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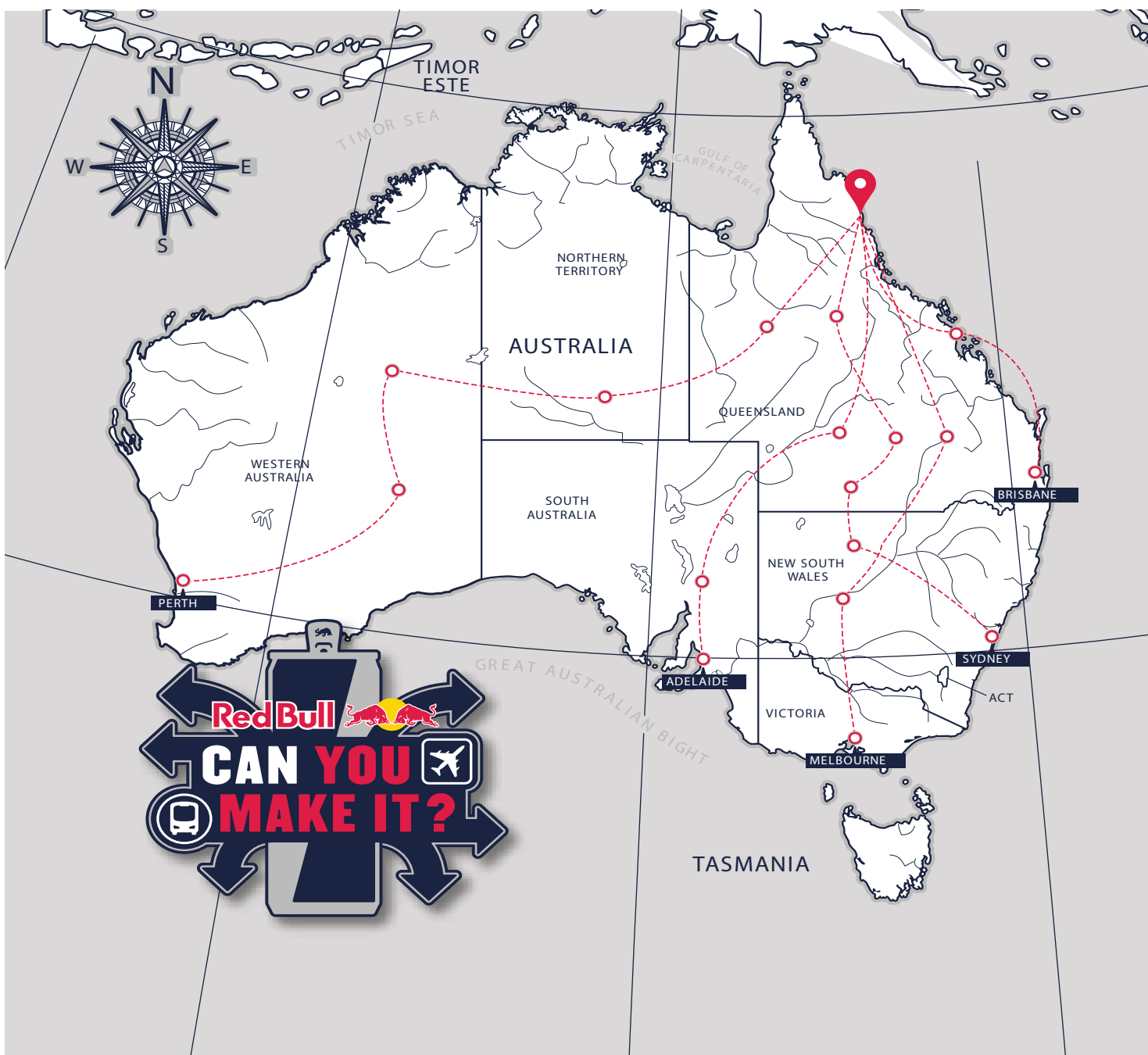
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■ Editorial



Time of year to ask questions of NZUSA

ONCE AGAIN, AS IT DOES EACH YEAR, THE argument surrounding whether or not NZUSA is of any value has reared its ugly little head, with approximately two percent of the student population giving a shit.

It has come to the fore this week after the Auckland University Student Association announced its notice to withdraw from NZUSA.

AUSA made its decision on the basis of a review their executive undertook. Whilst they understand the importance of a national student voice they don't currently feel that the service is worth their substantial levy. They believe that there is a great need for better levels of organisation and communication, including better consultation with members. So it begs the question: are we here at Otago getting our bang for our buck?

Conveniently, just the other week our news editor Joe "recently vegan, tell a friend" Higham quizzed NZUSA President Linsey Higgins about what the national organisation had brought to our student body here in the south.

After a bit of a pause, Higgins commented that the Union had held training days for presidents across the country, launched a successful Thursdays in Black campaign, and held a national day to highlight student debt hitting \$15 billion (ironically, their fees add to our debt). These of course are all fantastic initiatives, but

are these really initiatives worth the fee paid each year by students? Is there even a need for a national president?

Why not instead adopt a system in which all presidents from all associations form a committee, rotating the role of President or Chair of the committee every month, similar to the United Nations Security Council which rotates the President of the council each month. The president of the month would be tasked with agenda setting, presiding over any meetings, and would be the voice of the committee issuing statements subject to consensus from members of the committee.

Presidents would remain fresh and bring a varied array of ideas to the fore while money that would be spent on membership fees could be spent on funding local advocacy groups who are doing good in our own backyard. Groups such as Generation Zero, Choose Kids, or Ignite, for example.

For students in New Zealand a national voice is incredibly important. At the current moment students right across the nation face growing debt and living costs. However, as it stands, the left-leaning NZUSA seem to be stonewalled by this National government, whining in the corner yet unable to provide tangible solutions. Perhaps a broader approach could be the answer?

Hugh Baird

Critic editor

News in Briefs

World Watch



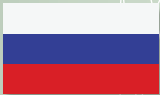
Wuhu, China

A Chinese university is offering students a 50 percent discount in its canteen if they show some common courtesy to staff. To qualify for the discount, which cuts the cost of a meal from six yuan to three yuan, students only have to say niceties such as "hello", "please" and "thank you"



Pennsylvania, United States

An Italian economist says his flight was delayed after a fellow passenger saw him working on a differential equation and alerted the cabin crew. The man was taken off and questioned by agents who did not identify themselves. He then showed them what he has been writing and the flight eventually took off around two hours late



Russia

Russia's largest of manufacturer small arms is branching out into fashion as a result of Western sanctions. The Kalashnikov Concern, maker of the AK-47 assault rifle, will launch a 'military style' casual clothing and accessories range as part of a diversification drive after it lost access to major markets. Up to 70 percent of the company's hunting and sporting weapons were sold in Europe and the US but these markets had been lost because of sanctions



China

Chinese live-streaming services have banned people filming themselves eating bananas in a "seductive" fashion. New regulations mean that live-streaming sites must monitor all their output around the clock to ensure that nothing untoward is going on, especially keeping an eye out for any "erotic" banana-eating. The move is the authorities' latest attempt to clamp down on "inappropriate and erotic" online content

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FACTS and figures

Finland

A 10 year old Finnish boy has been given US\$10,000 after he found a security flaw in image-sharing network Instagram. The boy, who technically is not allowed to even join the site for another three years, found a bug that allowed him to delete comments made by other users. The boy was paid soon after – making him the youngest ever recipient of the firm's "bug bounty" prize

Tunisia

A couple in Tunisia have walked away with an unusual prize, a cow, after they recorded the top score in a locally developed mobile phone game. Pamela the cow spent two weeks at the game developer's headquarters in Tunis before being awarded to the unnamed couple. The game was called "bagra", or "cow", which consists of keeping a herd of cows and preventing other players from stealing them

Philippines

Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte, the controversial politician known as the "punisher" due to his promises to kill criminals, is the presumptive winner of the Philippine presidency. Duterte has received frequent criticism from human rights groups for endorsing extrajudicial killings of alleged criminals by vigilante death squads. He was also criticised last month for making jokes about an Australian missionary who was raped and had her throat slit in 1989 during a jail uprising in the Philippines

Athens, Greece

Tens of thousands of protesters clashed with police in the streets of Greece as the country's government agreed to the toughest austerity measures yet in order to receive more bailout funds from the European Union. Violence broke out as the austerity measures were announced with protesters hurling rocks and Molotov cocktails at security forces, who responded by firing tear gas to disperse the crowds

35% of people who use personal ads for dating are already *married*

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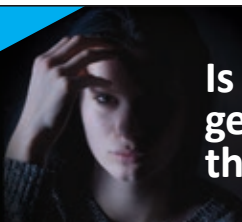
The average person falls asleep in 7 **MINUTES**

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Auckland Uni Students Association practices pull-out method

by Joe Higham

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' Association (AUSA) has given a notice of withdrawal to the New Zealand Union of Students' Association (NZUSA).

The decision to give notice to withdraw from the organisation comes as a result of an AUSA review of NZUSA, which the AUSA Executive began in January 2016.

Despite this move, AUSA President Will Matthews said AUSA was keen to work with NZUSA to resolve its concerns and has not ruled out reversing their decision if NZUSA improves their service to students.

Matthews noted that AUSA has been very clear it is "is supportive of the concept of a national student voice, and wants NZUSA to provide that voice. We want to be a part of NZUSA, but at the moment we don't feel the service is worth the substantial levy that we pay."

University student organisations pay levies of \$45,000 to be a constituent member of the NZUSA organisation, an amount that numerous student organisation presidents both past and present have labeled excessive and not worth it.

OUSA Administrative Vice-President Jarred Griffiths told Critic his personal opinion is that "I can understand the rationale of giving notice as leverage but if everyone starts doing it it begins to lose its effectiveness."

"We can't just work through and raise issues simply by issuing notices; it's crazy. It puts NZUSA in a very precarious situation as they can't then rely on their members staying together and may lead to situations where more student associations start to leave."

He concluded by saying: "student associations are stronger when they stand together."

AUSA is not allowed to immediately withdraw

from NZUSA, as NZUSA's constitutional requirements means that the withdrawal of a member association takes a year from the date notice is given; therefore AUSA's resignation is due to take effect on the 8th May 2017.

OUSA President Laura Harris says the "performance of NZUSA, as well as its relevance to our students will be monitored closely for the remainder of the year, and evaluated at the end of our term on the executive."

Much like an ultimatum, Matthews says, "We are committed to reviewing our decision at the end of this year, and if the Executive sees some clear progress in the issues then we will reverse our withdrawal.

He went on to say: "This isn't the end of the AUSA-NZUSA relationship, rather the beginning of a conversation about the future of it."



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Why NZUSA sucks, & what we can do about it

by Sam McChesney

WHAT DO POOP-FLAVOURED LOLLIPOPS, tits on a bull, and Matthew McConaughey's shirts all have in common? They're all slightly more useful than NZUSA.

Last month, the annual chorus of boos aimed at the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations began, kicked off by Massey student president Tom Pringle in *Massive* magazine. NZUSA is a left-wing clique. NZUSA is too expensive. Nobody even knows what NZUSA does. All true. But nothing's going to change.

Just to reiterate: something like this happens every single year. Since 2008, most of NZUSA's member associations have threatened to leave. Only two have actually done so – Waikato Students' Union and the University of Canterbury Students' Association. Others have tried to leave but changed their minds – the Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) twice and the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association once. Most have simply complained, and done nothing.

NZUSA doesn't provide value for money, but this shouldn't surprise anyone. For the past few years, NZUSA has been one person sitting in a Cuba Street office, banging their head against the brick wall of this National government while everyone yells threats at them. It's hardly the revolutionary vanguard.

In response to vague and unspecific pressure, NZUSA has reformed at least three times in the past six years. None of those reforms were particularly well thought out or transparent. Most were just reform for reform's sake. The upshot is that nobody seems to know how it all works any more, and suggested improvements are often shallow and poorly researched. Memorably, the OUSA president spent last year telling NZUSA to adopt a "federal model" that it had, in fact, already adopted.

So, in the hope that this debate ACTUALLY FUCKING GOES SOMEWHERE FOR ONCE, here's six of the biggest problems with NZUSA, and six potential solutions.



NZUSA in 2016: as useful as a shit-stick lolly

- 1 Money.** The NZUSA budget is written by the president at the start of the year, with little consultation and no professional input. The fees are too high, the organisation has no staff, yet it still runs a deficit.
Solution: contract an accountant or auditor to inspect the budget. (This really isn't rocket science.)
- 2 Referenda.** When local associations think about withdrawing from NZUSA, they usually hold a referendum. The problem – aside, of course, from the abysmal turnout, lopsided contest (nobody can ever be bothered running a proper "leave" campaign so "remain" always prevails), and low voter information – is that a referendum is a zero-sum game. If the vote is to remain, NZUSA "wins" and can go back to being useless again, sidestepping the possibility of genuine reform. Case in point: last year, the OUSA executive wanted to withdraw on account of NZUSA's excessive membership fees (\$45,000). They held a referendum in which three percent of its members voted to remain, versus two per cent voting to leave. NZUSA celebrated by, and I wish I was kidding, raising the fucking membership fees.
Solution: stop holding stupid cop-out referenda and have a genuine discussion for once. (Again, not rocket science.)
- 3 Elections.** The NZUSA presidential election is held in summer, and is voted on by delegates from local associations. The event itself a secretive, cloak-and-dagger affair that's one part coronation, two parts bitchfest. Four of the last six have been uncontested, and four of the last five have been total clusterfucks, complete with backstabbing and tantrums.
Solution: hold the election during the academic year, make it public, and let students vote.
- 4 Participation.** The NZUSA board is made up of the presidents of every member association. Because student presidents are usually overworked and possess colossal egos, this goes about as well as you'd expect. Any time a local president spends a lot of time on NZUSA matters, it's either because they're trying to withdraw or because they want to be NZUSA president.
Solution: require all member associations to have a dedicated national affairs officer on their staff or executive. This person will be the go-between for NZUSA and local associations and will sit on the NZUSA board.
- 5 Membership rules.** Currently, membership is indefinite, and associations have to give an entire year's notice to withdraw. When an association gives notice, this triggers a prolonged circus full of recriminations, passive aggression and massive, massive wastes of time and energy.
Solution: replace indefinite membership with three-year terms, to prevent this being an annual exercise in pointlessness. Reduce the notice period to six months at most.
- 6 Branding.** Be honest: if you've ever heard of NZUSA, you've probably heard that it sucks. At this point, the association is basically a byword for sucking. Besides, the name is too long, and the initialism looks more like a defence pact than a malfunctioning union full of careerist tosspots.
Solution: change the name. (But probably change some other things first.)

Increased funding good news for Hep-C sufferers

by Henry Napier

HEPATITIS-C SUFFERERS MAY BE ABLE TO ACCESS currently unavailable, highly effective medicine in the near future following increased funding from the Government. Last week the Government announced an increase of \$50 million to the PHARMAC—New Zealand's drug buying agency.

The announcement, made by Prime Minister John Key, Minister of Health Jonathan Coleman and PHARMAC Chief Executive Steffan Crausaz, was accompanied by the suggestion that the budget increase will allow the funding of a number of drugs under consideration. The new budget allocation will open the door for PHARMAC to potentially fund Hepatitis-C medications such as Harvoni or Viekira Pak—both of which have had an extremely high cure rate in patients.

Hepatitis-C sufferers in New Zealand currently only have access to Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin, drugs which are both considered as marginally effective, or ineffective in patients with late-stage liver disease.

The announcement follows the imminent closure of a Dunedin Hepatitis-C clinic which helps to facilities patients into an Australian

buyer's club which provides access to cheaper, generic versions of the pharmaceuticals such as sofosbuvir, lepdispavir and declatasvir, all currently unfunded by PHARMAC. The patent for the drug Harvoni, which is a combination of lepdispavir and sofosbuvir, is owned by American biopharmaceutical company, Gilead Science. The drug currently can cost up to US \$84,000 for a 12-week regime.

The buyer's club operating in Australia is run out of an online general practitioner's clinic called GP2U by Dr James Freeman, who says the purpose of the service is to provide Hepatitis-C sufferers with the necessary medication at an affordable price, by exploiting a loophole where the drugs are sourced through countries where pharmaceutical patents are not recognised.

"In essence we looked at the legal landscape and said Gilead [Sciences] is using monopoly power to demand high prices. Rather than get mad we looked for loopholes to allow patients to get even."

