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ISSUE 14

11 July, 2016



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Issue 14, 11 July 2016



18 Cryptozoology



22 Why Won't Aliens Visit Us



26 Fairies are Scaries

## News

06 News in Briefs

09 Execrable

11 Campus News

13 News

14 Politics

16 Sports

## Columns

30 Insiders Dunedin

31 Out & About in Dunedin

32 David Clark

32 Letters to the Editor

33 Something Came Up

35 Dear Ethel

35 Vitalogy

46 Love is Blind

## Review

### Art

44

38 Music

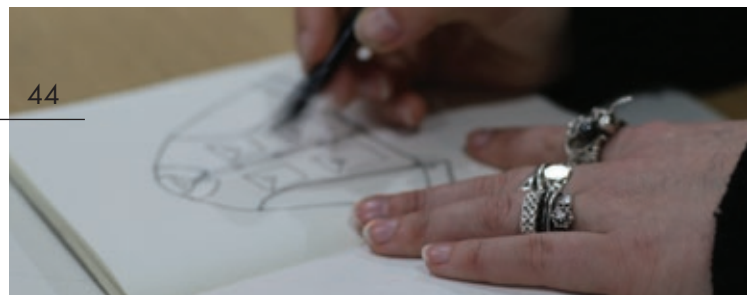
39 Technology

40 Film

42 Books

43 Games

45 Food



Apologies to **Fynn Campbell Bowden** who was uncredited in *Critic's* previous issue. Fynn illustrated our awesome cover for Issue 13. Cover credit for this issue: Lucy Hunter

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News Editor **Joe Higham**

Chief Reporter **Henry Napier**

## Design

Technical Editor **Tash Murachver**

Features Designer **Ceri Giddens**

## Section Editors

Books **Hayleigh Clarkson**

Games **Campbell Calverley**

Technology **Anthony Marris**

Film **Nita Sullivan**

Food **Kirsten Garcia**

Politics **Joel MacManus**

Music **Millicent Lovelock**

Sport **Sean Nugent**

## Contributors

**Sam Mendes, Alex Campbell-Hunt, Jessica Thompson, Connor Fry, Sam Fraser-Baxter**

## Production

Online Content Manager **Aman Jamwal**

Distribution **Ross Nicholls**

## Advertising Sales

**Elaine Byron, Peter Ramsay**

## Read Online

[critic.co.nz](http://critic.co.nz)

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## Get in touch

[critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz)

[lucy@critic.co.nz](mailto:lucy@critic.co.nz)

[facebook.com/critictearohi](https://facebook.com/critictearohi)

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## Bigfoot or Adulterous Hairy Local?



Kia ora and welcome back!

I hope you all enjoyed your break and you're feeling a little refreshed or a little fresh in the warmth of a Dunedin winter. If the heating in your flat doesn't work all too well this time of year I highly recommend a box of beers or bottle of wine to warm the soul.

This week in Critic we've got a few features to do with Cryptozoology. For those who are unfamiliar with the term Cryptozoology, it is the search for creatures like fairies and mermaids or hominids such as Bigfoot and the Waitakere Yeti.

Watching clips on YouTube of those from organisations such as the Bigfoot Research Organisation or the United Bigfoot Research Society froth over videos of what appear to be a man or woman walking around in a bigfoot costume is something that I encourage you to do if you've got a spare minute or two early in the semester.

The first sighting of the hominid "Bigfoot", or as he's known in some parts "sasquatch", came in 1811 in a small Canadian town named Jasper.

I have absolutely no doubts that this first sighting of Bigfoot was actually an incredibly hairy, naked man in need of a shave, out back of the town knocking boots with a young lady that wasn't his wife. Once startled I'm sure he decided to run off to deny any accountability.

Since that day, I believe those with any sense of humour have decided to play on that alleged sighting, drawing large footprints in the snow and running around the far distance in monkey suits hired from the local parties supply store.

But that's just my uneducated opinion. If you're after a more informed opinion then I highly recommend that you turn to the feature on Cryptozoology by Anthony Marris (page 18) for an in-depth look at the history of these creatures.

As for your first week back I hope you enjoy all that is on offer this Re-O! I have absolutely no doubts that those lecture theatres will be full each morning this week!

On another note, today I saw our 'devout' resident vegan, Joe putting cows milk in his coffee...More on this next week.

**Hugh**  
Critic editor

## World Watch

### London, England

The Chilcot Report, an independent inquiry into the UK's involvement in the Iraq War, has been published six years after it was originally intended to be published. The 2.4 million word report is devastating for former Prime Minister Tony Blair's reputation and legacy, and contained private notes to George Bush stating: "I will be with you whatever." Blair remained unrepentant in its aftermath despite undoubtedly being a war criminal (the author's personal opinion, not *Critic's*).

### Florida, USA

A six-month-old baby girl, named Zyla St Onge, has broken the record for the world's youngest water skier after travelling 209 meters on her own behind a boat. Zyla's father asserted that she could have travelled even further if the boat hadn't reached the end of the lake.

### Luxembourg

McDonald's has won a court ruling in the European Union's second highest court preventing any business prefacing their food or drink products with 'Mc' or 'Mac' following a Singaporean company naming their coffee 'MACCOFFEE'. Maybe if they hadn't shouted it in the first place McDonald's wouldn't have even heard them.



### Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brazilian scientists have discovered a drug-resistant bacteria in some of Rio de Janeiro's most picturesque beaches, including where several events are planned to take place. The discovery is particularly significant because of the impending Olympic Games that will be held there in just a month's time, as well as the already problematic presence of the Zika virus, which has caused some athletes to withdraw completely from competing.

### Järna, Sweden

A Swedish footballer has been sent off for farting during a match between Järna SK reserves and Pershagen SK. The referee awarded Adam Lindin Ljungkvist a second yellow card for what he described as "deliberate provocation" and "un-sportsmanlike conduct." Ljungkvist said: "I don't get it, maybe he thought I farted in my hand and threw the fart at him. But I don't know."

### Liuzhou, China

Lushan College has been purchasing a truck load of ice each evening for students to cool down as temperatures have been reaching 35°C and complaints have been made by students as to a lack of air conditioning in student residences. According to the institution, they have bought 28 tonnes in total.

### Bangkok, Thailand

An Asian elephant, named Mosha, who lost one of her front legs when she was just seven months old is to receive a prosthetic limb. The prosthetic is her ninth in ten years, which is largely due to the fact she weighed 1,300 pounds when she was wounded, and now weighs over 4,000.

If you put a camel and a horse next to each other, you will find they are identical

The word "deposit" is disgusting and should not be allowed

A plaster, made by melting rosin and adding to it equal parts, each, of honey and powdered camphor, spread upon a flannel and worn around the throat for several days is effective

Camels are baby horses

Leaves can be folded up to make tiny hats

The average four-year-old asks 40,000 questions per day

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Keep out of Dad's shed. He needs quiet time



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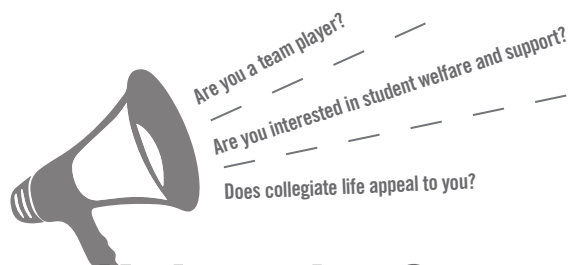
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## **You're welcome Laura: Critic informs Executive members of Beijing travel plans**

OUSA President Laura Harris will be away in the Chinese capital, Beijing, for three weeks from Saturday July 9, meaning she will miss the first three weeks of second semester.

Harris was selected for a leadership scholarship by Otago University, which will take place at Beijing Normal University. According to Harris, it will bring together "leaders from universities all over the world to improve our leadership skills and to work collaboratively on a research assignment."

Harris told Critic that she "emailed the entire executive with the news [of her trip] over a month ago... wrote about it in my president's column in Critic... [and] outlined my expectations during my time abroad at the most recent executive meeting." However, correspondence with other members of the executive on the provision of anonymity has uncovered disillusionment towards Harris in relation to their knowledge of the China trip. Two executive members informed Critic that our "email is the first time I... have had

certainty around the dates that the President will be absent." One continued, noting Harris' email only said: "I was accepted for a leadership scholarship to China for three weeks in July." The respondent stated that, "with the President going on leave for 3 weeks during such a busy time of year, you would expect clear communication about such a trip."

Another member spoke of disillusionment after "she informed particular executive officers before others (in some instances weeks apart) [which is] completely inappropriate. She had multiple opportunities to make our team aware of her trip and chose not to."

This saga is seemingly a continuation of the fractious first semester that the OUSA Executive experienced. The relationship between Laura Harris and Jarred Griffiths became increasingly sour despite originally running on a joint 'Real Change' ticket at last year's OUSA executive elections. A statement released by Griffiths last semester noted that, "Laura and I have had a

personal falling out and have struggled for several months to communicate with each other. This breakdown in communication stems from a range of personal issues."

This breakdown has spread to include and affect the rest of the executive, and thus has inevitably impaired their ability to work collaboratively to advance the student interest both locally and nationally. Griffiths pointed to "closed door meetings, scheming and personal attacks" being present within OUSA's executive. Indeed, last semester, rumours began circulating that Griffiths was organising a coup against Harris, although he quickly absolved himself from that movement.

With Harris abroad, presidential responsibilities will ironically be placed with Griffiths. Harris assured Critic that she will continue to work "in small part" on behalf of OUSA throughout her absence from campus.

**by Joe Higham**

## **New proctor supports Hyde Street, already student favourite**

After his predecessor was in the job for a brief four months, Dave Scott was appointed as his replacement, a job he considers a "once in a lifetime opportunity." Despite there being a host of similarities between his previous role in the police force and his new role, he told *Critic* that it is the camaraderie in the police that he will miss the most. He explained that, "in the police you're in a tight group of people often working in challenging environments so you're always making good friendships and good bonds with people", adding that, "after a 10 hour shift you probably know them [your workmates] better than you do your wife." Let's hope she isn't reading this article...

When asked whether he would favour a hard-line approach to tackling student misbehaviour or prefer a more compassionate approach, he diplomatically but rather predictably noted that

he will deal with each case on its merits, as you "simply cannot have a predisposed way to deal with anything without understanding what it is you're dealing with beforehand because there are always other factors involved." He went on to accept the universal rule that "young people will always make mistakes" so he won't be "smashing walnuts with sledgehammers." "I intend to be fair and reasonable, but my main thing is to make sure the student has learned from the experience, so they will go away from Otago University a better person."

Six weeks into the job, Scott is still learning the ways of the role. He is eager to meet other staff at the university, "work collaboratively with other student services... [although] at this stage it's a case of learning how everything works without stepping on anyone's toes." Additionally, he is "getting to know Campus Watch, working

with them and understanding what works well and what doesn't work so well in order to develop the service", with this being something he will actively work on in the foreseeable future.

Scott put himself forward to be Police Forward Commander of the Hyde Street Party following the 2012 event, in which a roof collapsed injuring several. His response to the question of whether he supports the Hyde Street party continuing into the future was meet with, "wow, that's a loaded question!" After highlighting the uniqueness and unusualness of the event, the party's focus undoubtedly being of binge-drinking above anything else, and the contribution of OUSA and other organisations to the safety of the event, he concluded that "my support there would continue."

**by Joe Higham**

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**REORI**  
13-18 JULY

## From an ABBA tribute band to opening for Sam Smith

With Broods playing as part of the Reorientation festivities next Monday we thought we'd take the opportunity to sit down and chew the fat with Georgia Nott, who makes up one half of the brother sister duo, to talk ABBA tribute bands and life on the road!



**You guys are down here for the start of the semester, are you hoping to get in and amongst some of the festivities or is it all business no play for you guys?**

Well I'll have to look at the schedule, but we've got so many mates that have gone down to Dunedin, so it's always nice to see those people who we just literally never bump into anymore because everybody's just doing their own thing! But it's so cool down there, the vibe is so different to any other university in NZ and it's always so cool to play down there. But usually we will go out after and then I will realise that I'm just so not equipped to going out and I'll head home.

**It's been a pretty crazy last few years for you guys and if I've done my research right I believe that you guys have gone from playing in an ABBA tribute band to opening from some pretty big acts such as Sam Smith and Ellie Goulding. How has that transition been?**

I don't know where the rumour of being in an ABBA tribute band came from! It's been like a really big game of Chinese whispers! At the start we just said "yeah sure, let's just stay we were", but we were never in an ABBA tribute band sadly. We did like covers and stuff when we were younger and played in pubs and churches around Nelson... But it was when we decided to show people what we were writing that we really got some attention, people seemed to like what we were creating and everything just sort of sparked from there! And now we're touring around everywhere with these crazy acts!

