

Critic

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FEATURES

18 MARVELLOUS DISAPPOINTMENTS

Bringing attention to the best of the worst, most ridiculous and most bizarre comic-book heroes and villains of the DC and Marvel universes. It's unlikely this bunch will ever make it to the big screen.

BY LAURA STARLING

22 CELEBS IN THE MODERN AGE

Celebrity culture pervades everyday life thanks to developments in social media and technology. But is it really a good thing to be so close to those we put on a pedestal?

BY MANDY TE

26 THAT'LL BE 4.20

Your OUSA Admin Vice-President has some thoughts on the legalisation of marijuana — the benefits he believes legalisation can have and the fallacies that shape its current illegal status.

BY ISAAC YU

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CRITIC THINKS PULLING ON PONYTAILS IS WEIRD

» THAT IS ALL

We live in a country where our week's headlines are filled with endless stories of how weird our prime minister is that he would think it's all good to tug on a woman's ponytail time and time again. We don't need 100 articles on this, and we all know how wrong it is if the reporter didn't declare she was a reporter — and no doubt the press council can deal with that.

Once again the national media have helped us avoid paying any attention to the real issues occurring on the same day, for example:

- 800 people drowned in the Mediterranean on their way to Italy from Libya — like many of us whose parents or grandparents came to New Zealand, they were just looking for a better life (except our families were lucky enough to be leaving what was probably already a good situation). 21,000 people this year have already made it to Italy fleeing war in the Middle East and Africa, with 1750 estimated to have died trying to make it.

- Finance Minister Bill English's brother (Conor English) was appointed by the Reserve Bank to advise it on monetary policy. New Zealand's monetary policy (set by the guys at the Reserve Bank) is supposed to be completely independent of the government — because, you know, National is pretty good at keeping the rich kids rich.

- The default tax rate on Kiwisaver accounts has been set at 28 percent — the highest one possible — and for those not earning big bucks, you should probably be paying less and it's too late to claim back any overpayments.

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) moved a step closer to being sealed after President Barack Obama was granted "fast track" authority to negotiate the trade deal. The deal seeks to deepen economic ties between members by opening up trade in goods and services, but leaked documents suggest it could open up New Zealand to being sued by overseas corporations if our laws interfere with their rights as investors. Stuff reported that if the agreement goes through, "health, environment and public welfare

regulation, including plain tobacco packaging legislation, could be open for challenge from largely US-based corporations". Scary shit when overseas corporations such as Philip Morris International (Marlboro cigarettes) are already trying to threaten other countries with lawsuits (such as Australia for not allowing brand logos or imagery).

- The Daktory Three were sentenced in the Auckland District Court over charges relating to The Daktory, NZ's first cannabis social club. They were found guilty of various charges ranging from possession of a class C controlled drug (cannabis) for supply, possession of a class B controlled drug (cannabis oil, butter, cookies) for supply and permitting premises to be used for the consumption of cannabis. Two were sentenced to just over two years' imprisonment and another to 10 months of home detention and 150 hours of community service.

Getting back to what really captured the nation this week, part of the "ponytailgate" issue stems from what has made Key successful — he appears to be a fairly regular guy.

A vulnerable waitress calling out a dodgy prime minister makes for an easy answer: it's obvious who needs to pull their act together. She claims that fellow staff knew she hated it, customers knew, co-workers knew and even his wife knew how uncomfortable she was. Unfortunately in this world of all too many bystanders, a man with a little too much power to his head was allowed to go on for months.

But we could all be accused of being bystanders in this world when we spend so long focusing on what can be done about an issue we all know the answer to.

People want relatable, but being a "regular guy" doesn't have to mean behaving like a cool kid, putting women down or dumbing yourself down. It means being genuine, honest and admirable. Qualities we expect from our flatties, and should expect from our prime minister too.

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Union Success With Zero-Hour Contracts

» CHAINS STRIVE TO BE "DESIRABLE" EMPLOYERS

BY JOE HIGHAM

Restaurant chains around New Zealand have said they will put an end to zero-hour contracts after action from Unite Union New Zealand. The union has called for an end to the contracts, claiming they do not offer employees the security they need. Protests have been held nationwide.

The union's National Director Mike Treen has said the union has successfully negotiated the end of zero-hour contracts at Restaurant Brands. Restaurant Brands is a group that covers fast-food companies such as KFC, Pizza Hut, Starbucks and Carls Jr.

Burger King announced on 14 April it will phase out zero-hour contracts by July of this year.

The union negotiated a formula for the companies to use, which guarantees staff at least 80 percent of the workload they have completed over the last three months, said Treen.

"Fixed-shift regimes are going to be trialled in [Burger King] stores to see how they might work," says Treen.

Hell Pizza has also announced this month that after the recent focus on zero-hour contracts, it has reviewed and revised its policies. From 10 April, staff at all Hell Pizza franchises are guaranteed fixed weekly hours. Employment contracts for staff will be altered by 1 June.

"Zero-hour contracts have been an industry norm for quite some time. Hell strives to be a desirable and well-regarded employer; we believe all of our franchisees have acted in good faith in regards to employees' hours of work. As such, we don't foresee the change having any material effect on our operations or staff," said Hell General Manager Ben Cumming.

Despite this progress, some companies are refusing to stop using the contracts, or deny using them at all.

Ben Paterson, Unite's South Island Organiser said: "We have not reached an agreement with McDonald's or Wendy's, who have failed to come to the table with a meaningful plan to scrap zero-hour practices."

Earlier this month, McDonald's made a proposal to shift from zero hours and offer employees 80 percent security based on the average of the previous 12 weeks of their work. However, there would be a cap of 40 hours. The union has dismissed the offer, saying that it is not good enough.

On 15 April, as part of a national "day of action", workers held a protest outside McDonald's in Palmerston North demanding an end to zero hours.

Mark Byford, a former employee at the

restaurant, said at the protest that "sacrifices have to be made" when working on a zero-hour contract. "One week you can't pay the rent, the next week you can."

"They only way to get ahead, with decent hours, is to do graveyards which is 10pm-7am, which can take a pretty big effect on your health," said Byford.

Treen said that McDonald's and Wendy's "claim to not have zero-hour contracts, but that's not true".

CEO of Wendy's New Zealand Danielle Lendich denies the claims that the contracts are used in their restaurants.

"[We] do not have zero-hour contracts and this has been confirmed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Mediation Services — so we haven't had to change anything."

Unite has scheduled a mediated meeting with McDonald's for Tuesday 28 April. The union aims to make ground in abolishing zero-hour contracts for the restaurant, which is currently the largest restaurant brand in New Zealand. ●





Rowing Club Wins Trophy for 16th Year

» "SIXTEEN YEARS HAS CERTAINLY NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE"

BY LAURA MUNRO

During the mid-semester break, the Otago University Rowing Club took out the Ashes trophy at the New Zealand Universities Rowing Championships in Whanganui.

The trophy holds the ashes of the former rowing club, which burnt down in 1999, and was won by Otago for the 16th year in a row. With a total of 162 points, the club finished with more than double the points of Waikato University, which placed second.

"Sixteen years has certainly never been done before," said OURC Manager Glen Sinclair. "The big thing for the club is that we are not only winning the trophy, but, more often than not, winning by double the next team's

points and by more points than all of the other universities combined."

The club took a team of 76 athletes, most of whom are students, and seven coaches to the three-day event. The Novice Men's team won all three of their events, gaining 31 points. The Senior Women's Eight, a new team after losing five athletes, won the Women's Championship Eights race by 40 seconds. The Number Two team came in second place.

Sinclair said the club is "committed to the hard training", which began in O-Week. The team trains from 5.45-7.30am, Monday to Thursday, as well as 7-11am on Saturdays. On top of this, senior rowers are required to lift weights three times a week in the late

afternoon, as well as do two or three sessions on rowing machines. "All of the beginners and intermediates also do two or three rowing-machine sessions each week."

Sinclair said "awesome facilities and equipment" play a key role in the success of the team, and "that has been hugely assisted by OUSA". Great coaching is crucial: "Our coaches are really committed to what we want to achieve."

OUSA Clubs Development Officer George McLenaghan attributed the success to the structure of the club: "It's helped them immensely; I think there's probably a fair bit of help from OUSA and the university as well." ●

Drift Trike Trio Takes Baldwin Street

» "WE'D HIT IT AGAIN IF WE HAD THE CHANCE"

BY AMBER ALLOTT

Three members of a Christchurch-based drift-triking community, SLIDE Christchurch, took on Baldwin Street as part of a stunt on Saturday 18 April. Harley Jolly (23), Tyson Bar (19) and Nic Roy (18) videoed the descent, which has since gained popularity on social media.

"Basically, we do this all the time as a hobby," said Jolly. "On our adventures around Dunedin we just decided 'we'll hit that one'." He said Baldwin Street is "not what you'd call a beginner's hill, but we'd hit it again tomorrow if given the chance".

The video has received nearly 720,000 views since it was uploaded on 19 April. Jolly said he didn't expect the stunt to "go this far".

Jolly says the public needs to realise that even though it has been hard to get recognition, drift-triking is a sport. Groups such as SLIDE Christchurch want the public to "accept



the fact that [they're] out there".

"It will be our mission now to promote drift-triking in what's hopefully a positive light for all to see," said the group on its Facebook page. "[The video] may shine a bit of light on some of the boys here down south for potential sponsors. Let's grow this sport!"

Baldwin Street, located in North East Valley, is recorded by the Guinness Book of Records as the steepest residential street in the world. In 2001, a nineteen-year-old student was killed after attempting to ride down Baldwin Street in a wheelie bin that collided with a parked trailer.

To ensure the safety of the drifters, Jolly said: "The Dunedin drift-triking boys ensured that the road was clear. There were people standing every ten to twenty metres making sure no cars reversed out of their driveways and that nobody just walked out."

Drift trikes are tricycles designed for riding downhill on paved roads. They are purposely built with very little traction on their rear wheels and counter-steering for tackling corners, in order to produce the "drifting" motion. Although becoming increasingly popular worldwide, the sport originated here in New Zealand. ●



Student Loans: Past and Present

BY JOE HIGHAM

In the wake of Germany having abolished student loans for domestic students and England having increased them to around £9,000 per annum (\$18,000/year for tuition fees), New Zealand domestic students linger in a middle ground between the two.

The average course fees for a bachelor's degree in New Zealand have increased by 14 percent since 2010 alone. The number of people receiving student allowances has decreased by 16 percent since the same year.

Student Loans

A History

The system New Zealand currently has in place for tertiary students replaced a system of governmental bursaries and grants that operated up until 1992.

At the time, around 86 percent of students who reached university entrance standards had their tuition fees paid for. At the same time, they were given living expenses throughout their period of study. These grants did not need to be paid back.

Due partly to increased demand and the growth of the tertiary education sector during the 1980s and early 1990s, that method was considered no longer feasible.

In 1992, under Jim Bolger's National government, the student bursary and grant system was abolished and the Student Loan Scheme Act 1992 was enacted in its place.

This act provided for the lending of money from the government to the student and left the vast majority of students needing to borrow money to access tertiary education. Unlike today, those who needed to borrow money had to pay interest on that loan when they ceased to be in education.

Now, due to changes made by Helen Clark's Labour government in 2006, student loans are interest free. However, this is only so long as the borrower remains in New Zealand.

In 2011, the National government initiated a lifetime borrowing limit of seven EFTS. EFTS stands for Equivalent Full-Time Student, with one year of full-time study varying between 0.8 and 1.2 EFTS. This gives an individual approximately seven years before they stop being entitled to the loans scheme.

The Situation Today

Figures from the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) show that average student loan debt is up 57 percent since 2011. Debt now average \$24,405.

As many as 73 percent of students say they expect their student loan to have a significant impact on their ability to save for their retirement. This is up from 65 percent in 2011.

70 percent of students have said they expect their loan to have a significant impact on their ability to buy a house, with only eight percent believing it will have no impact.

Just over two out of three students, 68 percent, have said debt would significantly impact their decision to undertake further study.

“ The average course fees for a bachelor's degree in New Zealand have increased by 14 percent since 2010 alone. ”

Student Allowances

A History

The student allowance scheme was initiated in 1989 in order to "provide living support for New Zealand students studying full-time toward recognised tertiary qualifications, and for adults studying full-time at a secondary school". It was initially exclusively for 16–19 year olds, with the threshold set at \$28,080 per annum before tax. The threshold became parental-income adjusted to those under 25 in 1992.

By 2010, the parental income cut-off point at which students become ineligible for student allowances was raised from \$82,237.80 to \$86,685.30 per annum for students living away from home. For students living at home, the cut-off was increased from \$75,855.32 to \$79,956.76 per annum.

In 1992, the payments for student allowances came out in three lump sums throughout the academic year. Partly due to abuse of the system, that payment scheme was abolished in favour of fortnightly payments and eventually, in 1999, weekly payments.

Advocates Say It's "Not Enough"

Some groups have started speaking out about the amount of money students can receive on student allowances.

In 2014, the NZUSA President Daniel Haines said the increase in debt had been driven by "increasing fees, but even more so by restrictions on allowances forcing more and more students to borrow to live from week to week".

Phillipa Keaney, advocate and student rep coordinator for OUSA says that student allowances are "definitely not enough".

"Living costs have gone up, rent continues to go up, and student allowances and living costs don't track, they don't keep up with inflation," said Keaney.

Student Support gives away around 500 food-bank parcels per year. Keaney said many of these are to students who "just didn't have money left for food after their other bills had been paid". ●



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Proctology

» COUCH FIRES AND CAR FLIPPING

BY LAURA MUNRO

Campus Watch attended a couch fire before the Easter break that led to one student being recommended to the university provost. It was discovered that a separate student who was dealt with at the scene had lied to Campus Watch in 2013. The student was caught throwing a bottle on Harbour Terrace but claimed he was not a student.

After his name was recorded for the recent incident, "his name came up on the database, and we realised this was the person we had been looking for for throwing a bottle in 2013". The student will now face the fine for throwing the bottle, as well as "a little bit extra" for the lie.

In recent weeks a car was flipped on Hyde Street, which Campus Watch heard about on the police radio. The proctor said a flat on the street has a "mixture of residents: university, polytech and workers." Some "friends of the workers" who came for a visit during the break "caused some problems — three of them were arrested by police." There were no students involved in flipping the car; however, the flat has "received advice" from the proctor.

One student, who has broken the university's Code of Conduct on multiple occasions, has been excluded for breaking glass. "Getting thrown out of university for throwing a bottle is pretty dumb," said the proctor.

Noise control complaints are still being dealt with regularly, with officers being "subjected to barrages of abuse and bottles being thrown". This has been occurring on a regular basis, "generally at the same addresses".

Other than these incidents, the proctor said things had "quietened off nicely" during the break. "Easter is generally the tail-off point; [students] are aware that exams are not that far away and are settling down to their work." ●

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Otago Ranked Top Scientific Institution in NZ

» ONLY NZ UNIVERSITY TO MAKE TOP 100 IN ASIA-PACIFIC

BY AMBER ALLOTT



In 2014, the University of Otago was the leading publisher of scientific articles for all New Zealand universities, according to an annual report released by the Nature Publishing Group that gives it the highest international ranking of any New Zealand institution.

Each year, the Nature Publishing Group releases the Nature Index, which it describes as a global indicator of high-quality research. It ranks scientific institutions based on the number of articles they have published in a collection of sixty-eight international scientific journals, which are known to be incredibly selective.

The 2015 Asia-Pacific Nature Index is an addition included in the most recent edition of the Nature journal, and it details the success and innovation of institutions in both Asia and Australasia.

The University of Otago was the only New Zealand research institution to make the top 100 list in the 2015 Asia-Pacific Nature Index, ranked 91st. The university also ranked highly in the "Life Sciences" and "Earth and Environment" categories, ranking 46th and 38th respectively.

When asked whether Otago's ranking in the Nature Index is likely to affect funding for research carried out by the university, the Pro-

Vice Chancellor of Sciences, Professor Keith Hunter, was unable to confirm.

"There's no mechanism that directly links the two, but there are lots of indirect mechanisms. Success at getting external funding depends a lot on the perception that the funding agencies have of your competence. So, if a university is performing well in an index like that ... it enhances our reputation as a quality research institution, which makes our chances better."

He further acknowledged that these factors are taken into account in the university's rankings within the country, and help to attract greater numbers of international students.