"The [buyer's] club simply assists the patient in having a medical consultation with a doctor in India, who writes a local script, which is then used to source medications within the licence

territory (India) which then conveniently falls into a FedEx box exiting India on the Indian prescription and entering NZ on the New Zealand prescription," says Dr Freeman.

In response to an inquiry made by Critic last month, PHARMAC were unable to confirm the status of negotiations with potential supplier Gilead Sciences due to "commercial sensitivity". However, the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC)—the official advisory committee to PHARMAC—meeting minutes from May 2015 shows Harvoni as recommended for purchase.

In response to the announcement of increased government funding, PHARMAC has confirmed its consideration for Harvoni and Viekira Pak.

"On the back of the Government's funding announcement last week, PHARMAC announced that it has opened consultations on seven new treatments across a wide range of health areas, including hepatitis C."

"The proposed hepatitis C treatments include Harvoni and Viekira Pak," says a spokesperson for PHARMAC.

Young woman narrowly escapes abduction attempt

by Joe Higham

AN 18 YEAR OLD FEMALE, WALKING ON FORTH Street in North Dunedin at 4.25pm on 7th May was reportedly grabbed by a passenger in the back seat of a parked vehicle, in an attempt to abduct the young woman.

Despite the driver aiding the passenger in pulling her into the vehicle and also attempting to push her onto the back seat of the vehicle, the victim managed to fight her way out of the vehicle, and was physically uninjured.

The Dunedin Polices' website state that: "The vehicle is described as an older 1990s type station wagon in dirty condition with black roof racks. It was parked on the left hand side of Forth street facing North."

The occurrences of abduction (which are

grouped alongside harassment) are more or less stagnant, with 264 incidents in March 2016, 273 in February, and 258 in January. Of the 264 incidents in March 2016, only 33 were strangers to the victim, which despite being over one a day shows how rare this offence is in relation to abductions or harassments where the victim and the offender are known to each other.

Moreover, despite Dunedin seemingly having a plethora of serious criminal behaviour, involving stabbings, abductions, robbery and extortion, total offences have been at their lowest during this March than any month in the six month prior to it.

In addition, the Highgate Dairy in Maori Hill was robbed at knifepoint by a man wearing a

bandana, black gloves and had a bag over his shoulder. He was 178cm tall and of medium build and the ODT noted that the "man demanded cash but left with nothing, and was seen heading north on Highgate after leaving the dairy."

The incident comes a short while after a spate of vehicle arsons, and a stabbing of a Dunedin man in the neck and back outside the "Bottle-0" liquor store just two weeks ago.

As usual, the police are appealing to anyone who has information about the vehicle or witnessed the attempted abduction take place.

Contact them on 03 471 4800, or anonymous information can be passed on to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

130 Dunedin activists protest ANZ's \$13.5 billion investments in fossil fuel

by Joe Higham

APPROXIMATELY 130 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN a peaceful protest on Thursday May 12 against Australasian banking giant ANZ's investments in the fossil fuel industry.

The protesters peacefully blockaded the entrances to the two ANZ banks on the corner of Hanover Street and George Street and sat beneath the ATMs in an attempt to disrupt the business practices of one of Australia and New Zealand's largest banks.

The organisers were a group named 350 Aotearoa, who are the New Zealand branch of the International climate movement 350.org, which "aims to unite the world around climate change solutions."

ANZ currently has NZ\$13.5 billion invested in the fossil fuel industry, which the protesters claim is unethical because of the causative effect between fossil fuel extraction and global

warming. In addition, the company are Australia's largest lender to fossil fuel projects.

"They've done more in 10 min than you'll ever get off ya ass for mate"

Currently, the world is speeding towards the point of no return in terms of global concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In one measuring station, located in Cape Grim Australia, scientists are expecting the first reading to be in excess of 400 carbon dioxide parts per million, or 400ppm. Scientists warn that once the atmospheric measurement reaches this milestone, it will never return to below 400ppm.

A Stuff.co.nz article on a similar protest in Auckland, wrote that ANZ spokesman Stefan Herrick told the news site that ANZ New Zealand had less than 0.27 percent of its total lending invested in fossil fuels and most of that was in gas.

The action is part of the 'Break Free 2016' movement, a "two-week global wave of escalated action to keep coal, oil and gas in the ground", according to the Break Free 2016 website. The site highlights action taking place globally, including a shutdown of the United Kingdom's largest coal mine by 300 climate activists and peaceful protests in South Africa, Australia, Indonesia, the US, Canada, Nigeria, Brazil and many more.

Within New Zealand, protesters took part in civil disobedience in Auckland, Wellington Christchurch and Dunedin, with some closing down their respective ANZ branch for the day as a result.

Discussion began shortly after 4pm on the day of the protest on the 'Overheard @ Uni of Otago' Facebook page with a post by David Fonder reading, "Who the fuck do these people think they are? Davids about to go down to George st and steam roll these cunts." One user, Nick Laurence: "I mean climate change is killing the planet and everything, but god forbid we have to go to a different bank on this one day of the year." Another commented: "These people are trying to make a change, they've done more in 10 min than you'll ever get off ya ass for mate."

Some comments were not so supportive. One comment by Hamish Mabon-Ross said, "Have your opinions, but maybe a bit of human decency for someone who is clearly struggling to step over you... Like, some people still have shit to do, regardless of your opinion of their bank."

Apart from ANZ's \$13.5 billion investment, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (parent company of ASB) has \$10.6 billion invested in fossil fuels, National Australia Bank (parent company of BNZ) has investments of \$8.86 billion, and Westpac have \$6.33 billion. Rabobank, SBS Bank, The Cooperative Bank, and TSB Bank all have no investments in fossil fuels at all.

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Police officers breath easy after J-Day protest

by Sam Fraser

EACH YEAR OUR NATIONAL J-DAY SEES cannabis enthusiasts turn out to protest New Zealand's prohibition of the drug.

Around 200 partook in J-Day in Dunedin's Octagon which falls on the first weekend of May each year. This year's events marked the 25-year anniversary since its foundation in 1986. The R18 protest is famous for large-scale demonstrations which sees its participants smoke weed in public areas. The protests are typically peaceful affairs aimed at raising awareness around the medical properties of cannabis, the societal harm prohibition causes and the benefits of decriminalisation and legalisation of cannabis.

The day's event was marked by an absence of the police. For the last two years Dunedin's J-Day has seen its protesters march to the Dunedin Police Station at 4.20pm. On arrival the protesters hot boxed the station's reception.

Otago NORML President Abe Grey admitted that the police had visited him at the Otago Cannabis Museum to check that this year's event was not going to end up in another smokey protest inside the station.

Dunedin's event was typically chill, as its protesters lounged on the Octagon's upper lawn smoking weed, playing hacky sack and discussing the various aspects of cannabis culture and the benefits of decriminalisation and legalisation. A DJ was set up to provide the protesters with a variety of techno, drum and bass and reggae.

The Otago NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) organised the non-violent protest and provided various information panels along with a small stall selling pipes, and other pieces of cannabis paraphernalia.

The event ran from 'high noon until 4.20', and NORML's theme for this year's event was 'stop the war, start the healing'. At 4.19pm, the crowd counted down the final ten seconds towards 4.20, before smoking a range of pipes, bongs and joints. Following the mass blaze, a series of speakers gave short speeches on personal experiences with cannabis and the movement towards law reform.

Abe Gray spoke to Critic at the protest, stating that the protests were "basically people coming out in public to show their support for cannabis law reform, to show that they think that prohibition is causing more harm than it is preventing". Gray explained that prohibition marginalised cannabis users, creating a negative stigma around cannabis use. "J day is a day for people who support law reforms to come out in public and show their support, not hide it away".

Dunedin addresses listed in Panama Papers

Local Dunedin accounting firm says their inclusion is a "mystery"

By Henry Napier

THE RELEASE OF 240,000 NAMES BY THE International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) following the Panama Papers leak, has left many New Zealanders perplexed as to how they were implicated despite having no involvement in so-called "foreign trusts".

The online database, created by the ICIJ, went live last week and allows users to search the content of the Panama Papers leak either by company, name, address or country. The database upload has since been met with a stream of stories from people who claim to have no knowledge or involvement in "foreign trusts".

Five Dunedin addresses were included in the leak as the official addresses of trusts which are supposedly being used for tax evasion purposes. The address is listed by the beneficiary of the trust.

The address of local accounting firm Hannagan & Devereux was included in the papers which

the company had previously occupied but since moved from in 2011.

The address – C/HANNAGAN & DEVEREUX, Moran Building, No 8 The Octagon, Dunedin 9016 – was listed as the official address for Thomas E. Granger and Deanna W. Granger, joint-shareholders in Accelonic Ltd, a company located in British Virgin Islands.

Accelonic Ltd, which has linked over 1000 names, has been reported as a continuation of a scam that began in Washington State sometime in the 1980s. Investors are reported to have originally believed they were investing in a Washington State real estate partnership, however the firm was sold on a number of times before eventually being incorporated into an offshore company that mined cobalt in Uganda, called Blue Earth Refineries Inc. Since the database was uploaded nearly 800 residents in the Washington State area have found their names to be included in the Panama Papers leak.

John Sneddon, a partner at Dunedin accounting firm Hannagan & Devereux, says the inclusion of their company as the address for a foreign trust is a "mystery".

"No, we have never heard of the Grangers or Accelonic Ltd. We don't do any "foreign trusts". It's a bit of a mystery how they linked our name to them," says Mr Sneddon.

"Our address changed about 5 years ago as well so the address they listed is also incorrect."

New Zealand has been thrust into the international spotlight after Prime Minister John Key was named personally by the unknown leaker of the controversial Panama Papers documents. New Zealand has been accused of being a "tax haven", whereby foreigners are able to store their money untaxed through the use of "foreign trusts". This has been disputed as New Zealand's "foreign trusts" for tax purposes differs significantly from the way other so-called "tax havens" operate to allow users to avoid taxation.

Questions asked of Silver Fern Farms suitor

by Sally Wilkins

RESearch RELEASED BY NEW ZEALAND FIRST has questioned the viability of the proposed merger of Dunedin based Silver Fern Farms (SFF) and the "indebted" Chinese company Shanghai Maling.

The merger comprises of a NZ\$261m cash investment on behalf of Shanghai Maling in return for a 50 percent share in SFF. The capital injection was seen to provide promise for alleviating SFF's debt burden, dispelling uncertainty in the industry and the potential to facilitate expansion into the growing Chinese market for premium meat. SFF shareholders approved the deal in October 2015 with 82.2 percent voting in favour on a 67 percent turnout.

In light of the New Zealand First research, the Rt Hon Winston Peters said in a Scoop Press Release, "Shanghai Maling has been talked up as a massive company and a game changing investment for Silver Fern Farms, but the reality is that it is not."

The New Zealand First findings place the total debt of Shanghai Maling at NZ\$353m compared to the NZ\$121m held by SFF. New Zealand First also claim that further financial analysis revealed that Shanghai Maling underperformed in "most key financial areas."

Mr Peters claims that the weakened financial status of Shanghai Maling raises serious doubts over the investment, considering the deal "hands them all the levers of economic control including the chair's casting vote."

The findings are the latest in a string of controversies surrounding the merger. On April 18, New Zealand First lodged complaints with the Financial Markets Authority and the Companies Registry Enforcement Team. The complaints address alleged misleading financial information circulated to shareholders in a document in September and the failure of the decision to be classified as a "major transaction" under the Companies Act 1993. Under the Act, a major

transaction requires a higher threshold of voter approval than what was achieved in October last year.

A group of 80 shareholders requisitioned the SFF Board for a Special Annual General Meeting to consider a "special resolution" of shareholders requiring 75 percent of total shareholder approval.

Rob Hewett, Chairman of SFF, in an interview with The Country noted that the Board was legally required to schedule the AGM under the Companies Act, though the resolution reached would be a "waste of time and resources" with no legal effect. Hewett stressed that SFF were legally bound to continue with the transaction and that it remained in the "best interests of the company."

The Official Investment Office is currently considering the investment and a decision is expected before June.

North Korea seeking peace?

by Georgia Vosper

KIM JONG-UN HAS STATED THAT North Korea will not be the first to use Nuclear Weapons. Jong-Un recently declared this at the National Workers' Party congress, the first congress meeting in more than 35 years.

North Korea has said it will strengthen self-defensive nuclear weapons capabilities in a decision made at congress, this is in defiance of United Nations resolutions. This decision exemplifies the position held by North Korea where they disavowed the use of nuclear weapons, unless their sovereignty is first infringed by others with nuclear arms.

Kim Jong-Un's words are not likely to carry much weight given

his track record on banned nuclear testing and long-range rocket launches. The statement may be aimed at building an alliance with China, who were upset with North Korea's actions in its nuclear weapons programme. North Korea carried out its fourth nuclear test in January and has earned substantial worldwide condemnation for their actions as well as tough United Nations sanctions.

A group of around 128 foreign journalists were invited to Pyongyang for the congress to cover its proceedings, however they were not granted access and some were asked to leave. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) is the main source covering

the events and has quoted Kim Jong-Un as saying that North Korea "will sincerely fulfil its duties for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and work to realise the de-nuclearization of the world". He also called for more talks with rival South Korea to reduce misunderstanding and distrust between them and urged the United States to stay away from inter-Korean issues.

North Korea had spent the past months resisting talks with the south and threatening attacks against it, however Kim Jong-Un spoke with a supposedly different tone at the conference, stating that "fundamentally improving" inter-Korean relations was an urgent

matter for his government and that the South should "hold hands" with the North for unification, as reported by the KCNA.

Pardee Rand Graduate School senior defence analyst Bruce Bennett has suggested that North Korea seeking peace with the South to end the Korean war is "to lay the groundwork for the US to withdraw from the Korean peninsula, at which point the north would be able to attack the South", suggesting that Kim's comments to the Worker's Party congress ought to be taken with a grain of salt.

The Oklahoma City Thunder & Arsenal F.C.: The Perennial Also-Rans that promise so much but deliver so little

by Sean Nugent

EVERY YEAR SEEMS TO BE A REPEAT OF THE last for both the Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA and Arsenal in the Premier League. As the Thunder stare down the barrel of another playoff defeat, it makes one wonder whether they will ever get a better chance to win the NBA championship. Having made the NBA Finals in 2012 with a bunch of young stars, many believed that they would build a dynasty over the next decade. Yet, four years on and there has been nothing aside from frustration and disappointment. Arsenal are in a similar situation, having not won the Premier League since 2004, despite finishing in the top four in every season since. For the fans of both sides, the frustration lies in the fact that so little progress has been made, and at times the heart-breaking defeats mirror those from previous seasons.

In the 2003-04 Premier League season, Arsenal went all 38 games undefeated, the first time that had ever happened in the top tier of English football since the 19th century. An FA cup victory and Champions League final followed in the next two seasons, before the building of a new stadium meant funds were short and consolidation was needed. Long-time manager Arsene Wenger did well to keep his team of kids in the top four during this period, especially considering the financial struggles of other large clubs like Portsmouth and Leeds. But in 2013 a signal of intent was made with the signing of one of Europe's best playmakers in Mesut Ozil, for £42.5 million, proving that the tough times were behind them. The signing of winger Alexis Sanchez the following year saw most supporters start to believe that the glory days were returning once more. However, even with these great players, nothing has changed, and year after year Arsenal continue to throw away the title through a combination of bad form and injuries. Fans are frustrated at the similarly stagnated progression of the club.

So in what ways are these sides similar? They are two very different teams playing two very different sports, yet they are eerily comparable. Let's break it down.

Two star players

Both teams have two players that stand out from the rest. Sanchez and Ozil are easily the best in the Arsenal squad, as are Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook for the Thunder. All four determine the performance of their side week in week out. If they do not perform, the chances of losing greatly increase. Disappointment and failure has seen all of them become frustrated and disillusioned at their respective franchises as well. Durant has seen his contract run down in order to enter free agency this offseason, while Westbrook is likely to do the same next year. Whether either will stay is still up in the air, as Durant has not committed to anything just yet, but chances are that both will be gone by the start of the 2017-18 season if things do not improve.

Sanchez has shown in recent weeks that he is growing increasingly frustrated at the poor performances and lack of ambition shown by his club. In a game against Norwich a couple of weeks ago, he became vividly upset at being substituted and walked straight down the tunnel and out of the stadium. For Ozil, a lack of a genuinely world-class striker playing in front of him has often left his brilliant passing go to waste. Both players have been linked to moves away from the club, and neither player has committed to a contract extension at this point.