**Is the life of the touring musician everything you expected it would be, or is the reality a bit more of a drag, travelling to all these places and living on little sleep and a busy schedule?**

There are definitely times where it's just like woah another big day! But everything that we do is what we've always wanted to be doing and a lot of people don't get to spend every waking moment on something that they love. But we do have those really shitty days where we're so tired and we haven't had any sleep or when we've just got off a flight, we're hungry and we're not allowed to eat because we've got another interview. But you just have to take a step back and realise that holy shit we're doing something we love and that we really can't complain about anything.. I guess you just have to take the good with the bad and appreciate that anything worth having doesn't come easy.

**When you talk about travelling around on those tough days with little sleep or food, surely travelling with your sibling has lead to some toys being thrown out of the cot on occasions? Have there been a few tears or a few words said on the road that have lead to apologies later on?**

For us having each other to lean on is so much easier, like if we had to do this by ourselves I think we would be a lot less sane! We also have our cousin with us too who drums for us and for us family has always been the priority growing up. It also makes it a lot less intense actually when you do have those crazy days you can kind of let yourself go and nobody gets offended.


We're all family and we love each other.

**I believe that you also have two younger sisters and an older brother? How was it that you and your brother Caleb came together to form Broods? Were there family auditions set up by your parents? Or where you two the standouts in the family?**

They're actually all insanely good. Our two younger sisters are just incredible in their own right. We actually wanted to be the Corrs when we were kids, that was the dream. But for Caleb and I we were the closest in age growing up and we were both so into music and our parents saw that we both worked so well together so they sort of sneakily paired us up!

**I see that you guys have just recently moved to Los Angeles! How is life in Los Angeles for two Kiwis such as yourselves trying to crack it in such a big fast and competitive market?**

We're really lucky that there's a lot of Kiwis and Kiwi musicians that we have connected with over there! We keep real close with those people just because it is such a different culture and just remembering who we are and where we come from and who we want to be is just such a large part of that. When you have other people who are like-minded and who have come from the same background it just makes all the difference, especially when half the people can't understand you! **Broods are playing here at the Union Hall, Monday 18th July** by Hugh Baird





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## A Brit on Brexit

The U.K. is set to dismember itself from the EU after a referendum which saw 51.9 percent of the public vote to leave.

The aftermath has been turbulent. The pound fell to its lowest point since 1985, and the global economy is tilting after US\$ 3 trillion was wiped off world stock markets – the largest two-day decline ever. The PM, David Cameron, resigned on Friday abruptly, ending his six-year reign and kick-starting a Conservative party leadership contest. Furthermore, Labour is in the midst of a vote of no-confidence in Jeremy Corbyn, the opposition leader.

The future of Britain remains unsure for now. The Conservatives will begin selecting a two-person short-list for PM, which will be presented to party members to make a final decision. It's thought that Boris Johnson, former London mayor, is the most likely successor. No matter who takes the lead of Britain, the presidents of the European council have called for Britain to leave quickly in order to avoid prolonged uncertainty.

Along with new uncertainty about Britain's future position in the world comes concern about Scotland's uneasiness with the Brexit vote. Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish National Party, has stated that, "the UK that Scotland voted to remain within in 2014 doesn't exist anymore." Scottish Secretary, David Mundell, said that Scotland would hold another independence referendum if the people wanted it, but cautioned that such talk isn't helpful so soon after the EU vote. Sturgeon has gone on to state that she wishes to protect Scotland from, "deeply damaging and painful consequences" but she did not, "in any circumstances" want to see Scotland leave Britain.

In order to leave the EU, the PM must invoke 'Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.' Article 50 sets in motion a two-year legal process of formal withdrawal, granting the U.K. time to negotiate the terms of its exit.

Until the U.K. leaves, the status quo will be maintained. The impact of Brexit will primarily be determined by how terms are negotiated and subsequent laws the U.K. may enact within its new found "freedom". Due to fears over further EU-exits, there is growing concern that the EU will negotiate exceptionally hard, hoping to make an example of those who would leave.

In the wake of Brexit, division among citizens remain as stark as ever. In the lead up to the referendum, tensions were high. Racism and bigotry have been rife; so has misinformation and deception. But, perhaps worst of all, the country has opted to begin tearing itself apart by failing to hold rational discourse and opting towards party allegiance and ad hominem criticism between citizens. All of this came to a point when Labour MP Jo Cox died after being shot and stabbed in Birstall. The man charged with Cox's murder has since given his name in court as, "death to traitors, freedom for Britain" and that just about says it all. The quieter, well-mannered, and mature of Britain have found plenty of space for productive conversation.

Life isn't always about making the right decision; more often, it's about making the decision right. While some are feeling crushed, and others rejoice, all that we know is that we are all yet to see whether this is the right



decision. Whether leaving is a good move depends on the outcome, regardless of what people think is or isn't (was or wasn't) likely to happen. Irrespective of whether leaving is optimal, leaving can be done optimally. However, it will require immense work on the part of everybody. The winners have had a weekend to celebrate and now they must continue to be engaged and willing to work. Equally, those who lost have had time to nurse their wounds. This is not the time to go to the pub and wait for it to all blow over, it is a time to show every ounce of support you'd ask for if you won.

Only one thing is certain: Britain will not get through this by tearing itself apart. Division, hatred, and disengagement are the enemies of progress. So, before Brits look towards manoeuvring through these times as responsibly as possible, they must remember that exercising democracy is a time high emotion and immense passion. The U.K. needs time to heal, recover, and process. Whether one feels patriotic or largely indifferent, the U.K. is still one nation. The U.K. is a community and will likely persist as such, so it ought to act as such. Brexit has been an example of the improper use of the tools of democracy. Democracy is best exercised collectively, with rationality and dispassion where possible. This is the public duty.

by Kirio Birks

## Donald Trump is losing to himself



Recent reporting on the financial and organisational state of the Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton campaigns show a historically unprecedented divide in resources and planning that could very well lead to a landslide election.

Hillary Clinton boasts 823 paid staff around the country, \$42 million cash on hand, and between her campaign, the Democratic party, and her affiliated Super PACs, raised over \$70 million in the month of May.

Trump, by comparison, has just 20 paid staff, \$1.3 million cash on hand, and raised a total of \$4 million last month.

And this matters. Trump's tightwad approach has survived so far by dominating news media and drowning out his opponents. That may have worked for the primary, where voters largely agreed on the issues and Trump won by having the loudest voice, but the General Election is a completely different box of frogs.

Both candidates are shackled with historically high unfavourable ratings, and these are extremely hard to change. But at least Clinton has the ability to do something about it. Her campaign has spent \$22 million in the last few weeks plastering swing states with ads focusing specifically on her personal history, with a specific focus on the Children's Health Insurance Programme, her defining achievement as First Lady, which insures around eight million kids living in poverty.

Trump has yet to respond in any way, having spent \$0 on ads so far, and as of yet making no moves to reserve ad space for the future. While he continues to get plenty of media exposure, it's just not the same thing. You can control the messaging of your own campaign, you can't control the media. As a result, Trump's slight lead in the polls has fallen to a near double digit deficit in just one month.

Election campaigns can be boiled down to a simple game of attempting to win a series of news cycles. So far, Trump has shown himself to lack the media discipline required to stay on top, committing numerous unforced errors. Last week, Hillary was interviewed by the FBI and Bill Clinton made a major fumble by meeting with the Attorney-General, which some saw as evidence of collusion. That should have been a bad cycle for Hillary. The right move for Trump would be to stay out of it, or maybe lightly pile on. Instead, he got himself in a whole bunch of trouble by retweeting an image from 4chan which depicted Hillary Clinton with a pile of cash and what appeared to be a Star of David, which some interpreted as anti-semitic. That in itself was not yet a story, but then he deleted the tweet, and put out multiple statements attempting to defend himself by claiming it was a 'Sheriff star'. It then became a story with legs, and started to overshadow the Clinton scandal.

That's the kind of media relations

incompetence you get when your opponent has an entire department dedicated to communications and your staff is literally one 26-year-old girl and a twitter account.

It's even reached the point where the campaign has shown such incompetence that even would-be rivals are annoyed. Obama 2008 campaign manager David Plouffe was quoted saying "He's not doing basic things. It's not that complicated. It's so offensive as a practitioner". Of course, Hillary Clinton probably doesn't mind.

by Joel MacManus



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## Messi in a mess

A Barcelona court has found Argentine and Barcelona football star Lionel Messi, and his father Jorge Messi guilty on three counts of tax fraud.

The court rulings come after the prosecution had argued that both Messi and his father, Jorge used tax havens in Belize and Uruguay as well as shell companies in the UK and Switzerland to avoid paying taxes that totalled €4.1m.

The court sentenced the pair to 21 months in prison, although neither is likely to serve out any of their sentence.

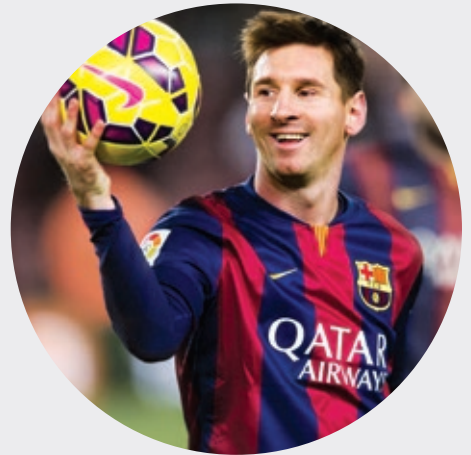
In Spanish law, a tax prison sentence under two years can be served under probation which

means that Messi and his father are unlikely to see in the inside of a cell.

Messi has also been ordered by the court to pay a fine of 2 million euro, while his father Jorge was ordered to pay €1.5m.

Barcelona FC subsequently issued a statement in support of their star player. "The club, in agreement with the Government prosecution service, considers that the player, who has corrected his position with the Spanish Tax Office, is in no way criminally responsible with regards to the facts underlined in this case."

Messi's legal representatives argued that his client had no knowledge of his tax affairs. The



sentence also reflects the fact that he had no previous criminal convictions and that he had paid back the money owed.

Forbes has ranked Messi as the second highest paid athlete in the world, banking an estimated \$81.4 million through his salary and other endorsement deals.

**by Hugh Baird**

### Around the grounds:



Basketball  
16 July—Men's Varsity A vs. Men's Varsity A2  
*Edgar Centre (court 3)*



Rugby  
16 July—University A vs. TBA (Semi-final)  
*TBA*



Netball  
14 July—Uni Albion A vs. Physed A  
*Edgar Centre (court 6)*



Women's Hockey  
16th July—University vs Taieri  
*Hockey Turf*

Men's Hockey  
16th July—University vs. Albany  
*Hockey Turf*

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# ABOMINABLE STORIES

Giant snakes, tiny people, alien cats and mermaids - Anthony Marris discusses the possibility of animals living just out of regular human sight.

**C**RYPTOZOOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF hidden and mainly mythical animals that mainstream science pays little attention to. Mention cryptozoology in a conversation and people automatically deride you, if they know what the word means. When you can be bothered explaining that it is so much more than the Loch Ness Monster and the Yeti, do not expect a positive response.

This topic is far too expansive for in depth analysis. The scope will be confined to some of the stories that exist, and an exploration of the psychological human need to believe. If you think the topic is hokum, which is a fair and reasonable assessment, then turn the page and forget about it. Those still remaining, let us continue before the trolls unleash with a barrage of straw men arguments.

## The same but different...

George M. Eberhart, author of "Mysterious Creatures: A guide to Cryptozoology" (2002), lists fifteen categories of non homo sapiens which includes Giant Hominids (Yeti, Bigfoot), and Little People (Fairies, Elves) in his compendium on cryptozoology. Eberhart treats the subject with seriousness, with detailed descriptions and even provides intelligent reasons for why eyewitness accounts could be flawed.

Giant Hominids are notable for their stature (from 2.1m-3m), the human like gait, and hairy bodies. They are humanlike but not human. Two of the most commonly known are the Yeti and the Bigfoot. The Yeti (or Abominable Snowman) originates in the Himalaya region of South Asia. It stands between 165 cm to 230 cm, is covered in either dark grey or reddish brown hair, and weighs between 90-180 kg. The Yeti is said to have a flat nose, long hair covering most of the body and a high pointed head. Eberhart noted that the available physical evidence of Yeti is fake: one alleged scalp is from a Himalayan goat-antelope, and a "Yeti hand" consists of the bones of a snow leopard.