While not detailing whether the university will be taking any steps to try to increase its ranking in future years, Hunter said: "The biggest problem (with increasing rankings internationally) is that the correlation between funding and ranking is very high. The best way to put New Zealand universities higher up in the list would be to give us more money." ●

Immunisation Refusal Linked to Vitamin K

» STUDY SHOWS 17 PERCENT OF VITAMIN K REFUSERS WON'T IMMUNISE

BY OLIVER GASKELL

A University of Otago study has shown that parents who decline vitamin K for their newborn children are more likely to turn down childhood immunisations.

Researchers from the Department of Women and Children's Health believe the results of the study may be useful in defining the small group of New Zealand parents who refuse immunisation. Data could then be used to provide "extra support [and] extra education" to the relevant group, said lead author of the study, Ben Wheeler.

Vitamin K is offered to parents of newborns to "prevent a condition called vitamin K deficiency bleeding" said Wheeler. This is uncommon, but can lead to severe bleeding and death. Researchers found that those who turned down vitamin K were more than 14 times more likely

to later turn down immunisation.

The study used medical records of 3575 babies born in Dunedin Hospital in 2010 and 2011, and found that the 3 percent of parents who decline vitamin K have a 17 percent chance of refusing early childhood vaccinations. Of those who accept vitamin K, only 1.2 percent turned down later immunisation.

Wheeler said that the researchers don't "fully understand" why parents refuse vitamin K, but believes that "misinformation in the press or on the internet" and "fear of big pharmaceutical[s]" may be factors.

He said parents may also be worried about causing pain to their baby.

The research was inspired by the many parallels and similarities between administration of vitamin k and immunisation, said Wheeler. "They are both intramuscular injec-

tions, they're both a public health intervention ... and they both prevent things that aren't super common."

Wheeler said that vitamin K administrations and general vaccinations are more like an "insurance policy" for rare conditions, but he strongly believes in their use. Wheeler said that as a paediatrician he "sees the consequences of these illnesses in people who are not immunised".

"Immunisation is often misunderstood by the public," said Wheeler. "There's a feeling that nature is benign towards us ... there are many things in nature whose sole purpose is our destruction, and immunisation is one thing we have to fight back."

The results of the Otago study are featured in the *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, an international publication. ●



Law Overlooked for Damp Rentals

» STUDENTS DON'T NEED TO ACCEPT DAMP HOUSING

BY DAMIAN GEORGE

Dunedin students living in cold and damp housing may have more rights to a healthy home than they are aware of, according to University of Otago researchers.

A study published by the university in collaboration with Victoria University of Wellington has found that a law designed to protect people from living in unhealthy homes — the Housing Improvement Regulations 1947 — has been overlooked in most Tenancy Tribunal hearings regarding rental property living conditions. If acted upon, the law requires landlords to provide housing that is free from dampness and related problems.

Co-author, Dr Sarah Bierre, said it is unclear why the law is not being referred to, but it may be to do with the murky legal nature of housing quality standards. "The Tenancy Tribunal usually refers to the Residential Tenancies Act but this law is 'hidden' under the Housing Act, so adjudicators might not be aware of it and therefore not using it," she said. "Hopefully as a result of this study, adjudicators will start looking at it more." Dr Bierre says the year's

worth of cases studied show an inconsistency in decision-making.


Some decisions acknowledged a property was mouldy or damp but did not refer to the dampness regulations, while others stated such conditions were expected of a property. There has only been one case where the law was enacted, said Bierre. "I think it would be great if landlords were to take notice of this. There is a law, it has been enacted, and it is there for tenants. We don't think this report is enough, but hopefully it is useful in bringing it to people's attention."

The research team, consisting of Dr Bierre, Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman from Otago and Dr Mark Bennett would like to see a housing warrant of fitness introduced in New Zealand to protect tenants. A bill that required a warrant of fitness for rental properties, the Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill, failed to pass its first reading in parliament on 18 March 2015. Howden-Chapman said rental properties have become a neglected area of the housing market in New Zealand. "I think we've been so pre-occupied with people buying houses, but

house prices are going up, many students are coming out of university indebted, and many more people are now in rental housing." Howden-Chapman says everybody needs to take some responsibility in addressing the issue.

The Ministry of Justice said it is aware of the findings and recognises them as part of an important broader examination of housing in New Zealand. It has said that while it cannot comment on specific cases, the Tenancy Tribunal and its adjudicators are mindful of the law in question when considering claims relating to dampness. "However, in reaching a decision on such a claim, adjudicators can only act on the evidence put forward by the parties, and this evidence must be sufficient to show that there has been a breach of a landlord's legal responsibilities, including those in the 1947 regulations."

The Ministry also points out the judicial process allows for claimants to seek a rehearing if they wish to challenge a Tenancy Tribunal decision. ●




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» WHY IS 6 AFRAID OF 7? BECAUSE SEVEN EIGHT NINE!

BY **ZAHRA SHAHTAHMASEBI**

OUSA is calling all quiz lovers to participate in the entry tests for this year's University Challenge. The challenge is a television show, aired on Prime, in which universities from all over New Zealand compete in an academic quiz.

The entry test to be considered for the

University of Otago team will be held on Tuesday 28 April in Room 2 of the OUSA Recreation Centre. The test will run from 4.30pm–7pm, though people are able to turn up at any point during that time. The written test consists of 100 questions, and the overall score and time are recorded.

The chosen team will have five members, with four appearing on TV at a time.

Fran Allen and Naomi Woods, returning team members and leaders for this year, said participating in University Challenge is an "awesome experience". It's a "different style from a pub quiz," they said. "It's not really about how much you know but how quickly you can recall it."

"Otago has won [the competition] the most times out of any university," said OUSA Clubs Development Officer George McLenghen. "They've had the most success."

The show is filmed in the final week of August, during the mid-break of semester two. Topics are said to range from high-school-level science to breeds of cats and famous New Zealanders. The Challenge is open to anyone studying at university this year.

Those who have questions about the quiz have been advised to email Fran Allen at flaaallen@gmail.com. ●

iD Dunedin Fashion Week Happens

» JUDGES SAY "THESE ARE THE DESIGNERS TO WATCH OUT FOR"

BY **LAURA MUNRO**

Last week saw iD Dunedin kick off its annual fashion week for the 16th year in a row. The week ran from 18–26 April, with designers from all over the world attending.

Over the eight days there were fashion tours around the city, fashion shows and awards, guest lectures and films relating to fashion. Fashion high teas and breakfasts were held on the Dunedin Harbour.

The week heavily focused on giving emerging designers the opportunity to display their work. The greatest event for the week was the International Emerging Designer Awards, held in conjunction with the Otago Polytechnic. The awards, as well as the fashion show, were held at the Dunedin Railway Station.

The iD Committee Chair Susie Staley said the awards pave the way for a future in the industry for young designers.

"The iD International Designer Awards provide not only incredible networking opportunities and cash prizes, it is the platform from which the careers of many young designers

have been launched," said Staley.

"These are the designers to watch out for, who go on to work in high-profile fashion houses around the world, or launch their own successful labels."

Thirty finalists were selected from over 90 applicants from design schools in New Zealand, Australia, China, Slovakia, Singapore, the US and India.

Tanya Carson, designer and member of this year's selection panel, said "it was refreshing to see great, progressive menswear" represented among the applications.

"It's important for students to be taking risks and pushing boundaries in their entries. This year we certainly saw that, which is encouraging for the future of fashion."

New Zealand finalists included Caroline Stephen from the Auckland University of Technology; Wilson Ong and Jorge Adrian Alfaro from the Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design; Steve Hall from Massey University; and Kelsi Bennett and Grace Averis from the Otago Polytechnic.

Credit: iD Dunedin Fashion Inc



The winners of the awards gain internships in the industry, as well as the opportunity to showcase their collections at the iD Dunedin Fashion Show the following Friday and Saturday. ●

Hague Says the Government is "Out of Touch"

» GREENS CLAIM NOT ALL UNDER 13S WILL RECEIVE FREE GP VISITS

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

Last week the Green Party claimed the National government is not intending to fulfill its 2014 election promise of providing children aged 13 and under with free GP visits. The Green Party claim they have documents which show 10 percent of children would not be covered as the budget has been set too low.

Green Party Spokesperson for Health and ACC Kevin Hague has said he believes this will have an impact on National Party support for two reasons.

"First, the policy was enormously popular amongst parents of young kids, hence it being a headline both at last year's budget, and [in] National's election campaign. Leaving out 10 percent of kids (27,000) will not only be disappointing to many, but will also create the impression that they have been cynically lied to, and that the government can't be trusted," said Hague.

"Secondly, the government now seems to have settled on a defence line that the promise is kind of being met because parents can 'shop around' until they find a free one. Parents know that is ludicrously impractical and out to lunch, reinforcing the growing sense that National is out of touch."

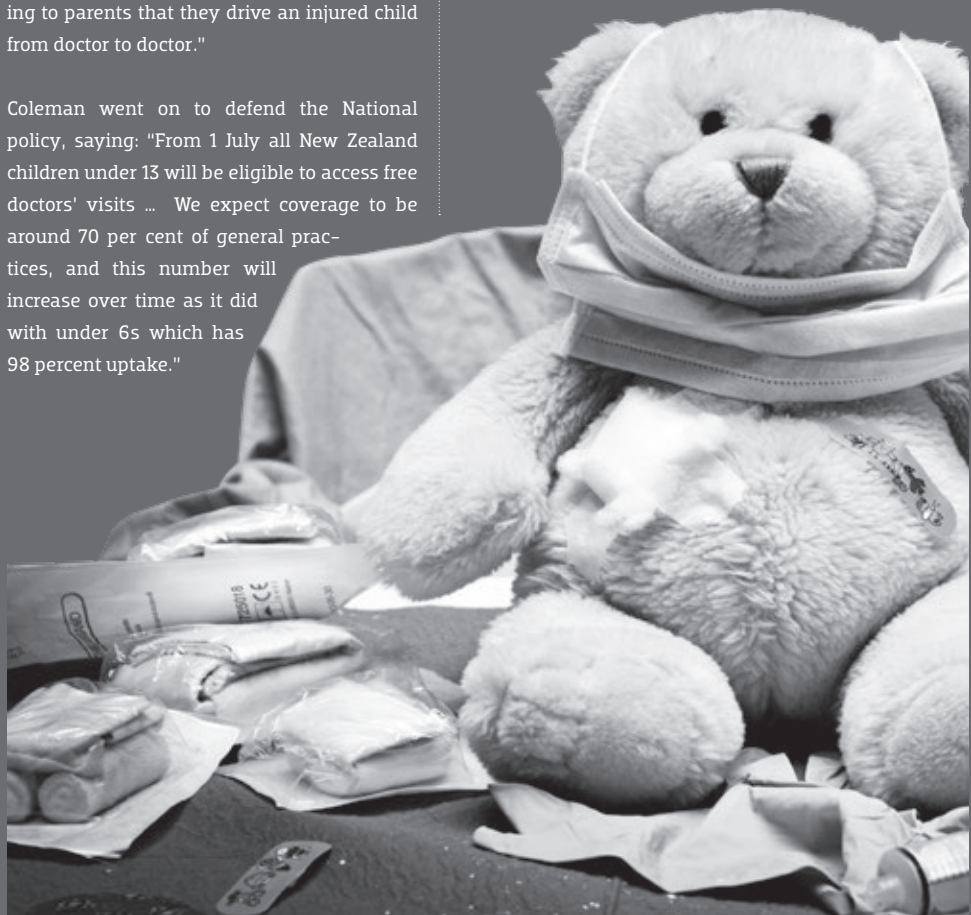
Regarding National's support remaining unchanged, Labour Party Associate Spokesperson for Health David Clark has said that he believes there has been "a change in public mood since the election."

"There is a slow change happening over time ... there is an issue of trust that is emerging, particularly around budgets," said Clark.

Minister of Health Dr Jonathan Coleman said in response to the Green Party allegations: "It's ridiculous to suggest that we're recommending to parents that they drive an injured child from doctor to doctor."

Coleman went on to defend the National policy, saying: "From 1 July all New Zealand children under 13 will be eligible to access free doctors' visits ... We expect coverage to be around 70 per cent of general practices, and this number will increase over time as it did with under 6s which has 98 percent uptake."

A TVNZ Colmar-Brunton poll shows National party support polling at 49 percent, unchanged from a poll in February of this year. National experienced similar favourable public polling during last year's election, when a stream of negative press failed to affect the party's election result. ○



POLIWORDS



"Shit happens."

— TONY ABBOTT



"He's got a bit of a reputation as being jokey blokey and having a joke with fokes"

— ANDREW LITTLE



"I don't buy the value sliced loaf, I've got a breadmaker at home."

— DAVID CAMERON



"New Zealanders know you can't walk into a cafe and start tugging on someone's hair"

— METIRIA TUREI

In My Opinion: Henry's word Labour Doing Too Little

National's armour is John Key's popularity. It survives on Key's image as a typical and down-to-earth "kiwi bloke". As the events of the last year's election show, Key's image only strengthens when he is slandered.

If you were watching political polls during the week leading up to 15 September 2014, you would have seen National fixed around 44, 45 percent. Five days later the party would jump another six percent and win a sole majority in the house (despite it being a short-lived majority).

Many opinions have been offered on why this happened. Political commentator, Dr Bryce Edwards, attributed the result to a "failure of the left wing" in producing a reasonable alternative. However, a more simple answer may come down to Kim Dotcom's "Moment of Truth".

On 15 September, Dotcom joined pals Glen Greenwald, Laila Harre and Robert Amsterdam in the Auckland Town Hall to present the so-called "truth" about Key and his government. What followed was two hours of unrevealing and anticlimactic discussion of not-so-secret spying revelations conducted by the GCSB.

In short, it seemed evident that this over-hyped "Moment of Truth" would change nothing. Five days later, however, the New Zealand electorate took to polling booths around the country to award National a landslide victory and abolish the Internet Party from existence, despite its multimillion dollar campaign.

Looking at these events, it seems plausible that Dotcom may have been inadvertently responsible for National's overwhelming victory. Middle-class New Zealand doesn't see John Key as evil. His public persona is everything to the contrary.

Following that note, Labour may need to change its tune to how it approaches ousting National in 2017. Obviously we can expect the big policy roll-outs in the lead-up to the election; however, Labour's talking points should be focusing on this now. Undoubtedly it is doing this, yet less energy needs to be spent on criticising Key and more on exploring and highlighting the areas of government where it plans to lead.

It's hard to say what will be prioritised by the Labour Party in 2017. Rather, the perception is that it is playing the role of the opposition, which is limited to grasping at straws and criticising National when bad press arises. This is its job, but not the one it wants, obviously. A good way to start looking like the next government might be to present the alternatives for a new system rather than simply highlighting the negatives in the current one. ●



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News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



world watch

1 CZECH REPUBLIC

A Czech man, Vit Jedlicka, has declared that a seven-square kilometre patch of land between Serbia and Croatia is now the sovereign state of Liberland. As well as having a flag, it even has a website where people can apply for citizenship. Its founder says he wants a country without "unnecessary restrictions and taxes".

2 SPAIN

A Spanish Opposition leader, Pedro Sanchez, accidentally pressed the wrong button when voting on whether to debate a law requiring minors to get parental permission before an abortion. Sanchez, who is chief of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, said "I deeply regret my error" and that he is "firm in [his] commitment to the freedom of women under 18".

3 FRANKFURT, GERMANY

The European Central Bank chief, Mario Draghi, was disrupted at a recent news conference when a protestor jumped on his desk and began throwing paper and confetti at him. Draghi was delivering his opening remarks when the disruption occurred; however, the woman was quickly restrained and the briefing continued.

4 TEXAS, UNITED STATES

A lucky mother, Danielle Busby, has delivered the first quintuplet sisters ever born in the United States. The five girls, Olivia Marie, Ava Lane, Hazel Grace, Parker Kate and Riley Paige, were reportedly "thriving" after being born. The last time five sisters were born at once is thought to have been in 1969 in London.

5 GAZA, PALESTINE

The only concert piano in war-ravaged Gaza has been rediscovered and restored after years of neglect. It survived the war with Israel last year but could not be played until a restorer arrived from France on a special mission. The restoration was celebrated with a small concert by pupils of Gaza's only music school.

