, and most probable extinction of humans long before that, we need to include an unknowable number of possible soul mates in the future. The likelihood of you being born in the same century, yet alone meeting them, becomes practically zilch.

So if you haven't found "The One" yet, feel comfort in the fact that probably nobody in history ever has either. Maybe we should replace the expression "soul mate" with "person whose company I enjoy and who can tolerate me for a few decades until we both die". Be happy that there isn't just one person in the world that you are compatible with. Even if your true love is one in a million, there are still 4.5 of them in New Zealand.



## We Have T-shirts

BY THE FOREVER ALONE CLUB

Each week Critic wants to hear from you if you're struggling to approach the man or woman of your dreams. Does she always sit on that front row seat and give the lecturer far more attention than you're comfortable with? Does he stroll past your window each morning and your only attempts at getting his attention have been taking a little longer to put clothes on?

Flick your stories to [crush@critic.co.nz](mailto:crush@critic.co.nz)

**E**ver since I took the BuzzFeed quiz on 'When Will You Meet Your Soul Mate' I knew it was meant to be. BuzzFeed never lies. NEVER. BuzzFeed told me that I will find my one and only in my lectures.

I don't know who you are, but I want to find out. Please, don't be shy, otherwise I will cry. Every time a boy sits beside, in front, behind or even when my lecturer makes eye contact, my heart skips a few beats (although... that could be my arrhythmia). Is it you? I whisper. Could it be? I wonder. I've never fancied myself as a home wrecker but, for you, I could be.

But here's a little about me so you don't think I'm weird. I'm smart enough to be at uni, scraping UE from NCEA. I owe my success to persistent determination and the BuzzFeed quizzes that have made me what I am today.

For those that are interested, I'll tell you what BuzzFeed said was my favourite sex position. I had to Google it ...

My time is running out. My clock is ticking. The hours we can spend together are slipping away. For you see, my mum says I have limited talents. However, my uterus is hospitable and it's all yours for five easy payments of \$29.99.

I hang out at 'The Hub' – if you don't know where that is, it's the darkest corner in Central Library. As a result I'm pretty pale and Student Health told me that I need the D.

Don't worry, if you see me, you'll know who I am.

Otherwise if in doubt, pout it out.



# SUSHI






1 Albion Place (next to Kathmandu) | 477 7030 | [fb.com/migahakodunedin](https://fb.com/migahakodunedin)



**A**fter 12 years and \$25 billion dollars spent by the US government on this war to date, John Key thinks deploying 140 New Zealand troops will make a measurable impact in Iraq. I, along with others, am sceptical.

New Zealand lacks the capacity for air-strikes, which are considered the most effective military intervention against Islamic State (IS, ISIL). IS's track record of grotesque and inhumane treatment of its enemies is beyond dispute. But wishful thinking will not halt its progress.

Key says the National government is sending New Zealand troops into a conflict zone for the purpose of training soldiers, because Iraq requested that kind of assistance. This is half-true.

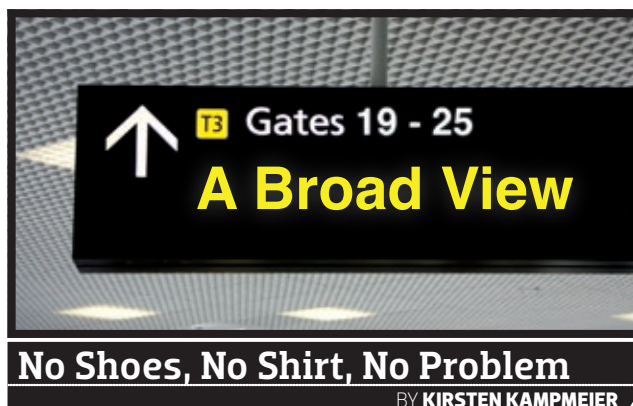
Labour Party leader Andrew Little and Foreign Affairs spokesperson David Shearer spoke with the Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Ibrahim al-Jaafari on the same day he met with Key. Dr Jaafari said that civilian support would be equally as welcome as military. It is up to New Zealand to decide what form our contribution will take. Dr Jaafari suggested we could make a meaningful difference in areas like reconstruction, training, humanitarian support, logistics, capacity building and agricultural support.

Having led a UN reconstruction in Iraq, David Shearer says Iraqis are very sensitive about "boots on the ground" by foreign militaries. They reject large numbers of foreign troops and have ruled out military bases being established by other countries. Dr Jaafari was direct: Iraq did "not want direct interference on the ground."