Along similar lines to the Yeti is the Bigfoot (or Sasquatch) of North America. With an average

height of 225 cm, and weighs 300kg, this large bipedal is mainly nocturnal. With a similar build and colouring to the Yeti, Bigfeet (the plural of Bigfoot) are said to eat berries, rodents, and leaves. Eberhart noted that the alleged population of Bigfeet is around 1500 - 2000. One of the most famous discoveries of a Bigfoot is Patty, a female filmed Bluff Creek, California in 1967. Standing between 190 cm and 220 cm tall, Eberhart notes that she would weigh approximately 245 kg. The eyewitnesses Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin stumbled across her while looking for Bigfoot tracks. In total, Patterson shot the 952 frames of footage. Eberhart commented that the area was popular with trigger happy campers who would love to fell a Bigfoot. If it was a hoax, then great risk was taken by those involved.

One of the most recent sightings of Bigfoot does make me wonder. Posted on Youtube channel Bigfoot Evidence, it shows what appears to be a Bigfoot spying the camera operator, then collecting its child, and moving away from the unknown danger. Another Youtuber, Thinker Thunker, analysed the footage and believes it to be real based on the unusual gait and facial features. I believe there are explanations for both points. The strange gait could be due to the terrain, and the facial expressions the result of clever makeup artistry. Thinker Thunker saw the mother/child interaction as a calming action to prevent the child from crying out, rather than a playful one (assuming the footage is real).

On the opposite end of the size scale in hominology we have the Little People. Standing from a few inches to about 120 cm, Little People include fairies, elves, and dwarves (not to be conflated with human dwarfs), and are attributed with supernatural gifts. Eberhart describes Fairies as attractive with some minor deformity that is not easily hidden, known for being cunning and tricky, vengeful if crossed, and more commonly seen by children than adults. Fairies are believed to be common in Ireland, Scotland and Norway. Perhaps a group of Little People existed in history, which time has transformed into the winged, mystical beings in our cultural memories. Or, as Eberhart suggests, they may be the hallucinations of fantasy prone individuals.

“Sharing the world has never been humanity’s defining attribute.”

One of the most common fantasies of the desperate, lonely, mostly male explorers of the sea is that of a beautiful woman. Yes, it's Merpeople time. Merbeings have been associated with myths in all cultures, either having part human features or taking human form at some point. There are 29 different merbeings. The most common is the Mermaid or Merman, a creature with the human head and torso. Eberhart notes that merbeings are able to assume full human form and go ashore, and to bask on rocks and entice sailors to run aground. Merbeings are still in our social consciousness. Many viewers were convinced by a 2013 video clips of an alleged mermaid sighting in Israel. Youtube comments include "I think they're so ugly that is why they hide from people", and "I'm pretty sure the government is sure that they exist. Nobody can say they don't exist unless you have looked through every part of the ocean [sic]". The Animal Planet docufiction "Mermaids: A Body Found" (2012) and its 2013 sequel succeeded in convincing masses of people that merbeings exist.

Nope. Nope. Nope.

Giant snakes. Zoologist Bernard Heuvelman notes in his book, "On the Tracks of Unknown Animals" (1955, 1995), Major Percy Fawcett claimed to have shot and killed a 19 metre long anaconda on an expedition through the Amazon in 1907. The body of the one he shot was 30cm wide, but locals informed him that this was apparently not the largest snake seen.



A photograph taken in The Republic of the Congo in 1957 seems to show a snake attacking a flying helicopter. If the photograph is to be believed, the snake measures 60m, based on the shadows of the termite mounds. There is a short clip posted by Mai Magby showing a snake which is apparently seven to eight metres long, the head close to a metre wide. The flies do add some credence to it being an actual snake. Which is cool, scary cool, but cool.

Another common cryptid sighting is Alien Big Cats (ABCs). These rogue cats have been reported

## If it was a hoax, then great risk was taken by those involved

all over the world. They are usually jet black in colour. The mystery of ABCs in NZ prompted Mark Orton and Pip Wells to produce a documentary "Prints of Darkness" (2007). In an interview with Investigate Magazine, Orton concluded that it was possible for big cats to roam around the Canterbury, North Otago region, and that potentially there was more than one ABC, given the differing accounts of fur colour from witness descriptions. There are possible explanations for the how ABCs could wind up in New Zealand: they could be the result of illegal importation of big cats, animals escaped from a circus, or descendents of those cats imported to combat pests during the 1900s.

Freelance filmmaker Geoff Mackley has posted a clip showing a large cat walking in Canterbury in 2011. As a voice off screen comments, "It's [expletive deleted] huge." The crew come across animals tracks which measure approximately nine cm, making that creature about the same size as

a mountain lion. For now, the closest thing to we have as proof for the sceptic is a feral cat found dead in a trap near Lake Wanaka in 2013. The cat was black, with a muscular body that measured nearly a metre in length (not including tail).

## Pics or it didn't happen...

One of my greatest criticisms of cryptid discoveries is the evidence. Or, rather, lack of. Eberhart notes how with eyewitness accounts of cryptids, most people either decide the tales are absolute fact, or absolute falsehood. Our reactions could be the result of our education, the environment where the tale is being told, or knowledge that eyewitnesses can get things wrong. We tend to remember what we believe, not exactly what happened. Other mitigating factors like weather, light conditions, stress, confusion, fear, the need to believe what was seen, age, language barriers, and confirmation bias can alter a person's perception and memory.

Given the prominence of video cameras, you would think that credible evidence would not be a problem today, and up to a point it is not. Spend any amount of time on the Dark Side of Youtube and you can start believing anything. However, much of the video "evidence" is captured by those who have failed to work out the basic function of a camera (it's called landscape for a reason), or have the physical ability of a caffeine addicted child to hold it steady. Case in point: "Leprechaun caught on tape" (Amazing Mystery Videos, 2014). Squint hard enough and you might be able to make out a creature of unknown origin. Like many videos of its kind, this one is shot in low light, from far away, with poor resolution. Apply those characteristics in the real world and even I start looking attractive.

The technical wizardry we have now to make onscreen dragons, giant fireballs, and add buildings into cityscapes is astounding. These cinema quality effects look believable on the high definition big screen, so presumably anyone with Photoshop, eight hours, and a need to troll could come up with a plausible looking video and dump it on Youtube.

But humans were fooling each other long before photoshop was invented. One of the most famous hoaxes was believed authentic by Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes (a character ironically famous for his powers of reasoning). The Cottingley Fairy pictures were five photographs taken by Francis Grifford and Elsie Wright, aged nine and 16 when they began the hoax. Two were taken in 1917, the remaining three in 1920. Doyle should have been the strongest sceptic, but his interest in spiritualism lead him to champion them as genuine. It was not until 1983 that the girls admitted that they were a hoax, although both girls claim the fifth photograph was genuine.

## I want to believe...

Humans have always had a belief system in a higher power. This is used to help explain the creation of the earth, to justify actions against a race or people, and to limit potential future misdeeds. Will M. Gervais argues in his paper "Perceiving Minds and Gods" (2013) that humans moderate their behaviour based on the perception of them from others, as well as the perception of them from the higher power. Humans intuitively believe that others have a mind, because we as an individual have a mind which allows us to constantly make assessments from the stimuli presented. For example, witnessing the pacing and the tonal changes in speech patterns during a conversation can indicate the type of relationship between the parties.

One possible explanation for why some believe in the existence of cryptids can be attributed to selective perception. This is where behaviours exhibited by individuals in relation to an event is determined by the underlying belief systems as well as external factors (like participation in groups). One example is if a group of hunters go out looking for a Bigfoot and hear a crash in the forest, they believe it to be their quarry. If a group of bird watchers go out and also hear the crash, they might attribute it to a dead branch falling. This phenomenon is utilised by advertisers. When an attractive person is displayed alongside perfume, the suggestion is that by buying the

# We tend to remember what we believe, not exactly what happened

perfume, it will make you just as attractive as the model/actor used to sell the product.

Cryptozoology has always had a presence in popular culture pitting protagonists against cryptids. Recently, television shows like "Sanctuary" and "Primeval" both feature fictional teams investigating cryptids in the modern day. The popular cryptid Lizard Man (not to be confused with Lizard people à la David Icke, see page 24) was in episode three of the latest season of the "X-Files" played by Rhys Darby. Darby's character Guy Mann made some clever points about humans reacting to his kind, echoing those of renowned professor Charles Xavier. Professor X once stated while talking about mutants, "Since the discovery of [the mutants'] existence they have been regarded with fear, suspicion, often hatred. Across the planet, debate rages. Are mutants the next link in the evolutionary chain or simply a new species of humanity fighting for their share of the world? Either way it is a historical fact: Sharing the world has never been humanity's defining attribute."

While I just cited a fictional character, the underlying message stands. If the existence of other previously un-thought of animals was discovered, would we as society be able to accept it? I would like to hope yes. If the opportunity came up to spend my life (and someone else's money) searching for cryptids, I would happily do it. Not to capture or kill, not even to record and share my findings. Just so I know I have seen them.

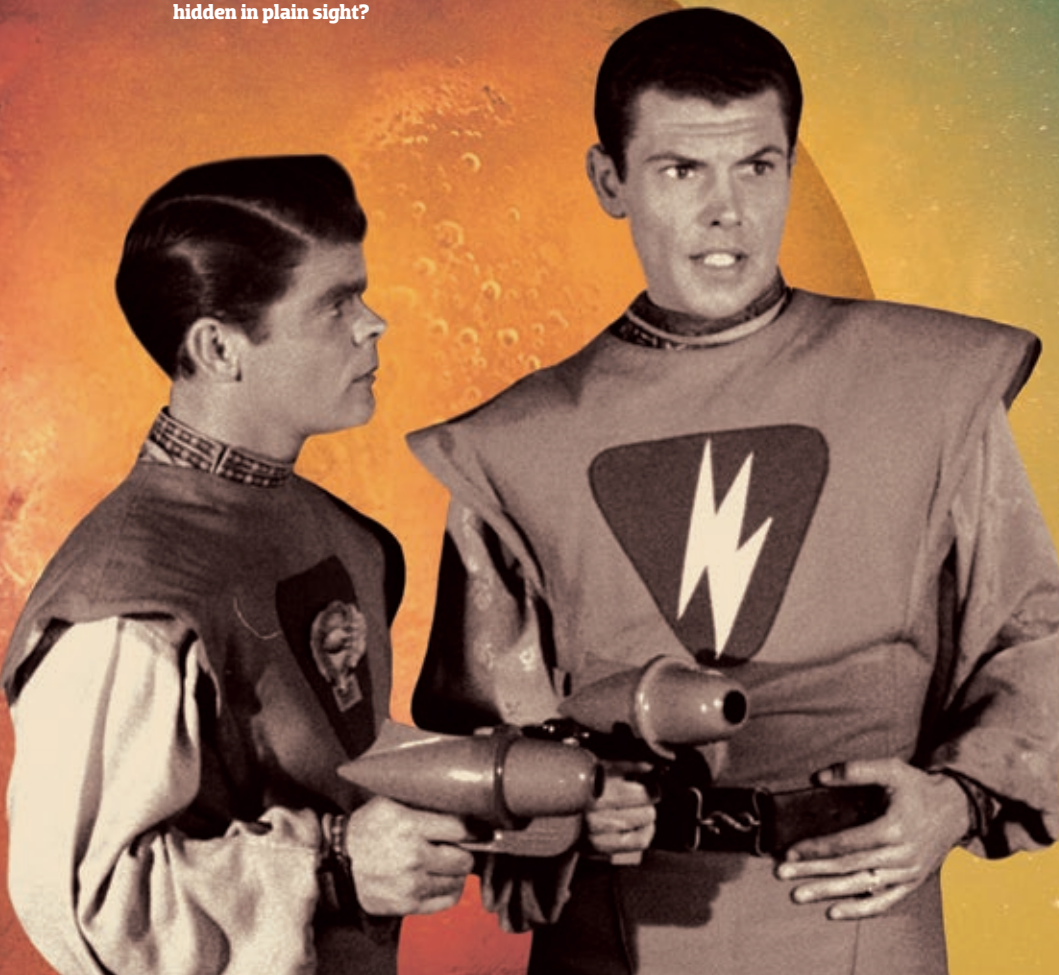
Nothing else. Given our track record of using weapons to wage one sided battles, and that we purchase goods from companies which ignore (and promote) human rights abuses on top of polluting the world, my doubts are many.