6 NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

Authorities at an airport in New Jersey were forced to tranquilise a wolverine that was enroute from Norway to an Alaskan wildlife centre after discovering the wild animal had chewed through its metal carrier. Wolverines are large members of the weasel family, native to the Arctic, Alaska and Scandinavia.

7 JAPAN

A Japanese woman has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after slashing her husband's face with a knife because he left a terrible smell in the toilet. The woman was reportedly incensed by the toilet smell left by her partner, but was aggravated further when he tried to help her three-year-old son use the toilet without washing his own hands first.

8 WANDSWORTH, UNITED KINGDOM

A con-man is awaiting sentencing in Britain after he used a smuggled cellphone to create a fake British government email account, which he then used to persuade prison officials to set him free. Neil Moore was in prison awaiting trial on fraud charges when he used the con to free himself.

9 LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

A Russian-speaking man in Britain has discovered that the Russian Siri is homophobic. The man asked Siri to find gay clubs close to him, which Siri responded to with: "I would have turned red if I could." Further questions about gay marriage led to Siri to call him "rude" and accuse him of "obscurities".

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Grapevine

"When the state pacified the favelas, they were seen as safer and rents shot up, meaning many could no longer afford to live there. There are now 800,000 families without a home in the Rio metropolitan area. Rio continues to persecute, demonize and criminalize the poorest in society, and it's getting worse."



Guilherme Simões, National Coordinator for the Homeless Workers' Movement Brazil. The chance to host the 2016 Olympic Games was presented to the people of Rio de Janeiro as a chance to showcase the city and generate investment in an effort to improve the lives of its residents. However, in truth, it has resulted in the eviction of many of Rio's poorest residents from their homes in an effort to improve infrastructure in the city. Riot police have been used to evict residents and people have been injured and arrested.

"There's been a pretty consistent pattern of ISIS trying to really build out the appearance of a functioning state. A lot of that involves trying to put its brand on everything and really show that it has the apparatus of a country."

J.M. Berger, co-author of ISIS: The State of Terror. The Islamic State is reportedly attempting to become a legitimate state with the issuing of identification cards. ID cards with three-dimensional chips and anti-counterfeiting holograms are said to be distributed among people living in IS-controlled territories throughout Iraq and Syria.



"While our people and our economy are pushing the boundaries of the 21st century, too many of our leaders and their ideas are stuck in the 20th century. They're busy looking backwards, so they do not see how jobs and prosperity today depend on our ability to compete in a global economy."



Florida Republican Senator, Marco Rubio, announced his bid for the US presidency. Rubio aims to present himself as a youthful, next-generation leader claiming that all other leaders are nostalgic and trying to take America into the past. Rubio claims he wants to save America from policies of the past so "we can capture the promise of this new century".

"The fact that I was arrested for this at all shows that Japan is still very backwards about women's sexual expression, that it is not acknowledged at all except as something for men's pleasure."

An artist in Japan, Megumi Igarashi, is on trial for obscenity after making objects modelled on her vagina. Igarashi built a kayak with a top shaped like her vagina, and faces up to two years in jail and fines of up to 2.5 million yen if found guilty. A 1951 Supreme Court case in Japan defined obscenity as something that stimulates desire and violates an ordinary person's sense of sexual shame and morality.



"It was certainly expensive. Cleaning revealed it was made of high-quality leather. This is an extraordinary find for people researching the history of erotica. The object is large, thick, made of leather filled with bristles, and has a wooden tip."



The Regional Office for Protection of Monuments Poland. Archaeologists examining the site of an eighteenth-century latrine say they have discovered a 250-year-old sex toy apparently dropped into the toilet by its user. The faux phallus was taken away for "maintenance". Archaeologists said they also discovered pieces of pottery and jewellery in the latrine.

FACTS & FIGURES



Sheep

recognise other sheep from pictures.

645,000,000

human beings weigh the same as all the ants in the world.

Human birth-control pills

work on gorillas.

A "French kiss"

is the same as an "English kiss" in France.

The only elephant

in the Berlin Zoo was killed by the first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin in WWII

50

the number of times some lions mate per day.

5 calories

in a teaspoon of semem



Tough Talk with Tanaka

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

A few days before the Highlanders' game against the Blues, I put on a "business-casual" shirt, skipped a POLS class and ventured deep into the heart of the Highlanders' "Worldwide Headquarters" (their words, not mine) next to the stadium, where I caught up with Highlanders halfback, Fumiaki Tanaka. Here's how it went down.

CRITIC: So how's everything going this week after the win over the Crusaders?

FUMIAKI TANAKA: Feeling is good, but preparation is no different. We have a heavy training session later this afternoon then a captain's run (light training) tomorrow before the game against the Blues on Saturday night.

CRITIC: This is your third season with the Highlanders — how have you enjoyed your time in Dunedin so far? How is the Japanese food here?

FT: It is good but I have struggled with the English. Some of the sushi places here are ... ok.

(A diplomatic answer, but he is clearly not convinced by Dunedin's culinary efforts.)

CRITIC: You were the first Japanese player to play Super Rugby — how did you end up signing for the Highlanders?

FT: I played with Tony Brown at the Panasonic Wild Knights, and he was a big factor in getting me here to play. First I played for the Auckland U-19's and then for Otago in the 2012 ITM Cup when Tony took over as coach. Jamie Joseph then offered me a place in the Highlanders squad for 2013.

CRITIC: Away wins over the Crusaders and the Chiefs have given the Highlanders a good chance to make the playoffs again. What changes have you noticed over the three seasons you have been here?

FT: My first season in 2013, we did not do so well (Highlanders finished 14th, winning just three games) but Jamie and Tony have built a solid group and we have gone up and up since then. Just through hard work, no magic tricks.

CRITIC: A lot of players recently announced they are heading overseas. You must be top of the list to join the Japanese team in the expanded Super Rugby format next season?

FT: I haven't heard much about the new team, and I don't know how it will work in its first season. I am hoping to sign a new contract soon and stay at the Highlanders for the next few years. For me, I think it is better to stay with an established team.

CRITIC: So will you play in the ITM Cup after this Super Rugby season finishes?

FT: No, I don't think so. I will take a break and prepare for the World Cup in England where I hope to be playing for the Japan national team! And then I hopefully will be able to play at the 2019 World Cup when it is hosted by my country. That would be a huge honour for me and my family.

(Fumi already has 44 caps for the Brave Blossoms so far, making him the most experienced international player in the Highlanders' squad.)

CRITIC: Thanks for talking with Critic and good luck for the rest of the Super Rugby season and the World Cup.

FT: Yes, thank you, arigato!

CRITIC: Domo arigato, Mr. Tanaka! ○



Summer Thieves vs. Highlanders basketball

BY DANIEL LORMANS

Last Friday, Adam, Angus, Johnny and Jake from local Dunedin band, the Summer Thieves, bravely challenged the Highlanders to a best-of-three-games miniseries of three-on-three half-court basketball in the Union Hall. It is not every day you can see world-class athletes being outclassed by a long-haired guitarist and a lanky drummer, but that is exactly what happened as the surprisingly impressive Summer Thieves came from behind to win the first game.

Unfortunately for the Summer Thieves, fitness became an issue for the bandmates as the Highlanders dominated the next two games, no doubt due in part to their superior conditioning and a deeper reserves bench that included Tom Franklin and the surprise, Buxton Popoali'i.

In the next two games, the Landers piled on the style and the points with Lima Sopoaga showing that his shooting game is just as good as his goal-kicking has been this season. Both the All Blacks and the Tall Blacks would be smart to give that man a call. Aaron Smith also entertained us with his chiselled calves and fancy footwork. Nothing short of what we expected from the world's best halfback.

Joe Wheeler (Highlanders lock-forward) was just as good on the microphone as he is in the middle of the scrum and, although he wasn't a great score-keeper, he provided plenty of entertaining colour commentary and choice tunes throughout the afternoon, spending most of the time complimenting his teammates' "retro Nikes" and announcing whether or not they were single and/or registered Tinder users in between referring to the Thieves as "The Groupie", "Bucket Head" and "Blond LeBron" amongst other borderline insults.

The man of the match goes to Summer Thieves vocalist, Jake, who got the nickname of the "Bondi Hipster" despite his obvious dislike of the blatant stereotyping. He inspired their first-game comeback and kept them in with a chance in the deciding game.

The game was clearly good training for the Highlanders as they went on to record a good win over the Blues the following night. A rematch challenge has already been issued by the Thieves, so if you missed this game, make sure you catch the next one! ●

IPL Watch: Kiwis in Action

BY DAMIAN GEORGE

While you've been sleeping, many of New Zealand's Cricket World Cup stars have been plying their trade in the cash-crazy circus known as the Indian Premier League.

While I'm not really one for T20 at the best of times, let alone when the product is the love child of a round table of opulent celebrities playing a real-life game of fantasy cricket, the IPL certainly does throw up some tantalising match-ups.

Results matter little in this affair — except for bragging rights and, of course, even more money — but it is a chance for New Zealand's stars to enhance their reputation.

Since the matches have predominantly been televised from 2.30am onward, here's a brief summary of the New Zealanders' exploits ...

Brendon McCullum hit his second IPL-career hundred for Chennai against Hyderabad, in the process showing no respect for his national bowling spearhead, Trent Boult. Baz audaciously scooped New Zealand's World Cup star over fine leg for six then to third man for four in the final over.

Boult, the World Cup's joint leading wicket-taker, has enjoyed his own success though — picking up five wickets in three matches to date, as well as two run-outs. He is New Zealand's most successful bowler to date. Team-mate, Tim Southee, had just one wicket in four matches, but took bragging rights when his Rajasthan side beat Boult's Hyderabad.

Corey Anderson has continued his strong form with two 50s in four innings, while Mitch McClenaghan bagged one wicket in his solitary match and Kane Williamson has had limited opportunities with the bat. The tournament is about a third of the way through. ●



MARVELLOUS DISAPPOINTMENTS

LAURA STARLING

It's that time of year again. Marvel's latest instalment, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, is out and the world has been bubbling with excitement in the lead-up to its release. Superhero movies are something of a phenomenon at the moment. The *Avengers'* first instalment came out in 2012, and is the third-highest-grossing film in the world, closely following *Avatar* and *Titanic*. The success of super films is obvious, with comic-related nerd merchandise popping up everywhere from Kmart to JayJays to Typo. The Marvel cinematic universe has confirmed 11 movies to be released in the next five years. DC Comics is also working on sev-

eral different films set in the Batman/Superman universe. This isn't to mention all the other studios scrambling to get a piece of this delicious comic-book cinematic-universe pie; think *X-men* or *Fantastic Four*, whose movie rights are both owned by Fox, and *Spiderman* who is owned by Sony.

In light of all this, here is a list of the most ridiculous and weird superheroes and villains, who at least won't be making it onto the big screen in the next five years. But after *Guardians of the Galaxy* pulling off a talking racoon and a tree as main characters, anything is possible ...

HEROES

While DC can boast household names like Batman and Superman, and Marvel created iconic characters such as Captain America and Ironman, both of these comic-book companies have also put their name to some interesting (terrible) and bizarre heroes during their reign.

MATTER-EATER LAD

First up is the DC hero, Matter-Eater Lad. It is as complex as the name suggests — he can eat any form of matter at high speeds. The DC Wikia says that while it might sound like a useless power, it's an unstoppable force "when confined".



Originally created in 1962, Matter-Eater Lad is from the planet Bismoll. His backstory explains that all food on Bismoll was inedible so his species developed the ability to eat absolutely anything and everything in order to survive. He can even eat indestructible matter. So, if he and Superman got in a fight, he would, in theory, be able to just consume him. Cool?

Oh, and, of course, don't forget his sexy female counterpart, Calorie Queen. Oh, the implications of that name.

I bet no one could have guessed she was created in the 70s.



FLATMAN

Over in the Marvel universe, we have Flat Man. No, we're not talking about the recently retired real-life, Christchurch-based hero; we're talking about someone with the super-powers of "flat body", "elasticity" and "origami shapeshifting". He also has the added ability of, if he stands at just the right angle, appearing invisible.

There's not much more to explain about this hero — his abilities really speak for themselves.



Shark Girl is a mutant whose abilities didn't manifest until later in life. She found herself craving more and more fish before eventually discovering she had the ability to transform into a shark, as well as various transitional forms such as a human body with a shark head. Shark Girl is a recent addition to the Marvel universe, first appearing in late 2012. It's great to see that the Marvel creators haven't started to run out of good material ...



BIRD-BRAIN

Bird-Brain is a quirky little fellow who was originally created by mad scientist Ani-Mator to be an "Ani-Mate" — a mutant slave to humankind. Initially known as Bird-Boy, he escaped from the slavery and torture inflicted on him by Ani-Mator. Eventually he returned to rescue other Ani-Mates and mentored them into knowing what it means to be human.

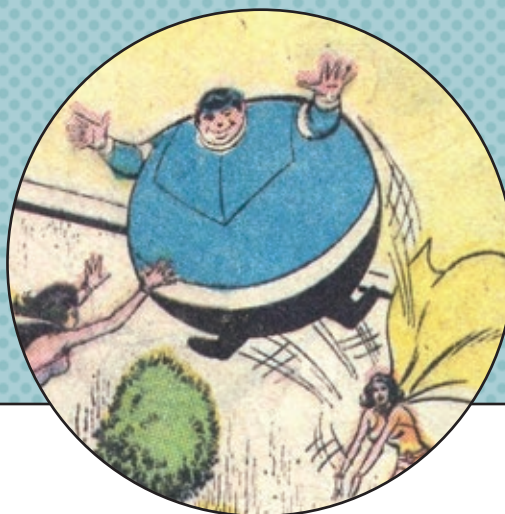
He is a human-bird hybrid, and as such his powers are his wings and his claw hands and feet. The best super abilities!



WHIZZER

Whizzer (Robert Frank) is a hero from the Captain America era of comic books, first appearing in 1941. The strangest aspect of this guy is the origin of his power. He's more or less Marvel's version of the Flash — he moves at super-human speed. When he was a boy, his scientist father took him on an expedition in the African bush (as you do) and Robert was bitten by a cobra. Luckily, a mongoose showed up and killed the cobra, dying in the process. Robert's father remembered an old wives' tale about mongoose blood and injected it into his son. The father died of a heart attack, but Robert himself survived and had the added bonus of super speed. Yay!

Who knew mongoose blood had such wonderful healing/super-powered properties?



BOUNCING BOY

This classic DC hero literally just expands at will and then bounces around like a ball. He probably possesses one of the most pointless super-powers, but, hey, that's still more than I've got. And to be fair, I know I would absolutely pay good money to see a movie about Bouncing Boy facing the Marvel villain, Eye Scream (don't you worry; I'll get to him later).

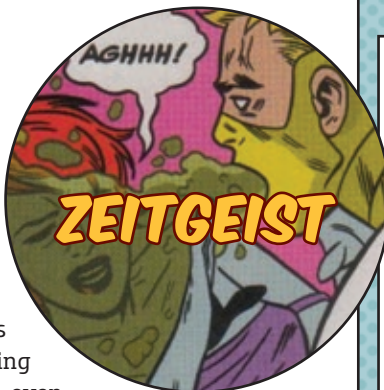
Honestly, though, who thought this was a good idea?

Zeitgeist has super-vomit. Yup.

He's my favourite terrible superhero because of his origin story. He discovered his power one night when he was enjoying a hot and heavy make-out session with a girl on a beach and accidentally vomited on her face. She survived the ordeal, but suffered a severely burned face. Zeitgeist continued to have nightmares about this experience later in life — giving him his very own tragic backstory of sorts, even if it's ridiculous and involves super-vomit.

I'm actually surprised she managed to survive the super-vom, as it's supposed to be able to burn through 10cm-thick steel in a matter of 30 seconds. Surely someone's head is even less resilient?

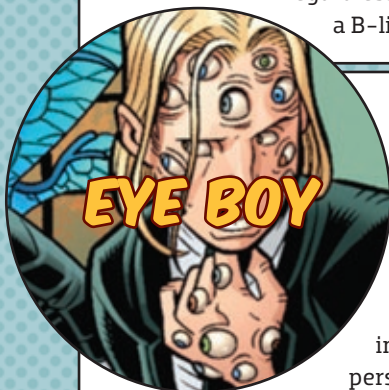
Regardless, I implore someone out there to please make a B-list vomit-hero movie.