Expectation & subsequent failure

Obviously having such talented individuals means that both teams are always going to be expected to, at the very least, challenge for the title. Pundits usually consider them to be one of the favourites going into every season, yet neither side has delivered on the promise it has shown. Both have struggled with injuries – the Thunder have lost both Durant and Westbrook in the last two playoff runs, while Sanchez missed a large chunk of the season around Christmas time. Besides

that, the two sides have gone through periods of poor form. The Thunder lost an incredible thirteen games that they led going into the

A joke has emerged that Arsenal are trying to win the battle for fourth-place rather than actually challenging for the title

fourth quarter, worse than even the woeful Philadelphia 76ers. As they battle it out in the playoffs, most are wondering when, not if, they disappoint and get knocked out.

Arsenal are no strangers to throwing it away, having led the league at the turn of the year, before going through a poor run of form, dropping out of the title race, and gifting it to Leicester. It was another typical Arsenal season, bottling it just when people started to actually believe they could finally win. A joke has emerged over the last decade regarding Arsenal's consistent, yet underwhelming performances every year, with the belief that the London side are trying to win the battle for fourth-place rather than actually challenging for the title.

For both sides there has been too much of the same old mistakes and not enough consistency to push over the line and win the championship they have been craving.

"One piece away"

It seems that every year we see people talk about how both teams are missing that one player that would take them to the top. Since the Thunder traded James Harden in 2012, they have struggled to replace him with a reliable third-scoring option. Many shooting guards have come and

gone, none of whom have succeeded in nailing down the role that Harden made his own. Watching Harden score over 25 points per game every season must make the Thunder hierarchy regret their decision to let him go for peanuts. Just to rub it in, the man they chose over Harden, Serge Ibaka, has been on a downward spiral ever since. Now fans can only imagine what could have been had Harden stayed.

Arsenal, until the last three seasons, were regarded by many as a feeder club for their rivals, as they consistently sold their best players to the best sides in England and Europe. Now financially stable, they are one step away from the top, something everyone can see it seems, except Wenger. The aging manager has stuck by the "lamppost" Olivier Giroud, who until last weekend, had not scored in fifteen Premier League games. For the third summer running fans will be pleading for Wenger to go and buy a world-class striker to finish the chances that the likes of Ozil and Sanchez create on an everyday basis. Whether it will happen is a totally different story.

To conclude, both these sides have an abundance of potential and should be winning titles with relative ease. Yet, whether it be a lack of



Two star players: Russell Westbrook & Mesut Ozil

ambition, or an ability to crumble under pressure, both have failed to even come close. Despite playing completely different sports, the two franchises are surprisingly similar in the way they are run both on and off the field. If anything, it shows how powerful a winning culture and



mentality is in the world of sport, and how talented teams that don't have the drive and heart to be the best, usually won't. It really is a shame to see these sides not fulfil their potential, but there is still time to turn things around. Hopefully for our sake it will happen sooner rather than later.

Kangaroos kick Kiwis' winning streak to the curb

by Willy Chapman

THERE HAS BEEN A FEELING OF DISAPPOINTMENT from both sides of the ditch after last weekend's annual ANZAC rugby league test match between the Kangaroos and Kiwis. Despite the Kangaroos coming away with the 16-0 win, critics have labeled both sides performances as underwhelming.

As the Kiwis looked to go four games unbeaten against the Kangaroos, a horror build up, with injuries and suspensions to key players meant the side were on the back foot before the game was even started. The absence of playmakers Kieran Foran, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Issac Luke meant a lot of players were out of position for the match. With back rower Tohu Harris playing in the centres and the makeshift dummy halves of Lewis Brown and Kenny Bromwich, the Kiwis were always going to have an uphill battle on their hands.

Unsurprisingly they struggled to gel and looked disorganised on attack. While Kiwis' coach Steven Kearney was pleased with the defensive effort he admitted that they were not effective enough with the ball, as they rarely threatened the Kangaroos' line.

Without veteran Benji Marshall who was yet again snubbed by Kearney, the Kiwis offered no flair, which prompted former Kiwis manager and Warriors coach Tony Kemp to criticise selectors. Kemp argued that specialist players like Marshall needed to be picked, as having players out of position created a mismatch, which the Kangaroos were able to capitalise on. Kemp believed the Kiwis didn't have enough players to trouble the Kangaroos' defence and someone like Marshall could have offered the spark that was required.

Despite the Kangaroos win, Australian media

were also quick to criticise their team's performance. Looking at the stats, the Kiwis were dominated all over the park, as the Kangaroos enjoyed a wealth of possession and territory. However the strongly favoured Australian side were unable to convert this dominance into tries as the Kiwis showed tough resilience on defence. The Kangaroos certainly did not look fluent as their performance was oddly disjointed for a team of such vast experience. Well respected rugby league commentator Phil Gould did not hold back during the game where he issued a scathing attack as he demanded that changes are going to be needed if the Kangaroos are to defend next year's World Cup.

The Healthy Homes Bill is Andrew Little's 'Cool Runnings' moment

by Joel MacManus

FEEL THE RHYTHM! FEEL THE ride! Get on up, it's bobsled time!" The 1993 family sports comedy *Cool Runnings* (AKA the greatest movie ever made), tells the tale of a rag-tag group of failed Jamaican sprinters who team up to become their nation's first Olympic bobsled team. With the help of a disgraced former coach, they train for months on the island with a homemade go-kart on hilly dirt tracks. Before they earn their place at the Olympics, they need to break 60 seconds at a qualifying event. When they show up in Montreal it doesn't look good - They can't skate, the team is at each others throats, and they don't even have a sled. They're the laughing stock of the whole event.

Eventually, the US team takes pity on them and gives them an old, beat up training sled. It's not perfect, but the Jamaicans eventually get used to it and learn to thrive with it, getting through the qualifying round with a time of 59.46, just enough to earn their spot at the start line.

Now, mostly because I want an excuse to write about *Cool Runnings*, I am going to attempt to prove why this is an appropriate metaphor for the leadership of the modern Labour Party.

For the past 18 months since Andrew Little took the helm of the Labour Party, he has been learning the ropes of a brand new sport, getting to grips with leadership and navigating the media scrum. He certainly has some promise, but lately he has been floundering, lacking direction and desperately



chasing soundbites on whatever issue of the week happens to be in vogue in an attempt to stay visible. He's been chasing an out-of-control go-kart down the side of a mountain, not controlling its path.

Three issues ago I wrote that Little would have no real impact until he can convince the voters to see him as a "credible alternative", and suggested standing with National on a major bi-partisan issue, such as the flag referendum or the TPP as an example of a way to prove himself as a statesman. He has so far failed to do that, and his poll numbers have started to dip.

Then last week, just as the US team came along and donated a sled, Peter Dunne unexpectedly handed Little the 61st vote on his Healthy Homes Bill, enough to pass first reading. Passing his Bill offers an even greater opportunity to not just prove himself as an effective consensus builder, but to hand Key

and National a defeat in the process. No Leader of the Opposition has successfully passed a public members Bill since 1949, which makes this Bill about as unprecedented as Jamaican team at the Winter Olympics.

The Healthy Homes Bill is a good, populist piece of legislation. Quality housing regulation that protects children from getting sick is an issue which just inherently feels right, which makes it awfully hard to argue against. If National wants to make this into a fight, it's a fight Labour is more than willing to have.

The Bill's passage is still reliant on Peter Dunne, who has attached a caveat to his support that the special committee must ensure that costs are kept under control. That's unlikely to be an issue, as Little will be falling over his own feet to accommodate Dunne's concerns.

Just as the Jamaicans qualifying time of 59.46 wasn't enough to earn

them a medal, the passage of this one Bill won't win Labour the next election. But it will qualify them. It gave the Jamaicans the chance to show that they were just as capable as the dickish Swiss team, and it will give Andrew Little the chance to prove that he can be an effective leader and legislator, not just another forgettable white male Labour leader with the charisma of a wet sock. He can finally show that he has he is a credible alternative Prime Minister capable of getting things done. If he wants any chance at the next election, it is absolutely essential that he convince the voters of this.

Of course, after the Jamaican bobsled team earned their place in the Olympics they ended up violently crashing into a wall and finishing dead last but hey, who knows?

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RE-CAPPING THE CAPPING SHOW



This week you'll have the chance to see the 122nd annual Capping Show. "Making Grad" is the latest installment in a long tradition of irreverence and hilarity where nothing and nobody is immune to ridicule. Is it all just good fun? **Mikayla Cahill** investigates the history of the Otago University Capping Show.

Can you imagine jumping up on stage in a weird costume and making fun of the proctor? If you did, you'd be part of a long tradition of Otago students making fun of important people. If you're a fresher, you may not know what I'm talking about, yet. The Capping show is an epic scale of a high school drama department production, and one that encompasses all aspects of entertainment, from the hilarious Selwyn Ballet, the Sextet, the Sexytet – Otago's infamous a capella entertainers who offend and delight in the sexually charged, student focused banter, as well as a main storyline accompanied by unrelated comedy sketches, dance performances, and music that ease tension and generate beaming laughter.

The Capping Show has evolved since its debut in the late 1890's. Not only has it generated huge revenue and successes, it has challenged the views and boundaries of what the audience will find funny for many years. Its glorious and prestigious history is dotted with speculation, scandal, and controversy as well as an insight into Otago University's unique student culture. The Capping Show is almost as old as the university itself. It has emerged in recent years as a frontier of Scarfie culture, countering the couch burning, class skipping, and unwholesome attitude often associated with the university.

The university did not always perceive the Capping Show so positively. In the past it has upset audiences with outrageous comedy sketches, sub-par acting performances and questionable dedication. Thankfully, under new management and a dedicated team of writers, actors and technical workers, The Capping Show has become a fun and relevant spectacle of student culture, both on and off screen that is enjoyed by everyone who attends.

The Capping Show first began as an unformulated and unrehearsed show at a graduation ceremony in 1889. Students saw the opportunity to take advantage of the three hundred plus audience at the ceremony. They donned costumes and poked fun at those in power through the variety of improvised sketches to popular show tunes of the time. A mere five years after its debut in 1889, The graduation show's flouting of morals and social expectations of its time garnered disapproval from numerous university officials. After 1894 the shows were not allowed at the graduation ceremonies. The show didn't end, but it did change ownership. It was taken over by the Student's Association, and much like receiving a cool new boss who lets you have piercings and tattoos, the graduation show was revitalised.

From this point up until the mid to late twentieth century the structural makeup of the show remained

many actors were so intoxicated they couldn't remember their lines, or would project them far too loudly or illegibly



relatively the same – including the infamously notorious acts such as The Sextet, an a cappella group made up of male students, the Sexytet – a female a cappella group performing even sexier and risqué numbers than those of the Sextet, The Selwyn Ballet, and of course all of the crass and borderline funny/offensive interludes and sketches – like the video sketch that ripped into Kim Dotcom and his internet party run in the 2014 general election, causing a ruckus of laughter among the audience.

The Sextets, with all its sexually fuelled and borderline creepy banter through parodies of well-known songs, started off as a group of blackface wearing white students who dually called themselves The Coons, and sung racist parodies of popular show tunes, fitting right at home to the controversial but 'funny-at-the-time' values of the revue and their audience. Thankfully though, the Capping Show has moved on from its racist roots, and now tries to be just as funny and more progressive year after year. Just as good, are the Sexytets, a group of young women who perform the same cheeky, provocative and innuendo based humour, much of which acknowledges that women are sexual beings who deserve orgasms too. The Sextet, The Sexytet, and The Selwyn Ballet interludes each provide the cheeky tongue poking humour that all of us go through in the brief last

few years of immaturity we get to experience during our time at uni.

The Capping Show remains an aspect of student life here at Otago, with great successes along with its fair share of bad seasons and unimpressed audiences. With all the fame and glory surrounding it there is almost a guarantee that at least one small gossip train of horror will emerge from the backstage arena of the glitz and glamour that we see (there is and we'll get to it. Hold your horses). The 'bad seasons' were years where the public and hype around the show didn't match up with the performance. The centennial show entitled Still Crazy After All These Years that hit the stage in 1994 failed to generate the amount of expected profit and fell short of even breaking even. OUSA had to make up the cost of lost funds and felt weighed down by the lack of professionalism apparent in the production.

Exorbitant cast numbers, a lack of alcohol and narcotic regulations, and technical capabilities all contributed to the negative response from audiences; some people walking out halfway through the performances, despite receiving glowing reviews from the Otago Daily Times heralding the centennial celebration "night of outstanding performance". These 'bad seasons' were not consecutive. The occasional off year usually meant students would work even harder to provide a better show

the following year. Alcohol wasn't regulated before 1994. Many actors were so intoxicated they couldn't remember their lines, or would project them far too loudly or illegally. The Capping Show never used to hold auditions; they let whoever wanted to participate be in the show, Jerome Cousins, who oversees the production this year, said that that led to casts in some cases numbered up to "thirty...sometimes forty members", creating a chaotic and unmanageable cohort of bumbling, undirected students on the stage.

In an attempt to spruce up their image, The Capping Show decided they needed to become more professional. They implemented an ethos of commitment and sobriety both on and off stage throughout the entire process of its creation. As well as the alcohol reforms, a strict and professional, but still a fun and playful process of choosing who could be and couldn't (or shouldn't) be involved emerged near the late '90s. In other words, if you couldn't actually act, your chance at being on stage was out the door, according to David Large, author of Capping It All Off: A Change of Scene for the Capping Show.

In 2010, the Sextet was accused by Rape Crisis Dunedin of trivialising both sexual abuse and rape. As a result, the line that was causing particular offence was removed from its song in the Sextet. The charity declined to be the OUSA

if you couldn't actually act, your chance at being on stage was out the door

charity of the year, later revoking and boycotting in 2014, when it was announced as the official capping Show Charity. Large wrote that The Capping Show stuck to a rigid policy of "equal discrimination", an argument some believe is used to subjugate those offended by acts in the play. I asked Jerome about equal discrimination, and whether it could potentially cause friction or worry among the politically correct population of university students. "As executive producer I get the final say in all content that gets the go ahead and sometimes I do say 'look, no, it is really cleverly and well written but we just can't have this in the show... Capping Show has always had an attitude of of-

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the list of things that were once considered "fair game" like racism, sexism, and ableism are now discouraged

fend everybody equally so nobody is discriminated against."

Jerome clarified that the list of things that were once considered "fair game" and it includes things like racism, sexism, and ableism that are now actively discouraged and surveyed. He said it is important to remember is that the ideology of equal discrimination hasn't necessarily evolved nor evaporated, but rather that the content which tackles controversial issues is self-reflexive and self-aware of the situation in which they are satirising.

It is one thing to make fun of drunken scarfie lads, and another to show a sketch of people beating up a queer character with the over-

head audio projecting. 10 years ago the show had a skit with the punch line "Gay-bashing: the real fruit hit", something David Large had enlightened me too. This sketch prompted a harsh, heavy and fast response from UniQ (Otago's queer rights group), who felt very "un-comfortable with the vibe" of the jokes, who took it up with the Critic to voice their concern and outrage. Despite its setback caused by disappointed audiences and drunken performers, or its policies of 'equal' discrimination, the Capping Show has managed to generate a huge amount of success over its lifespan.

Putting aside its continuous battle with issues of political correctness, the cast and crew of the show also know how to let loose and have a damned good time. The Capping Show is famous for its off duty antics as well as their performance. Capping Show after-parties and cast do's are wild and rambunctious. The intimate connection between those that are often strangers to each other at the beginning of the production disseminates in the keg fuelled, pizza funded all-nighters that are put on to help alleviate stress, and they often include a pants-off hour!

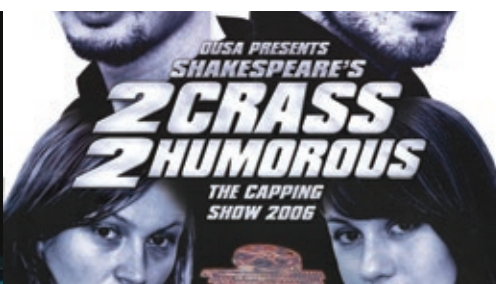
The Capping Show has seemingly resurrected the correct concoction of vital ingredients it needs to present the wider Dunedin community with the nuanced and unique comedic show we are exposed to once a year. Perhaps the

"Second Longest Capping Show in the World" claim perpetuates the hype surrounding the event, and it may not always live up to it, but it nevertheless provides a vital stage for young writers, technicians, and actors at the university who are able to present their talents to an audience of 500 people for each of the 10 nights the show runs. It allows audience members an annual glimpse into the unique student culture present at Otago University, whilst also offering commentary on issues and incidents pertinent to the students here.