To conclude, this piece is merely a collection of stories which are no more or less plausible than any of the other myths and legends read and studied all over the world. In the same way that economics creates theories to explain changes to behaviour in the financial sector, cryptozoology tries to merge biology, anthropology, and zoology by selectively choosing which discipline it yields towards. I like cryptozoology and could spend hours talking about the potential unknown as well as systematically refuting the "evidence". I also know that if I saw a seven metre giant snake while walking in the Amazon, my immediate reaction would be joy quickly replaced by bowel opening fear. Cryptozoology is not a science, or even a pseudoscience. It is a journey believing in the unknown and unseen, based on questionable evidence and supported by an abundance of "proof".

**TL; DR – Cryptozoology is the belief that a group of animals and hominids exist which mainstream science chooses to ignore. The proof in support of this is questionable at best, and most video evidence lacks definition to be credible. You either believe it or you do not.**

# WHY WON'T ALIENS VISIT US?

Since he was a child, Connor Fry has dreamed of aliens visiting Earth. Is it possible there is intelligent life out there? Could they come to our planet? Have they been and gone? Or are they here, hidden in plain sight?



**"SO I'M CERTAINLY NOT A REPTILE. I've never been in a spaceship, never been in outer space, and my tongue's not overly long either."**

In 2014 a fellow human-being submitted an Official Information Act request for proof John Key wasn't a reptilian enslaving us, and he denied it. Which is exactly something a shape shifting alien would say. In fact his "people" (reptile minions) took the entire thirty working days allowed before they responded. It was rejected on the grounds that there was no information concerning whether or not John is a Illuminati-Reptilian-Alien intent on enslaving New Zealand and bending us to his will.

'Brother John', as his Reptile brotherhood probably refers to him, insisted he had been cleared by a doctor and a vet as not being a shapeshifting reptile-hybrid. Some of the more 'woke' among us questioned whether he said this with a forked tongue.

But really. What are the chances that aliens even exist?

When I was a wee ankle biter, as I stared out my window up at the stars, I hoped for some intelligent extraterrestrial being to swing by to say 'hi'. None did. My imaginative child's mind found the idea that space isn't simply space entertaining. Space Jam had dispelled any notion of humankind sitting alone in the universe. Could there be aliens out there, could they be friendly, or are they already here—are there giant lizards running the world disguised as humans? This is a serious question for many people, and one I will elaborate on later.

While sitting on the edge of this impossibly vast, incomprehensible grandeur one might feel compelled to exclaim (to the universe in general), "where is everybody?" If you have a look at some astrophotography you'll realise two things; first of all how sick does astrophotography look, and second of all there are in fact quite a few stars hanging out in the Milky Way Galaxy. Personally I don't believe that aliens (extraterrestrial) are landing on our doorstep anytime soon, that they have already, or that they even exist. What I do know for certain is that I am definitely not an alien and I am unequivocally not writing this in order to dispel any suspicions that I am one. I'm not.

Right now a child somewhere is staring at the night sky pondering like I once was. In the discussion of whether or not there is intelligent life hanging out far across the galaxy, one name in particular pops up. The name's Fermi, Enrico Fermi, and he has his own paradox. It follows a pretty linear train of thought: The galaxy has lots of stars, like our sun, and a lot of planets some of which are kind of like Earth, most of them are also a lot older than our own Sun and Earth. Some of them could very well foster intelligent life, given the time and means by which to cruise across the galaxy. By Fermi's calculations, the aliens should be here already. Alas, it seems no one has bothered to pop into our solar system for a chat.

Here is the paradox: count to a million and do that a million times. You've counted to one billion. Do that again 200 more times and

then double your final answer for good measure. 200-400 billion: the number of stars that live in our galaxy. Our galaxy is 13.21 billion years old. Now let's pan out for some perspective; our Earth is 4.5 billion years old, humans are a teeny 200,000 years old and civilisation reaches back circa 6,000 years or so. Thus we construct a case for the existence of life beyond the final frontier that would have had considerably longer than humans to mature and develop a means to traverse the stars, why then have they not bothered to visit? Is it due to a critical point at which intelligent civilisations simply die out or fail as many human civilisations have done before? Or is it possible that everyone else has come and gone? Because humans, let alone recorded history, is so new we've missed the party entirely, everyone else has died out.

**BY FERMI'S CALCULATIONS, THE ALIENS SHOULD BE HERE ALREADY.**

If some aliens had amassed great civilisations, built their pyramids that doubled as galactic shuttles, gone places and presumed

# THEY FEED OFF HUMAN ENERGY, PARTICULARLY THE ENERGY OF CHILDREN.

ably done things, these civilisations could have gone the same way as Rome. Either by way of war, turmoil from the inside out, or disagreement in politics and ideologies that heralded a downfall, human civilisations, intelligent civilisations, have in the past generally followed a progression of becoming great then at a critical point failing. Today's world is globalised, but conflict in ideologies, famine, war, economy and natural disaster still pits nation states against one another. Star Wars is an apt demonstration in how a galactic empire could crumble from the inside out. So perhaps these aliens have fallen into disarray, civilisations risen and fallen. Or maybe they just haven't been around for a very, very long time.

The Earth is relatively young compared to other things in the universe. Our planet formed nine billion years after the Big Bang, many planets formed before ours, and have had a massive time advantage when it comes to starting life. And with countless stars that are far older with numerous elderly planets in tow, theorists have queried the possibility that if our Sun and Earth are so new, could similar solar systems have harboured life long before our planet even existed? Tie this thought to humankind's development over time: human civilisation has developed exponentially since fire making was discovered, the wheel, agriculture, recorded history, government, economies, machines, industry, and now the digital age and computers, knowledge and information is blooming at an ever increasing rate.

As a person from a thousand years ago would be unable to comprehend the modern day if they were to step into it, are we so sure we could ourselves, a thousand years in the future? Intelligent life maturing thousands, or many millions, let alone billions of years

before humanity should have developed technologies of vast complexity and power. Magnificent displays of art and culture. One of the answers that has been put forward to counter this conundrum, aside from some kind of Galactic Empire imposing a gag order on the rest of the Milky Way communicating with us, is that everyone is long dead and gone. Everyone else has gone extinct.

In 2011 China began work on the largest radio telescope ever created. It is being constructed in the Guizhou province and is planned to be finished later this year. The project, named 'Fast' for 'Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope', aims to find evidence of alien life throughout our galaxy and beyond. The project has also displaced 9,000 local villages because the scientists would like some peace and quiet in their gratuitous electromagnetic wave environment. Classic Communist party.

It's not just devout Atheist-Marxists on the quest, the rest of the world is also playing its part. Collectively known as SETI; the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence is broader than you may imagine. Electromagnetic radiation from space has been monitored since the early 1900's with the advent of radio. NASA's Kepler space telescope has found over a thousand earth sized exoplanets—planets which orbit around a star other than our Sun, sitting in or around their host star in a zone ideal for nurturing life—and over three thousand further candidates. Because it observes only a tiny portion of our galaxy it's estimat-

ed over 40 billion of these Earthly exoplanets float in our galaxy orbiting stars within the habitable zone, 11 billion of which orbit stars similar to our own. NASA's Discovery Programme is poorly funded but still the quest for evidence of extraterrestrial life around the world goes on. But what if everyone looking up is simply looking in the wrong direction, maybe we should be looking beside us, out the corner of our eyes.

Ok. So. They live among us. Cue X-Files theme music. Everybody loves a good theory, and we all love a good conspiracy. It's not about whether or not it's rational, instead it's whether it's plausible—If we look at it from a very particular angle. Does it cater to the imaginative? The emotional? People love it. David Icke has demonstrated just how deep this lust runs. Icke has convinced thousands of people that the world is run by lizards disguised as humans. Reptile people. Obama's a lizard, the Queen's a lizard, and if Helen becomes the secretary general of the UN it's probably because she's a lizard. Icke, an ex-footballer, journalist and self-proclaimed second coming of Christ, once predicted the world would end in 1997. Nineteen years later he has become a bestselling author and the single biggest threat to our Illuminati-Reptilian-overlords. In Dave's words:

"In simple terms there is a predator race which take a reptilian form, they're feeding off humanity. They've turned humanity into a slave race. They demand human sacrifice, that's where Satanism comes in. They feed off human energy, particularly feed off the energy of children..."

He's the man whose followers prowl the internet telling the sheeple to open their eyes, and he's cracked it. Our entire reality is a lie, instead we are perceiving a façade broadcast

# U.S INVASIONS? IT'S THE REPTILES. THE U.N? REPTILES. OUSA? PROBABLY REPTILES.

into our brains from the moon. Yes, the moon. The Illuminati's own death star/state of the art radio studio. The lizards arrived at the dawn of humanity from the Draconis constellation. For this to make sense, don't think too hard about the hundreds of light years between the stars in Draconis. The lizards are clearly from Draconis because "Draconis" sounds kind of like dragon, Draconian, and Dracula. Once on Earth the reptilians started having sex with humans as their vibrational incompatibility with our dimension does not allow them to exist here for long. So they need Reptilian hybrid spawn in positions of power on Earth. These include members of the 'Illuminati' and various occult societies, as well as members of the Rockefeller and Rothschild family trees, the Queen, and of course Obama, the puppet president of the US. They want to dominate us because they are evil, and need to feed off our energy. The fall of humankind outlined in Genesis is supposedly ample proof of the beginning of our enslavement, the Serpent didn't want to just tempt Eve into eating the fruit, it's a metaphor for the reptilian's seduction of women, who would go on to bear Illuminati lizard hybrids, bloodlines to be controlled and rule the world through.

Icke has successfully published over twenty books outlining the Reptilian threat, every plan and goal, family trees and the names of heads of 'secret societies'. In a 2013 census by a U.S polling firm it was found that four percent of registered voters in the U.S believe that world leaders are Reptilians dictating

the course of humanity, bending our every choice to their will. A cold-blooded agenda. The other impressive thing about David Icke's elaborate conspiracy is that it seems to involve every other popular conspiracy ever conceived. 9/11? You guessed it - Bush, because he's a reptilian. US invasions? It's the Reptiles. The UN? Reptiles. OUSA? Probably Reptiles. Icke has spent twenty years researching, writing and picking up followers who are more than happy to contribute to the Reptile resistance. Open your eyes. They walk among us. Dude. Also we need to stop sending kids to school, it's just another form of state control eroding the influence of parents and programming kids' minds with what 'they' want them to believe. Totally, maybe the reason we have not yet encountered alien life is because they encountered us first and enslaved us.

Enrico Fermi's paradox is valid, some of the explanations people have attributed to it less-so. Maybe in the next decade China's gigantic metal ear will hear something interesting, maybe it won't. In size our galaxy is unfathomable, and the Universe infinitely more-so. The poorly funded search for habitable planets, extraterrestrial organisms, and non-human intelligence will continue to ask "where is everybody?", but as humans stare further into space one explanation remains: maybe nobody wants to talk us. It may also be time to consider whether you are a victim of intergalactic occupation at the hand of your pet lizard ■





# fairies are scaries

**Laura Starling** finally uses her weird knowledge of folklore and fairy trivia for something mildly useful – a feature for a cryptozoology themed issue of Critic.



Fairies (or Faeries) are a massive part of our popular culture. The first image that comes to the minds of most people is of Tinkerbell, or perhaps the fairy godmother in Cinderella. Fairies are seen as cute, pink, little people who exist to help and serve humans. They're magical creatures, who use that magic, again, to help people. Take a gander through the toy section of the warehouse and anything related to fairies are what we'd perceive as girly and princess-y. Look around a knick-knack store and you'll find little girls in pink dresses sitting on flowers, or perhaps a topless woman with wings sprawled across a toadstool.

When people think of fairy tales, they think of something unrealistic, silly and fanciful. The ideals of fairyland aren't applicable to us, because everything in fairyland turns out okay in the end, something which is hard to achieve in real life. It might appear that Snow White is dead, but a kiss from her true love brings her back again. This Disney-fied perception of fairies is prevalent to the point that people complain about the more dark and gritty modern fairy tale films marching their way through theatres currently. However, fairies and their associated lore have a much darker and scarier history than we give them credit for.