EL GUAPO

Obviously a badass, this Marvel hero has a psychic link with his skateboard. He has no specific powers apart from this connection. El Guapo cheated on his girlfriend, and his skateboard freaked out and beat the crap out of him for it. Furthermore, if he is separated from his skateboard for a long period of time, his health begins to deteriorate. Really, he's nothing without his skateboard.

El Guapo is dead, impaled through the heart by his beloved skateboard after losing control of it. Irony?



This creepy ass dude is covered head to toe in eyeballs. Kudos for accurate naming effort there, Marvel. More than anything else, this particular hero mainly looks creepy or weird, and the concept is a little out there, but as far as powers go, he's actually pretty interesting. His many eyes give him a whole lot of powers in terms of perception: he can perceive people's personality traits and emotions, as well as see magical and electrical waves. On top of all that, he's also got the ability to see through illusions and disguises.

In saying all that, while those powers are pretty cool, I would definitely not be keen to be covered in eyeballs. Erugh, gross.



VILLAINS

Next up are DC and Marvel's worst villains, showcasing exactly why these two particular comic-book studios are so highly successful ... Or not. It's a mystery as to how these villains were ever even remotely taken seriously.



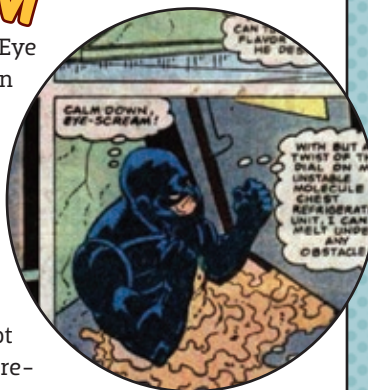
Some super-villain and hero names obviously have a lot of thought put into them, others are at least cool or clever in some way, and then there are the Armless Tiger Man-type characters, where you get everything you would expect and nothing more, nothing less.

Armless Tiger Man is indeed, armless, tiger-y and a man. Eric Hertz, the man behind the, uh, tiger face, is a German factory worker. In an accident, his arms were torn off. He was then taught how to operate machinery with only his feet and mouth. Understandably, Eric developed something of a hatred for machinery, trained himself up and began using his mad new skills to destroy machines. The Nazis captured him and sent him off to America to, well, stomp on their defence efforts.

Can you tell he is another one of those 1940's comic-book characters?

EYE SCREAM

The aforementioned Eye Scream, finally! This villain was made to feel ridiculous by the X-Men because of their superior powers. And I'm not even being power-ist here, their powers are definitely superior. Eye Scream has the ability to turn into ice cream. Not only that! The Marvel Wikia reports that it can be any flavour ice cream, including banana split.



He had intended to destroy the X-Men, but failed after being trapped in ice-cream form through being frozen. The villain has not been seen again in Marvel comics (thank god).



This entire character is one big dick joke. Due to an inferiority complex about his junk, this guy decided to become a villain with a giant multi-purpose weapon looking suspiciously like a penis. The phrase "I think he's compensating for something" is an understatement in this case.

His phallic codpiece has a multitude of purposes. It can be used as a cannon, fire missiles and produce a sonic attack; it also has two retractable boxing gloves amongst many other helpful "tools".



HYPNO-HUSTLER

Hypno-Hustler, along with his band The Mercy Killers, hypnotises people through their music in order to steal their valuables. He first discovered his ability to do this when he was caught stealing from a club owner's safe — he was able to hypnotise his way out of the sticky situation.

This is another of those situations where his name pretty much spells out everything you need to know about the character, but at the same time it's still better than Armless Tiger Man. At least there's some alliteration.



STILT-MAN



Stilt Man is a dude who stole someone else's technology and made himself some really, really long legs. After that he became a super-villain. His power is his stilt legs; it's not anything inherent about him, just stolen technology.

I don't think I fully understand why he even exists. What baffles me even more is that he, too, has a female counterpart.

She's even more useless than Stilt-Man. She's clumsy, over the top and is defeated by Deadpool when he lifts a manhole cover leading to a sewer. One of her legs falls down the hole, causing her to lose balance and collapse. Her response to this was to just sit there and cry.

Lady Stilt-Man was intended as a jab at the phenomenon of creating female versions of male characters. It makes sense, considering her terrible name. But it's good to know that while the Marvel writers aren't always coming up with the greatest concepts, at least they still have a struggling sense of humour.

CELEBRITIES IN THE MODERN AGE

BY MANDY TE



Celebrity culture pervades everyday life thanks to developments in social media and technology. But is it really a good thing to be so close to those we put on a pedestal?

Exam time can push you to do a lot of unusual things in the name of procrastination, and for me that was becoming addicted to Kim Kardashian's mobile game, *Kim Kardashian: Hollywood*. All I wanted was to make my way to the A-list. The only reason I stopped was because I had left the E-list and finally made it to the D-list, but as soon as I stopped playing for a couple of hours or so, Kim Kardashian punished me by kicking me back to the E-list. Ever since then, I've had a grudge against the game. However, my dethroning made me realise that the only way I could ever truly make it to the A-list would be to give up real time in order to attain the fame and wealth my avatar/fake me desperately desired.

For some people, giving up hours of their actual time for their avatar to succeed is worth it. In fact, Kim Kardashian made over \$40 million dollars in profit from the app. Some people describe their addiction to this game pretentiously: "It's sarcasm," they say. "Kim Kardashian is showing us the ridiculousness of celebrity culture." Others describe their joy at being able to live a double life. You're a Hannah Montana of sorts: famous online and average in the real world. However, both of these reasons pose threats to our wellbeing. Whether we admit it to ourselves or not, one thing is for sure: celebrity culture pervades almost all aspects of our society. And this obsession we knowingly or unknowingly have with actors, musicians, Youtubers and Instafamous people is leading us to territory that blurs the line between what's real and what's not.

Our obsession with celebrities can be traced in any period in history. People find solace in religious figures, they look up to political leaders, admire fictional characters, and then ... there are people who place serial killers on a pedestal. Richard Ramirez, a man better known as "The Night Stalker" was sentenced to death after being found guilty of several burglaries, rapes and murders. Instead of being ostracised from society, Ramirez had a fanbase. Women would write him love letters and he eventually married Doreen Lioy, who had written him 75 letters during his time in jail.

While this seems like an amplified and highly disturbing case of good-girl-falls-in-love-with-bad-boy, it shows us that celebrity status and influence do not exclusively pertain to actors and musicians. In fact, it was mainly during the twentieth century that people in those fields were considered celebrities and that their personal lives were considered news. Modern celebrity culture appears to have less focus on what actors and musicians do for a living and more on what they do off-screen: who they're dating, what are they eating for lunch and what clothes they're wearing.

With our lives so immersed in social media, celebrity culture has begun a transformative journey. Professor Barry King, who teaches celebrity culture at the Auckland University of Technology defines the term as "a recent development connected with the development of social media. What it represents is the separation of fame from achievement on an advanced scale. Individuals (artists, sport stars, actors, society leaders) have always had a celebrity image, but today it is possible to be well known without any worthy achievement." Social media has allowed celebrity culture to further pervade the crevices of our lives; with the touch of a button (not even a button, a mere touch will do), we can keep up to date with the lives of celebrities. The difference is that this time there's no middle-man publicist and it's all in real time. Tracking a celebrity's whereabouts and daily activities has never been so easy.

Not only that, social media has welcomed a new form of celebrities: YouTubers, Viners, Instafamous people and Tumblr famous people. University of Otago student, Sarita Christensen, who is better known by her Tumblr username, moseby, is an example of someone who is famous online. With 26,000 followers, Christensen first noticed this steady rise when she started doing two things: "Firstly, I started making original content and, secondly, I built connections and friendships with people who were already famous within the Tumblr community." For Christensen, being a celebrity on the internet is having "a well-recognised URL or Instagram name. It's someone who has established

a lot of followers because they made themselves known through original posts, voicing their opinions or posting photos." However, she wouldn't consider herself a celebrity: "I would say I'm well known or popular on the internet. I would go along with internet-famous but I wouldn't consider myself as having celebrity status."

The Tumblr term "followers" itself appears somewhat cult-like, and while there are some crazy fans and people who have the potential to abuse these modern-day positions, Christensen believes that being internet-famous is mostly positive: "people who are internet-famous have usually started at the same stage as their peers. I was just a normal girl who went to high school, and I had all the same experiences as my followers. So when I make posts about feminism, racism or any other social issue, they listen to me because it's coming from someone who they can relate to rather than some actor who has just released a box-office hit." By having lots of followers, Christensen believes that her experiences on Tumblr have changed her life: "It made me more confident in myself, but it also made me neglect real-life spontaneity. I would cater my humour to what people would react to and I would cater to my internet needs so that I could go home that night and type all about it." Alongside having a fanbase, those who are famous on the internet or because of their on-screen pursuits appear to have one major thing in common: they self-monitor and self-regulate what they show to the public.

In March, Zayn Malik formerly of One Direction, was in Thailand and seen spending time with girls other than his fiancée. Photographs began to surface and rumours of him cheating on fiancée, Perrie Edwards, caused online outrage. Fans were upset and took it upon themselves to defend Zayn, berate Zayn and send hate messages to the girl he was seen with. Mark Hardy, ex-Syco/Sony Music Entertainment Marketing Director, who worked with One Direction during their X Factor days, described the One Direction marketing strategy as "not to position One Direction as demi-gods but as 'my mate' the girls could have access to 24/7." However, when an attractive boy band writes songs that are mostly targeted at impressionable 15-year-old girls and these songs "describe the girls as vaguely as they possibly can so that every girl can think that song is about them," as described by Bo Burnham, some fans will unwittingly place these boys on a pedestal.

Professor King describes this type of relationship, one where the fan sees him or herself as the friend of a celebrity as "resting on a fantasy of redemption — if

my special qualities were known, I could be famous, overcoming the judgments of those in my immediate circle. The myth of rags to riches is also active here and shows like the X Factor clearly suggest the door to fame and fortune is not closed." King elaborates by stating that "changes in the job market, the expansion of jobs (retail, etc.) that require a performance or self-presentation may play a part." With jobs now requiring us to be more flexible and always reachable due to the availability of tablets, mobiles and the internet, we're always having to put our best foot forward. Or, better yet, post our best selfie. While fans may see One Direction as a fusion of demi-god and "mate", creating expectations and assumptions that these boys are meant to fulfil, they may also see them as a representation of hope; this, however, also warps our perceptions of celebrities and ourselves.

With jobs now requiring us to be more flexible and always reachable due to the availability of tablets, mobiles, and the Internet, we're always having to quite literally, put our best foot forward. Or, better yet, post our best selfie.



Coined by psychologists, celebrity worship syndrome is when a person becomes unhealthily obsessed with and addicted to a celebrity and that celebrity's personal life. In 2002, Dr John Maltby conducted an experiment surrounding celebrity culture and found that celebrity worship has three levels:

Entertainment-Social:

A beginner's obsession of sorts, Entertainment-Social worship is when we read about celebrities and discuss their lives with other people. This level of celebrity worship appears harmless and is considered low-level obsession. Therefore, this level is not cause for concern.

Intense-Personal:

Intense-Personal is when things start to heat up and when our view of a celebrity begins to overtake the fact that a celebrity is someone we haven't met and don't know; we only know what they publicise. Intense-Personal worship is when we begin to believe that we have a bond with a celebrity and consider them a friend, a soul mate and a part of our life. While this level may cause alarm, increasingly obsessive behaviour can remain unnoticed by both the fan and those around them.

Borderline-Pathological:

When someone reaches Borderline-Pathological worship, therapy is highly recommended. Borderline-Pathological worship is intense, and the person's fantasies have completely overtaken their reality. As the person's bond with the celebrity "intensifies", stalking and cyber-bullying of people who aren't fans can occur. Not only is it detrimental to the person who suffers from this type of celebrity worship, it's also damaging to the celebrity as this type of behaviour can threaten the celebrity's comfort, freedom and movements.

While someone's obsession can progress to dangerous levels, celebrities can and do have positive impacts on some fans' lives. As mentioned previously by King, when we find ourselves attached to celebrities, we may see it as a sign of hope: anyone can be successful, financially stable and well-liked. Evanna Lynch, the actress who played Luna Lovegood in the Harry Potter series and a self-proclaimed Harry Potter fan who is "obsessed with the books and everything", wrote back and forth to J.K. Rowling. In 2013, she spoke to *The Western Front* about receiving the role of Luna and the

... this obsession we knowingly or unknowingly have with actors, musicians, Youtubers and Instafamous people is leading us to territory that blurs the line between what's real and what's not.

impact that J.K. Rowling's letters had on her, stating that she "wrote to her because Harry Potter was the only other thing [she] really cared about". Lynch wanted to thank Rowling for helping her take her mind off her anorexia while she recovered. She said: "It was basically just a big, fat 'thank you, I love you' letter. I kept expecting her not to write back, but she's just such a caring person that she really wants to help with whatever wisdom she has. We wrote for years, and she helped me through recovery and everything." While celebrities can have a negative impact on our well-being and infiltrate our lives, there are also celebrities and internet-famous people who inspire their fans to post jokes online, to speak about social issues, to pick up a guitar, to sing in their living room and to audition for their school play.

After realising that it would take me fifty years to get onto the A-list in *Kim Kardashian: Hollywood*, I made a choice to delete the app off my phone. When asked if we can ever remove ourselves from celebrity influence, Barry King is optimistic about the individual: "There is a present counter-dialogue that still claims celebrities should have a basis in talent and not just self-promotion and corporate promotion. As a society, no, because the qualities of individuals have become an aspect of marketing. While it seems that we'll never be free from celebrity culture, it appears that we are still conscious of our decisions of who to read about, who to be inspired by (from clothes to outlooks) and who to follow." ■



THAT'LL BE

\$4.20

BY ISAAC YU

Your OUSA Admin Vice-President has some thoughts on the legalisation of marijuana — the benefits he believes legalisation can have and the fallacies that shape its current illegal status.

Weed, marijuana, Mary J, bud, green, pot, herbs, grass, "stuff", "ingredients for a chill night"— whatever it is you decide to call it, it goes with Scarfies like chlamydia goes with Hamilton. Contrary to the mandatory "drugs are bad, mmmkay" talks, injecting two whole marijuanas doesn't make you a member of Al Qaeda, or lead you to do harder drugs. Yet the legality of marijuana remains a point of contention among policy makers.

Despite marijuana being illegal in most countries, there are tokers and smokers in all far reaches of the globe. In a lot of ways, weed is the Scrumpy of edgy: not bad enough to really mess you up or land you in trouble (Scrumpy hands being the equivalent of a buckie), but always a good time.

Here in Dunedin, you can walk into just about any trap-blasting flat and

expect to see bongs in all shapes and sizes, drought be damned. The stoner culture is big enough here that on 20 April at 4:20 in the morning you'll have found groups of stoners making their pilgrimage up Baldwin Street to start the day with a wake 'n' bake. Despite marijuana being illegal, police and Campus Watch tend to view tokers with a benign indifference, so long as you do it in your own flat. Stoners are easier to manage than drunks: fewer broken bottles and less vomit, more hackey sacks and empty chip packets.

The real point of concern for law enforcement isn't necessarily use of the drug itself but its distribution. Growing and selling weed contributes to the black market used by gangs to fund themselves. When an ounce goes for \$300–350 in Dunedin, with each plant yielding around 1.5–2 ounces, that's a fair chunk of change slipping past the

IRD's net. Especially when you consider that, much like diamonds, it is an artificial price created by controlled scarcity and demand (albeit with less child slavery and fewer marketing campaigns), what with all the middlemen needed to distribute it and evade the police.

Now, the sensible solution, as any BCom major will tell you, is to legalise purely on the basis of macro-economics. If someone is willing to wait 2–3 hours for a dealer to maybe message them back so they can shell out 25 for a tinny, then you know it's not an issue of product. Hell, for a 50 you'd be prepared to go to South D. You just need to undercut your competition.

If the black market were reduced because marijuana is legalised, then organised crime could potentially be crippled. Add in the quality control

and regulation that substances such as alcohol and tobacco undergo and you give people more incentive to buy from a dispensary because they know they're getting a better product than off the street. This generates tax revenue, which the government can then spend spying on its citizens and letting school children go hungry.