The fact the show is written by young adults means it is perhaps more susceptible to the risqué jokes and boundary-pushing explored by few comedy shows, and this is a draw for many in the same way that comedian Frankie Boyle or parts of Monty Python are/were for millions. Of course, the years in which the metaphorical line was crossed between dark comedy and offence causing outraged audiences to actively leave the venue can be struck out as anomalies rather than regular occurrences over the show's history. Such a long running show will always have great years along with substandard ones, just as some performances will go too far and others may not go far enough, leaving the audience underwhelmed.

The shift in attitude towards professionalism in the show's production processes, and a focus on

delivering a concise and nuanced version of the show than had been previously attempted emerged as the show gained credibility and chose to deliver a more widely acceptable and inclusive show to their audiences. Alcohol reforms and the introduction of auditions to be a part of the cast helped create the popular and successful attitudes of the Capping Show we have today. Although a high quality production, with hours and hours of hard work put into it by those both on and off stage, the Capping Show has had issues in the past, perhaps because the focus is often still on trying to mildly, albeit innocently, offend every group in the audience equally. However, a lot of work goes into ensuring that The Capping Show is lighthearted and fun for everyone in the audience! I would encourage you all to go along attend this year's production of Making Grad, the cast and crew have worked endlessly week after week to make it happen!



I Never Remember A Face

Living with prosopagnosia

Human beings rely on being able to recognise other people by their faces for normal social interaction. Lucy Hunter talked to three prosopagnosics, people who have difficulty recognising faces, about some of the problems their condition causes in their everyday lives.



You can see the sheep just fine, but if you met a sheep once, could you pick her out of a flock?

"He's got one of those faces your eyes just slide off," said twelve year old Cindy, trying to describe a boy to a friend. The friend didn't know what she was talking about. A few years later at high school, her best friend had a new boyfriend who Cindy had met a couple of times and thought was an idiot. One night they were at a party and Cindy nudged her friend and pointed, "look at that blond guy. He's so cute." Cindy asked if she knew who he was. "She thought I was making a bad joke – it was her new boyfriend."

Most people are able to identify familiar faces without thinking about it, and many people can identify thousands of individual faces. Our brains have evolved to pay special attention to the nuances of faces, and this expertise is nearly universal, not only in humans but in other primates. Everybody mistakes somebody for someone else or forgets a face on occasion. But up to one in 50 people struggle to identify people by their faces. In the worst cases, a person may not recognise their spouse, their child, or even their own face in the mirror. The condition is called prosopagnosia, or face blindness, and it can make living a normal, social life very difficult. The people I spoke to have milder cases, and are able to function and socialise fairly normally. Severe prosopagnosia can cause enormous problems for those affected by it, including social isolation and depression.

To get an idea of what it is like, imagine that instead of telling people apart, you were trying to remember the differences in individual sheep. You can see the sheep just fine, but if you met a sheep once, could you pick her out of a flock? Would you recognise her if she dyed her wool or lost a lot of weight? Or if she popped up in a paddock you didn't expect to see her in? This is what it can be like for people with prosopagnosia trying to tell humans apart.

The word "prosopagnosia" is from the Greek: "prosopon" (face), and "agnosia" (not knowing). This is a more accurate term than "face blindness": people with face blindness can see faces, but they have difficulty remembering them. Damage to the occipito-temporal lobe can cause prosopagnosia, but many people appear to suffer from it from birth. The condition seems to be hereditary, with most congenital prosopagnosics having a close family member with the same condition.

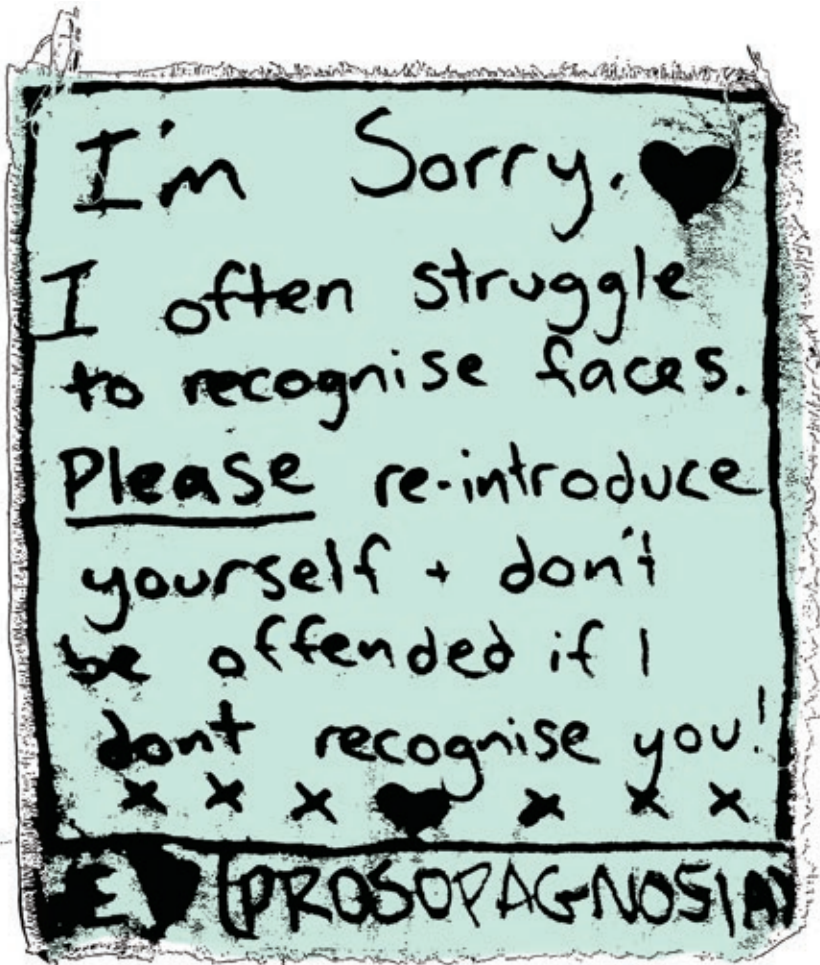
You may have some degree of prosopagnosia if you can relate to the following situations: if you have failed to recognise a close friend or family member, especially when you weren't expecting to see them, if you tend to remember people you are introduced to by their hairstyle, voice, or a feature other than their face, if you confuse characters in movies or on television more than other people, if have failed to recognise yourself in the mirror and/or have difficulty identifying yourself in photographs, if you usually don't recognise people who greet you in the street or if they get a haircut, and if you have difficulty recognising neighbors, friends, coworkers, clients, schoolmates etc. out of context.

Cindy (not her real name) has moderate prosopagnosia. She can function and socialise

normally most of the time, but finds the condition frustrating and embarrassing. "As a kid I don't think I could see faces as well as I do now. I remember my early childhood as a vague kind of blur of humanoid blobs and disorientation. Now, once I have met someone about five or ten times, their face usually sinks into my brain." Sometimes her brain erases faces at random. If she meets someone who reminds her of someone else, her brain overwrites their face with that of the person they remind her of.

Dunedin art student Caitlin Lester and Wellington musician Jon Lemmon also have the condition. Caitlin is particularly bad at telling men apart, especially when they have what she calls "generic man faces." Caitlin, Jon, and Cindy all have a hard time watching movies, especially gangster movies, where all the characters are men with the same hair and wear suits. Cindy told me "my boyfriend accused me of racism because I couldn't tell the Italian actors apart." Caitlin's face blindness can be an inconvenience, like the time she hitchhiked with an older couple. "We stopped off in Temuka for a cup of tea and I split up with them to go to an op shop. Then I realised I wouldn't be able to recognise them." Caitlin ended up waving at and greeting a strange woman. Eventually the old couple found her.

Cindy, Caitlin, and Jon are social and love meeting new people. They have all had times when they've made a new buddy at a party, had a long conversation with them, and then completely forgotten what they look like. Caitlin will sometimes be at a party and look around at all the faces feeling bewildered about who she should talk to thinking: "which ones are my friends, again?" Jon said sometimes when he is talking to someone at a party he will be



a patch Caitlin put on her back to make things easier at a music festival

“Which ones are my friends, again?”

Cindy remembers driving with her mum to a friend's house to pick something up. She'd been there probably 20 times, but couldn't remember which house it was, or even if they were on the right block. "My mum was mad cos we were in a hurry. I was staring at this house for ages but I just couldn't remember if it was the right one. All the houses looked exactly the same. It's embarrassing." Jon said "I never know which street to turn down in Wellington when I'm trying to get somewhere and I always get really confused when other people instinctively know which street to turn on."

Sacks wrote about similar problems with navigation. He tells a story about going for a walk with his nephew who was staying with him and getting lost trying to get home. "After two hours of walking around, during which we both got thoroughly soaked, I heard a shout. It was my landlord; he said that he had seen me pass the house three or four times, apparently failing to recognise it."

Cindy eventually went to a doctor, worried she had some kind of dementia after getting lost walking home. The doctor asked her how her memory for other things was - studying for exams, remembering events, etc. They were all fine. The doctor suggested she may have

thinking, "okay, the person I'm currently talking to is either Sarah or Rebecca. Now how am I gonna figure out which person it is?" and has to wait until they give away a "clue". "It's weird cause I might know both of them fairly well, I just can't tell them apart when I see one of them at a party." Jon has a friend with the same problem who told him he kept seeing these two guys at parties he went to, and one of them he really liked, and one of them he couldn't stand. A year later he found out they were the same person. Cindy once hugged a random man in the street thinking he was her friend.

Famous prosopagnosics include Brad Pitt, Jane Goodall, the late Oliver Sacks, and the artist Chuck Close. Close has severe face blindness; part of the reason he chooses to paint enormous, photorealistic human faces. Sacks wrote a book called "The Man who Mistook His Wife for a Hat" about a Dr. P., who had a severe visual agnosia.

He couldn't recognise faces or facial expressions. Moreover, he could not identify, or even categorise, objects, so was unable to recognise a glove, to distinguish it as an article of clothing, or to perceive that it resembled a hand. As he was writing the book, Sacks realised he related to Dr. P., and on publishing the book he received letters from people who couldn't tell their friends and family apart. He realised prosopagnosia could be on a spectrum, with far more people than previously known living normal lives with milder versions of the condition.

Prosopagnosics often have trouble with navigation. Cindy says "I can drive, but I don't like doing it." Driving alone she is fairly happy to potter around, lost, but relies on passengers to navigate to when she has company to avoid wrong turns. Walking is no different. "My friend and I meet for coffee every week and I get lost going to the café. It's on a weird intersection."

We stopped off in Temuka for a cup of tea and I split up with them to go to an op shop. Then I realised I wouldn't be able to recognise them

face blindness. "I felt a lot happier having a name for it, and knowing I wasn't going crazy or senile." Caitlin is also not as bothered by her prosopagnosia since putting a name to it a year or so ago. She learned about it when talking to a flatmate who had similar problems to her. "Everything made sense for me."

Face blindness can make a person seem rude, aloof, or snobby. Sacks was accused of absent-mindedness, shyness, reclusiveness, social ineptitude, eccentricity, even of having Asperger's syndrome. He believed these assumptions were at least in part consequences of his difficulty recognising faces.

Prosopagnosics tend to develop strategies for identifying people. They get good at remembering voices, gait, context, and physical attributes like hair colour and clothing style, even jewellery. But the condition makes some people avoid large social events for fear of embarrassment. Sacks avoided conferences, parties, and large gatherings as much as he could to avoid anxiety and embarrassing

situations if he failed to recognise people he knew. Like Sacks, Caitlin, Jon, and Cindy tend to greet strangers as old friends. They avoid greeting people by name and often depend on others to save them from the worst of their social blunders.

Caitlin once made a new friend at a party who she was getting on well with. After about half an hour she had "a click moment" and realised that this wasn't a new friend at all - it was an old friend who had cut off his dreadlocks. She remembers some people better than others, and finds people with "ordinary faces" and conventionally attractive faces harder to remember than others. "I've noticed a lot of my friends are quite unusual looking. Maybe I subconsciously pick friends who have interesting faces." Cindy sometimes has trouble with even her friends, especially if they are "out of context" or not in a place where she expects them to be. "One of my best friends came to visit me in the office. She had different hair and I didn't recognise her." Jon once introduced himself to a "new girl" at work, and she said to him "Jon, are you serious?! We've been working in the same office for the past year." Turns out she'd just cut her hair.

Some prosopagnosics have trouble recognising their own spouses. Cindy isn't that bad, but she says "One time my boyfriend shaved his hair completely off. He had warned me about it, but when I saw him I didn't recognise him for a while. Like, for a few seconds." She also remembers having a huge crush on an old boyfriend, going to meet him at a bar, but then not being sure which one he was. "I was so crazy about him, and I knew I found him attractive, but I couldn't figure out which man was him. I was looking at all these guys thinking are you my crush? Or is it you?"

After failing to recognise a friend at a music festival, Caitlin found a temporary solution to her problem. He was a friend Caitlin had failed to recognise a lot, and it offended him. "He was one of those "faceless" people who I couldn't keep hold of. It was particularly embarrassing cos I saw him every week or so. My whole body flushed. I felt like dying." Caitlin made a sign and put it on her back, stitched to her overalls. It said "I'm sorry, I often have trouble recognising faces. Please re-introduce yourself to me and don't be offended if I don't recognise you." She said the response was positive and it generated a lot of conversation "because people don't know about this. They think you're just being rude or don't care about them." Jon has thought of doing something similar. "People take it really personally when you don't recognise them. And when you say "Sorry, I've got facial blindness" it sounds so ridiculous they don't believe you. There's a real lack of awareness about the condition. I thought about making a card I could pull out at social occasions that says "I'm sorry" on one side, and on the other side it explains what prosopagnosia is."

Prosopagnosia can make you a better person. Many face blind people are friendly and welcoming to everyone they meet, because they don't know if they are a friend or a stranger. Jon said "The main way I cope with it is by smiling at everyone I see and pretending like I know them already, because chances are I might. It's not too bad really, it's nice to pretend like everyone is your friend." But Cindy doesn't like it. She says "It's different to being bad with faces. I can feel my brain mucking things up for me. People think I'm stupid or snobby." Next time someone you know fails to recognise you, consider that the situation may be far worse for them than it is for you ■



CONSENT ON CAMPUS

by Amber Allott

Rape and sexual assault on campus is not a nice topic, but one that everybody at the university needs to think about. Amber Allott discusses consent, the myth of the “grey area”, and resources available for sexual assault survivors.

A little over a fortnight ago, I was scrolling through Yik Yak before bed one night when something disturbing caught my eye. Somebody was anonymously appealing to the Dunedin community for help. The night before, their flatmate had sex with a woman who was so drunk that she passed out. People were offering advice and support, but I was shocked to the point where I felt a little bit numb. Sure, you hear about this sort of thing every now and then, but here? In Dunedin? I'd always imagined that in such a small, tightknit community of students, there was relative safety, as well as common knowledge of what is and is not okay in terms of sex. I sincerely hope the woman is okay, and is receiving any help and care that she needs, but the whole horrifying situation has left me wondering, how much of the Dunedin student population are fully aware of what active, enthusiastic consent IS, and what it is not? And furthermore, how are cases of sexual violence dealt with at the University of Otago, and in the wider community of Dunedin?

Two weeks ago, from the 2nd to the 8th of May, was Rape Awareness Week. The week involved activities such as a quiz night, a clothes swap, the annual street appeal for Rape Crisis, and a regional Hui to enable various community agencies to network. According to Rachel Shaw, a community educator for Rape Crisis Dunedin, the primary goal of Rape Awareness Week is to inspire conversation amongst the community. She believes the people of Dunedin are at a “really good point at the moment to have that discussion,” in light of recent events on campus, such as a screening of American documentary *The Hunting Ground*, and a recent forum on student harassment. “I feel

like students are ready and wanting to talk about this, and also wanting the University to talk about it – for me, the goal (of Rape Awareness Week) is conversation and openness.”