Pick up a Grimm Brothers book, for instance, and take a look at the fairy tales we know and love now, and how they were originally told, and loved back then. You'll find that the Evil Queen in Snow White didn't just want her heart as proof of her death, rather she wanted her liver and lungs to eat. Snow is seven-years-old when the prince falls in love with her supposedly dead body, and chooses to take her body back home with him. She returns to life when she's accidentally dropped and the apple is dislodged from her throat. The Evil Queen is forced to dance to death for the entertainment of Snow. Cannibalism, pos-

sible necrophilia and torture – these are all staples of old-school fairy tales.

But the scariness does not begin nor end in the tales told to children. Historically, fairies were not viewed as helpful little creatures, but rather something to fear. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of magical creatures thought of as part of fairy which are described as specifically trapping and victimising humankind.

Kelpies are creepy, shape-shifting horse creatures which supposedly resided around Scottish bodies of water. They were said to lure humans onto their backs before carrying them to their deaths in their associated lake. Almost every lake, pond and body of water throughout Scotland has an accompanying Kelpie story. Leanan Sidhe is a beautiful female muse, which drained the life of those who loved her, causing the early deaths of the male artists she inspired. The Leshy is a creature which roams the forest, able to shapeshift to any appearance, size and shape. It mimics the voices of loved ones to draw humans astray, before devouring them. These fairies don't typically meet the standard modern day view of the creatures.

"Fairy ring" is the common name for a naturally occurring ring of mushrooms. In folklore, these rings are dangerous things. Folk tales warn people not to enter or mess with fairy rings. In some parts of western Europe they're said to appear as the result of fairies dancing. People could enter the ring, and find themselves trapped, dancing for a lifetime, and invisible to the outside world, unable to escape. Other lore suggests that anyone who enters a fairy ring will die young.

Even if the historical perception of fairies was a fair bit darker, why is it even relevant? Because people believed in fairies. Some still do.



There are those that believed in fairies as mischievous but potentially helpful creatures. The butterfly-sized garden fairy is something that came about in the Victorian era. One of the most striking examples showcasing the potential for belief in fairy kind is the Cottingley Fairies photos. Photographers Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths set up some shots of themselves with paper cutouts of fairies in the early 1900s. While looking at the photos now it's fairly obvious that these fairies are not real creatures, at the time the photos were taken, many believed them to be proof that the little folk truly did exist. One of the most enthusiastic believers in the photos was none other than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of Sherlock Holmes. He saw the images as undeniable proof that fairies existed, and had many different experts examine the images in order to prove their authenticity.

The Fairy Investigation Society started up in 1927, and the members were made up of people who believed in fairies. It was active up until just before the Second World War. After about 10 years of inactivity, The Fairy Investigation Society was started up again in 1950 – with over a hundred members, including none other than Walt Disney. In 1955 a census of fairy belief was conducted by the society – although the report has never been published in English. The society died down again in the 1990s, only to be brought back into existence in 2013 by the

writers for the website Fairyist. However, the members of the current society are not limited to believers alone, and extend out to people who are merely interested in fairy folk and lore. The new society conducted their own fairy census of sightings in 2015, and the findings are available to read online.

The belief in fairies can be seen as an explanation for a great number of bad things unexplained by science at the time. Someone has suddenly taken a turn and are dying of an unknown disease? Perhaps you stepped into a fairy ring unwittingly. Natural and climatic disasters? The fairies are fucking with us. Mysterious epidemics among cattle? Gotta be another one of those dastardly fairy curses.

However, as there is with most beliefs, there is a much more sinister side to the story. Along the same vein as explanation for unknown phenomena, the sudden change in attitude, mood or health of a person could be seen as the result

of a changeling. A changeling is when a fairy abducts a person, replacing them with a fairy, using magic to appear exactly the same as the person. Physical abnormalities and disabilities in children, such as the inability to walk and talk, were often seen as characteristics of changelings. Other qualities of changeling children were incessant crying, refusal to settle, unusual facial features or limbs, and constantly feeding without satis-

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faction. Quite often the changelings are referred to as appearing withered compared to how they were before.

There are a number of reasons given for fairies stealing a human child. It could be to steal a pleasant human child and get rid of an ugly fairy baby, to feed on the mother's milk, to punish disrespectful humans. Perhaps it was because the child was so beautiful that the fairies wanted it for themselves. In Scottish Folklore in particular, the human baby was given as a tithe to the devil.

The methods to reveal changelings range from amusing to abusive. If a child was suspected to be a fairy, a mother could trick it by pretending to cook a family meal in an egg shell instead of a pot. Such an action would confuse the fairy into saying "Acorn before oak I knew, and an egg before a hen, but never before have I seen an egg-shell brew dinner for harvest men." The fairy would then flee, and the stolen child would be returned.

However, on the other end of the spectrum you have examples such as holding the baby over a hot stove on an iron spade or holding the child underwater. There are cases of parents killing children in attempts to rid them of fairies. One particular case was in Ireland in 1826, when Anne Roche drowned the four-year-old boy, Michael Leahy, who was unable to either stand nor speak. Roche had been doing a ritual of holding the boy under water for three days, and on the third she held him under too long, resulting in his death. In court she insisted that she was merely trying to drive out the fairy inside of him.

The case of Bridget Cleary in 1895 is particularly distressing. After her health mysteriously declined and after attempting many herbal and medical treatments for her illness, her husband, father, and five other people tortured and burned her to death. Later, her charred body was found buried in a shallow grave on the edge of the property. The people involved with her murder were charged with manslaughter, rather than murder, because they adamantly believed that they had killed a changeling, and not the human woman Bridget Cleary.

## There are cases of parents killing children in attempts to rid them of fairies

Folklore, fairies and fairy tales are a part of a large and rich oral tradition. They inform our stories and narratives even today. The stories told often teach parable-type lessons and warn children of dangers. They're entertaining and magical, scary and exciting. It's important to understand how these tales have shaped numerous cultures and lives over the centuries. Everywhere

across the world you will find folklore and the hints of fairies. Even in Maori tradition there are fairy-type creatures by the name of Patupaiarehe. These fairies are described as pale eyed, skinned and haired creatures which would dwell in mist, playing flutes and would kidnap women.

But, there is always the horror of what people do in the name of their belief. Fairy tales have informed a massive amount of rich, interesting and complex parts of culture around the globe. The truly sinister and terrible comes from what humans have used that culture to justify ■

## RDC

by Sam Fraser-Baxter

Alleyways are traditionally those dark, seedy, urban pathways you want to avoid. They mean trouble. They're typically the go-to for shady people carrying out shady dealings. However, when you walk past an alleyway mysteriously lit with blue fairy lights, curiosity will probably get the better of you. After a few twists and turns, this George Street alleyway leads to RDC, an intriguing car park cafe.

RDC is short for Rez de Chaussee, French for 'Ground Floor'. The cafe's interior feels like something between a wine cellar and a basement lounge. The low roof inside gives the cafe a sense of intimacy and seclusion. RDC is just a stone's throw from the Dunedin's main street, but when you visit you almost forget you're in at the heart of the CBD.

RDC is outfitted with a range of beautiful, retro furniture. The cafe's decor is eclectic, but not cluttered. A rabbit is perched next to the counter, an ancient Chinese teaset rests upon a cinderblock book case and a Tintin cut-out grins at you from the front door. Just being inside RDC is as interesting as getting there.

One of RDC's highlights is its coffee. The coffee is roasted by Wendy, the owner of RDC and the Fat Cat roastery. Her award winning blend has been eight years in the making, which stands testament to its impressive flavour. It is a full-bodied, medium to dark roast with chocolatey tones throughout. Unlike some blends, it is very consistent, holding its flavour in the cup until the last sip. Wendy also bakes all of the cafe's food – a delicious range of scones, bagels, muffins and cakes.

RDC feels genuine. It's not trying to be anything other than it is. It's hardly signed on the street and Wendy admits that its low-key, understated vibe is an integral part of the cafe's charm. The cafe is open from Monday to Friday, 7am-3pm. So go for an adventure, look for the blue lights and see if you can find one of Dunedin's hidden gems.



## THE TROPICS IN THE ARTIC

by Hugh Baird

If you're a little bored and in need of something to do to fill the hours at the start of the semester then head on down to the Otago Museum. If staring at ancient artifacts aren't really your cup of tea then why not check out some of the awesome interactive exhibitions such as the Perpetual Guardian Planetarium or the Discovery World Tropical Forest.



### The Sky Tonight

The Sky Tonight is a live presentation inside the planetarium that will give you insight into the sky above Otago at night. If you've ever looked up at the stars and wondered what the hell you were looking at then this is for you.

Students \$10, 12.30pm and 2.30pm, daily  
11.30am and 2.30pm, weekends and holidays  
45 minutes long

### Discovery World Tropical Forest

The Discovery World Tropical Forest is a hands on look at the world around you. Discovery World Tropical Forest is also home to the Tropical Forest which is home to exotic butterflies, colourful orchids, chirping finches, giant banana palms and other rainforest dwellers. The enclosure stays at about 28 degrees and 75 percent humidity year round which means that if you're sick of you're cold and crappy flat, why not go sit in the enclosure for a couple of hours?

Students \$10, Open from 10am-5pm



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## OTAGO SPCA

By David Clark

Otago SPCA's area is the largest in New Zealand. It stretches from the Waitaki River north of Oamaru down into parts of Southland. The main buildings used to house and care for animals are in Opoho, not far from the Alhambra rugby fields.

They have a small paid staff, but the organisation's reach goes a long way beyond them. One hundred and fifteen volunteers do everything from dog walking to visiting the elderly in hospice. They provide education to children, supervise community service placements, work with Women's Refuge to house animals temporarily displaced by domestic violence, and work with at risk and special needs people. Dozens of these volunteers are tertiary students. You may know one or two.

The SPCA also microchips, immunises, hospitalises, cares for, and re-homes animals.

Caring for the vulnerable, including animals, is the mark of a humane society. Locally, this service is under threat. Buildings used to house animals are past their use-by date, and need replacing. Around \$1.5 million is required to replace five buildings with three new ones. The existing animal buildings and laundry carry the threat of disease and must be sprayed regularly. They were fit for purpose when built 70 years ago. The new buildings will house educational facilities, storage and laundry, and dog and cat facilities.

The SPCA is a not for profit organisation. It runs on the smell of an oily rag. None of the board members are paid. Yet the organisation has professional obligations. It is obliged by law to prosecute animal abuses, but has no Government income to sustain that. Somehow it continues to do important work in and for our community.

Fundraising has begun in earnest with the first pledges coming in, but there is a long way to go. Without generous community support, the organisation will not be able to guarantee the safe and disease-free housing of animals in need, and will be obliged to close its doors.

Animal welfare is something that should concern every citizen. I am keen to support the SPCA as it sets about the task of replacing its facilities and would be keen to hear from any students (or staff!) keen to get involved in fundraising efforts. Ideas, and accompanying energy are welcomed. I look forward to hearing from you.



## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### Cafe Albany

Could someone please tell me what the hell is wrong with Cafe Albany? Do they purposely go out of their way to try and butcher their products to an inedible state? Fettuccine pie? Really? Why not heat it up in the microwave also? But its okay... Im happy as a student to pay \$9 for a microwaved piece of fettuccine pie with my limited funds each week. And don't even start me on the coffee.... It tastes like burnt piss.

—Green Acorn supporter.

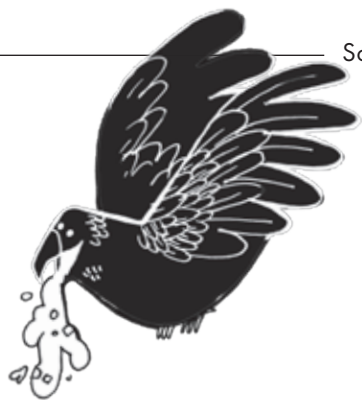
The letter of the  
week wins a \$30  
BOOK VOUCHER  
from the University  
Book Shop

### Hominoid sighting in Woodhaugh Gardens?

Kia ora *Critic*,

I was just looking for a forum that I thought I could look for other like minded people. Only a few weeks ago after picking up some Willowbank chicken and chips I decided to wander home via the Woodhaugh Gardens. Then, to my absolute amazement out of the bushes came a man that at first I thought just needed a good wax and a set of clothes. I stood there in a state of wonder, fixated on this hominoids every move. He took a few steps closer, looked us dead in the eye and then turned down and looked to his left where he stumbled across what I can only assume was a sizzler left on the garden barbecue. The great hairy beast then devoured the cheesy beef and pork morsel and slithered back into the bushes.