Critics will cut off any talk of legalising marijuana by claiming it to be "damaging and addictive" or by stating the gateway drug theory, which assumes smoking a joint will lead to harder drugs. Marijuana doesn't have any physiologically addictive components. Unlike tobacco, where everyone

US forces in Vietnam by Dr Lee Robins found no correlation between the use of "soft" drugs (marijuana, alcohol, tobacco) and the transition toward "hard" drugs (heroin and opium) as soldiers who drank heavily did not touch heroin, while soldiers who used heroin didn't drink. In fact, it concluded around 45 percent of soldiers had tried heroin at least once during their time in Vietnam, with casualties from drug use (overdose, friendly-fire incidents as a result of soldiers tripping balls, etc.) being three times higher than combat casualties. These results ran contrary to supposedly impartial studies conducted in the States at the time as marijuana was just as readily available as her-

something illegal. The gateway theory in some circumstances can be true as a result of this misinformation.

Psychologists argue that the gateway theory is fundamentally flawed because the majority of cases tend to have a history of high risk behaviour. If you're the kind of loose unit who likes to be twenty-standards deep on a Thursday night, railing eckies may be no less taboo than having a blaze. There isn't a causal link between the two because some people have a tendency toward risky behaviour are just as likely to experiment with drugs independent of which one they did first. Often the gateway theory can be ex-

NO ONE WAKES UP IN THE MORNING, SMOKING A CONE AND THEN SAYING TO THEMSELVES, "HEY, I FEEL LIKE DOING SOME HEROIN."

knows at least one person who constantly claims to be "quitting" and yet three-standards deep is already trying to bum a cig off someone, you can only ever become psychologically addicted. That's pretty feeble grounds for making something illegal, considering you can become psychologically addicted to anything from Candy Crush to Reddit. Marijuana has some useful medical applications. For instance, patients undergoing chemotherapy use marijuana to suppress the nausea that comes with treatment and find it stimulates their appetite.

As for the gateway theory, studies of

oin and yet most soldiers went straight for heroin without touching marijuana.

That said, there are some partially valid claims to the gateway theory. However, it can sometimes become a self-fulfilling prophecy due to a lack of proper drug education. If you're told as a kid that all drugs are bad, that they will ruin your life and then you try a joint for the first time at a house party and don't feel compelled to destroy the place, you might start to think you were lied to about other drugs as well. It becomes difficult to sort the propaganda from verifiable fact, especially with the "edgy" taboo element of doing

plained by the fact that it's far easier to know someone who deals marijuana than someone who deals harder stuff, and that dealer in return is more likely to know where to acquire harder stuff. No one wakes up in the morning, smoking a cone and then saying to themselves: "Hey, I feel like doing some heroin."

In fact, the modern War on Drugs started from Nixon's concerns about the debilitating rate of heroin addiction among US servicemen in Vietnam, which ranged from 10 to 15 percent of all US personnel. Nixon went so far as to declare drugs to be public enemy

number one because of how many veterans came back all Trainspotty. Now, the War on Drugs has some good intentions but some very messy results. Four decades of constant warfare by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) against drug cartels in South America have produced very little except a lot of weapons, a lot of unnecessary arrests and some mediocre smack.

In a 2008 study, Harvard economist, Jeffrey A. Miron, even went so far as to say that the amount of money taxpayers would save from incarceration costs and use of federal law enforcement was \$41.3 billion. To put this in context, New Zealand's total student debt at the time was estimated to be \$10 billion. The \$41.3 billion also doesn't include the socio-economic impact of creating a cycle of poverty among those who are incarcerated on petty drug crimes. Felons are unable to vote and have few job opportunities, forcing them to resort back to crime or live in a state of permanent poverty working minimum wage.

There are also elements of self-interest in the US government's decision to pursue a War on Drugs as lobbyists in support of the war come from private prisons and arms manufacturers — the so called Military-Industrial-Complex that dominates policy-making. This makes sense when you consider that the price of all drugs depends on free-market principles of supply and demand, making the War on Drugs fundamentally flawed. Any successful raid or drug operation simply causes the price to go up by reducing the supply. This increases the incentive for growers to cultivate to cash in during these periods of low supply/high demand.

Because of how ineffective the War on Drugs is at actually stopping drug usage, the State of Colorado in 2012 became the first state to legalise marijuana for recreational and medical use.

IT BECOMES DIFFICULT TO SORT THE PROPAGANDA FROM VERIFIABLE FACT, ESPECIALLY WITH THE "EDGY" TABOO ELEMENT OF DOING SOMETHING ILLEGAL.

Those lucky enough to live in Colorado have been allowed to own and grow up to six plants, as well as buy marijuana and marijuana accessories from dispensaries, since 1 January 2014. Despite the opinions of naysayers, Colorado actually experienced a drop in crime rates, a decrease in drug use compared to the rest of the States, and became the only state to show positive economic growth during the recession. A study conducted by the Drug Policy Alliance in January 2015 showed that Colorado had generated \$40 million of tax revenue as a direct result of legalising marijuana, with this money now being spent on improving public schooling and funding drug prevention programmes for youth. Following the legalisation of marijuana, Colorado is experiencing its lowest unemployment rate in years as new jobs spring up from drug tourism. Marijuana is becoming one of the fastest-growing industries in the state. By tapping into the untaxed income of the criminal

black market, Colorado is able to turn the social problem of drug use into a source of income and livelihood for ordinary people instead of continuing a cycle of fear-mongering propaganda and incarceration.

Colorado has quickly become a flagship for the legalisation of marijuana; Washington DC and Oregon followed in 2015, and more and more states are looking to legalise or decriminalise. Public opinion is also changing, especially since marijuana is no longer the "edgy" illegal drug it used to be — youth tokers are on the decline while more and more adults decide to roll up some grass. While New Zealand still classifies marijuana as an illegal drug, conclusive results from the States can create enough momentum for grassroots movements to lobby against the government to change its mind and start working toward a better solution than the flawed one we're using now ■



Laurence Aberhart

» **BRETT MCDOWELLGALLERY** | EXHIBITED 10 – 30 APRIL

BY **LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER**

For those familiar with Laurence Aberhart's work, the current show on at Brett McDowell on Dowling Street doesn't feel "new" — in multiple senses of the word. And it's not just because Aberhart refuses the digital through his use of a large-format camera. Planted among some familiar works of Aberhart's from the 1980s are more recent works of his from 2013. Like the dates of the works, the intersection and collision of themes, especially between the new and old works, at first feels mismatched. However, after taking time to consider each photo and then the exhibition together, an emotional connection to some sort of national identity and collective memory begins to gradually fill the viewer in the quiet space of the gallery. It takes time to grasp the passing of time.

Initially drawn to the exhibition because of

the constant reminders around town of another ANZAC Day approaching (now passed), and with Aberhart's photos of war memorials throughout New Zealand in mind, I sought out the exhibition for how it might remind me of war. However, only a few photos out of the ten on display directly feature memorials. One photo that did so was of a gravestone in a cemetery that depicted an angel looking at the ground, with one hand against her face and the other holding a wreath by her side. She leans, or gently braces herself, against a gravestone that reads: "In loving memory of William, beloved son of Hugh Mackenzie, of Walter Peak Station, who lost his life in a snow slip in sight of his home ... 1906, aged 21 years and 3 months." Below this message is another, which dedicates the memorial to Lieutenant Walter Mackenzie who was killed in action on Gallipoli, 9 August 1915.

Here stands evidence of two members of one family gone in just nine years of each other; deaths that predate the following three years of mass loss for New Zealand, during which over 18,000 men were killed in Gallipoli — a staggering number that meant almost every New Zealander had someone close to them killed or wounded.

The loss captured in Aberhart's photos of memorials is echoed in a more general sense throughout the varied subjects depicted in the show. There are no people in these photos, only the objects, houses, moments they have left behind, however recently. One photo depicts a hedge with "I love Lois" sculpted onto its surface in the small Otago settlement called Warrington. Another, now famous, photo captures the solitary remaining standing part of an old bridge surrounded by water — the solid grey of cement — in Alexandra. A particularly ominous photo portrays a rock face with the words "after death" and "judgment" painted onto its surface; in the background from one edge of the photo to the other looms a snow-topped mountain range.

Aberhart has been taking photos for over forty years, with a body of work that contributes to how we view ourselves and our country; in this sense, his photos have a timeless value. While Aberhart's images collect parts of New Zealand's past, they also resound with different types of grief, including the grief that occurs through the act of remembering and then acknowledging how all things, including you yourself, disappear.

Aberhart describes himself as an "eclectic collector of cultural debris, as it washes up, and before it disappears." In these photos, that often spoken call to remembrance, "lest we forget", suddenly feels true of not just a war but of even small parts of our collective past: lest we forget love once felt, lest we forget the bones of a structure that once carried us across the river. ●

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DAVID SHRIGLEY I'm Dead 2010 Mixed media. British Council Collection. Image courtesy Helwings Art Gallery and Museum © The Artist



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Feijoa Cupcakes

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

It's that time of year when feijoas are in. I don't know about you, but every time I gain control over my excess feijoa situation, I seem to acquire more as my friends' mums try to palm them off on me.

Want to know a secret? This is just a banana cake with some feijoas thrown in.

I didn't manage to cook myself real food this week — I did make cake though (which I may have had in place of dinner ...) Yes, I fail at being an adult too. I would also like to point out that chips and ice cream is a legitimate Saturday night dinner solution.

These cakes are a great way to use up the manky feijoas lurking at the bottom of the fruit drawer. Often I freeze the pulp in snaplock bags for use later in the year as well. You can also use all of those annoying inedible baby feijoas as decoration — that way you use up twice as many!

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees on bake and line one and a half muffin trays with paper cases. You could also line a 20cm high-top cake tin if you are that way inclined.

2. Cream together the butter, sugar and vanilla until pale. Beat in the eggs one at a time and keep beating until voluminous. Sift in the flour, baking soda and baking powder. Mix until just combined. Gently stir in the mashed bananas and feijoas.
3. Scoop into your paper cases until they are only just over half full. Fill as many as you can; if using large muffin pans, you will probably only get 12 from this mix. Bake for 17–23 minutes until a skewer comes out clean but the cakes are still making that sizzling sound when you take them out. If making a large cake, bake for 35–40 minutes (check with a skewer).
4. Leave to fully cool before icing.
5. I am the worst when it comes to icing measurements. Use these quantities for the cream cheese and butter and add as much icing sugar as it takes to make 4–5 cups of fluffy and swirly icing. Add a splash of hot water to loosen the icing if need be. If making a single cake, halve this icing recipe.

MAKES 18

- 125g butter, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- 1½ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 2 very ripe large bananas, mashed
- ¾ cup feijoa flesh, mashed

CREAM CHEESE ICING

- 150g cream cheese, room temperature
- 50g butter, room temperature
- 4–5 cups icing sugar
- juice of 1 lemon
- hot water to loosen if need be
- baby feijoas to decorate

6. Cream together the cream cheese and butter until smooth. Add a cup of icing sugar and the juice of the lemon and beat on high. Gradually add the rest of the icing sugar until you get a stiff but still spreadable icing. You still want it to be quite fluffy. Add more lemon juice to taste if you wish.
7. Scoop a couple of tablespoons worth onto each muffin and, using a hot palette knife, swirl the icing into the desired fashion then place a baby feijoa on the top.

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Hotline Miami 2: Wrong Number

» **PS3, PS4, WINDOWS, OSX** | DEV: DENNATION; PUB: DEVOLVER

REVIEWED BY **LACHLAN SCOWN**



Hotline Miami 2: Wrong Number is the grittier, more violent successor to the 2013 indie hit, *Hotline Miami*. Developed by Swedish independent duo, Jonathan Söderström and Dennis Wedin, of Dennaton Games, the game focuses on thirteen different characters over six acts. If you are unfamiliar with *Hotline Miami*, the game is a top-down shooter based in a fictional Miami, Florida, during the 80s and 90s; it is similar to the original *Grand Theft Auto* games but on a smaller scale.

As you begin the game, you are immediately thrust into a challenging combat situation. It has been quite a while since I played the original *Hotline Miami*, so the first level took me a few goes to get through, coming out with only a C- rating, which is based on the score earned through combos. However, this really resonated with me and my "early" university grades, so I suppose I didn't mind so much.

Even though the main storyline within the game will take you only five to six hours to get through, more play-time can be spent aiming for higher scores in each level or even finding collectible newspapers throughout the game, which add more depth to the story.

The artistic style of *Hotline Miami 2* is distinctly modelled after the visual effect produced by a VHS tape. Some elements included in the game allude more specifically to this style: each level seems to be a tape, as shown in the level-select menu, and pausing the game causes the screen to tear up like a VHS. During the game, each part of the story appears like a tape or a film, keeping it consistent with its 80s vibe. The mood created is enhanced by the edge of surrealism through odd moments in the game such as hallucinating talking roosters and murderous nightmares occurring when the player sleeps.

The sheer number of characters you can play the games as makes it difficult to follow the story sometimes. Yet the more you play, the better you understand the complexities of these characters, making for a unique gaming experience.

The extreme violence of this game is sometimes unsettling, although this is one of the reasons why I loved the first game. The violence does differ from its predecessor though — *Wrong Number* features sexual violence, although when you first start the game it gives you the option to not include these scenes, opening the game up to many more players who would have otherwise avoided it.

Compared to its predecessor, *Hotline Miami 2* can seem like more of the same; however, I believe the story really pushes it beyond that — and with an already great gameplay experience, what could go wrong? The game lives up to the standards set when the first *Hotline Miami* was released, with great visual style, fun gameplay and a sweet soundtrack. ●

HOTLINE MIAMI 2

WRONG NUMBER



Ufomammut Ecate

» **METAL, DOOM** | NEUROT RECORDINGS; 2015

REVIEWED BY **OLIVER GASKELL**



Of all the music I have ever listened to, no band's name and sound match each other better than Ufomammut's. As good as "Radiohead" is at capturing a sense of millennial paranoia, or "King Crimson" at implying a sense of magic and majesty, the name "Ufomammut" (literally translating as "UFO mammoth") is a one-two punch conveying something spacey and futuristic, but at the same time primal and monolithic. This is exactly what Italian metal trio Ufomammut sounds like.

Since its lo-fi 2000 debut *Godlike Snake*, the band has been juxtaposing bonecrushing riffs with progressive rock-inspired ambience and experimentation. It has produced some stunning records as a result. Though its songs pack visceral punch, Ufomammut's celestial atmosphere elevates it above its metal contemporaries. Ufomammut doesn't conjure images of bearded metal guys playing instruments

so much as demons shaping lava with their hands, of aliens stalking the surface of distant planets, of ghosts shrieking in the depths of space. Dramatic, yes — but that's what Ufomammut strives for.

An album inspired by the Greek goddess of witchcraft and crossroads, Hecate, this latest offering from Ufomammut feels like a spiritual successor to its 2010 concept album about the Fall of Man, *Eve*. By drawing inspiration once again from the realms of mythology, Ufomammut imbues its already momentous sound with a sense of the ancient.

Opener "Somnium" breathes to life with apocalyptic synth textures, not unlike those heard on Ufomammut's ego-shattering "Lucifer Song" from a decade ago. Slowly woven into this hellish soundscape are tribal drum rolls and subterranean guitar riffs. Three minutes in, these riffs explode through the crust of the

earth, and "Somnium" becomes something violent and volcanic. These shifts between brooding and explosive are frequent on *Ecate*, showing a dynamism few other metal bands can offer.

My only qualm with Ufomammut's latest interstellar voyage is that it doesn't exactly go anywhere the band has not already ventured. Every mouthwatering riff or starry texture on *Ecate* pleasantly recalled material from a previous Ufomammut release rather than offering me any real surprises. I came to *Ecate* expecting it to be a singularly heavy and psychedelic experience, and it was exactly that. Even though there's no harm in treading water every once in a while, *Ecate* lacks the epiphanic quality that made albums like *Eve* and *Snailking* so transcendently good.

For a newcomer, *Ecate* will offer a streamlined and thrilling summary of where Ufomammut has been so far. For long-term fans, *Ecate* will certainly deliver, but that palpable sense of adventure is missing. ●

"Ufomammut doesn't conjure images of bearded metal guys playing instruments so much as demons shaping lava with their hands, of aliens stalking the surface of distant planets, of ghosts shrieking in the depths of space."