So why is New Zealand sending troops? Well, for the first time ever, America and Australia have been negotiating the terms of engagement directly with Iraq on our behalf. New Zealand was not involved. The US, UK and Australian populations aren't convinced there's a case for war, and their politicians are seeking multi-lateral involvement as cover for the position they've taken.

So we're about to send young New Zealanders to military roles in Iraq not because we've decided it's the right thing to do, but because it makes other countries' politicians look good. With this much sovereignty ceded, we're left to wonder: What happened to New Zealand's proudly independent foreign policy? A convincing case for focusing our \$30 million contribution on military assistance hasn't been made.

The last thing we should be doing is sending young New Zealand military personnel into a country where they are barely wanted, needed or valued.

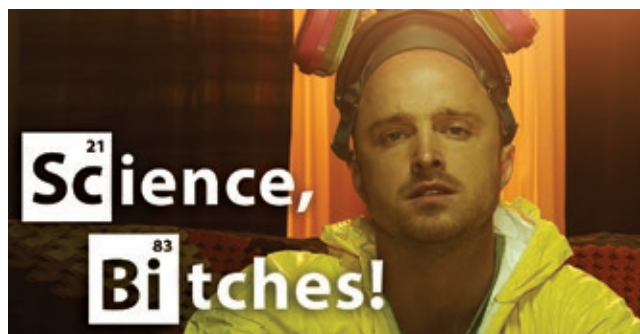


**U**pon first arriving in Dunedin, I was pretty positive that Kiwis didn't have feet. Every person that passed my flat was cruising on some form of wheels, whether that be a bike, a longboard or a skateboard. Although this phenomenon lasted for a few hours, a quick walk to the post office proved my theory wrong. I was suddenly very aware of the barefoot nature of Dunedin residents. Bobbing in and out of stores, it became clear to me that leaving your shoes at home was not considered as unsanitary, dangerous or disrespectful as it is back home in the States. By the end of my walk, I had joined the footloose masses and was childishly going in stores just for kicks (or lack thereof).

While I have yet to muster up the courage to attend a lecture barefoot, I am already dreading my return to a country that denies my basic human right to publicly free my toes of the oppressive confinement that are shoes. Allowing people to be barefoot may seem like a trivial matter, but from what I have experienced of this country it seems to be fairly representative of the personal responsibility that is allotted to New Zealand citizens. If you choose to go shoeless and end up stubbing your toe, stepping on a shard of glass or contracting a horrifying foot disease, that's on you. If you visit Rotorua and get a bit too excited about the gurgling geothermal pools, there won't be a cast-iron guardrail to catch your fall. If you find a trampoline in the bush and decide to go for a jump, there's no need call up your friendly neighbourhood lawyer when you break your arm.

Unlike America, New Zealand takes advantage of a concept that parents have successfully implemented for centuries. If your kid wants to do something questionable, you don't stop them. Everyone's gotta learn from their mistakes and successes — and if things do go awry, there will likely be a band-aid and a glass of milk nearby.





## I Believe In Brainwaves

BY EMMA COTTON

It's Sam. You've left your 5,000-word Anatomy lab report until the night before it's due, and though you've written 3,000 words, you still have the discussion section left. You're doomed, and you know it. Feeling tired and overwhelmed, you close your eyes, drifting far away from consciousness. Suddenly you're in a dark tunnel, and you see a bright white light at the other end. A kind woman beckons you towards it. You feel warm, happy, loved.

You want to reach the light, but you hear a voice calling you back to reality. You look down and see yourself, unconscious and drooling on your laptop. As much as you try to resist, you are sucked back into your body and, suddenly, you wake up.

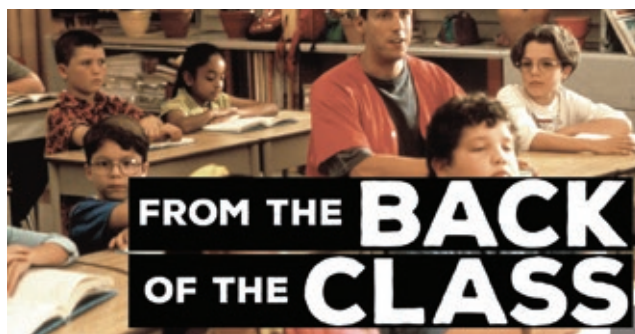
Your experience is not unique. Many others have had out-of-body experiences, usually during cardiac arrest, on the edge of life and death. Some say they were hovering over their dying bodies, watching doctors revive them. Others met their deceased loved ones or spiritual beings.