The Hunting Ground is a documentary exploring sexual assaults on college campuses. It focuses on several different areas of concern, including the failure of the institutions to report and adequately handle cases of sexual violence, as well as how the subcultures that spring up around university students can perpetuate and even encourage rape culture, with the examples in the film being fraternity and college sports subcultures. The film cited a wide range of startling statistics surrounding sexual assaults on campuses, and although most of them pertained to the U.S., one has to wonder how different they really are here. More than 16 percent of women are sexually assaulted in college, but according to the film, 88 percent of women sexually assaulted on campus do not report it. This is hardly surprising, when only 26 percent of reported rapes in the U.S. lead to an arrest, and only 20 percent lead to a prosecution. There is minimal data on men who are victims of sexual violence, as men face greater chances of being disbelieved or even ridiculed if they choose to report.

Reporting sexual assault on college campuses in the U.S. is a whole different kettle of fish than it is here. Universities are protecting a brand – like a business, they rely on advertising to promote their product. They want to keep statistics that would negatively impact their image, like sexual violence on campus, down. According to *The Hunting Ground*, this results in unfair and inappropriate handling of reported sexual vio-

lence; meetings with the Dean or Chancellor are ignored or passed off, victims are discouraged from going to the police, and even staff who stand up for victims face retaliation – getting branded as activists and troublemakers – often failing to get tenure.

I spoke to Otago's Campus Cop, Senior Constable John Woodhouse, about what the protocol here would be if somebody were to report a sexual assault. "Often, what would happen is that the occurrence would be reported to the frontline police or campus watch – who would call for a police response. At that stage, they would call in a specialised detective who would have their own protocols for evidence and scene preservation." With the police response, all possible steps for care of the victim would be taken. The University maintain an 'innocent until proven guilty' approach, and would wait on the result of the police inquiry before taking action. The exception would be in a situation where somebody would feel threatened, such as if the accused and accuser were in the same hall, in which case there would be an immediate response. According to Woodhouse, the University's job would be to protect both of them until there is a result. Whilst support would be offered to the victim – in the end, what help they required would be left up to them. "Every case is different – there's no blanket policy." Still, Constable Woodhouse would like to emphasize that, "the university would never condone covering something like this up for the sake of statistics."

The story I chose to open with is unfortunately not the first time I have seen this sort of thing on Yik Yak, although it is, perhaps, one of the most seri-

ous cases. People seem to feel safe voicing their doubts and concerns about sex and sexual situations in the app's anonymous forumtype structure. All too often, people seem confused about what is expected from them sexually, and tales are told by people in relationships, male and female alike, of their intimate partners pressuring them for sex, or of feeling obliged to try some kind of sexual activity they otherwise wouldn't want to, because they believe they are supposed to enjoy it. Rachel Shaw, from Rape Crisis, believes if people are asking questions and seeking clarification in this way, that there is a misconception about what consent is. To describe, simple and succinctly, what consent is, Shaw would say, "Consent is the act of negotiating a free and willing yes from your partner."

Now, let's take a look at what consent isn't, despite what some common practices and beliefs may suggest. According to Shaw, "It isn't something that only happens once – it can be negotiated at any time, it's not a fixed thing. It's not something that happens under pressure. It happens as a conversation as well – it happens between people, it's not one sided." She notes something that often comes up in her workshops is the term 'grey areas,' or areas where the situation is not black or white, which in the student population, can often come down to alcohol and drug usage. "Often students are surprised to hear that the standard rule of thumb is two standard drinks in an hour to give consent... People believe that if someone says "I want sex," when they're drunk that it's totally fine, but that's not the case. You can't negotiate true consent when you're drunk." Still, Shaw maintains that despite alcohol being a factor, it is part of a wider issue

88 PERCENT OF WOMEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED ON CAMPUS DO NOT REPORT IT

around the lack of knowledge of what consent, and therefore rape and sexual abuse, actually is. In terms of what some of the main issues with what students may believe counts as consent but actually is not, Shaw would say that alongside alcohol, coercion is probably one of the most significant.

Coercion is pressuring other people into participating in activities, and Rape Crisis often use the 'Green Eggs and Ham,' analogy to best describe it. In Dr. Seuss's classic children's book, the main character doesn't want to eat the titular meal, but Sam I Am continuously tries to convince him that he'll like it if he tries it here, or if he adds this or that to it – he keeps pressuring and pressuring, until eventually, his friend gives in. Shaw believes that this pressure is present in a lot of student situations, even, or perhaps especially so, for students in relationships. "Consent doesn't stop being negotiated just because you're in a relationship. The stats reflect that upwards of 40 percent of sexual abuse is undertaken by an intimate partner – so it definitely still happens." One of the key instigators of sexual violence on campus in the film 'The Hunting Ground' is student-oriented subcultures, such as fraternity and college sports. One has to wonder, are there any parallels between this and Dunedin's Scarfie subculture, or more candidly, the image of the 'Scarfie Lad' that seems to pop up so frequently in it? We Scarfies are known – and often criticised – for our unique and vibrant party culture, which is known for high rates of alcohol and drug usage, as well as casual sex. According to Sr. Cst. Woodhouse, who has been our Campus Cop for around two years now, cases reported to the University are very, very rare. "Considering the number

of students, the flatting situation, and the alcohol, students are often safer here than in their home towns. If you need help, Campus Watch are never far away; this is a pretty safe environment." The problem then, rather than being the Scarfie and party cultures as a whole, lie in the norms that are associated with these cultures, in which, sometimes, consent is misunderstood. So, if you see somebody on Yik Yak or anywhere else questioning something that has happened, to them or to somebody else, the key is to have no judgement of the situation. Still, Shaw recommends giving people other options that can help them is the best way to support them. Rape Crisis Dunedin have staff trained to support people who may be unsure about what has happened to them, and whether it constitutes rape or sexual abuse. Their website has useful definitions, and links to other sites and services which may be able to help meet individual needs better.

Although the university and the police will do their utmost to protect and support survivors of sexual violence, there is a fundamental lack of understanding as to what consent entails is a very real, very serious problem here in Dunedin. It is not only our job to make sure, when we have sex, that we have the free and willing consent of our partners, but that we stand up for and support others. We want our city and our university to remain a safe place for everyone, and that involves open communication and acknowledging problems when they occur. Because if there's no consent, then it isn't sex. It's rape ■

*Rape Crisis Dunedin:
24 Hour Hotline – (03) 474 1592
www.rapecrisisdunedin.org.nz*

CONSENT IS THE ACT OF NEGOTIATING A FREE AND WILLING YES FROM YOUR PARTNER





Fact or fiction

University
Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

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

THROUGHOUT MY 3 YEARS AT THIS UNIVERSITY the one thing I have always relied on is that the facts and figures of your magazine be true. I am struggling with the idea that I may have to find my own pointless facts if these continue to be fictitious.

Your first fact and little women being pencils confuses me. This is because I had to read it about 3 times to double check you were actually saying "pens" and "pencils." For some reason I read the word based off the first 3 three letters. At first, I saw penises are little men and I that

didn't seem too far fetched, but then you lost me with whole "little women." Anyways, after I got my head out of the gutter, I realised you were talking about pens and pencils, which still confuses me. Could I get some clarification on what that means? Just so I can add that info to my long list of pointless shit that I know.

Sincerely,
A Pencil

Dear *Critic*, or more specifically Ms. Lovelock

The disdain that people share for teenage fans is not misogyny and i think that the disdain for teenage fans is more than understandable. They're often obsessive and vapid with little more character than a lawn ornament. It's annoying but relatively mundane. To frame the annoyance people share at this phase that many girls go through as "misogyny" or hate is a vast exaggeration.

Why, my own sister was one of those teenage fans at one stage and her constant obsessing over Justin Beiber [sic] drove me and my parents to madness, probably as much as my propensity to get into trouble at school irritated the parents.

One of my sisters first acts upon returning from her overseas tertiary education a more mature young woman was to tear down the posters and photos that tessellated her wall (composed of Justin Beiber, One Direction and "just girly things" pictures), now sharing my disdain for her younger, more vapid and immature self.

If teenage boys frothed at the mouth and squealed excitedly in the same manner, you would probably see a very similar reaction. The dislike for this teenage fans is not hate. It's annoyance, and one that is relatable for most people

Regards
The Patriarchy [sic]

Hi Patriarchy,

First of all I would like to say that I'm so gripped by your fascinating and totally original opinion on teenage girls.

Secondly, I'm not going to argue with you as you are clearly resolutely incapable of critical thinking, an annoying quality often found in patriarchal figures. I will ask, however, that you think about why it's so embarrassing and irritating to like Justin Bieber and One Direction beyond the insipid argument that you personally don't like it or understand it. You describe your sister's teenage interests as 'vapid', but can you explain why pop music is any less substantial than your teenage interests?

I'm sure you exited the womb ever discerning and armed with fully formed 'mature' tastes and interests, but do try stepping outside yourself for just a moment. If you need some help thinking about these questions you're welcome to read my upcoming thesis regarding teenage fans and how they interact with mass media in ways that radically alter traditional models of popular culture.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lovelock

Dear A Pencil,

Perhaps you would be more discerning if your mind weren't so clogged with filth.

Sincerely,
The Proud Penis and Pencils of *Critic*

CORRECTION:

Wee correction from last weeks story on asbestos... We jumped the gun a little due to our deadlines... Apparently no absbestos.

YAY :)

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Solid science, smoked salmon bagels, & social democracy

—BIOCHEMISTRY SENIOR LECTURER SIGURD WILBANKS

by TAORAN LI

WHEN SIGURD INFORMED ME THAT FOR breakfast, he had smoked salmon bagels with cream cheese and Russian Caravan tea, I thought it summed him up perfectly.

As part of a deal for students to finish a lab by 6pm, Sigurd once promised the biochemistry class a handstand, which according to a reliable source, was executed flawlessly. Of course, nothing less is to be expected from the ex-president of the Harvard University Gymnastics Club. Now, Sigurd bikes sixteen kilometers a day to and from work on a track bike, and experiments occasionally with watercolor painting and dry-printing.

A long way from home, Sigurd grew up in Berkeley, California, which at the time of his childhood was the epicenter and genesis of student protests of the Free Speech Movement. He recalls his older brothers being allowed to go down to watch the riots and while too young to go himself, one of his babysitters was Mario Savio, a leader of the Free Speech Movement.

After completing an undergraduate degree in Classics at Harvard, he then spent the next two years working as a lab technician for Harvard Biology Professor Lawrence Bogorad. Post Harvard, Sigurd dived back into the academic world to complete a PhD at the University of California at Berkeley and finally undertook his post doctorate at Stanford University for six years.

Sigurd had never heard of Otago till he saw an advertisement recruiting for lecturers in the journal Nature. After turning down a biotech job in the San Francisco Bay Area, and arriving

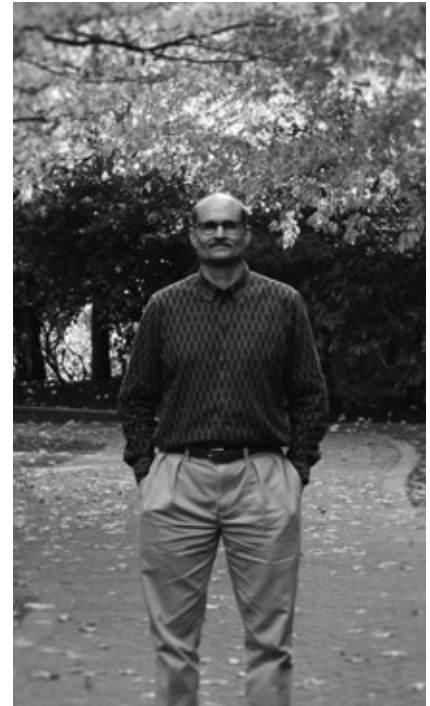
picturesquely in the middle of the cold Dunedin winter of '98, he has been part of the Biochemistry Department for 18 years.

Sigurd's own philosophy toward education is that of a liberal one. While it seems unorthodox that he studied Classics, a liberal education meant he was encouraged to explore another subject to an appropriate depth at the same time. He chose Biochemistry, which for Sigurd, is just one of the ways in which a "fundamental explanation" is offered of life. He admits that while specialization is necessary to achieve a deep understanding, "you need a number of different perspectives to balance that understanding."

"Different disciplines" he says, "aren't just different because they're looking at different things, but because of how they organize knowledge and the structure with which they perform their analysis and criticism. This gives you an appreciation that there are other equally valid, and completely distinct ways of organizing knowledge."

With a strong commitment to social democracy, Sigurd observes that there are pressures to make the University more careers orientated than broadly education orientated. These pressures are "the combination of economic models amongst some politicians that think everything needs to be quantifiable by money, and imposing debt on students, [thus] making employability very important to the student in terms of evaluating whether their university experience is worthwhile."

The world of scientific publications can mean that making a discovery first will lead to a high



impact publication, but the discovery may sometimes lack the answer that hits the nail on the head. To this, Sigurd reflects that he has been fortunate to work with advisors that have taught him the balance between having ambition, and doing "really solid science that will stand the test of time, even if it costs you getting there first."

Another influence from Sigurd's advisors was the principle of "humanely treating the people you work with" which in any competitive field, may be a problem. We see this principle manifested through the comments of India Alexander, a third year student in his biochemistry lab who describes Sigurd as an 'original hipster' says, "he is patient to the pace of others and treats everyone with respect. We are lucky to have him."

And indeed, we truly are.

Critic's column offers a few discussion points for when trying to blow smoke up your lecturer's ass.

Got a lecturer you want to know about, write us at: critic@critic.co.nz



DEAR ETHEL

Sick of eating balls

Dear Ethel,

I'm broke! How am I going to get through to the end of semester? I've been staying at uni all day to catch up with assignments but it's so expensive to buy food on campus. I've been living off rice balls but soon it will be nothing.

-From Hungry Harry

Dear Hungry Harry,

Ah, the old SGTS (Student Grumbly Tummy Syndrome). It is almost the time of year when SGTS is as rife as fresher 'flu. If you managed to get some cash behind you over summer, it's probably long gone and you're down to the unrealistic amount Studylink expects you to healthily live on. George Orwell wrote that "hunger reduces one to an utterly spineless, brainless condition" (Down and out in Paris and London). I'm not sure about 'spineless' but the brain definitely functions best when we are adequately fed.

There are some practical things you can do to make most of your student dollars. Save by starting your day with a FREE breakfast at OUSA Clubs and Socs on Albany Street. Plenty of toast, spreads, tea and coffee to get you off to a good start. Clubs and Socs also host the world-famous \$3 lunch, where you can get a hearty vegetarian meal, with loads of protein and carbs to keep you going through to

whenever the next meal. Only \$1 more if you want dessert. The fruit and veg stall on campus or Veggie Boys on Albany Street both have great deals.

If you're broke and the flat pantry is bare, drop into OUSA Student Support Centre at 5 Ethel B and pick yourself up a FREE food pack. It's simple fare but will tide you over for a few days. If you are feeling overwhelmed by financial worries, have a chat to an advocate there. They may be able to identify other sources of financial assistance, can set you up with a budget advisor (free, of course), and will help get you set for the longer term. They're also great when it comes to flat budgets.

So, before you start dumpster diving or buying meat from the 'pet food only' section of Pak N' Save, come and see us! Things shouldn't be so tough that they suck all the joy out of life. If they are, we'll do our very best to get you fed, warm and happy!

Whole lotta love,
-Ethel xox



SCIENCE, BITCHES

Global warming. Not cool

By CHRIS SADLER

"CLIMATE CHANGE IGNORANCE" USED TO BE BLISS. IT USED TO be all-good to not care. Now it has become a more obvious problem and we reach new levels of stubbornness as we continue to ignore this elephant in the room. The earth's climate has already changed, so let's talk numbers.

This year's average temperature for March was 1.22 degrees hotter than the 20th century average for the same month. This follows nine consecutive months of record breaking temperatures. To put that in context, scientists have accepted that even two degrees of warming will be catastrophic for humanity. We're on the cusp of it. Climatic models suggest that at our current rate of CO2 emissions, we will reach that two degree threshold in approximately 30 years.

According to NASA, Arctic Sea Ice Extent is falling by 13% annually. We're losing 421 billion tonnes of land ice from Antarctica and Greenland every year. Methane imprisoned in Greenland's ice could be expelled into the atmosphere causing further warming. Maybe we don't have 30 years.