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Tiki Taane

» INTERVIEW

BY DANIEL MUNRO

Tiki Taane is a multi-platinum New Zealand musician who has been involved with the likes of Shapeshifter and Salmonella Dub, as well as having a huge solo career. Critic caught up with Taane to discuss music, politics and even drag-racing ahead of his show at Sammy's this weekend.

CRITIC: You're fresh from a show in Rarotonga — how did that come about?

TIKI: It's come about from years of playing there and building up relations with the locals. Every year myself and the Shapeshifter lads make sure we add a show in Raro and spend a week or two chilling on the rock. It's one of my favourite spots to play and replenish the soul.

CRITIC: You helped Summer Thieves record their debut album last year. How was that process?

TIKI: We are still in that process, but so far all good. It's really awesome to be able to take our time, which is often the missing ingredient when making a project like this.

CRITIC: Are you excited for your show with them next month, after so much studio time?

TIKI: It's great to be playing in Dunedin after all these years! Sammy's is a fun venue with loads of awesome memories for me. Happy to be supporting the Thieves too.

CRITIC: I saw you're aiming to build the world's fastest Ford Zephyr — what was your inspiration behind the project and are you a bit of a petrolhead?

TIKI: Myself & rpm666 have been working quietly on this project for many years now, and we are finally looking to be ready to race next year. I'm a petrolhead in the way that I love fast cars and bikes, but I'm all for supporting cleaner and greener ways to race without using fossil fuels. We are aiming to break the world record, but most importantly we want to do it as green and eco-friendly as possible. I'm excited to be one of the only drag cars on the planet running clean and green but extremely mean!

CRITIC: You've been in the New Zealand music landscape for a long time now. How do you think it's changed since you first became a part of it?

TIKI: Well, when I first started making music, it was all recorded on analogue and there was no internet. So when the digital era and the introduction of the internet started to hit, it made it possible for file sharing, which really rocked the industry. It changed everything and really

did bring the world to your fingertips. I was pretty quick to take advantage of all this, and in 2007 I was the first New Zealand artist to reach platinum sales via digital downloads. So although the digital revolution was a major shift in how music is made and released, I'm stoked to have not only survived the changes but to have used it as a tool to help my music, art and business.

CRITIC: Can you weigh in on parliament voting down the "feed the kids" bill?

TIKI: As a parent and someone who travels every day, meets hundreds of people a week from all walks of life, I get to see and hear a lot of what's going on in the community. And although there are some kids going to school without lunch and some areas of NZ that are living in extreme poverty, I don't think passing the "feed the kids" bill is where change should be made. There are some communities that are coming together — even a gang in the Waikato to make sandwiches to ensure the kids in their community are fed. But this can't go on forever, and the school communities need to be resourced so it becomes a long-term thing. Perhaps dropping the GST on things like milk, bread and butter will help. Maybe schools themselves need to take more of a holistic approach and start their own school gardens. All of these things can help, but I believe there is no one solution that can solve this problem. For me as parent, I make sure my son always has a good healthy lunch every day as I put his wellbeing first and make sure that's a priority. But many kids may not have a parent or caregiver who has that same outlook, so how do we change their situation? So it's a much bigger issue that really needs to be looked at from many angles, but I do think it's awesome that people like Hone Harawira and Metiria Turei are bringing these issues to the forefront, which is a lot more than our prime minister is doing about it all.

CRITIC: Have you ever thought of a career in politics yourself?

TIKI: I've been approached by a couple of parties about becoming an MP, but after much thought I think I'm too much of a rebel to tow the party line. Also, I think I can make more change as an activist and musician who's out there for the people, not for the party vote. ○

Summer Thieves

» INTERVIEW

BY DANIEL MUNRO

Born and raised in the D, the Summer Thieves have been making waves playing on some of the biggest line-ups Dunedin has seen in recent years. They are currently recording their debut album with the help of Tiki Taane and are joining him at Sammy's this Saturday 2 May. The band is made up of Angus Cleland, Adam Spencer, Jake Barton and Johnny Ward. Johnny couldn't make it to the interview, but we caught up with the rest of the band to talk drinks, basketball and working with Tiki.

CRITIC: First up, let's introduce you boys with the important stuff. What instrument do you play and what is your drink of choice?

ANGUS: Keys/synth, sampler, percussion and my drink is Rum and Coke.

JAKE: Lead vocals and guitar. Jim Beam.

ADAM: Bass, and I rate a hearty Pilsner.

CRITIC: Last week you had a three-on-three game of basketball against the Highlanders. Who dreamt up that idea and how'd it go?

ANGUS: We all met Aaron Smith last year, and I remember seeing him in town that night and he talked some trash telling me he's nice with the rock, haha. Jake hit him up for a game through Instagram and then surprisingly it actually happened. We won the first game, but their fitness and deep bench vs. our hangovers won in the end.

ADAM: We need to work on that match fitness!

CRITIC: You've performed alongside the likes of Macklemore, Sticky Fingers, Katchafire and Six60, but you've also done numerous house parties, Hyde Street, etc. Do you approach the larger shows any differently?

ANGUS: I try to approach every show the same and not take it for granted, whether it's at the stadium or someone's flat.

ADAM: Every show should be taken the same; obviously some will come with a few more nerves, but all shows are equally as important

and treated the same.

CRITIC: Obviously you've got a loyal fan-base down here. Do you find playing down here any different to the rest of the country?

ADAM: It's always going to be different in another town, but [we're] finding over time in other towns/cities we're getting more and more people coming and being pretty familiar with us and our music.

ANGUS: I feel it's hard to compare shows based solely on geography as some big gigs in other cities have obviously been amazing, but on the other hand we can play anywhere down here and there's always those loyal fans.

JAKE: A lot of our tracks are completely new to a lot of our audience while away on tour. But dudz town is always a good party ... hard to top this city.

CRITIC: You've been in the studio with Tiki Taane recently, working on your album. How was it working with him?

ANGUS: Unreal. Been a big fan of his music for years. Working with him gave me confidence in myself and the lads, that maybe we're ok at this stuff. He finished a few of my sentences, which was weird.

JAKE: It's been epic working with Tiki as I've always been a huge fan. Cool dude.

ADAM: Really enforcing that what we're doing is really getting us somewhere, knowing that someone that we've got huge respect [for] as a

musician and producer thinks that what we're doing is good is pretty encouraging.

CRITIC: He's been in the industry for a long time, did he give you any insights?

ANGUS: We were in there for days so, yeah, a lot of different insights, but the main thing I took away was musically, just do you. Be real.

JAKE: It's a vicious game and ain't easy. Haha.

CRITIC: Because you are all from Dunedin and have emerged from the Otago varsity, people obviously compare you with Six60. Do you guys mind the comparison?

ANGUS: Na, people love to categorise and compare music, so you can see why they would do that. Plus, they're massive. I'd say our sounds are pretty different now though. Hopefully we can spread our sound as far as they have theirs.

ADAM: They're killing it and have a huge following ... What can be bad about that? The comparison's always gonna be made, but we're pretty real about it, knowing that we're both completely different groups and are doing our own thing.

CRITIC: 2015's set to be a big year for you. Can you give us any ideas of what to expect from the Thieves?

ANGUS: Back in the studio next month. Shows, as always, and more music. That's all I really want to do, play shows and release more music. O

Woman in Gold

» DIRECTED BY **SIMON CURTIS**

REVIEWED BY **NGARANGI HAEREWA**



Having arrived at the cinema with no background information on *Woman in Gold*, it's safe to say I had minimal expectations for the film, which I eventually understood is based on the interesting battle between Maria Altmann and the Austrian government. Gustav Klimt's *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I* was seized during the Nazi regime and was eventually placed in the Austrian State Gallery. *Woman in Gold* follows Maria Altmann's journey as she attempts to reclaim the painting from the Austrian government, arguing that the portrait of her aunt belongs to their family.

Uncovering documents from her recently deceased sister, Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren) learns that she is entitled to Klimt's *Portrait*. However, the Austrian government does not want to give up this national treasure so easily. With the help of young lawyer, Randal Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds) — a person whose ancestors also suffered from the Nazi

regime — she takes on the arduous task of recovering this family relic. The pair's journey together creates the unlikeliest of friendships. While Maria and Randal may be separated by age, they have a strong, spiritual connection — one forged by the shared struggles of their Jewish ancestors.

Woman in Gold raises the issue of anti-semitism and themes of recovery and remembrance. Yet having such a clean and straightforward ending seems to undermine rather than underscore these themes. Additionally, Ryan Reynolds fails to capture the plight of a man who seeks to restore justice for his people. Fortunately, Helen Mirren far surpasses her counterpart and puts on a performance that may win her an Oscar nod.

Woman in Gold shows the charming and heart-warming journey of Maria Altmann and Randal Schoenberg as they fight for the "Mona Lisa of Austria" and reflect on their own ancestral misgivings. ●



It Follows

» DIRECTED BY **DAVID ROBERT MITCHELL**

REVIEWED BY **JAXON LANGLEY**



In a genre so dried up and filled with clichés, *It Follows* is truly a dark horse. The film first premiered at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival with no trailer, no stars and very little information about the plotline. When I first saw the film, I walked in not knowing what I was getting into — and when I left the cinema, I quickly realised that *It Follows* is one of the best horror films I've ever seen.

It Follows sees Jay Height (Maika Monroe),

a 19-year-old girl, learn that after a seemingly innocent sexual encounter with boyfriend, Hugh (Jake Weary), she is now cursed with an unknown shapeshifting entity. Hugh tells Jay that the entity is slowly walking towards her and will kill her when it catches up. The only way to stop the entity is to have sex with someone, which will pass on the curse and make that person the new target. The curse leaves Jay to make some life or death

decisions — will she pass it on or try avoid it for the rest of her life? She seeks solace in her friends, who help Jay try to exit this inescapable nightmare, which puts them all in dangerous situations.

The film is the ultimate achievement in "minimalist horror", but hidden beneath is David Robert Mitchell's impressive attention to detail. It doesn't rely on gore or jump scares but genuine suspense from the unknown entity; when the entity is on screen, slowly walking, staring into your eyes — it's just effortlessly creepy. This creepiness is added to by Disasterpeace's haunting synth-heavy score, which I found reminiscent of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. However, the film's pacing is off at times and can feel like it's going down a neverending road, especially during scenes with weak dialogue, but the cast and in particular newfound scream queen, Maika Monroe, manages to make it all work.

As much as I love mindless, gore-ridden horror it's refreshing to see a film with some brains that aren't just splattered over the walls. A clever homage to classic horror, *It Follows* is destined for cult glory. ●



Samba

» DIRECTED BY **OLIVIER NAKACHE AND ERIC TOLEDANO**

REVIEWED BY **SIMON KINGSLEY-HOLMES**



People often say the best filmmaking is the sort you don't notice, where you can just get involved with the characters and story; while that's not necessarily true, in *Samba* this philosophy works beautifully. The film's opening sequence shows the buzz of a tacky, overblown wedding before going down the metaphorical social ladder to the kitchens, where Samba Cissé is seen cleaning plates with his bare hands. With the cards on the table, the audience settles into the film's earnest and touching storyline.

Loosely based on Delphine Coulin's novel, *Samba pour la France*, the film follows the life of unauthorised Senegalese immigrant, Samba Cissé (Omar Sy). Having evaded the authorities for ten years, Samba tries to keep out of trouble as he navigates the loopholes of remaining employed at a Paris restaurant while he waits to apply for residency in France. Samba finds himself falling for his case worker, Alice (Charlotte Gainsbourg). As her affections for Samba begin to grow, Alice is warned by her co-worker, Manu (Izïa Higelin),

to detach herself from Samba's case — she doesn't listen and the pair share a tender kiss.

To draw us in, Nakache and Toledano use conventional narrative tropes and a romantic subplot, but what the pair really show us is a reality where workers are exploited and how institutionalised racism works to create barriers for immigrants. While Nakache and Toledano's approach could be seen as a somewhat manipulative means to pull on the audience's heartstrings, the pair have utmost confidence in their cast — a confidence that is certainly warranted. Omar Sy is a star and wins our hearts in mere seconds of screen time but also gives light and shade to his character without losing us. Charlotte Gainsbourg is radiant and gives a fine, comic touch to the damaged Alice. The raw performance of both Sy and Gainsbourg conveys the film's message of progression and understanding in a way that is genuinely heart-warming and honest.

I was won over by the sheer personality of this film; *Samba* is no doubt an early contender for Top 10 films of 2015. ●

Game of Thrones, Season 5 (Episode 1)

» DIRECTED BY **M. SLOVIS**, WRITTEN BY **D. BENIOFF & D.B. WEISS**

REVIEWED BY **MANDY TE**

TV

It is hard to come by anyone who has not seen at least one episode of the high-fantasy TV series, *Game of Thrones*. While it is often assumed that everyone watches *Game of Thrones*, whether people have read the books is a completely different story. However, with the highly anticipated dawn of the show's fifth season, it appears that the books may not be as relevant as they have been in the past.

The première begins with a flashback, in which a young Cersei Lannister (Lena Headey) is told her fortune by a witch in a very Macbeth-like fashion before the episode returns to the present. At the funeral of a former major character, Cersei is seen scolding her brother and lover, Jaime Lannister (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau), giving rise to an intense new dynamic shift between the two characters. In drunken disarray after his

recent, violent deeds, Tyrion Lannister (Peter Dinklage) travels with Lord Varys (Conleth Hill) to support the conquest of Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke), who is having problems of her own with her army of "Unsullied" and her pet dragons.

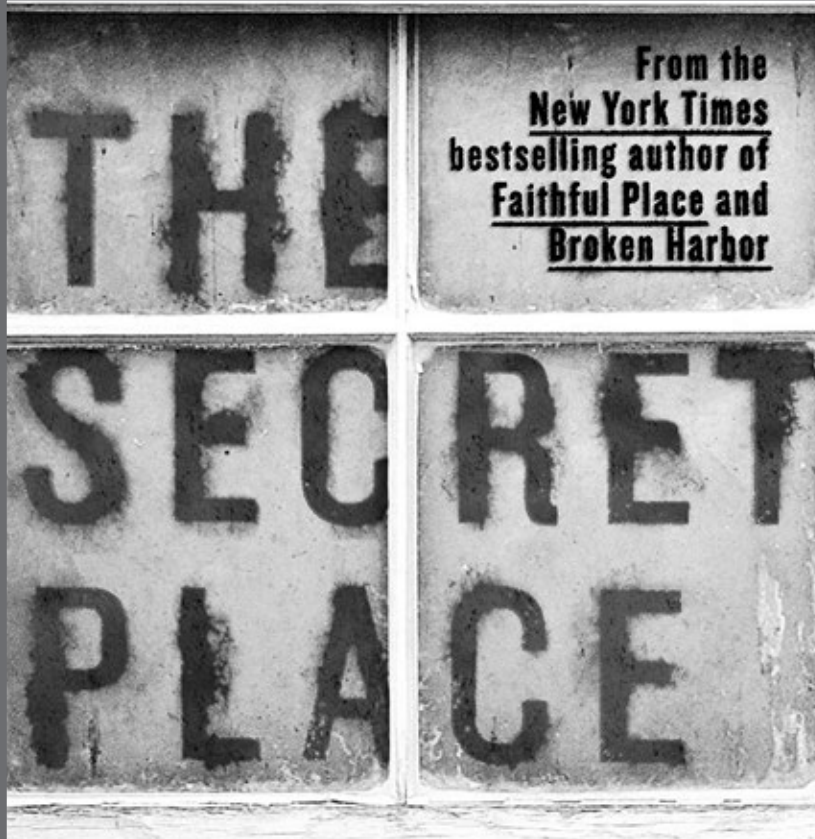
An entirely new sub-plot is thrown into the mix when Petyr "Littlefinger" Baelish (Aiden Gillen) heads away from The Vale to an unknown location with protégé, Sansa Stark (Sophie Turner), while another sub-plot concerning Jon Snow's (Kit Harrington) relationship with Mance Rayder (Ciarán Hinds) is dropped altogether.

Season 5 has started with a bang, but it goes without saying that it is just the beginning of what will be even more surprises for fans of the show who both have and have not read the books. The showrunners have made their intentions to differentiate from the books



abundantly clear from the first episode of the new season alone. The show seems much smoother, and it is apparent that Benioff and Weiss have much more confidence in furthering the story by creating a canon of their own.