These accounts — the oldest of which was written by a French military doctor in the eighteenth century — date back to the Middle Ages. Some are comforting — suggesting that there is, in fact, an afterlife or that death is most likely a peaceful experience. There are also creepy stories, as in the case of Pam Reynold, a singer/songwriter who underwent brain surgery in 1991 and could remember parts of the operation in vivid detail. She could even describe the bone saw that was used to operate on her skull.

As scientists have been mystified by this phenomenon, Jimo Borjigin and his team at the University of Michigan have been learning about the dying human brain by studying rats, whose brains are surprisingly similar to ours. The team implanted electrodes into the brains of nine rats before giving them lethal injections and monitoring their brain activity until death. Activity in the rats' brains spiked just before death, displaying dramatic electrical signals that were tremendous in comparison to the rats' normal activity.

The scientists attribute the activity to a lack of oxygen combined with the brain's last attempt to survive. Though there is no evidence that the rats saw bright lights or had out-of-body experiences, Borjigin's findings suggest that the human brain may display unusual activity before shutting down. This may explain the varied accounts of near-death experiences, implying that these experiences are similar to a vivid dream.

Whether you believe that angels will deliver your soul to heaven or that the peace that comes with death is simply a chemical reaction, it looks more and more like the transition to death isn't as scary as most people think. That's science, bitches.



## The Suffragettes

BY FINBARR NOBLE

The Suffragettes were feminists before it was cool — they fought for women's suffrage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The term "suffrage" is an umbrella one that refers loosely to women's suffrage unions in general, but in Edwardian Britain it was synonymous with the militant wing of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Founded in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst, the WSPU focused upon rallies, illegal demonstrations and increasingly daring acts of civil disobedience to achieve their goal of "Votes for Women".

If you watched *Mary Poppins* as a child, you may recall the wealthy mother of the children singing the song "Sister Suffragette" to her long-suffering house-maids. The women's suffrage movement was very much the domain of middle- and upper-class women of leisure, working-class women being too busy working. In a time when only 60 per cent of adult men could vote, it's unsurprising that there should be a class divide in women's activism for suffrage as well. *Mary Poppins'* song also includes the wonderful line "though we adore men in-divid-ually, we agree as a group they are ra-ther stu-pid." This is a cutting reference to the stubbornness of the Liberal government, which, over a long period of time, had debated women's suffrage bills but never passed them.

Tired of the government's inaction and the ineffectual "ladylike" tactics of mainstream suffrage movements, the Suffragettes introduced the slogan of "Deeds, Not Words" and began to demand the vote instead of merely ask for it. Despite being drawn from the upper echelons of society, the Suffragette movement carried out various acts of civil disobedience. They set fire to letterboxes, carried out window-smashing campaigns, set off pipe bombs (destroying property not people) and defaced pennies with their slogan "Votes for Women". This last may not seem that drastic, but defacing currency came with a prison sentence if caught — and in a time before hashtags, it was an ingenious method of disseminating subversive political messages.

Many went on hunger strike inside and were force-fed a mixture of brandy and milk or raw eggs through a rubber tube forced down their nose. The horrors of force-feeding became a rallying point for the Suffragette movement, garnering sympathy and respect from those who might otherwise have opposed them.

Domestic "terrorists" though the WSPU may have been, in the irreverent words of *Blackadder's* Lord Flashheart, "any girl who wants to chain herself to my railings and suffer a jet movement gets my vote."



## Adelaide Encouraging Diabetes

BY STEPH TAYLOR

## And baby makes three — daughter for Smiths

Only in Otago do we get front-page headline news that a regional rugby player has become a new dad.

## Tanzania crackdown on albino attacks

Be thankful if you're a ginger and live in New Zealand rather than Tanzania, as more than 200 people have been arrested due to their association with the murders of albino people.

## 1km long lamington takes the cake

This supersized lamington takes the cake for headlines this week, with a one kilometre lamington being baked in Adelaide. Nothing like getting instant diabetes by eating one kilometre's worth of lamington.

## Today's date not just Pi in the sky

I know what you're thinking: pie day! But alas, no, I mean happy 3.1415 day! Any type of pie means it's a good day.

## DNA rebuilt from semen stains

So apparently you can now build a person's DNA from 100-year-old jizz. Gabriele D'Annunzio gave his semen-stained handkerchief as a parting gift to his lover. If this isn't true love, I don't know what is.



## Past the Point of No Return

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

**P**ost-Hyde Street already! If you were lucky enough to purchase tickets in the three-point-something minutes before they sold out, we hope it was all you wanted it to be. If, for any reason, it wasn't, you're welcome to drop into OUSA Student Support at 5 Ethel Benjamin Place (look for the giant green flags) for a chupa chup and a debrief. We'd love to hear what you thought and what you'd like to see, or not see, next time around.