"Fuck the ice"

Last week, a fire in Alberta forced 80,000 Canadians to evacuate Fort McMurray, and the Great Barrier Reef just had its greatest bleaching event in history. These are not coincidences.

"meh"

That's not to mention the increasing likelihood of more floods, droughts, megastorms, rising seas, and climate related mass migration. Emissions in NZ are produced via transport, power stations, and agriculture. But what can you do, without breaking a sweat, to reduce your emissions?

You can avoid buying a new petrol car. If you are going to buy a new car, get an electric one. They're cool, fast, reliable, and they save you money once bought. They're good for our economy and could save us 8 billion dollars annually.

They're safe, they're stylish and they've got plenty of range. Some of them even drive themselves. Most importantly though, they don't fuck with our atmosphere. Tell your parents, tell your mates. It's basic science.



What does the Kiwi dream mean in 2016?



by **DAVID CLARK**

NEW ZEALANDERS DON'T ASK A LOT, BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS that make us who we are and define our place in the world. We call it the Kiwi dream.

It is about opportunities for everyone to succeed, no matter where they live, or how deep their parents' pockets are. We all want the security and freedom to make our own choices. Kiwis want to be able to dream of owning their own home. And we want to be able to have pride in our independence as a country and our clean green environment.

That's the New Zealand we want and deserve.

But it feels like we're losing control of our future. The interests of the super-rich are being prioritised over the interests of middle New Zealand. More and more people are telling us John Key's National Government no longer seems interested in those things Kiwis care most about; the Government appears increasingly arrogant, and out of touch.

When John Key says there's no problem in the housing market, it supports the idea that he is plain out of touch. The fact is home ownership is the worst it's been in 60 years, and many students are giving up on the idea of ever owning their own home. The Kiwi dream is slipping away. Jobs are less secure. Houses are harder to buy. Our heartland towns are being neglected. Actually, most New Zealanders are feeling the squeeze.

The Kiwi dream depends on us as New Zealanders owning our own future. Instead the government seems intent on asset stripping the country. Public assets are being underfunded or sold off. Homes are being bought by speculators. An increasing amount of land is sold offshore without tests to see what value that sale brings to New Zealand. Backroom deals, like SkyCity and the Saudi sheep scandal, seem more important to this Government than funding education properly, or diversifying the economy.

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There is a better way. Labour's backed Kiwis for 100 years. We've always focused on creating well-paid jobs. When Kiwis need homes, we build them. When Kiwis look for security, we help them save. When Kiwis take a stand, we stand with them. We revived the Treaty together. We went nuclear free together. We have a history to be proud of, and a vision for the future.

Labour has a plan to work with New Zealanders to make the Kiwi Dream real again. A future Labour Government will build thousands of affordable homes. We'll back our businesses to build a stronger economy that delivers decent work and higher wages. We'll care for the environment so we can all enjoy it, now and in the future. We'll ensure three years of free tertiary education so New Zealanders from all walks of life can dream big and succeed.

by **MICHAEL WOODHOUSE**

ARE WE STILL THE HALF-GALLON QUARTER-ACRE PAVLOVA PARADISE made famous by the 1960's book of the same name and to which our parents and grandparents aspired? I think so. But while those metaphors for paradise are still used, the things they represent have shifted somewhat.

It's also worth reflecting on whether past days represent the utopian ideal of egalitarian New Zealand living. Sure we were all equal back in the old days. Unless you were female. Or Maori. Or disabled. Or mentally ill. Or gay. Or a few other attributes. Other than that, completely equal!

The dream of my parents was to be married with children (they had a lot!), own their own home and car and have a job that earned sufficient money each week to support the family. They wanted their children to do well. They wanted to be safe in their homes. They wanted health care. Modest but reasonable expectations. Largely met. Is that still the Kiwi dream and how do we compare with the past in achieving that dream?

Relationships matter but marriage is less important to Kiwis. Marriage, de facto, Civil Union and same-sex marriage are all part of the relationship mix. It's also easier to end a relationship, a particular improvement if one is in a violent or risky relationship from which previously it was socially difficult to extricate from.

We aspire to do what we love workwise. I was advised by my father to get the equivalent of NCEA 2 so I could get a job for life in a bank or Government Department. That dream changed under the fourth Labour Government. Despite the pain of Rogernomics we now have more New Zealanders completing a post-secondary qualification. Graduates have materially increased under this Government. We have also set challenging targets for school leavers achieving NCEA 2 and the improvements have been dramatic.

Some might say the Kiwi dream is fading due to growing income inequality. Actually after growing in the wake of the fourth Labour Government's reforms, income inequality has remained static or dropping under National. It drops further this year with the first increase in benefit rates in over 40 years.

Buying one's first home seems more challenging than in my parents' time and there are many reasons for this. Despite the breathless descriptions of house price inflation from the opposition, houses actually increased in price by a greater percentage under Labour. Thanks to significantly lower interest rates and increased after-tax incomes, homes are more affordable under National.

The 2016 version of the Kiwi dream is similar but different. And better. A bit like New Zealand overall I reckon.

Matters of debate

This column is written by the Otago University Debating Society, which meets for social debating every Tuesday at 6pm in the Commerce Building



NEW ZEALAND SHOULD EMBRACE NUCLEAR ENERGY

+AFFIRMATIVE by **BY OLD MAJOR**

Of the renewable energy methods which exist at present (i.e. geothermal, wind, hydroelectric, solar) nuclear fission is the most proficient, supplying 14 percent of the world's electricity, and providing the only green source which can currently match the energy output of fossil fuels. It should be the bread and butter of a nation devoted to its 'pure and green' image. Yet David Lange's impassioned campaign to establish the country as a nuclear free zone has made anything with the word 'nuclear' anathema to many New Zealanders. Since the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in 1959, we as a nation have been in staunch opposition to atomic weapons. Yet with nuclear power established as a rich energy source, bereft of the restrictions associated with nuclear weapons, surely the policy now does more harm than good for New Zealand?

The nuclear disasters of Chernobyl and Fukushima are terrible, but in perspective, of over 500 reactors spanning half a decade of operation, barely one percent have faced any potential crisis. According to the World Nuclear Organisation (WNO), who claim "even a major accident and meltdown (as at Fukushima in 2011) would not endanger its neighbours", the risk or irradiation does not outweigh its potential benefits. The few reactors which have faced problems are those fitted with outdated, degraded technology which is no longer permitted to exist. There is no question that such events have cautioned the nuclear industry and ensured tightening of its safety threshold and its policy for environmental preservation; it is, as the WNO states, "the only energy-producing industry which takes full responsibility for managing all its wastes, and bears the cost of this."

And yet, our evolving technology offers methods to ameliorate the risks that we associate with nuclear power. Thorium, an element abundant in minerals throughout the earth's crust, provides a fertile material for nuclear fission which requires far less uranium and produces a more stable reaction with fewer harmful by-products. Yet use of thorium as nuclear fuel is impeded by lack of research and innovation in this area, and continued stigmatisation of nuclear energy will do little to alleviate delays in studying them.

To conclude, the field of nuclear science holds massive potential for the future of green energy. The sooner the better it will be, that we can surpass our concerns about the industry and gain a better understanding of its potential benefits to New Zealand.

-NEGATIVE by **SQUEALER THE PIG**

Chernobyl! Fukushima! See how easy that was? I've already won this argument. News flash to the person writing the other side: Nuclear disasters happen and they're pretty shitty. Countries have been moving towards phasing out nuclear power; after the disaster at Fukushima, Germany immediately shut down eight of its 17 reactors and is working towards having them all closed by 2022. New Zealand is also on a major fault-line, no matter how well built the reactors are, there is always a chance that there might be a disaster. It's not a risk that we should take.

A further point of concern is that nuclear power plants are liable to attack by terrorist organisations. After the Paris attacks, security has been heightened at plants in the region. The Belgian government is providing everyone in the country with iodine pills. The Dutch government has ordered 15 million pills. Why? Because these countries think there is a risk terrorists will successfully attack a nuclear power plant; iodine pills help to reduce radiation build-up. If that's what you want New Zealand to look like, sure, go for it. I'm just not so sure how good we'd be at stopping a potential attack. I mean the police can't even stop people lighting couches on fire.

Highly radioactive waste is created as a by-product of nuclear power. One of the most common ways of getting rid of nuclear waste is to bury it deep underground. If that sounds as childish as fuck to you, you're right. It's like these governments are cats who are trying to bury their shit. There are different estimates of how long the waste remains radioactive for, ranging from 10,000 years to millions of years. It's not pleasant to find week old cat poo in your sandpit, similarly it wouldn't be nice for people in a few thousand years time to dig down and find radioactive nuclear waste. On top of that there's also always the potential of leaks.

I won this argument with the first two words. And then I said more stuff. Clearly New Zealand shouldn't turn to nuclear energy.



THE WEEKLY DOUBT

Belle Gibson & "Clean Eating"

By WEE DOUBT

I F SOMETHING SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS. Australian conwoman Belle Gibson has just been fined over one million dollars for stealing a killing, and possibly killing other people.

Gibson claimed to have cancer in her kidneys, brain, blood, spleen, liver, and uterus. She also said she had heart surgery and had suffered a stroke. She then claimed to have cured herself of all her illnesses through healthy, "clean" eating. Gibson made a healthy eating app, wrote a cookbook, and raked in around a million dollars. She promised to give most of it to charity. She didn't.

And Gibson looks fabulous. She has perfect skin, a pretty face, and lovely clothes. She is the picture of health. The reasons she looks so good are as follows: she is naturally good looking, she spent stolen money on beauty products and cosmetic surgery, and she was never sick. Not only did she not have all of the health problems she claimed to have, she had none of them.

Gibson's fraudulence was made possible by the "Clean Eating" movement. The movement is based on common sense. Eating more fruit and vegetables, less processed food, and exercising more is basic health advice that everyone knows. Clean eating takes this advice much further, implying that if a food isn't "clean" then it must be "dirty" or impure, causing sickness, unhappiness, and early death. It implies that a sick person would be cured if they had a purer lifestyle. It implies that if you don't have enough time and money to make homemade, organic food from scratch for your family, you are harming them.

The worst thing Gibson did was, in her own words, "countless times helped others" to forgo conventional medical treatment for cancers and to treat themselves 'naturally', as well as "leading them down natural therapy for everything from fertility, depression, bone damage and other types of cancer." Gibson befriended the parents of a young child with brain cancer, and proceeded to "fundraise" for the child's treatment without informing the parents. The family believe she even used information she had gleaned from them to help make her fantasy "cancer" more believable.

Healthy eating is a good idea, but it cannot replace medicine for serious illnesses, no matter how nice that idea is.



Butt don't forget to use a condom

Dear S,

My boyfriend asked me to try anal and I had a friend that tried it who said it really hurt and it made her cry. However, I am open to trying new things and want to give it a go. Is there a way that I can prepare *down there* to make it less sore?

- Adventurous

Hi Adventurous,

I'm so glad you asked this question. The first time I tried anal it was much like your friend's experience and I was in so much pain that I cried. The guy seemed to think that I was Belladonna, so he decided to go at it like he was digging a hole to China. Not wanting to be the killjoy that didn't live up to his pornographic expectations, I wiped away my tears whilst telling him that it was incredibly hot, before rushing off to the shower to clean the jizz out of my everywhere - so I definitely feel your mate's pain, and understand your reservations. It would seem that the majority of young men get their anal ideas from porn, but they are probably very unaware of the background production that goes into making anal sex a comfortable and enjoyable experience for all involved.

The first advice I will give is to ensure that you are fully comfortable and on-board with everything that you do sexually - if you think that reluctantly submitting to a sexual practice that you're not that excited about is a good idea, then perhaps you want to be rethinking what constitutes a respectful sexual partnership.

However, if you are really into the idea, then let us proceed indeed!

Make sure you're aware of the logistical ins and outs (hehe) of anal sex. You don't want to be worrying about the fact that you're using an exit route, so consider investing in a douche. A douche (French for shower!) is a butt cleaning tool that can be used in the shower and is pretty much a warm water rinse for your anal cavity. It's a good idea if you're particularly frightened of any dirtiness, or if you're neurotic in general.

It is IMPERATIVE that you use lube - SILICONE BASED lube. The anus isn't self-lubricating like ye olde vag, so it's really important to use a lube that isn't water-based, as water-based lubricants tend to dry up and need replenishing often.

Lastly (and most importantly), RELAX. When I was a kid and the health nurse was giving me my Tet-anus and MMR jabs (I'm old remember, this was in the late 80s), she gave me some good advice: if you tense up, it's like the needle is trying to go into a block of wood. If you are relaxed, it's like the needle going into a bowl of jelly. So, onwards my noble steed! Enjoy your salacious ass-fucking. You will never know until you know.

Best of luck
- Sxxoo

THE WITNESS

PC | Developed and Published by Thekla, Inc.

RATING: A



By CAMPBELL CALVERLEY

It is hard to make a player feel completely alone in a game and still keep them engaged. It is even harder to make a puzzle game that treats the player intelligently while forcing them to learn new problem-solving skills. *The Witness* is the latest puzzle game from game designer Jonathan Blow, most famous for his time-bending puzzle-platformer *Braid* in 2008. That was a game that utilised its two-dimensional art style very impressively; it implemented time-manipulation mechanics alongside basic Mario-style platforming to subtly teach players how to solve its puzzles. *The Witness* moves this kind of puzzle-teaching into three-dimensions, and makes a game that is quiet, awe-inspiring, shatteringly beautiful and contemplative.

The Witness is very heavily inspired by the 1993 point-and-click adventure game *Myst*. Both are puzzle games, both are set on an abandoned island, both have an emphasis on exploring the gorgeous environment, and both have an unsettling, empty atmosphere. Every element of *The Witness*' aesthetic design is breathtaking, from the pastel-colour architecture of the island itself to the exquisite sound design. However, while *Myst* relied on combination-based puzzles, the puzzles in *The Witness* are deceptively complicated. Each of the roughly 700 puzzles in the game looks almost identical: each consists of a grid of squares, and each is solved by drawing a line across the grid from point A to point B. This sounds childishly simple, but it is not.

The difficulty of the game comes from the introduction of different puzzle elements,

indicated by symbols on each grid. Coloured squares indicate that you must divide the grid according to the squares' colour; tetris blocks indicate that you must draw a particular shape on the grid; and dots indicate paths that the line must cross before it reaches its end. Each puzzle element is introduced gradually, with very simple puzzles teaching you how they work before the puzzles get more complicated. Once you have explored and unlocked more of the island, the puzzles start combining elements and becoming more abstract. The puzzles towards the end of the game are infuriatingly difficult, and a walkthrough will not necessarily help: even if you learn what the solution to a puzzle is, you may not have learned *WHY* that was the solution.

There could easily have been a great disparity between the grid puzzles and the environment. The two appear to have nothing to do with each other. Thankfully, the environment is incorporated into the puzzles in a variety of ways. One particular puzzle has multiple solutions, with each permutation changing the position of a swampy bridge. The solutions for another series of puzzles are influenced by the positions of shadows cast by surrounding tree branches. Another series of grid puzzles revolves around navigating through hedge mazes lined with pressure-activated platforms. Almost every way in which the puzzles could have been integrated into the environment is explored.

The one main down point of *The Witness* is its story. Throughout the game, I got the

impression that a fragmented culture of some kind lived on the island. Disparate statues show the residents' occupations a la *Bioshock Infinite*, and a variety of locations and machines demonstrate the inhabitants' hobbies and means of surviving. Even the title, "*The Witness*", implies that some crime or disaster has taken place on the island and you are its only survivor. However, without spoiling anything, this is a red herring. If you are expecting a giant revelation at the end, you will find the game building up to what you think is one, and then you will be sorely disappointed.

Fortunately, one does not need to play *The Witness* for its story. It is a beautiful and atmospheric puzzle game, and that is all it needs to be. Even if the plot hints lead to nothing special, they cast an aura of mystery around the island that is oddly seductive even if one knows the ending. And if you do know the ending (and its secret endings), the game and the island become puzzles in themselves, leaving players to guess why Jonathan Blow would have designed the game to be so esoteric and so softly metafictional. *The Witness* is a masterpiece of integrated game design, and one that is well worth your time and mental energy.

NIU SILA

Play directed by Daniel Pengelly

RATING: A+

by GINI JORY

Niu Sila tells the story of two boys, Ioane Tafioka and Peter Baker, growing up in the same street in 1970s suburban Auckland. One fresh from the Islands, the other as white as they come, this story spans 40 years of friendship, cultural differences, and takes a closer look at the racism inherent in our kiwi society.