Now I'm not to sure whether or not this was in fact Dunedin's very own Yeti or whether this was just that Castle Street frother that lost touch with reality a few years back. Thats why I wanted to notify anyone out there that me and a couple of other like minded people will be meticulously scouring the Woodhaugh Gardens this Friday at 3pm. We're meeting on the corner of Queen and Inverleith, bring your Dolphins.



## IT'S A B-ITCH

by Isa Alchemist

It's not as if you can say to your flatmate/classmate (pharmacists and doctors in training though they may be) "can you take a look at this?" You can't even scratch it without diving into your clothes and having it look like a desperate solo attempt at sexual gratification.

Thrush has a more scientific tag, *Candida albicans*. A yeast, apparently. I can be guaranteed a visit from thrush after a course of antibiotics for infection. Bacteria and yeast/fungus compete for pieces of your bits. The anti-biotics slay all the bacteria, allowing the thrush to multiply and thrive unchecked. The result is a fiendish itch and sometimes a "creamy cheese discharge". The literature says that thrush also likes to visit people who wear nylon or tight fitting underwear, when females are having a period or during hormonal changes.

At least these days there are a variety of fixes. A capsule you can swallow, which saves me fiddling around "down there", called oz\_ole. It always works

for me within half an hour. Magic! Although some medical reports say it can take two to three weeks to kill off the avian invasion. These days it's considered OK to use a steroid cream, like hydrocortisone, which takes away the itch within minutes. The best way to scare off thrush is to coat a penis in antifungal cream. Cream filled applicators are used over three days, or at half the strength and twice the mess, six days. The final option is pessaries, which are like little footballs, made of antifungals, to be inserted manually into the vagina.

The symptoms of an itch and discharge, from either a penis or a vagina, are similar for thrush and the sexually transmitted infection (STI) Chlamydia. Chlamydia is a bacteria, so if you have applied the anti-fungal recipes over a few days, and the itch/and or discharge persists, or is worse, there is a chance it could be a STI. Chlamydia treatment is very simple, two little tablets swallowed together, but it does require a prescription.

Valid from 4-19 July 2016

# Re-Orientation Week Specials

**\$5 off every purchase of:**

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## Residential Leaders (RLs) Wanted!



**Applications close  
20 July 2016**

## Calling for Applications for Residential Leaders at Salmond College for 2017

We are looking for people who are or have been tertiary students, have had success in organising people and events, who are able to relate well to others and preferably who have had experience living in a residential college.

This exciting role is wonderful for your own personal development, is a valuable addition to your C.V. and includes both on-going training and professional development.

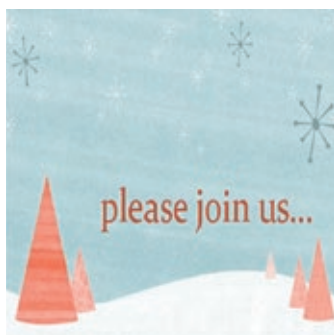
This is a paid part-time position of 34 hours per fortnight.

For a copy of the Position Description and information about the application process, contact the Head of Salmond College, Maurie Jackways (email: [head@salmondcollege.ac.nz](mailto:head@salmondcollege.ac.nz); or visit the College website: [www.salmondcollege.ac.nz](http://www.salmondcollege.ac.nz)

# RA HAYWARD COLLEGE

Find out more about  
the role by coming to  
our Information Night  
**Tuesday 26th July, 7pm**  
**Hayward College**

Pick up Application Packs  
now until **1st Aug** at the  
College Admin Office  
or email:  
[hayward.college@otago.ac.nz](mailto:hayward.college@otago.ac.nz)



**WEDNESDAY 20 JULY**

## MIDWEEK MIDWINTER

### Join us for a Midweek Midwinter Shopping Evening

Celebrate the chill in the air with a warm welcome at the University Book Shop. Our now annual midwinter shopping evening is a lovely place to catch up with other book loving friends in an unhurried atmosphere. With friendly and knowledgeable booksellers on-hand to help you with recommendations it's a great place for book-groups, writing buddies, and friends, flatmates or family to meet.

See you at the UBS!

*RSVP not neccessary to attend but helpful for catering*



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## MIDWEEK MIDWINTER

At the University  
Book Shop

378 Great King Street

Wednesday 20 July 2016  
5pm-7.30 pm





## COMPASSIONATE CONSIDERATION

Dear Ethel,

I've just found out my mum is really sick, with possibly only a few months left. I want to drop out and be with her but she says she wants me to keep studying. Only I can't focus and what if I have to go home during exam time? What can I do?

-Tom

Dear Tom,

So sorry to hear about your mum. That's a truly awful situation. We are sending you a big SSC hug and hope that you might drop in to have a chat about this in person if you feel up to it. I'm not sure what year of study you are in, but that might be something worth factoring into whatever decision you make.

These situations are different for different people. For some, study can be a helpful distraction, for others, they are 'frozen' and unable to concentrate on anything. Then it's a matter of balancing up what your mum wants from you and what you want. What action would carry the least regrets for you? You may want to confer with trusted family members and friends to get the advice of people who have known you (and your mum) for a long time.

It does not necessarily have to be an 'either/or' situation. There are provisions within University policies for exceptional circumstances. These range from special consideration for assessments and/or final examinations, to withdrawal under exceptional circumstances. To get special consideration for internal assessments you will need supporting documentation. Talk to each of your lecturers or paper coordinators if you haven't already. Let them know what is going on for you so that they are aware that you may need some extra assistance.

For special consideration in final examinations, the decision is made by the Examinations Office. The important thing for finals is that the 'impairment' needs to have affected you within 14 days of your exam and your application for special consideration has to be submitted no later than five days after the last exam you want special consideration for.

We'd be very happy to talk through the various options with you in person. Feel free to drop into 5 Ethel B or get in touch through [help@ousa.org.nz](mailto:help@ousa.org.nz).

It's also really important to look after yourself at this time. Eat well, get plenty of sleep, exercise, and spend time with friends.

Whole lotta love and hope to see you soon,

-Ethel xox



## DEGENERATES (MEN TO AVOID)\*

Proud young adults embarking on a University degree will soon be wanting to find a mate to join with in holy matrimony. I hear young ladies are now attending the University, and they in particular will need stern guidelines on choosing a husband who will not turn out to be a degenerate.

The man who has what is often termed a "bad eye" or a crafty expression should be shunned, as he will surely lead any woman who marries him a miserable life. Sometimes these eyes are fierce, often restless, while the eyebrows have a tendency to lower. Notice them when their possessor meets strangers or people he does not like, and the evil spirit back of the eye will be apparent, although otherwise well hidden.

In any city or town one had not far to go to find young men with a more or less slouchy gait, low forehead, chin narrow, jaw widening rapidly until it becomes prominent under the ear, eyes near together, and generally restless, receding forehead and chin, back of head almost in line with the back of the neck, etc. Such a man, even though of pleasing address, will prove to be cruel, - if a workman, likely to engage in strikes and frequently out of work.

They are degenerates in whom the natural mental qualities are illy developed and who are sadly deficient in that most important of all qualities, self-control. They are like an engine without a safety-valve or balance wheel. They may run all right for a time, but trouble is sure to come before long. So it is with the degenerate. He may make a fairly good appearance for a time, but it is not in him to do well. He, too, will cause trouble.

To a careful observer, the signs of degeneracy are always apparent, and such persons should be shunned for companions and especially avoided when matrimony is the end of the companionship.

\*This information was taken from Vitalogy, a real medical book published in 1923 and sold in New Zealand. This column is for entertainment only and should not be taken as advice by anyone, ever.

PROF'S WOOD & RUDDOCK

# Keep it down!

Partying tonight? Excessive noise at your next party could be costly.

Turn it down and avoid noise control hassles.

- \$263 seizure fee
- \$31 per day storage fees
- \$500 infringement fine (for severe excessive noise/repeat offences)



[www.dunedin.govt.nz/noise](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/noise)



## WELFARE TEAM POSITIONS - 2017

Selwyn College invites applications for one or more of the following positions on the 2017 Welfare Team:

### SELWYN COLLEGE *Te Maru Pūmanawa*

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the:

**Information Evening to be held in the College's Senior Common Room at 6.30pm on Thursday, 21 July.**

For further information, contact the Warden (Dr Neil Rodgers): [warden.selwyn@otago.ac.nz](mailto:warden.selwyn@otago.ac.nz) (or phone 4773326 – Option 4). Application packs are available from the College Administrator (Mrs Sarah Spruyt) [admin.selwyn@otago.ac.nz](mailto:admin.selwyn@otago.ac.nz) (or phone 477 3326 – Option 1) Applications, guided by the requirements listed in the Application Pack, should include a covering letter, CV and the names of 2 referees, and should be addressed to: The Warden, Selwyn College, 560 Castle Street, North Dunedin, DUNEDIN, or via email to the above address.

#### Dean of Students

The Dean of Students will be responsible for co-ordinating and supervising the Welfare Team. They will also take responsibility for the welfare of residents on their Floor and for liaising with the Selwyn College Students Association Committee. A post graduate or senior student (5th/6th year) would be preferred. The Dean of Students will be provided with rent free accommodation and a stipend of \$10K p.a.

#### Senior Tutor

The Senior Tutor will be responsible for assessing the in-house tutorial needs of the College, recruiting suitable tutors and scheduling/monitoring the tutorial programme. They will also take responsibility for the welfare of their Floor. A very well organised, academically capable senior student (4th year +) would be preferred. The Senior Tutor will be provided with rent free accommodation and a stipend of \$5K p.a.

#### Senior Residents (S.R.s) (6 positions)

Senior Residents provide supervision, guidance and support to all residents of the College. They foster college spirit, uphold the best of traditions and provide exemplary leadership. They are positive, organised people – enthusiastic about Selwyn and keen to contribute. In addition to taking responsibility for the welfare of residents on their Floors, S.R.s also take charge of a specific portfolio e.g. Formal Occasions, Maori and Pacifica, Community Outreach etc. SRs are provided with an accommodation subsidy of approximately 80% of the standard fee. Applications are open to senior students (4th year +).

*Applications close on Friday, 29 July.*

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**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 29 JULY 2016**



\*Average seller earnings before tax. \*\*before tax.

**Sub-Masters  
(Residential Assistants)  
Wanted!**



**Applications close  
20 July 2016**

Calling for Applications for Sub-Masters at Knox College for 2017

- Do you want to gain valuable experience in leadership and pastoral care?
- Do you want to contribute significantly to a vibrant residential community in one of Dunedin's most distinctive and distinguished colleges?
- Do you want to enhance your CV and future employment prospects?

If so, a Sub-Master position at Knox College could be just what you're looking for.

We are seeking capable and confident senior tertiary students (Undergraduate or Postgraduate) who relate well to others and preferably have had experience of living in a residential college.

This is a paid part-time position of 34 hours per fortnight.

For a copy of the Position Description and information about the application process, contact the Master of Knox College, Dr Graham Redding (email: [master@knoxcollege.ac.nz](mailto:master@knoxcollege.ac.nz); or ph. 021441905) or visit the College website: [www.knoxcollege.ac.nz](http://www.knoxcollege.ac.nz)



# THE DUNEDIN LOOK

**A Photographic Showcase of Dunedin Street Style**

The Dunedin Look is back with a new line of fashion! From Monday 8 August to Sunday 21 August Meridian Mall will house a photography exhibition of genuine Dunedin street style.

A competition will run and the 'look' with the most votes wins a trip to NZ Fashion Week in Auckland and a \$1,000 Meridian Mall shopping spree! Voters also go in the draw to win one of three \$500 Meridian shopping sprees.

This is a free competition, so come on in, check it out and get voting!

**MERIDIAN**

[www.meridianmall.co.nz](http://www.meridianmall.co.nz)

## LAWRENCE ARABIA

### —ABSOLUTE TRUTH TOUR

by Lucy Hunter

One of New Zealand's finest songwriters is coming to Dunedin to play for us at the Maori Hill Coronation Hall on Friday. Lawrence Arabia has won two of New Zealand's most prestigious music awards: the Taite Music Prize and an APRA Silver Scroll. His fourth album "Absolute Truth" is being released with Flying Nun Records on July 8.

Arabia's new album was written in a hospital in the days following the birth of his daughter. The songs are described as "sparkling pop melodies that have delighted an ever-expanding audience, and some distinctly sonic flourishes".

Arabia says: "It's the full band, plus an extra multi-instrumentalist, Jonathan Pearce, who's playing keys and lots of the extra touches from the new record. We'll play most or perhaps all of the new record, but lots of older songs too. And we're just trying to decide on a bonus cover at the moment."