The first episode holds a lot of promise, with a consistent pace that maintains a balance between exposition and narrative advancement; it's not just a prophecy of "The Wars to Come" but an entirely new perspective on the *Game of Thrones* universe. ●



The Secret Place

» WRITTEN BY **TANA FRENCH**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

The *Secret Place*, by Tana French, is a mystery thriller with a peculiarly timeless atmosphere considering how strongly based it is in modern times. The titular secret place is a board that a girls' private school set up for their students to post their secrets on, in order to provide a monitored alternative to the website the students were using for the same function. A girl named Holly brings Detective Stephen Moran a card from this wall of secrets at her school. The card has a photo of a boy who was found murdered a year ago on her school's grounds, and bears the message: "I know who killed him."

After conducting an initial investigation, Detective Moran and Detective Antoinette Conway (whom Moran emphatically does not want to be partnered with) determine there are eight possibilities for who posted the card, the same eight who are possibilities for the murderer. Holly, her three best friends and their four worst enemies.

The story alternates between the detectives' investigation and what happened between Holly's group of friends in the year that led to the murder. When poorly used, this kind of narrative switching can be frustrating, but French does it masterfully. She uses it to put

the reader in an interesting position — sometimes the reader has information that the detectives don't, and other times the reader is a step behind when he or she is made to assume something isn't true because it hasn't happened yet. The book's pace also keeps each section interesting. Holly and her friends' adventures would lack gravitas without knowing what their actions are leading to. Detective Moran's investigations would likely feel repetitive if the scenes with Holly weren't there. I preferred Holly's chapters, but the two sides of the story definitely need each other.

The *Secret Place* contains copious amounts of vile teenage nastiness, in a very real way. If you don't want bad flashbacks to being utterly enveloped by your peers' juvenile, obsessive and degrading attitude towards sex, or if you still get enough of that attitude in daily life, maybe don't read this. This story is beautifully written, but it's not a particularly pleasant experience. And, even after reading, the experience still isn't over. I keep thinking about it, trying to figure out where everything went wrong, and how it could have been fixed. I am not sure whether the book's feeling of inevitability is only caused by atmospheric tricks on part of the author or not. The *Secret Place* also has elements of magical realism — and, again, I am not sure why I found this acceptable when usually magical realism crumples my suspension of disbelief as soon as it appears.

This book unsettled me but I loved it. A part of its prologue puts into words a sensation I've often had and never had words for: "It doesn't feel real yet," Holly says, which is only sort of true but the best she can do. It feels real in flashes, between long grainy stretches of dizzy static, but those flashes are vivid enough that they throw every other kind of real out of her head and it feels like she's never been anywhere but here. Then they're gone." French's writing is filled with moments like this, where I felt like she was discussing something fundamental to my experience of life. I'm glad I read this — it was spectacular. But it is the kind of story that haunts you. ●

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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



This week can be a period of great change for you. Broaden your horizons by attending every event held at the university, and you will unlock a part of yourself that you never knew existed.

Taurus



Winter is coming, which means that it's time to find a snuggle buddy to keep you warm over the next few months. It's friend against friend in the annual race to track down the most reliable bed warmer in Dunedin.

Gemini



The constellation responsible for your alignment of chakras is all out of whack this week. Doing a headstand at noon for ten minutes, followed by three minutes of hula hooping, each day should get your spiritual energy back into shape.

Cancer



The person you've been drooling over at your usual study spot will be admiring you this week. If they do not approach you first, make an excuse to sidle on over to them and very casually mention that you would like have lots of sex and babies with them.

Leo



Protect your shins! A somewhat blurry incident will lead to misfortune and pain. Your drunk friends will try their best to patch you up, but this will inevitably lead to blood poisoning. Wash the wound out with high-strength alcohol or antiseptic.

Virgo



The position of Pluto this week tells me you're feeling a bit down. Take up a new activity to take your mind off your mood. You may just find inner happiness when you start that new jigsaw puzzle, or when you learn to cook a new meal.

Libra



Opening up will strengthen friendships this week. With uncertainty in your future social calendar, this will prove most valuable in the month of May.

Scorpio



Sirius moving into the same zone as Venus means you're anything but serious this week! Hold on to that positive attitude and go on whatever adventures your wee heart desires.

Sagittarius



You have a window of opportunity in the coming week for travel; do not waste it. Go forth into the wilderness, cook horrible camp food over a fire and make friends with anyone whose name contains the words "star" or "rain".

Capricorn



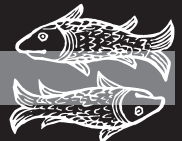
You will enter into a heated debate on the subject of smooth vs. crunchy peanut butter in the near future. You will get along with the smooth fans and be intrigued by the crunchies, but be suspicious of those who refuse to pick a side. They are not to be trusted.

Aquarius



You will find the perfect pair of pants this week. They will be in the form of denim jeans that hug your ass with all the tenderness of a generous prison lover. Upon wearing these pants you will become an undefeatable opponent at table tennis.

Pisces



Boycott something this week, and make sure to let everyone you've ever met know that you're doing it. Explain (at length) all of the reasons why you're boycotting this particular product on Facebook and at every social event you attend. Your peers will respect you for it.

University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a
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#Ponytailgate

Sometimes I get a little bit embarrassed about the country that I live in.

Don't get me wrong, I really enjoy the lifestyle here and how acceptable it is to wear sweatpants to the supermarket. It's great.

The only thing that really bugs me is our priorities, especially politically. Why is everyone kicking up such a fuss about this ponytail bullshit?

Please don't think I'm saying this because I am some OTT National supporter who defends everything John Key does. It was weird, and yeah, I would definitely feel uncomfortable in that girls position, but why is it getting the attention it is?

I think if this is the biggest scandal in New Zealand then we are doing pretty well for ourselves. Can we take a second to look at Syria? How about the Middle East? People are dealing with bigger shit than a little ponytail tug. These people would literally pray to be in the situation that girl was in.

No, that doesn't mean I'm saying it was okay, or justifying what he did in any way. I've already said it was weird as hell.

But come on guys, there are more important issues that we can be focussing on. In the words of Kourtney Kardashian,

"People in Africa are dying."

Here that Business School?!

Dear Josie,

I've been a student here for a while now. I've spent my time at Scumby Cumby, I've done my dash on Castle Street, and now I'm getting older, it's getting to crunch time and I'm starting to realise that I someday soon am going to have to leave the beautiful Scarfieland and become something that is called a full-time 'adult'.

Now that it's got to crunch time, I've realised it's time to 'get cultured' and chuck that on the ol' CV. So I did some research, yarned to a few people, and heard about a thing called Case Club. So I thought to myself, what an opportunity, what an adventure this thing sounds. They get to compete across NZ and abroad. Got a mate that went to Spain last year!

However, it seems to be that Case Club is not around anymore! Otago Business School, why you do this to me? We've had such a good run with you at Otago and you leave me at the last hurdle :(

Regards,
Someone who just wants to have a go

Castle or Leith or Clyde?

'sup Critic

If you could do me a favour, I'd like to reach out to favoured peepz on my street.

I'd just like to let those fuckwit first years on my street who throw bottles and shit around, fuck off.

I've been a student, I've drunk heavily, I've been destructive. But at least I've done it in my own zone. Stop throwing your shit all over the road, and stop yelling in the middle of the night on a Tuesday and keep your stupid drama shit to yourself.

Yours sincerely,
Granddad.

P.S. I know most students are moral upstanding good Christian kids who never drink and wash their own sheets when they piss the bed, not judging the majority - just these dicks.

Yes, Those Harmful Letters?!

Dear Josie,

This is the real life effect of mass connect-edness. 'You should have gone down the brothel,' quoth my friend, they would of kept the lines orderly. When they left chewing gum packet behind I felt like La Belle Dame sans merci. The Beehive of thereabouts has replaced their nightly rituals with my cell phone rapes, and some 'Allans' taught kids to song 'whore' at me at Moana, so I ask porn seekers intent on insulting their shortsighted, maltreated by law, oblivious star, I ask 'What would you fetch? Are you paying the girl next door well?'

I know I am supposed to find the evidence but porn makes me throw up. Why is the harmful communications law taking so long to get through Parliament?

Yours faithfully,
Sue Heap

Yea Girl, New Wardrobe!

Dear Critic,

You made me feel bad about wearing stripes. Now I see them everywhere. I might even burn my wardrobe now.

A girl in stripes.


You Have to Actually Yak!

Please print my Yik Yak. I don't care how many upvotes I get as long as you print my Yak in Critic.

A YikYakker

LETTERS POLICY

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



Yik Yak

wtf is almond milk almonds ain't even got titties

209

"Such a basic bitch wearing stripes" says all the guys wearing high socks, nike shorts, grey hoodies and caps

223

The campus coffee hierarchy: Dispensary > Museums > Lex > toilet water > Cafe Albany

11

Can we please have a moment of silence for my brother who accidentally just sent a dick pic to my mum

408

I wonder if my dog follows me into the toilet because I follow him when he needs to go outside and he just thinks thats how it works

152

I miss flip top phones because when you were mad you could just close it like bitch whatever

68

Someone tell Greg's to stop burning their coffee. Fucking stinks the 1k radius of it

120

Wearing striped undies because you're a basic bitch but don't want anyone to know

82

Uni is like losing your mum in the supermarket for 3 years

60

To the guy running in his jeans on the treadmill at unipol, and falling off as a result, Thankyou. From the bottom of my heart, You have made my day 🥰🥰

318



SNAPS

@Criticmag



1

Wot



3



Basic bitch

5



Following on the nude trend

7




Loved this weeks issue

8



ry strong risk and family

4



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Vaccines

BY WEE DOUBT

In 1998 Andrew Wakefield, a British former surgeon and medical researcher, published a fraudulent research paper in support of the now-discredited claim that there was a link between the administration of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR), and the appearance of autism and bowel disease. He fabricated evidence and was later convicted of 36 charges of malpractice, including four counts of dishonesty and 12 counts involving the abuse of developmentally challenged children.

Wakefield was subsequently barred from practising medicine in the UK. But his legacy has lived on in the massive anti-vaccination movement, which has affected a decline in vaccination and a rise in mumps, whooping cough, and measles. Measles, a life-threatening disease, was declared to be eliminated from the USA in 2000. Now it is making a comeback. It is highly contagious, infecting 99% of people it comes into contact with. At best its victim will have an extremely unpleasant couple of weeks. At worst it can lead to blindness, or even death.

We are lucky to live in a time and a place where it is easy to forget how monstrous contagious diseases can be. You don't need to get vaccinated against many diseases such as malaria or rabies unless you travel to a country where you are likely to be infected. Our nonchalant, take it or leave it attitude to vaccination is evidence that they have worked.

Many life-threatening diseases have the potential to be eradicated if we manage to vaccinate enough of the population against them. I am currently researching polio in twentieth century New Zealand. Before the vaccine was invented parents were so scared of polio they used to keep their children inside in the summer. I am old enough to have been in the last year of children to receive the polio vaccine in this country. A global effort to eradicate polio between 1988 and 2001 successfully reduced diagnosed cases of polio by 99%. Polio was very close to becoming the second infectious disease, after smallpox, to be eradicated intentionally by a public health campaign. It remains an endemic disease in Northern Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, where the vaccine isn't administered.

Our privilege means that we have forgotten how terrible these illnesses are. Stop vaccinating and we will be reliving some of the horror of the past. If you are not convinced, look up pictures of people with polio, measles, whooping cough, and mumps and think about whether we should allow children to contract these diseases. They are not benign childhood illnesses. They are painful, sometimes disfiguring and even life-threatening horrors, which can be kept at bay by all of us by making sure ourselves and the people we love are vaccinated.



The One That Got Away

BY LAW BOY

Girl from last year's LAWS101 tutorial; to you I write this confession. Picture this. Making my way down George, walking slow, really slow, then I see you!

It's been a while, and things have changed. We're both a year older, a year more mature, another notch in the belt of life so to speak. But when I see you I feel like a child again; nervous and giddy. I feel like anything's possible if I just believe. So here it is, perhaps a year too late, but better late than never right?

The only reason I attended Law tutorials last year, was to see you. Sitting opposite from you, your very presence captivated me. Your eyes drew my gaze and sparked my imagination. Your sexy smile made the severely unfunny jokes of the tutor almost bearable. Almost. Your hair, a silky sheen that I longed to turn into a tangled mess, if you know what I mean...

Sex. I mean sex.

We talked once, and I think you may recognise me... But the easy days of LAWS101 are no more, and I fear I'll never gaze upon your sweet face again! I have moved on to complete my BA and I assume you are now in your 2nd year of law, on your way to becoming a hotshot lawyer in the big city. But before you head on your way into the turbulent world of corrupt mayors and cocaine addiction, I ask you to spare a thought for the boy that sat opposite you in your LAWS101 tutorial. The boy who's probably now working in a cafe. The boy who liked you.

Because to me, you'll always be the one that got away.

P.S. here's a poem

The days of you have come and passed
Now gone without a trace.
No one left to match your charming
Beauty and your grace.
Life without you is like life without pizza
It's quite a lot shitter,
And I don't think that I'll ever find
Someone who is fitter.
You captivated me with just your
Presence, and I believe
That no one in this world is quite as
resonant with me.
So adieu, farewell, and au revoir
We'll meet another day.
But until that time you'll always be
the one that got away.



David Rocks a Red Jacket

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP



The Minefield of Special Consideration

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

I worked studiously on Labour's small business policy for over a year. When the time came during the 2014 election campaign, I joined our leader for its launch. Journalists, cameras and microphones turned up. I had planned the launch in a fireworks factory.

My policy redirected hundreds of millions of dollars. But it didn't secure one single column inch in any newspaper. Nor a single sound bite on radio or TV. The fireworks went off, but the policy was too sensible to compete with other political happenings that day.

The flight home to Dunedin generated more publicity. I sat next to Aaron Smith. The "selfie" I posted to Facebook went nuts. Later I discovered I'd inadvertently announced his re-signing with the Highlanders. I'm pretty sure neither of us realised during our chat that while his All Black future had been declared publicly, his Highlanders one hadn't. Newspaper columns followed.

Lesson learnt. Worthy policy won't always capture the imagination.

I took a different approach when I wanted to support Dunedin fashion. My friend Tamsin Cooper is a local designer. She was happy to help. After winning the Dunedin North seat at the election, I simply wore a red silk blazer to the formal sign-in ceremony at parliament. Dozens of more dour suits formed the perfect backdrop.

There were column inches everywhere. Obscure rags in towns I've hardly heard of carried my picture. Both major news channels gave me coverage. And there were follow-up articles. People love celebrity and fashion.

ID fashion week captures the imagination. There's an edgy insider feel — even on your first visit. The railway station's grandeur seldom finds a better expression. The Dunedin personalities — old and new — who pack out the event have faces lit with possibility. It's expensive, but plenty of students find their way in as models, designers or interested friends.

The fashion industry is pregnant with possibility — especially in a country heavily dependent upon dairy (prices dropping 51 percent since February 2014) and tourism (an industry heavy with low-wage jobs). Diversification of our economy is crucial to our country's future prosperity. We are a long way from many of our trading partners, and some of our best opportunities lie in the high-tech weightless economy. Design is an important part of that.

In our local community there are already fashionistas, both struggling and successful. They are good examples of small businesses worth supporting.

To get a look-in for special consideration due to ill health or an accident that prevents you sitting an exam or impairs your exam performance, you need to have a "severe medical condition ... supported by medical evidence." So, we're not talking snivels or general exam jitters.

Say you are really sick. You need to get a Health Declaration (HD) for Special Consideration Applications (available via the Exams webpage) completed by a medical professional. Note Part B, where there are three boxes: "mild impairment", "moderate impairment" and "serious impairment". You will only be given special consideration if the box marked "serious impairment" is ticked by a health professional.

This is where it gets tricky. Last year, changes to the process were introduced on a "trial" basis. The results of the trial were to be re-evaluated at the end of the examination period, but they have not yet made the light of day as far as we're aware.