Written by Oscar Knightly and Dave Armstrong, this play has that classic kiwi comedy vibe. Telling the story through the eyes of two young boys as they grow up and take their stereotypical paths in life, there are plenty of classic dick jokes, kiwi slang and good old childhood throw backs to keep you entertained.

However, below the light-hearted surface, Niu Sila is discussing

something much more serious and harmful to our society. Casual and inherent racism is hard to escape in such a bi-cultural colonised society, and as young children, most of us probably don't even know what we are thinking and saying, and definitely wouldn't be thinking about the ways it has been ingrained in us since birth.

The majority of the pakeha characters in the story look down on the Tafioka family because of their race. The children are held back in school because they are seen as simple and may hold the other (white) children back, and are generally shown disdain when they move in - as the pakehas are sure they will bring rape and murder to their pleasant white suburb. But through Peter's eyes we see that



they are a family of intelligent people, most of whom have been put into their stereotypical boxes because of the society and culture that tells them they are inferior. Also explored are the ways that colonised cultures regard each other in the hierarchy of white society, through the way Ioane views Maori despite how similar their cultures are in many respects.

Both actors play a small handful of characters each, and do a fantastic job keeping them all separate and making them recognisable for

the audience. This was a well told story that had the whole crowd laughing for the entire hour and a half, and is one I would definitely recommend for lovers of kiwi comedy - this is truly a classic!

Niu Sila is running from April 30th till May 21st, and will then be touring Southland and Otago from May 24th till June 4th.



MOTHER'S DAY

Director: Garry Marshall

RATING: D (CAN I GIVE THIS AN F? IS THAT A THING?)

by LISA BLAKIE

What is it with holiday specific movies always being so terrible? I'm not meaning Christmas movies (although there a lot of disappointments there) I'm meaning films like Valentine's Day, The Holiday,

New Year's Eve and now to add to the list, Mother's Day. All of them follow that same formula of intertwining characters that meet and somehow know each other but it just always falls flat. I've not seen

any romantic comedy follow this successfully since Love Actually, so WHY do they insist on continuing to make them?

This was the longest and most boring two hours of my life. The attempts at seeming "fresh" and "liberal" fall flat completely as social issues are used as a punch line (which is never funny btw, I didn't laugh once. NOT EVEN ONCE!!). Gabi (Sarah Chalke) is a lesbian and her sister, Jesse (Kate Hudson), is married and has a child with her husband who is apparently non-specific "Indian". For whatever reason, their crazy xenophobic parents are just so disappointed in them but their characters are so cartoony and the seriousness of this kind of bigotry doesn't work at all. How can they make it out to be ridiculous when it's still a very real and relevant issue, particularly in the United States?

Jennifer Aniston is also hanging out in this, she was probably the only good part about this film because she's great and I'm glad she's still getting work, even if the scripts are terrible. None of the plot lines meet up organically and everything feels forced, clichéd and awkward. She has a romance with Jason Sudeikis (that guy from Horrible Bosses) who can't cope with purchasing tampons for his daughter at the supermarket or even say the word out loud which I think was supposed to be a joke? Like, haha how gross and weird are periods right! So weird that men can't even say the word tampon! Hectic.

Anyway, this movie sucks and you don't need to see it. Let's work together to not support these "insert non specific holiday name-day" movies and maybe eventually they'll stop?

EDDIE THE EAGLE

Director: *Dexter Fletcher*

RATING: **B**

by **TAORAN LI**

'Eddie the Eagle' was advertised as the "feel good movie of the year", and you really have to give it to mainstream filmmakers, that's exactly what their movies do; make you 'feel good'. This good feeling

then dissipates into thin air, much like the way a fart does, as you walk out of the cinema, and you are reminded about the other times that you were inspired for a solid twenty minutes from a film about a boy



who had a dream, told he wasn't able to achieve it, met a mentor, had a training montage, and finally achieved that dream.

Faithful to this formula, Eddie the Eagle is based on the real life story of British amateur ski jumper Michael 'Eddie' Edwards (Taron Egerton) who, despite being no born athlete, had an undying dream to compete in the Olympics and ultimately gets to compete because of a loophole in the system. His disciplined and loveable naïve qualities are contrasted to his jaded alcoholic mentor Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman), who had the natural talent but lacked Eddie's never-give-up attitude. I don't need to explain the rest of the movie; you might as well go watch Rocky.

The movie did lightly brush upon the bosom of polemical topics in sport. Not shown in the movie, the 'Eddie the Eagle rule', was instituted by the International Olympic Committee in response to amateurs

like Eddy who only get to qualify because of loopholes of vacant sports. Should the Olympic spirit accommodate amateur athletes who only want to compete for the sake of competing despite their chances of winning? Are such people taken seriously or do they embarrass the establishment? How far can talentless but inspired hard workers actually go? From the movie, I don't know.

Perhaps Director Dexter Fletcher should think about directing a thriller next, as he does do a good job at making you anxious and uncomfortable in the climax of a jump as you wonder if the Eagle will land or break his spine.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Director: *Joe & Anthony Russo*

RATING: **A+**

by **LAURA STARLING**

The UN is calling for the registration and employment of super powered people, making them accountable to something more than their own moral compass. Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) believes this is the right course of action, considering the lives lost due to the battles caused,

attracted and fought by the Avengers. However, Captain America (Chris Evans) believes that the best hands are their own, arguing that world leaders have specific agendas which would prevent them from helping some and forcing them to help others. The

Avengers are split down the middle as to whose side they are on; Captain America's, or Iron Man's.

Soon after this debate, Bucky (Sebastian Stan), the Winter Soldier and Captain America's old friend, is accused of attacking a meeting hosting world leaders discussing this issue. Captain America goes to Bucky's defense, and everything escalates very quickly.

The basic premise very similar to the comic version, but the film is successful in executing the concept believably. The debate between the two sides was convincing and the tension was palpable. I could honestly believe this was group of friends morally disagreeing with each other. Though Captain America is the titular character, it was not entirely in his perspective. While ultimately I agree with him on this one, I can easily see why one would side with Iron Man's pragmatism.

Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen) were both interesting, awesome female characters with their own motivations and interests. I particularly enjoyed watching Black Widow beat the living shit out of multiple people. The Vision (Paul Bettany) was adorable in his sweaters, attempting to cook for Scarlet Witch and emulating humanity.

The fight choreography was well executed and each character had their own, distinctive combat style. The fight scenes featured a lot of dialogue, so you weren't just watching people punch each other for long sections of the movie. There was a lot of room for jokes and humour, which was handled well without taking away from the more serious parts of the film.

Oh and, Spiderman (Tom Holland) was AMAZING - the best version of Spidey to grace our screens yet.





WHY DO WE NEED.. . Cryptocurrencies?

by ANTHONY MARRIS

Cryptocurrencies are a digital money system which promotes transactions between parties bypassing a central fixed point like a bank. Arguably cryptocurrencies are an updated version of the hawala system of money transferring, where money was passed along until it reached the intended recipient. The main focus of this piece is Bitcoin (and bitcoin), though the idea of a digital currency has existed since 1982.

The alleged creator of Bitcoin is the reclusive Satoshi Nakamoto. He has never confirmed his involvement, and there is speculation if the name and the face associated are the same person. Nakamoto's goal was a financial system based on cryptographic authentication and not one reliant on trust (or motivated by greed). According to Nakamoto, the supposed total amount of bitcoin allowed in his system is 21 million units.

Those unfamiliar can be forgiven for not knowing the difference between Bitcoin and bitcoin. Bitcoin (capital B) is the system which facilitates the movement of bitcoins, and bitcoin (small b) is the unit being used in transactions. Think of Bitcoin as a newspaper, and a bitcoin as an individual word on the page.

Bitcoin uses a block of letters and numbers to create a bitcoin (a digital dollar) that relies on other computers to verify if the transaction contains the correct alphanumeric sequence from the payer, the recipient, and the amount sent. These are all collected into a massive sequence called a blockchain. The entire blockchain contains the transaction information relating to all bitcoin spending to date to prevent multiple spending of the same bitcoin. A transaction between parties is only believed to be authentic when the transaction has been analysed six times.

Despite current thinking, bitcoin transactions are not completely anonymous. While the transactions are anonymous insofar as the user and recipient are represented with an alphanumeric combination, bitcoin transactions can be identified and traced back to the user. I am not telling you how transactions can be traced, I am having no part in your money laundering operation.

The authentication system used to verify transactions is called mining. Nakamoto's initial idea was to have individuals use their computers to analyse and verify the blockchain information, and in the process earn themselves bitcoin for their services. However, enterprising individuals banded together to speed up the analysing time allowing for more coins to be mined, and thus more money to be made. These coalitions also take voluntary processing fees to speed up the six time authentication process.

Cryptocurrency like bitcoin sometimes have a real world representation. Casascius coins are minted metal coins containing a piece of paper embedded in the coin with the value amount (1, 10, 25, 100, 1000 bitcoin) hidden under a holographic seal. A bitcoin today is roughly worth \$600 NZD, though it is extremely volatile. At its low it was worth \$0.10 NZD (late 2010), and peaked at \$1813.26 (late 2013). Initial popularity for bitcoin was gained from their use on sites like Silk Road, and later Amazon.

There is no overt consideration towards the mass adoption of cryptocurrency. As Rainer Böhme et al (2015) note, this is due to vulnerability of computer servers from DDOS (Also known as 'doxxing') attacks, but the biggest concern is a repeat of Mt. Gox. In 2014 Mt. Gox, a Japan based bitcoin exchange suspended trading after 850,000 bitcoin "vanished". At the time, Mt. Gox was handling 70-80 percent of global bitcoin transactions. Bloomberg notes that this loss was due to Mt. Gox failing to keep most of the bitcoin they oversaw on an air gapped computer to prevent breaches. The approximate value lost, \$480 million dollars (USD).

The potential that authentication systems which cryptocurrencies use is quite progressive. It could verify real estate ownership, or even be used to authenticate online electoral voting. While I like the development of technology like cryptocurrencies, widespread usage could result in inflation, speculation, or the complete dissolution of a global economy.

TL; DR - Cryptocurrencies are designed to shift away from central banking. Google Mt. Gox and you will see why this is a bad idea.



a bitcoin ATM in the Czech Republic

A bitcoin today is roughly worth \$600 NZD, though it is extremely volatile. At its low it was worth 10 cents

BY THE BOOK

*Writers on Literature & the Literary Life from
The New York Times Book Review*

**EDITED & INTRODUCTION BY PAMELA PAUL,
FOREWORD BY SCOTT TUROW**

by **HAYLEIGH CLARKSON**

Have you ever wondered what authors, actresses, scientists or professors read? If you have, then this book is for you. Pamela Paul, the editor of The New York Times Book Review, has put together a collection of interviews of 65 well-known people, ranging from Lena Dunham and JK Rowling through to Sting and Lee Child. Each person is asked a series of questions about their book reading habits or the books they have published, and Pamela has collated the answers and formulated them into an easy question and answer format for us to read.

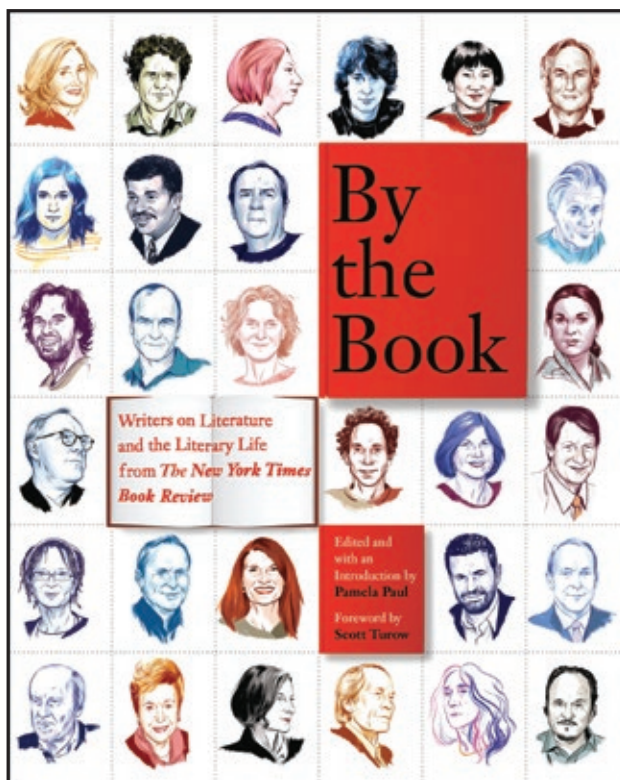
The answers give you a deeper insight into the person, help you understand them and get to know their personality better. Most of the authors come across humble, modest and sometimes a little humorous – with the exception of John Irving. One of the questions to the authors is "of the books you have written, which one is your favourite?" to which most authors reply that choosing just one book is like picking a favourite child, you just can't do it. But John Irving, who came across as arrogant and pompous, took the opportunity to promote his own work and listed no less than five of his titles in his lengthy eleven sentence answer. He also answered the question "what do you plan to read next?" with a very blunt and dull "I plan what I write, not what I read."

Some questions are repeated for each person, for example "what book is on your nightstand now?" and "if you could require the President to read one book, what

would it be?" Other questions are related specifically to the interviewee, for example, Colin Powell, the former secretary of state and national security advisor is asked to recommend a book to a student of government, (his answer is "none, and I wouldn't want to mislead anyone").

It is also a book that will make you feel better about your own reading habits as a lot of interviewees are asked to "name a book that you just couldn't finish" or "what book did you feel you were supposed to like but didn't." These earned answers of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," P.J O'Rourke stunned me when he said his daughter stopped him reading the final Harry Potter novel it was "too much teenage mush," and Dave Barry's perfect answer of "the Twilight series. I can't get past the premise, which is that a group of wealthy, sophisticated, educated, highly intelligent, centuries-old vampires...have chosen to be high school students."

With the questions repeating themselves often, the book can get a bit tedious at times, and it becomes easy to skip the question and go straight to the answer. Some of the interviewees are fascinating people and I felt their questions could have been a touch deeper but overall, it was an interesting read that at times made me laugh, yawn and nod along with their answers feeling that I wasn't as out of touch with literature as I had thought. This is a great book to peruse when you have some spare time.





BLACK SABBATH

—THE END TOUR



by LAURA STARLING

I'm staring at myself in the mirror as I layer on black eyeshadow, heavy black eyeliner and black mascara. I choose the darkest red lipstick I own, and apply to my lips generously. Happy with my suitably dark aesthetic, I pull on my ripped jeans, black tee, torn up flannel and my docs. Do I look the part? Do I look like a Black Sabbath fan yet? Does my pink hair give me away? I ask my husband, he shrugs "you look fine". I'm satisfied.

I remember the first Sabbath concert I went to. I was 20, and I didn't know their music. My then boyfriend (now husband) wanted to go, so together we made our way to Auckland to see one of his heroes perform live. I wasn't expecting to enjoy it – metal isn't (wasn't) really my thing. But the hype, the excitement got me caught up. Shihad opened, it was badass. I remember Jon Toogood excitedly exclaiming something like "I'M OPENING FOR BLACK FUCKING SABBATH! OH MY GOD!" and everyone cheered. Soon Black Sabbath entered. The seated audience stood. War Pigs blew my mind. I was a changed woman – I liked metal now.

The reason I'm so concerned with my appearance is because last time around I tried to attend

in a pink, polka dot dress. My boyfriend insisted I change, and was not convinced by my comments such as "no one will care! They'll be looking at the band. We're seated anyway. It doesn't matter!" I put on black jeans and a black tee. When we arrived at the venue, and I looked out into an ocean of black clothes, I turned to my boyfriend and said thank you.

Black Sabbath formed in 1968 and released their first album in 1970. So this means that they've been going for 48 years. Their last album was released in 2013, and while that was three years ago, and they've had their breaks during their time, it's still bloody impressive. Front man Ozzy Osbourne turns 68 this year. He is known for his bizarre behaviour. Biting off the heads of bats and birds, doing copious amounts of drugs, drinking far too much alcohol, partying like a fucking rock star. He's a caricature. He's unstoppable.