In the first issue of Critic this year, we gave some suggestions about how to avoid flatting misery. We're going to say a bit more about this today because we have to warn you that there is some seriously dodgy stuff going down with flats.

Thankfully, dodgy stuff's the minority, but that's not much consolation if you're in that minority. Is any of the following familiar? A landlord who turns up inside the flat without warning, or snoops outside peeking through the curtains while you're quietly minding your own business watching re-runs of Master Chef, or screams at you when you ask politely for the crap (hopefully "stuff" and not actual crap) last year's tenants left in your bedroom to be removed? Or maybe your ultra-fast, unlimited-fibre broadband (as per the advertisement) is as slow as an octogenarian three-legged donkey carrying sandbags up a hill? Hey, you need to come and see us!

While it's a bit late to change the flat you've signed for this year, check out this student initiative to get the power to the people: [www.rate-myflat.org.nz](http://www.rate-myflat.org.nz). If you were in a flat last year, go there now and rate it so some poor sucker next year doesn't have to go through the same things as you did (or, if it was a great flat, share the love). If you read this and rate last year's flat before Easter, drop me a line at [flatting@ousa.org.nz](mailto:flatting@ousa.org.nz), tell me which flat you've rated and why you deserve a Poppa's Pizza and I will make it happen (first five emails will be lucky in pizza and karma, subsequent emails will be lucky in karma only).

Don't forget that this week is Diversity Week! Check out OUSA's web or Facebook page for event details.

Whole lotta love from OUSA Student Support xox.



# di lusso BAR

## Love is blind

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

### Rocky Balboner

He's a fifth year surveying student who's not been getting much attention lately. Now he's ready for love in the form of an acute angle.

Love is blind, and apparently has osteoporosis too, but dayymn is she sexy. That brown hair, lush lips and low bone density combined to form one hell of a cutie.

Sorry I'm getting a little ahead of myself.

So after my history of premature EJ I thought it would be best to have a couple of rounds of tug of war before hitting the road. After all, no good came from a loaded gun. As every male will know, a session of porn will always go a little longer than intended and alas I ended up being rather late, and quite sweaty. On top of all that, I had to find out the hard way that Del Sol and Di Lusso are not the same place. Who knew?!

The room was dark, the drink was free but the music was shit, so I attempted a theme change to the smooth sexual healing of Marvin Gaye but Mr DJ was rather insistent.

Once initial nerves wore off, the chat started flowing. After revealing her interest in doing a PHD in reproduction I thought I had a sure thing.

We polished off a few glasses of wine, a cucumber infused drink and of-course a classy white Russian before haggling some house spir-its out of the bar tab and hitting the streets.

She may have been the timid one at the start but by the end, it was I that was sack-less. The fork in the road approached. In one hand the deborturous blue pill aftermath of my flatmates. In the other, the glimmering red pill of Boogie. Why o why did I take the blue pill. Let me find out how far that rabbit hole goes?

A big thanks goes out to Di Lusso and Critic for the food and drink. Come on a second date and I'll make it worth your while ;) In the eternal words of the late great Shaggy: "you are my angel, my darling angel."

xxoxo

### Mystique

She enjoys good yarns and always tries her best to be funny. The second year biomed student says she's never shy and doesn't consider herself to be an awkward person. That's good.

On Thursday morning, I was slightly nervous about the night ahead, having no idea what to expect. After arriving at Di Lusso that evening having had a couple of drinks to calm the nerves, my date walked in just after me. We introduced ourselves, started with a glass of wine and some awkward banter. As more alcohol was consumed we became more comfortable and the conversations started to flow nicely and I was not sure what I was worried about earlier.

We ordered the seafood platter, so I thought I would have to wait til Capone to get my share of fresh meat. To my surprise it came early as they gave us the meat platter instead of seafood. However, the sausage laid in front of me was pleasantly satisfying and the rest of the platter wasn't too bad either!

When he started to explain to me what he was studying (surveying) I stopped listening and thought it would be more interesting for the both of us if he 'surveyed' the ceiling of my bedroom. But I was keen to try a couple of cocktails so I pretended to understand what he was talking about and kept a smile on my face. I was happy because he managed to gain my attention back and the conversations became more intriguing as the night went on. At one point I think the alcohol was hitting me harder than I expected as I let it slip that I was 'easy'. Even though it was taken out of context, what can I say #confessionsofaslut.

Once we were bored of hearing each other's voices and had finished our last glass of wine, we walked for a bit down George Street and had some quality drunk yarns. When Capone was in sight, we exchanged hugs, blew each other kisses and went our separate ways.