Friday 15 July  
Maori Hill Coronation Hall

You can get pre-sale tickets from:

[undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz)  
[lawrencearabia.com](http://lawrencearabia.com)  
[www.flyingnun.co.nz](http://www.flyingnun.co.nz)



## Warm Pacific Greetings

The Pacific Islands Centre is here to help you succeed in your studies and provide you with a "home away from home" so pop in to see the friendly staff and join in the events.

We also have study space available, access to student computers and free tea/coffee.

Please contact the Pacific Islands Centre for more details and to confirm dates, venues and time.

New students please come we look forward to meeting you!

PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE  
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### Second Semester Events

**Pacific Amazing Race**  
Thursday 14 July, 4-6pm

**Start of Taimane Programme**  
Monday 18 July, 5.30pm  
Union Common Room

Come find out about our tutorials & study nights

### Pacific Week

4-10 September, PI Centre

Pacific Debate & Poetry Night with Praise  
& Worship Night

SUNDAY 4

Pacific Cultural Night with Pacific Fiafia Night  
MONDAY 5

Debate & Poetry Night  
THURSDAY 8

Pacific Ball  
SATURDAY 10

### Taimane – Hows it Going?

Tuesday 12 August, 5.30pm  
Union Common Room

### Pacific Graduation Breakfasts

#### Pacific Forum

Wednesday 24 September, 5pm  
Union Common Room

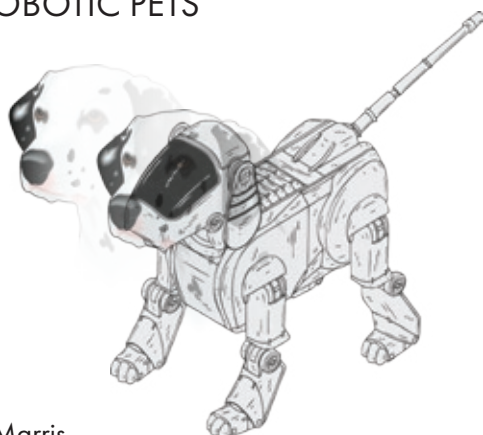
#### Pacific Voices XI Postgraduate Symposium

Thursday 23 September 8.30am-5pm  
Union Common Room

#### End of Year Taimane

Friday 14 October  
5.30pm

## WHY DO WE NEED...ROBOTIC PETS



by Anthony Marris

Humans have always had a relationship with animals. From practical uses, like seeing-eye "dogs," to the gimmicky, like courier "pigeons", this constantly developing sector will alter the course of humanity.

Robotic pets are, exactly as the name implies, manmade animals (or insects) that are equipped with an array of sensors and motors enabling them to move freely, and are programmed to behave similarly as their biological likeness. The potential scope is nearly infinite. From practical uses, like seeing-eye "dogs," to the gimmicky, like courier "pigeons", this constantly developing sector will alter the course of humanity.

Humans have always had a relationship with animals. While debate will always rage over the domestication of animals (humans dominating the environment v. mutually beneficial), according to archaeologist Dr Melinda A Zeder, factors like group structure and their responses to humans helped those animals become domesticated. In creating robotic pets, we presumptively control every step in the process and will make an ideal version.

Dr Jean-Loup Rault, who studies animal behaviour and welfare, notes in his book *Frontiers of Veterinary Science* (2015) how pet ownership in the digital world can be expanded on when debating robotic pets. He discusses refinement, or recognising which animal would make a good robotic pet. The concept of a robotic dog is cool,

but would a robotic tiger be any more acceptable as a pet than a real tiger?

Rault's second point is that ownership is a luxury which most Western countries take for granted. The concept of riding a horse for fun and competition is lost on a person who knows horses only as a transportation device which can be traded with no real emotional attachment. Rault notes that urban development makes pet ownership unsustainable long term. While NZ generally is very lucky with back yards and easily accessible parks, it is no wonder that AIBO (a robotic dog) originated in Japan.

The last point Rault cites is that getting rid of biological pets and replacing them with robotic ones eliminates the potential hassle of having a real pet while still maintaining the emotional and mental balance of non-human companionship. A study done by Gail F. Melson studied three different age groups (preschoolers, school aged children, adults) and their perceptions of an AIBO. Melson noted that participants from all three groups projected some form of cognitive and emotional function onto the AIBO. A majority of the adult group saw their AIBO as a companion similar to a real dog, despite knowing that it is a piece of technology.

If people freely project traits onto their robotic pets, then further complications arise from the mistreatment of these "animals". Logically, a robotic pet is a toy, a tool, a gimmick, an appliance. G. Jeffrey McDonald, writing for *Christian Science Monitor* asked the question "If you kick a robotic dog, is it wrong?" Lisa Lange,

spokeswoman for PETA, is cited in the article agreeing that owning a robotic pet is a step in the right direction for those who may not be able to provide proper care for real animals. As far as PETA is concerned, a robotic dog is a piece of tin. I personally felt slightly unsettled watching videos of people kicking robotic dogs, but that could be the fear of damaging the technology inside.

The list of potentially available robotic pets is awesome. They include a snake like project (ACM-RS, HiBot), a tarantula (TX8, Robugtix), dogs (AIBO, Sony; Spot, Boston Dynamic), and a seal (Paro, AIST). There have been studies using robotic pets like Paro with sick and elderly people to aid their well-being, and there is a wider concern that those unable to form social bonds with humans may seek affection from their inanimate pet. For now a robotic pet is a cool toy, until World War Beta is initiated.

*TL; DR – Robotic pets have huge potential, but who decides which animal constitutes a pet.*



## FILM: BAD NEIGHBORS 2

### —SORORITY RISING

Rating: B+

Director: Nicholas Stoller

by Jess Thompson

Let's call this a progressive comedy for a modern age. Neighbors 2, in the spirit of the first film, opens with tubby wubby Mac (Seth Rogen) and his wife Kelly (Rose Byrne) attempting sex as exhausted parents.

The film begins gross, gets grosser, and ends kinda gorgeously. Mac and Kelly Radner are back, once again stressed over their quest to grow up and their questionable parenting ethics.

After finally selling their house and buying a new one, they find themselves in a hell of a pickle when they realise their previous house is under a grown up term 'escrow'. The buyer has 30 days to pull out. Surprise surprise, a group of college girls fed up with America's creepy and I quote "rape-y" sorority and frat rules move into the house next door that once belonged to Delta Psi. With the help of Zac Efron on both sides, the family of Rogen must fight to rid their neighborhood of Chloe Grace Moretz and her posse, while the sorority of Kappa Nu must fight the oppressive rules of college campuses who say Sororities are not allowed to party, only Frats can.

40 This film was crack up. It had some dark undertones (the college campus culture of America is represented as pervy, stupid, and sexist), was hilariously disturbing at times, and overall heart warming. Efron is an ultimate babe, Dave Franco is an angel and as much as she annoys me for her squinty eyes and grazing voice, Grace Moretz did pretty darn well as a Kappa Queen.

The lack of regard the young people had for the family troubled me ... do they have no hearts when they see there is a baby and pregnant woman involved in such sabotage??! Other than that, it was dick jokes and the same basic plot as its predecessor.

Overall, a funny film, reflective (American college systems are fucked up) and loving. It made me want to call my parents straight after.

## THE CONJURING 2

Rating: B+

Director: James Wan

by Alex Campbell-Hunt

The Conjuring 2 is by the same director who made the Insidious movies, so as you'd expect, it scores very high on the shit-my-pants-o-meter. The trailer alone made me lose some sleep, and apparently someone actually died of a heart attack while watching the movie. If you like scary movies I recommend seeing it, but expect to be jumping at loud noises for a while afterwards.

Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga reprise their roles as real-life ghostbusting couple Ed and Lorraine Warren (I'm not sure how much of the movie was based on their real documented experiences, but I'd think/hope not much). In this follow-up to the first Conjuring, they attempt to help another family, the Hodgsons of London, whose daughter is being terrorised by a deceased former resident of their house. Meanwhile, Lorraine keeps seeing visions of Ed's death, and is being stalked by a terrifying grey nun-demon thing. (My friend and I were at least able to create some levity by making nun-related puns throughout the movie).

I can't say much without spoilers, but the movie hits the ground running with its visuals, so that there's less room for suggestion and gradual revelations later on. They could have done better with the pacing and buildup. That said, there are still some very effective scenes in the movie's second half - in particular, one long continuous shot where all of the creepy stuff is happening out of focus in the background.

The 1970s-Britain setting gives the film a unique feel, and extra weight somehow - maybe because of the UK's long history full of supernatural folklore. And for some reason, having ghosts that speak in low-voiced South London accents really is spooky as hell.

In terms of pure scariness, movies probably don't get much more potent than The Conjuring 2. It doesn't quite have the narrative tightness or the underlying themes/ subtext to be on par with say, The Shining or The Others - but if you're in the mood for a stomach-rattling thrill-ride of terror, it delivers.

## THE BIRDS

Rating: B+

Directors: Andrea Bosshard & Shane Loader



by Alex Campbell-Hunt

Ka-KAW!! Hitchcock created this enduring 1963 classic that is still quite scary by today's standards. The action centres on the Californian town of Bodega Bay, whose residents find themselves being attacked by (spoiler alert) birds. It starts with people only being pecked by a few individual creatures – but escalates to gigantic coordinated flocks unleashing death and chaos.

Could it be that there is something biblical going on, or can it all be explained by science? Perhaps it's about how people can't expect to understand or control nature as much as they'd like? There's a scene in a diner where the characters bounce around some theories as to what's happening, but the movie doesn't leave us with any definitive answers.

The movie's visual effects are dated; there's some blatant green screen, fake-looking blood and obvious bird-puppets. However, the sound design is incredible. There's no musical score, just the sounds of what is happening within the story – and the largest-scale bird attack that occurs in the movie isn't seen, only heard. In this scene, the protagonists have boarded themselves up indoors where they listen to the approaching avian hordes.

Hitchcock realised that children's choirs can sound creepy as shit: probably the scariest scene in the movie is when the lead character Melanie Daniels (played by Tippi Hedren) is sitting outside a schoolyard, unaware of the crows assembling on the jungle gym behind her – all the while we can hear distant singing from the classroom. "knick-e-ty knack-e-ty now... now now..." \*shudder\*.

My enjoyment of the movie is now tempered somewhat by the knowledge of Hitchcock's behind-the-scenes creepiness, and mistreatment of Hedren (he threw live birds at her and filmed her screaming and bleeding). But if we can take the movie itself on its own merits, it's an amazing piece of work.

## SKYFALL

Rating: A+

Director: Sam Mendes



by Andrew Kwiatkowski

Skyfall is like one of those optical illusions – do you see a duck or rabbit? In Skyfall, people see what they want to see.

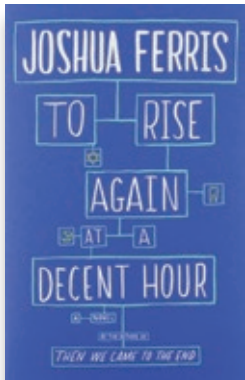
Fans of the old school see only betrayal of the core Bond formula, with no gadgets in this film other than "a gun and a radio." But many, like me, see a ray of light in a genre going to hell in a very tedious handbasket. I see Skyfall as an arty character piece hiding in the action genre.

Bond had a corner on the action market back in the 1960s, when it was the only franchise pedalling sex, mayhem, and martinis, but this is no longer the point of difference. Starting perhaps with 1989's *License to Kill*, Bond films have been designed to compete more with your Bruce Willis, Schwarzenegger, Stallone, Mel Gibson, Steven Seagal sort of action movie at the box office, and vice-versa: a regression toward the violent mean. The points of difference for Bond: subtlety and character.

My favourite shot in Skyfall illustrates this new focus on character over mayhem. Bond is fighting someone on a glass rooftop, but is lost in silhouette from a giant projection of a neon jellyfish. In this one beautiful frame the director has not only told us that Bond feels like he is merely an outline of a human when he kills people and is "in a glass cage of emotion!", but more importantly, revisited the theme of not knowing whether to be "a blunt instrument" that kills without using a brain like a jellyfish, or to be "half monk and half hitman" who knows when not to pull the trigger, which has been a through-line since *Casino Royale*. Similar remarks about lost humanity might be made of later scenes, where Bond is silhouetted by his burning childhood home, or again when his silhouette hops into a steamy shower with that of a mistress he is using but doesn't love. All of this marks out Skyfall from your average invincible-good-guy-explosion-murica action bore.