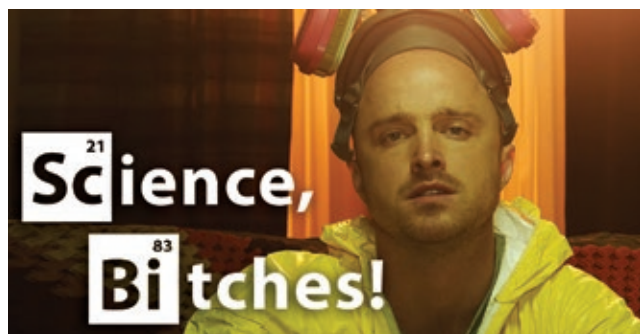
The doctor you consulted used to apply their professional clinical judgement to decide how impaired you were and tick the corresponding box on the HD, which you then submitted with your special consideration request.

At Student Health now, the doctor you see is not allowed to tick the box. Instead, the HD goes to a panel of doctors (who haven't seen you in a clinical setting). They make a collective decision about your level of impairment, tick the box they deem appropriate and spirit the form to the Examinations office. You remain blissfully ignorant of what they've ticked until you get a response to your special consideration request.

Oh, and you incur an extra \$10 charge for the privilege of having a panel confer over your HD. This only happens at Student Health. If you visit an external GP or hospital, they can judge the severity of your impairment within the clinical setting and tick the appropriate box. So if you want someone who has actually seen you to make a call about your level of impairment, you can visit another medical practice.

Bear in mind that decisions about levels of impairment will always be subjective. If you're at Dunedin Public A&E on a Friday night, you could be seriously impaired but compared with the person who's just been air-lifted in with life-threatening injuries, your illness may be deemed "moderate". The long and short of it is, your illness needs to have seriously affected your performance or attendance at an exam. Without a tick in the "severe" box, you haven't got a hope.

You have the right to appeal any decision made. Drop into 5 Ethel Benjamin if you'd like some help with that. However, let's hope you're fit, healthy and well (on all dimensions) and breeze through your exams!



My Fear of Sharks

BY EMMA COTTON

Last summer, I went for an early-morning swim in the ocean. The soft wind and gentle tug of the water were calming, so I pushed myself farther and farther out. Suddenly, I realised the ocean floor had dropped far below me. I pictured my body from below, fragile, my feet dangling like bait. I looked around nervously, eyeing the water for great-white-shark-sized fins. Too shaken up to continue, I turned around and headed back for the shore.

What I didn't know, as I feared for my life in the ocean that summer, is that sharks generally don't hunt humans. Even if there had been a shark swimming nearby, statistically speaking, I would have been safe.

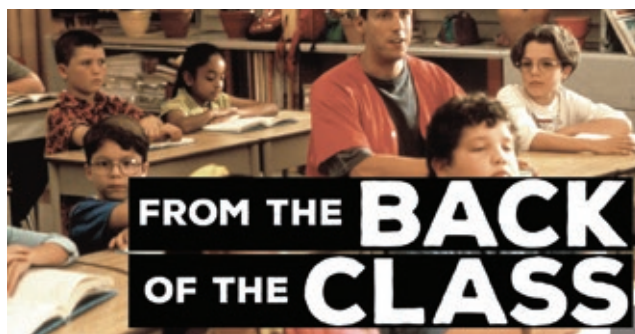
Sharks evolved millions of years before humans existed, so we are not evolutionarily built into their diet. Most sharks feed on small fish, but some species — such as great whites — feed on larger marine mammals.

When sharks "attack" humans, they are usually confused or curious. 96 percent of shark attacks are single strikes, consisting of a bump of the nose or grazing of teeth, which happens without removing flesh. When a shark is hunting, however, it will swim quickly and breach the surface of the water, grabbing its food with enough force to kill it in a single snap of the jaw.

Kathryn Hodgson and Nicholas Curzon, a young couple travelling around the world to give free talks about shark conservation, came to Otago on 16 April. In the main common room, they told a small group of students about their experiences working with great white sharks in South Africa. Both speakers told stories about their respective favorite sharks — one regularly rested her chin on the side of the boat, observing the crew. Another swam in endless circles around the dive cage, but never approached the person inside. The shark could only swim clockwise around the cage — occasionally he would go the other direction, get confused and swim away.

Kathryn and Nicholas pleaded for us to understand that sharks have personalities, that they're intelligent animals and that they aren't dangerous. They listed things that are more likely to leave you dead than a shark attack: coconuts falling on your head, falling out of bed, hippo attacks, lightning strikes. They stressed sharks' essential role as a top predator, and how they keep population size in check throughout the ocean.

Most of all, they urged us not to be blindly afraid. Fear and lack of education have led to an aggression towards sharks that has their numbers dwindling by the minute. In one year, sharks kill around 10 humans; in the same amount of time, humans kill over 270 million sharks. Who, then, should be afraid?



Gin and Tonic

BY FINBARR NOBLE

Gin and tonic is my favourite cocktail. It is also the only one I know how to make, as it conveniently has all the ingredients in the name. Yet there is more to this noble drink than meets the eye; as that connoisseur of alcohol, Sir Winston Churchill himself, once said: "The gin and tonic has saved more Englishmen's lives, and minds, than all the doctors in the Empire."

To unravel this we must travel back to nineteenth-century India. At the time, the small island of Britain was having a remarkably good time of ruling India, a large sub-continent many thousands of miles away. Much has been said about how small European powers were able to rule vast tracts of land and people far from their shores, and it is still the subject of debate. However, for the sake of brevity, one might boil it down to Jared Diamond's thesis, *Guns, Germs and Steel*.

Guns and steel clearly favoured European colonialists who could field machine guns at a time when many other societies were still using swords and spears, but germs are somewhat more equivocal. In India, in particular, malaria was quite happy killing coloniser and colonised alike. Though malaria had been present in Europe, it was eradicated by the nineteenth century and thus the European colonisers were more susceptible to it. In the seventeenth century the Spaniards discovered that the natives of modern-day Peru could cure malaria with the bark of the cinchona tree. This was a vast improvement on previous European cures such as throwing the sufferer in a bush and hoping they got out quick enough to leave the fever behind. It became clear that quinine, the active ingredient in cinchona bark, could not only cure malaria but prevent it too.

Quinine became a vital weapon in British Imperialism's arsenal, allowing stable British populations to prosper in the tropics. Quinine was so bitter, though, that British officials stationed in India took to mixing the powder with soda and sugar. Thus "tonic water" was born. At the same time, gin — which had earlier been associated with vice and social decay à la Hobart's painting *Gin Lane* — was undergoing a renaissance of respectability. It was only a matter of time, therefore, before some enterprising British official in India combined their morning dose of bitter quinine tonic with a shot or two of gin. So the gin and tonic was born.

Despite its medicinal history, gin is still essentially poison to many people and makes them prone to crying on the stairs and lashing out at loved ones. Drink responsibly.



Winter makes Headlines

BY STEPH TAYLOR

When the front page is often a picture of a farmer in gumboots and a swandri, you shouldn't really claim that you have your eye on fashion.



Worker has rude awakening

Don't fall asleep at the library, at work or on any form of moving transport, especially if heavy machinery is involved.

An American plane had to make an emergency landing after a worker trapped in a cargo area fell asleep.

Cloak points up fashion issues

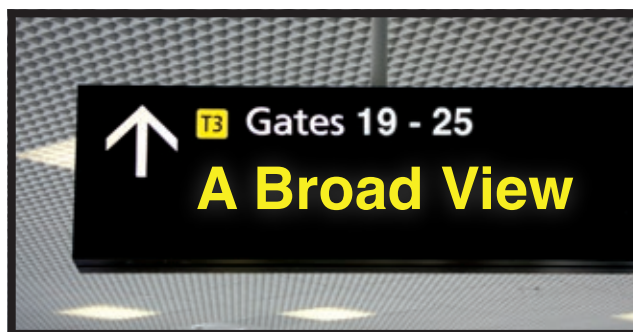
Someone call the fashion police! Someone thought it was a good idea to put a cloak on the Robbie Burns statue and call it an "art installation".

Southern men leaving 'family'

RIP the Southern Bar and Grill. Another pub, although a seedy South D one, bites the dust.

Killer robots dangerous but exciting

Believe it or not, this headline managed to make the second page of the ODT this week. Always a fun news day when you have to resort to talking about "The Terminator".



"But ... why New Zealand?"

BY ISABEL LANAUUX

A Broad View is written by different international students each week who wish to share their impressions of their time here or unique experiences. Email critic@critic.co.nz if you are an international student wanting to tell your tale.

This is the question that inevitably sneaks its way into conversation the minute someone catches my American accent. Before I even get the chance to say "y'all", Kiwis want to know what made me choose New Zealand for a semester of study and travel. In every case I inevitably stumble over my words, saying something obnoxious like "I just thought it would be pretty, and Lord of the Rings, amiright?" Awkward giggling ensues.

But I did come to New Zealand because I thought it would be pretty, and because I wanted to experience a different way of living, and because, well, Peter Jackson. In moving to Dunedin, I got all of these things (except Peter), and to a greater extent than I could have imagined. So when people ask me "why New Zealand" what I really want to say is "why not?"

New Zealand offers so much, and it does so humbly as evidenced by the nature and frequency of the question "why New Zealand?" I don't think Kiwis give themselves or their country the credit they deserve. New Zealand is varied. There are beaches, mountains and glaciers mere hours apart from one another. What's more, it's beautiful. And most of these wonders are protected not only by law, but by a culture of conservation that honours the country's natural bounty.

Whether it's Fiordland, Queenstown or Otago, each region offers something all its own and with minimal distance to travel in between. This is something I could never hope to experience in the States. The East and West Coast may offer varied opportunities, but I would never be able to experience both of them without expensive plane tickets and extensive hours of travel.

So, in terms of the accessibility and quality of the experience, New Zealand wins. It's pristine, it's beautiful and, due to the size of the country, it's a hell of a lot easier to experience on a student budget.





di lusso

B A R

Love is blind

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

Michelle

she likes free food, loves alcohol, and hit the balls well. The pool balls that is.

I didn't think any good would come from getting my grey tooth fixed at the dentist, but I was wrong... the opportunity arose for a free meal, bar tab and a potential good root. After opting out of the body con dress I settled for something more practical and I was on my way.

Things were off to a flying start when my flat mates and I saw him from a distance with one beautiful man bun. I entered Di Lusso with my head held high after one too many shots and was more than satisfied with the looks my date had been gifted. We bonded over the fact that we were both raised in the same country but to my despair that's where our similarities ended.

While I was more than happy with the seafood platter he claimed he was allergic which made me question whether he was just one fussy fritter. The alarm bells were really ringing when he informed me that he flatted with all girls in hope of a tidy lifestyle. Finally after learning that he had slowed his drinking down this year in order to get good grades I knew we weren't meant to be.

Leaving Di Lusso I was feeling rather juiced after he had done most of the talking and I had done most of the drinking. We made our way to another bar where his friends conveniently happened to be. After a few rounds of pool I walked my date home knowing that this is where our romance would end. After he verbally requested for a kiss I felt he had earned it after providing some good yarns and no awkward silences. To my pleasant surprise the kiss was among some of the best I've encountered (this is quite an achievement). After exchanging numbers I decided I wasn't going to waste that \$50 bar tab and I charged to the Gorillaz after party feeling content with my night.

Thanks for a good night Critic!

Barak

he thinks he's James Bond, but wears a man bun and forgets names.

I arrived first but two minutes later a blonde, bombshell of a babe walked in. I caught her eye and she flashed me a nervous smile. After spying this bright eyed beauty I definitely wanted to set the tone early. I thought it would be smooth to walk up and go straight for the kiss on the cheek, what a boss-dog! Unfortunately I was so focused on trying to appear suave that her introduction went in one ear and out the other, this would come back to bite me later. We grabbed some drinks and the chat flowed well, it turned out she was a surfer girl with a passion for the outdoors and wild partying. I'd unearthed a diamond in the rough!

However I was determined to grass my chances. I began yammering away like an old woman. I suddenly realised this was a sure-fire way to earn a one-way ticket to Wanksville. Subtly I sought to steer the conversation towards her but she called me out.

"You really haven't learnt that much about me have you?" she grinned at me cheekily "I bet you don't even know my name?"

My mind went blank...FUCKING IDIOT YOU FORGOT HER NAME! Moral of the story: trying too hard to be James Bond leads to lifelong strengthening of the wrists and forearms.

Naturally I thought I'd blown things. However a group of my friends passed by on their way to the Octagon (spying on me). They graciously invited us to join them at Ra Bar for a couple more. A few white Russians and some great chirpy banter from the mates seemed to convince her I wasn't a complete retard. When it came time to say goodbye, we shared a lingering Notebook-esque pash before going our separate ways.

Quote of the night: "No vagina for you tonight, but the least I could do is give you my number". Girl with chat like that you're a champion in my books!

Cheers to Di Lusso, Critic, my friends for saving my night and to you. Your name is definitely worth remembering!



OUSA President's Column

Congratulations to the Highlanders on their great win against the Blues last weekend. It was great to have some of the Otago players on campus before the game to play basketball against the Summer Thieves in the Union Hall. OUSA and the Highlanders brought you the Zooper Pass in 2015 which provided cheap entry to rugby games at Forsyth Barr Stadium. Thank you to those who have been along to support the Highlanders and we wish them all the best in their pursuit of the Super Rugby title. 2015 will continue to deliver more sporting entertainment with the under-20 Football World Cup starting in late May throughout New Zealand. OUSA Events feedback time. Are you happy with

the structure of Orientation week, the acts that play, Hyde Street, Re-orientation week, and the Craft Beer and Food Festival? Are there new or different events you think OUSA should organise? Email your thoughts to Isaac at adminvp@ousa.org.nz.

By the time this goes to print OUSA's first Bottle Buy Back day in 2015, organised by Finance Officer, Nina Harrap, will have occurred. How often we run Bottle Buy Back days will depend on the level of take up. If you find the Bottle Buy Back days a useful way to dispose of glass bottles, or have any suggestions or requests in respect of rubbish disposal more generally, please let Nina know at finance@ousa.org.nz.

Colleges Officer, Taotao Li and Welfare Officer, Payal Ramritu are about to undertake a couple of initiatives in the Colleges. In conjunction with the hard working staff at OUSA Student Support, a women's self-defence class will be offered in some colleges as well as information seminars about flatting.

Recreation Officer, Jonny Martin and myself are about to begin the new Memorandum of Understanding initiatives with some clubs. OUSA was founded by a combination of clubs, and this year the executive are keen to invest in the activities and pursuits you choose to undertake.

By-elections for the positions of Education Officer and Campaigns Officer are coming up. If you have an interest in serving the 20,000 Otago students, consider putting your name forward. Nominations close on April 29th, with online voting open between 9am on May 4th until 4pm on May 7th. For more info check out elections.ousa.org.nz. These elections are set to be hotly contested so ensure you have your say in who you want to represent you.

Paul Hunt - president@ousa.org.nz

LAST CHANCE TO GET NOMINATED FOR THE OUSA CAMPAIGNS & EDUCATION OFFICERS BY-ELECTION

Be a part of running New Zealand's best students' association! Make a change, help students to get what they need, and get some real life experience!

Nominations close 4pm, Wednesday 29 April. More info at elections.ousa.org.nz

Vote online from 9am Monday 4 May - 4pm Thursday 7 May at voting.ousa.org.nz



OTAGO

University Challenge

Do you like quizzes? Are you always annoying your friends with 'interesting' facts? Will you still be a student in August of this year? **Sounds like you'd be perfect for University Challenge!**

We're holding trials on Tuesday the 28th of April in Room 2 of the OUSA Recreation Centre from 4.30-7.00pm. Just show up during this time with a pen. If you can't make it, flick George an email instead: george@ousa.org.nz



OUSA just awarded over \$7000 worth of grants!

The Art Society, Indian Students Association, Health and Wellbeing Festival, Holly Fletcher, and the Canoe Club were just some of the few lucky clubs and individuals who were awarded grants for special projects and purchases.

We have 4 grants rounds left in 2015. For info on how to apply, head to: ousa.org.nz/grants/



Sign up for the OUSA Poker Tournament!

Come along to the campus equivalent of the World Poker Series and separate the sharks out from the fish. Free to enter! Cash prizes! Banter! And food! Wednesday May 15th - lock it down.

Sign up at bit.ly/ousapokernight

Critic
PRESENTS

TIKI TAANE

ACOUSTIC MASH UP



SAMMYS

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