Thanks again to the bartenders at Di Lusso – even though I didn't get my seafood platter your drinks were amazing. Thanks for the free shots, they really helped to kick off a night that was better than I expected!





## OUSA President's Column:

### In defense of Hyde Street

Over the last few weeks we students have been under fire in the media. Some people have questioned the future of the Hyde Street party because it was suggested that \$125,000 of taxpayer dollars goes towards the Hyde Street Party.

In my opinion the Hyde Street Party should continue. OUSA has always argued students should be able to have a good time while still ensuring environments where alcohol is consumed have stringent safety measures to safeguard everyone's welfare.

**The Hyde Street Party will happen regardless of whether OUSA helps to organise the event or not.** OUSA became involved in the organisation of Hyde Street three years ago in order to ensure safety measures and precautions are in place.

Is the Hyde Street Party perfect? Of course not. There is potential for harm to occur at any event where alcohol is involved. The point is, more harm

would occur in the absence of the safety precautions OUSA provides. More taxpayer dollars, instead of student dollars, would be spent rectifying harm and damage.

Given the claims made about taxpayer dollars, it is also important to realise that OUSA, through the revenue generated from tickets students purchase, pays for the infrastructure and safety precautions. In other words, Hyde Street revellers pay for the security, traffic management, fencing, food, and St John's team that are on site on the day.

There are some costs borne by the taxpayer. Police and health services operate on the day and the DCC contributes to the cost of the clean-up. However, these same services always operate in conjunction with public events, including events on a much larger scale than the Hyde Street party.

In addition to the safety precautions mentioned above, OUSA has taken additional measures such as banning glass and limiting the number of people who can attend the Hyde Street Party to reduce the burden on the taxpayer and ensure everyone is safe.

Too often alcohol debates focus on "banning" or "restricting" places in public view. This is the case with the proposed local alcohol policies. Some of the proposals, in particular the one way door pol-

icy, disproportionately target bars compared to off-license premises. This is despite the fact that 70% of alcohol is purchased from off-licenses and that bars are often one of the safer environments in which alcohol consumption occurs. Moreover, to the extent harmful behaviour results from alcohol consumption, these particular measures seek to absolve policy makers from doing the hard work required to improve New Zealand's drinking culture.

Can New Zealand improve its drinking culture? Yes - and at the moment OUSA is actively involved in talks about alcohol issues between community stakeholders. However, blaming students for the problem and proposing measures which simply move alcohol out of public sight are counter-productive and increase the risk of harm.

So should the Hyde Street Party be banned? Of course not. The majority of students are there to have a good time and the statistics reflect the fact there's only a small minority who intentionally cause trouble.

**Paul Hunt** - president@ousa.orgnz




### Entries now open for the 2015 Battle of the Bands!

The OUSA Battle of the Bands is an annual contest that takes place every May pitting the best local up-and-coming bands against one another over a series of sweaty, riff-filled nights. There are sweet prizes on the line including \$400 cash for first place!

Enter online at [bit.ly/BOTB2015](http://bit.ly/BOTB2015) - get a wriggle on though! **Entries close 5pm, April 17.**



**What's the haps with ousa recreation**



**DIVERSITY WEEK MARCH 23-27, 2015**

This week is jam packed full of events celebrating sex, gender and sexuality diversity on campus, from debates and seminars to social goodness. Kicking off the week is an **Everything and Everyone Market on Monday, 12-2pm** in the Link Courtyard (or the Union Hall if it's raining). Other highlights include the **Queerest Tea Party on Thursday** in the Link Courtyard, with free tea, coffee and sweet treats, plus the Queerest Cupcake Bake-Off. Friday is **Flannel Friday**, so make sure you wear your flannel shirt to show your support for sex, sexuality and gender diversity! Full details on all the Diversity week events are published on our website: [ousa.org.nz/diversity-week/](http://ousa.org.nz/diversity-week/). Join the Diversity Week event on the OUSA Facebook page to keep it on your radar.

DIVERSITY WEEK IS BOUGHT TO YOU BY OUSA QUEER SUPPORT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNIQ.

## Quiz Night Winners

The Recreation Centre hosted a quiz night on Tuesday the 17th, and what a great quiz night it was! So many hilarious answers. The best team name would have to be the "4 leaved clovers": a fitting name for St Patrick's Day but it didn't help in the luck department. Contrary to popular belief (at least for those there on the night) the correct terminology for a single banana is a finger not a "banan". Also the Radio One cactus is called Pedro not Fred, Julius, bob, Ralph, Spiky, or Gandalf (good options perhaps for some more Critic fish?).

Congratulations to "Two girls, One Quiz", "Charizards", and "Queenies" who were placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.

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