At the moment, the lives of musical heroes seem to be standing on a precarious ledge. Earlier this year fans were devastated by the death of David Bowie, Motorhead singer and songwriter Lemmy within the same month, and just a few weeks ago, Prince. The musical genius' of the

60s, 70s and 80s feel like they're all growing old and falling away. It's surprising when looking at Ozzy's history, that he's still standing. In the taxi on the way to the concert last Saturday, I was discussing this with the taxi driver. "It'll be him and cockroaches" he said. "What?" "Ozzy Osbourne. He'll survive the apocalypse. Him and the cockroaches – and nothing else."

We arrive; I buy a War Pigs tee and put it on straight away. This time we're in standing. This

One of the most influential bands of all time. They spearheaded their way to the top, fast, and developed a new genre

time I'll be in the thick of it, in the atmosphere. It's exciting. There's a mix of old and young attending, but most seem drunk. A lady stumbles towards me as we head towards the gate. My friend comments that the hordes of people ambling towards the venue are like zombies from the Walking Dead.

Black Sabbath is one of the most influential bands of all time. They spearheaded their way to the top, fast, and developed a new genre. There's a grocery list of bands which cite Black Sabbath as a direct influence on their work – everything from Metallica, to Nirvana, to The Smashing Pumpkins – pretty much any heavy rock band since the 70s. Very few bands make it this big and there are even less that can take credit for creating something totally new.

The lights dim. The crowd begins to scream. Up on the big screens a heavily CGI video begins to play. In the centre of a dark room is a black egg. Out from the egg bursts a devil. It screams, twists its head exorcist style, and stamps its foot,

and ignites a fire-y explosion. He breathes fire into the camera, and out of the flames appears the name Black Sabbath. And suddenly, the band is on the stage, and they're playing the start of the song Black Sabbath. Ozzy is in a long black coat, sequins adorning his shoulders. His eyes are thick with eyeliner; his hair is long and glorious. It is epic and ridiculous and heavy handed all at once. It's perfect. The crowd is going nuts.

They weren't always intending to be so dark. Black Sabbath started out as a blues rock band by the name of Earth. However, after being mistaken for another band named Earth, they decided to change. There was a horror film showing at the time, titled Black Sabbath, and the bassist (Geezer Butler), noted that people paid a lot of money to see horror films. Soon after, the song Black Sabbath was written, and the new band formed, beginning down a much darker road than originally planned. Their music infuses rock, blues, jazz with heavy distortion to create their particular sound - and honestly, there's really nothing else out there like it. Even more so, the music was so incredibly different to everything else in the 60's.

Christian circles have labelled Black Sabbath a Satanist band, and while Osbourne denies those claims, stating that he is a member of the Catholic Church, the band has definitely used that infamy to promote their doomy style of music. The Auckland concert in 2013 Osbourne would thank the crowd politely between each song. What really stuck with me was his comment "god bless you" before launching into singing the song God is Dead. It's such a contrast to the image curated by the band - there they all are in their black and leather, and there's the devil on the screen, and here's the dark creepy music with the sinister lyrics... and here's the friendly (although unbalanced) lead singer blessing and thanking us politely for attending his humble concert.

Between songs Osbourne introduces the band members: keyboardist Adam Wakeman,



founding bassist Geezer Butler, drummer Tommy Clufetos, and founding guitarist Tony Iommi. Each member is met with cheers from the crowd, but none more than Iommi. He is considered one of the greatest guitarists of all time, known for his legendary riffs. Watching him play is magical. He smiles and waves a hand while the crowd screams for him.

At the end of the concert there's an encore, obviously. Osbourne makes the crowd chant "one more song" before returning to the stage to play Paranoid. The concert ends. As we're leaving the venue I feel a sense of sadness. As the name of the tour suggests, this was the end.

This was my last opportunity to see Black Sabbath live. Sure, their tour has extended further, and this wasn't the last show they are ever going to play, but it's most certainly the last concert they're going to play in New Zealand. And it was good, but not as good as the one in 2013.

Perhaps I was too sober for the night. I didn't drink. Maybe to be in the crowd, you need to be drunk to deal with the crap, to ignore the creeps. It was a good concert. War Pigs is still my (and everybody else's) favourite.

Goodbye, Black Sabbath. The End.

THIS CLOUD IS QUEERING!

VAL SMITH

Talk & workshop presented by val smith at Blue Oyster Gallery on Saturday
30 APRIL, 2016

by **ROBYN MAREE PICKENS**

"What if you had the agency to take your attention anywhere?" val smith asks. We are in the small back-gallery space of Blue Oyster Gallery on Dowling Street. It is Saturday afternoon on the last day of April. By asking about agency, val is subtly directing our attention away from the traditional performer-spectator relationship, in which a designated audience watches a designated performer on a prescribed set-stage.

"What if the performance was the sound?" they ask. The sound does seem to dominate the space. It is the sound of forced air: a fan, a vent – machine sound. "What if the performance was that wall?" The wall is a repurposed ceiling-as-wall: the plasterboard kind peppered with small regularly spaced holes. val continues to draw our attention to the wall by framing it as a performance. They lead us to touch it, to close our eyes and engage with the kinaesthetic experience of it. In such a way, over the course of this first hour we are encouraged to interact with the objects in our immediate vicinity.

Somatic is the term given to this type of interaction with objects, people, and space and it feels like the right term. This is the second workshop of val's I have attended, and each time they have created a



meditative environment in which traditional cognitive means of perception are suspended. Perhaps the word that comes closest to describing the experience is trance, but finding the right word is precisely beside the point for val. As a dance artist, choreographer and community organiser, val is interested in transforming momentary responses to space, people and objects into movement, not words.

Somatic experiences, improvisation and site-oriented projects are various methods val employs as part of their practice; one focused on the ways in which LGBTQI

individuals and communities navigate heterosexualised space. As the 2016 Caroline Plummer fellow, val has been mapping queer and trans experiences of public space across Dunedin through one-on-one conversation-walks, discussions, classes and workshops.

In somatic experiences such as the one at Blue Oyster, val places emphasis on listening to space: attuning, sensing, waiting. In relation to the concept of queering space – or the politics of living safely and fully in heterosexualised space – val offers the idea of not marking the space (as queer), not

impinging on it in any way. For to do so might involve a queer colonisation of space – and space (the earth), as we are only too aware, is colonised to the point of ecological collapse. In a similar vein, panpsychist philosopher Freya Mathews frames existence as one "without the need for one party to impose itself on, or violate the conativity of, another."

For the first three days of Diversity Week (16-18th May) val smith will be presenting an installation of gender inclusive composting toilets (Union Lawn). All welcome!

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CAMPBELL PATTERSON 3 in 1 2011. [screen capture] Single channel DVD



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BRAIDED BREAD



by **KIRSTEN GARCIA**

My flat "Star Whores" had a potluck for May the Fourth, Star Wars day. As well as supplying Sangria and Pimms, I thought I would contribute some fresh made bread for starters. I totally froth over bread baskets. This dough recipe is so easy to

make because it has very minimal prep. The technique of the twist is straight out of a commercial bakery. I would recommend making this for casual baking or if you had to bring something to share at a gathering. It's really versatile for

fillings as you can make it sweet or savoury.

Usually when I make this I split the dough into two and make a Nutella one and a garlic, herb and cheese one. I'll leave it up to you to put your own spin on it!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/4 cups of flour
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of active yeast
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 2 tablespoons of oil
- 3/4 cup of warm water

Filling Ideas: Nutella! Or a layer of butter with cinnamon and sugar. For a savoury option, try pesto or butter + any combination of cheese, garlic, herbs, onions, peppers, marmite, ham...

In a medium bowl, mix water, sugar and yeast, cover for 10-15 minutes.

Add oil to yeast mixture and stir.

In a large bowl add flour and salt, mix well then add yeast mixture.

Knead for 10 minutes. Dough should be smooth and not sticky.

Cover dough with wet kitchen towel, keep in warm place to double in size, should take an hour and half.

Flour a flat surface. Use a rolling pin to roll the dough into large rectangle about 1cm thick.

Spread desired fillings generously leaving a centimetre around the edge.

Roll tightly from the longer side, Pinch the ends to close.

Leaving one end intact cut the log down the middle with a knife. Twist each side upwards for the filling to be seen.


Braid by twisting one-half over the other. You can leave it as is, or make the two ends meet like ring.

Let the dough rest for 20 mins. Preheat oven to 180C.

Place dough on a lined baking tray. You can brush it with milk or beaten egg so it comes out golden.

Bake for 15-20 minutes until bread has browned at the edges.

■ 45



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his A NORMAL GUY

I came in hot, realistically way too hot. I was honestly too hot about two hours before the date even started. Somehow, I did manage to make it to the date. After a wine and toga themed red card, I was lucky to have made it at all. When I did show up, there was about 5-10 girls there surrounding one table. I didn't think much of it but as soon as I told the waiter that I was there for the blind date they giggled and separated. I remember briefly chatting with one of them but I don't remember what I said or what she said. Finally, I met the one that was my date. I was rather excited for I had never done anything like this but my excitement soon vanished. Immediately I knew I had competition, her phone. Maybe my mind had convinced me of other realities but I thought I was being rather nice and outgoing. But her phone was out a lot and she was doing a lot of texting. I suggested getting food and drinks but she wasn't having it. I was hungry as hell and I went up and ordered. I was not going to let free food slip from my grips. At this point, I started to realise that the technology might be beating me. She continued to look at her phone and our conversation continued to go nowhere. Finally, she just kind of left. I'm sure I must've said something or made that one comment that you would wake up the next morning and be like 'wow I'm stupid'. I wish I could give the details but I just can't remember. My memory of the whole thing is blurred but one moment she was there and the next she just, kind of, wasn't. The realisation that I was alone in the bar took quite a while to sink in. The chicken burger and curly fries had taken over a fair portion of my mind.

After a couple of minutes, it finally sunk in that she was not just in the bathroom or outside for a smoke. It was probably my fault she left so quickly but I wasn't gonna let that bring me down. I saw a couple of mates from uni and we shared the rest of the bar tab together. Looking back, I have fond memories of the evening and day as a whole, but the date, the date was just about as bad as it could've gone. I honestly don't even know her name.

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hers ME & MY FRIENDS

OMG, I was so nervous. After preparing for several weeks and months for the Blind Date the day had finally arrived. After several drinking games and a few dances to classic 90's throwbacks, I was ready to go. I was so amped but way too afraid to go without all of my flatties. We do literally everything together. Like a good McNugget Combo at 2am.

The bar was empty, and I felt so awkward. I had never talked to a boy before. My flatmates squealed when they saw my date, he was really cute. And American! I had to text my friends every single word he said. Thank god my flatmates were still there to help me not make a dick of myself in front of this guy. I needed another drink.

When I came back to the table, my flatmates did the unthinkable and had left me at the table with my date. It was just me and him. What was I meant to do, talk to him? Yucky! I was texting frantically, where did you go, and then rushed to the bathroom and I did what any smart girl would have done, I swiftly called my girls and they were just as quick to pick me up. I immediately felt better in their presence and continued to make a ruckus in my normal state at the BYO they were all going to. We felt happy, like a good McNugget Combo at 2am.

I don't know how American blind dates are said to go but let's just say we had a bit of a culture clash. He was trying to talk to me with his mouth ffs wtf. And he turned up on his own, what a no-mates! But hey, gotta kiss (or not) a few frogs to find your prince right?

Shot Critic for the night - sorry that I couldn't attempt to stay and take full advantage of the bar tab. Maybe next time?

10/10 would not bring a friend.*

* **Critic response - we don't recommend bringing all of your friends, and your mum, and your mum's friend on the Critic blind dates. What are you, 12?**



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President's Column

Diversity Week is here! Running from the 16th–20th of May it includes several events organised by the ever dedicated Hahna Briggs, our Queer Support Coordinator and her team at UniQ. These events are designed to raise awareness and visibility of sex, sexuality and gender diversity on our campus – they are there for you all to engage with and show your support for.

There's something for everyone, including a Queer 101 workshop – to learn how to better create an inclusive environment for our diverse campus. The Queerest Tea Party – where you can decorate cupcakes for prizes and celebrate the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (May 17th). Or even the UniQ Quiz Night on the Wednesday, 7pm Main Common Room, \$20 a team – who doesn't love a quiz night?

If you are a member of staff or a postgraduate university student, Thursday May 19th in the Otago

Room at our Clubs and Socs Centre is the place to be. Queer Friendly Staff Network (QFSN), Staff & Postgrads Nibbles is a great opportunity to learn more about your students that may fit into these minorities, and little ways that you can make their experience here at Otago just that bit better. Things like getting the right pronouns, or knowing which support services are available for queer students are just a couple easy things you can do to signal that you care.

Furthermore, this year we are making all the bathrooms in our OUSA buildings gender neutral for the duration of Diversity Week as part of the campaign. This is with the view of eventually making the ground floor of our Clubs and Socs building permanently gender neutral. It's a simple but effective way to support our trans and gender non-conforming students and to raise awareness about the ongoing struggles of those members of our community. One of the most liberating things about our tertiary

institutions is how diverse the culture is here. You really get a chance to not only learn about yourself, but about how other people are making their way through this journey that is life. This is yet another example of how we get to learn about different groups within our own community and ways we can help everyone feel more included.

Ultimately, we are extremely lucky to be the only campus in New Zealand with a coordinator in our Student Support centre dedicated to queer students, their welfare and their representation. The bathroom campaign is a cool initiative illustrating some of those issues students in the queer community face on a regular basis, and I encourage you to engage with any diversity event you see happening on campus during the week.

Take care,



Laura Harris

president@ousa.org.nz



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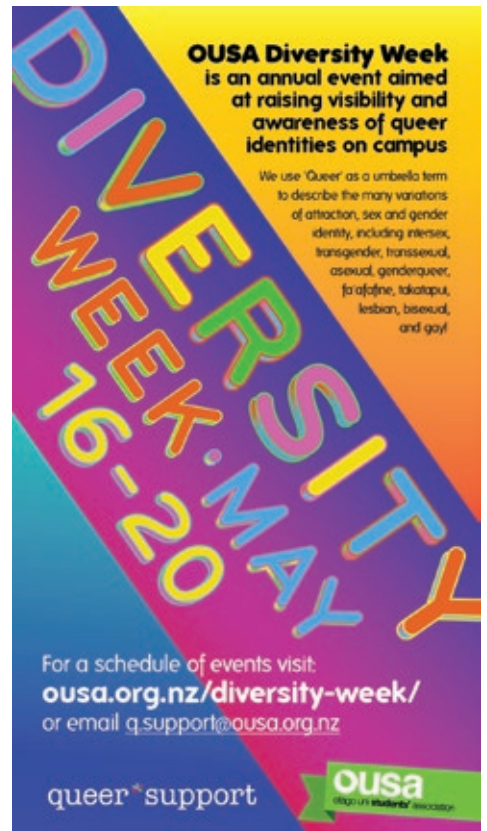
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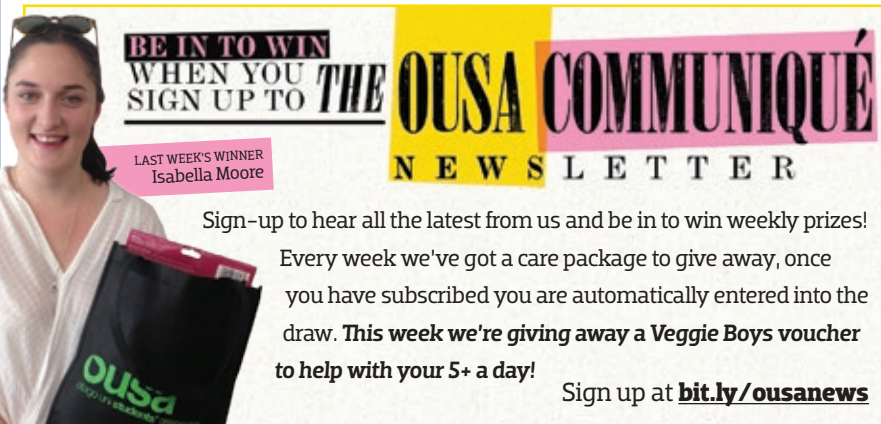
OUSA Diversity Week is an annual event aimed at raising visibility and awareness of queer identities on campus

We use 'Queer' as an umbrella term to describe the many variations of attraction, sex and gender identity, including intersex, transgender, transsexual, asexual, genderqueer, [a]afine, tokatapu, lesbian, bisexual, and gay!

For a schedule of events visit: ousa.org.nz/diversity-week/ or email q.support@ousa.org.nz

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