## TO RISE AGAIN AT A DECENT HOUR

Author: Joshua Ferris



by Hayleigh Clarkson

To Rise Again at a Decent Hour is the ultimate page turner. Winner of the Dylan Thomas Prize as well as being shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, Joshua Ferris writes with fluidity, clarity and with a unique voice unlike any I've read before.

The novel settles around Paul O'Rourke, a dentist with a passion for the Red Sox and an intense dislike of the internet, as he goes on a bizarre journey of self-discovery. Paul is a stubborn man who is socially awkward, lonely and has a slightly creepy longing to be a part of someone else's family. He is useless in relationships and continues to work with his ex-girlfriend who he was too afraid to fire.

Paul is adamant he will not be on the internet for fear that someone will steal his identity. Then one day he is suddenly plummeted into social media, the internet, and religion when a website appears for his dental practise. The website lists all his staff, and in his bio the mystery person starts spouting off some religious nonsense that no one can understand. This leads down twisted corridors of Judaism, Catholicism, and a potentially made-up ancient religion as the mystery person begins to invade all corners of the internet using Paul's name to proclaim their religious beliefs.

It's fascinating and leaves you feeling vulnerable and confused all at once. There is an element of mystery in the novel as well because we don't know who is impersonating Paul. His staff can't decide whether it is him or not, which

leaves Paul wondering if it is him or not. This forces him to take a good look at his life and who he has interacted with in order to locate the mystery person.

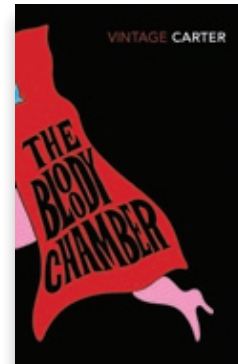
The novel is easy to read but sometimes the religious parts do get a bit tiresome and confusing because he is talking about an invented religion. It includes names and places, people and new ideologies that some of the characters don't understand either which makes you feel better. The writing is brilliant and witty with a touch of dark humour. The characters are all perfectly written, all with their own flaws and quirks that makes this novel all the more delightful. Ferris is able to take a serious and sometimes (if you are afraid of the dentist) frightening workplace, inject some comedy and leave you feeling like the dentist is more of a circus than medical practise.

Ferris also does something unique with his writing. He leaves out parts of the characters' conversation and allows you to fill in the gaps of what was spoken. "'I'm asking you about your walks to and from the subway station.' I'd answer, she'd say, 'Oh, for goodness' sake.'" It fits in with the personality of Paul who is reluctant to give away too much of himself.

This is such a unique novel and one you won't forget. Everything about it is new from the ancient religion that might be made-up through to the barely written about dental workplace. You won't have read anything like it before and this is what makes it a page turner.

## THE BLOODY CHAMBER

Author: Angela Carter



by Monique Hodgkinson

Take the classic fairy tales you know and love, add a splash of violence, a sprinkling of sex, a healthy dose of feminism, and you've got Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber. This collection of stories provides a shadowy and provocative exploration of tales such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Sleeping Beauty, and Little Red Riding Hood, revised and rewritten in a bewitchingly dark style. Angela Carter was one of the first 'fairy tale feminists', and if you're interested in seeing what happens when Beauty becomes the Beast, then this is the read for you. But be warned: happy endings are never quite what you'd expect in this quirky collection.

## FIVE TIME SINK MOBILE GAME APPS

by Laura Starling  
& Brandon Johnstone



### Neko Atsume Rating: A-

Neko Atsume is an adorable cat collection game. You start off with a small yard, and you are given some fish. You use this to buy goodies, to deck out your garden with cat food and toys. Leave the app open in the background and do something else. Slowly but surely, cats will start to show up in your yard. The more you interact with the game, the more cats will show up. You can take photos of the cats to save to an in-game album or upload onto Twitter. It's cute, and ultimately pointless, but addictive nonetheless.



### Combo Quest Rating: B

This game makes use of 8-bit art and music to achieve a retro aesthetic. A dragon has taken the Combo Crown which you must now earn back. You defeat enemies and get a reward, for example, more HP or health regeneration. The goal is to get as far as possible on a single life, when you die, you go back to the start, but keep your rewards. The more you beef up (your sword will get bigger and cooler) the harder the foes. There's a sliding scroll which you have to tap at the right time to attack and defend. If you tap at the wrong time, you'll hurt yourself and kill yourself faster.



### Tap Titans Rating: A

This game is seriously addictive. The art's cool, and you barely have to think about it at all. You literally just tap monsters as fast as possible to attack them. Each monster gives you gold, you use gold to upgrade your character and add more heroes who fight alongside you. This game is an incredible time sink. You don't even need to look at the screen 90 percent of the time.



### Trivia Crack Rating: B

Trivia Crack is an apt name, as it really is like crack. You compete against other players online, and answer questions from the following categories: art, sports, science, history, entertainment and world. If you get a question right, you answer another; if you get one wrong, it's the next person's turn. It's fun beating people in knowledge-based things. This game truly makes you feel superior. And when you lose... it's only because you momentarily forgot the answer.



### Pocket Mortys Rating: A-

Pocket Mortys is a Pokemon clone/parody based on the pinnacle of human entertainment, Rick and Morty. Mortys has you travelling between dimensions, capturing and combining Mortys to battle against those of other trainers (and Ricks). The game has a nice injection of familiar bombastic Rick and Morty humour and addictive Pokemon-esque gameplay. The game ends up repeating itself over and over until you realise that you've wasted the last week. But at least you're one week closer to Rick and Morty Season Three!

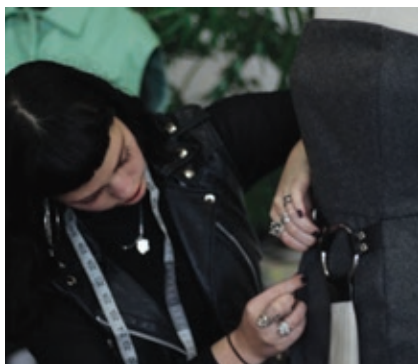
## DISCORDIA, HAIR, & BONDAGE

Julia Palm  
JPALM Clothing

by Lucy Hunter



Spartan, fit-for-purpose separates, uncanny fetishism, and bondage elements make for a bold first step into the industry for this emerging designer.



Julia Palm graduated in the top of her class at Otago Polytechnic School of Fashion. Julia is heading to New Zealand Fashion Week in August to take part in the 'New Grad' show to present an eight-piece collection. She's created a Boosted crowdfunding campaign to raise the funds desperately needed to get to NZFW. The donations will be used for fabric and trims, a collaborative photoshoot and video with artist and filmmaker Ted Whitaker, as well as airfare for multiple trips to Auckland for NZFW.

Julia's graduate collection 'Leave the Dark and Holy Mountain' was based on her family history, cult religion, with some bondage references. Julia went to Europe last year and was inspired by the brutalist architecture and the use of concrete in Prague, which informed her colour palette of grey and mint in her graduate collection.

The collection will be shown on the New Zealand Fashion Week runway, under her brand name JPALM. It will be an extension of her graduate collection. The new collection titled 'Discordia', will use human hair, PVC, leather and wool melton.

To create 'Discordia', Julia will be going back to the textile rituals from her punk culture background – studding, patches, and screen printing.

"The handmade textile element of punk culture has informed a lot of my practices as a designer now". 'Discordia' is a continuation of themes mined from a personal history, populated by experiences with the occult and the everyday. Photographs by local artist Esta De Jong will be screen printed onto patches, as well as an all-over digital print for her finale outfit. Julia is staying true to her use of unconventional materials, mixing it up with utilitarian shapes, and subverted by restricted necklines and tied waists. Julia describes her style as "thought provoking, dark, empowering, and with moments of fetish".

Julia needs to send eight outfits down the runway, along with accessories and shoes. This is a mammoth task, with two to four garments in each outfit. "It's a lot of work. The shoes alone—eight pairs!—are expensive." At the time of the interview Julia had finished designing and had six weeks to throw this collection together.

"In my work I always seem to be reaching to my personal history, whether it's punk aspects, or how I feel about my family history or Swedish heritage—I feel like it makes my work more authentic and coming from somewhere original and genuine".

To donate or share Julia's Boosted crowdfunding campaign, visit: [www.boosted.org.nz/projects/get-julia-to-nzfw](http://www.boosted.org.nz/projects/get-julia-to-nzfw)

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SCOTT EADY Sons of a clouded sky 2016.  
Silicon, bronze, plastic, wood, water pump. Courtesy of the artist.

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## RIDICULOUSUBLINE

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The distinct vision of a contemporary artist can offer a new lens through which to see our everyday – reshaping the intersections between the familiar, the ridiculous and the magnificent.

## LEMON & YOGHURT CAKE

by Kirsten Garcia

In high school we had cake Fridays and we would eat cake during the last spell of the week. I think we should make that a thing at Uni. This modest recipe has a beautiful pairing of ingredients with a sweet lemon syrup soaked through the sponge of the cake. It's the kind of slice that's perfect with a cup of tea.

1 ½ cups flour  
 2 teaspoons baking powder  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 1 cup Greek yoghurt  
 1 cup + ½ cup sugar  
 3 eggs  
 2 medium lemons  
 ½ teaspoon vanilla essence  
 ½ cup vegetable oil  
 Slivered almonds

Preheat oven to 180C on bake. Grease a cake tin and dust with flour.

Sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt into medium bowl.

In another large bowl, add the yogurt, one cup of sugar, the vanilla, and the eggs. Grate the rind of one lemon into this bowl and whisk the ingredients together until smooth.

Slowly whisk the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients. Using a spatula, fold the vegetable oil into the batter.

Pour the batter into the cake tin, and sprinkle slivered almonds on top of the batter.

Bake for about 30–40 minutes, or until a knife poked into it comes out clean.

To make the syrup, squeeze the juice of two lemons into a saucepan and lightly simmer it before adding ½ cup sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Take it off the heat.

When the cake is done, allow to cool before drizzling the syrup over for it to soak into the cake.





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Each week, we lure two singletons to Dog With Two Tails, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz). But be warned—if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a Critic writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

hers

LAURA

It'd been a long and busy day and I was on my way home. I was ready to tuck into the fresh cup of miso soup I had just picked up and indulge myself with some of the latest Orange is the New Black episodes! Who knows, perhaps even a Rob Roy single scoop later on if I was feeling saucy... But just when my mind was at ease I received a frightening text informing me that I had been nominated for the *Critic* blind date taking part later on that night. Given the fact that I was feeling as dry as a camel's hoof I thought why not.

I walked in and looked around the bar, hoping to lock eyes with someone who I knew was also in the same awkward predicament as myself. I won't lie, my first impression was that his face looked like a baboon's arse, but after hearing my mother's voice echoing in my head 'not to judge a book by its cover' I decided to wander on over, praying that his conversation was better than his uneven moustache.

He was well educated, well traveled and spoke with a sexy deep Waikato accent. We ordered the fries and a bottle of wine and before I knew it he had become beyond attractive. I almost slipped right off my seat when he told me that he had a model train set at his home. He insisted that we go home to play 'trains'.

■ 46 Once we got to his house he immediately showed me his model trains... I was so impressed I decided that he deserved a kiss or two... It was at this point that I decided the "train should enter the tunnel..." Sadly though, this train seemed to be the little engine that couldn't.. Although it might not have ended exactly the way I had hoped I definitely plan to see this man again. Thanks Critic for an awesome night!

his

JARED

After sending about ten drunk messages to *Critic*, I think they finally broke and decided to send me on the blind date, on the condition that I never message them about it again. After wanting for so long to go on the blind date I immediately started to regret my decision once the nerves kicked in... To combat those nerves I decided to shot half a bottle of sambuca and sucked through enough cigarettes to smoke a fish.

I arrived early and decided to sit myself down with a lemonade... Lemonade due to the fact that I came in way too hot and was seeing double, I needed to cool down otherwise she would think my native tongue was Spanish. Halfway through my soft drink I looked up and saw a lovely young lady walk through the door. I'll admit, she was a lot better looking than myself. It was at this stage that I started shaking... although I'm unsure if that was due to nerves or the half a bottle I'd previously necked.

She was a lovely lady and the conversation really flowed... When I say the conversation flowed I'm purely guessing... The alcohol had well and truly kicked in and I'm pretty sure I was actually dribbling. But for some reason she hadn't left yet and I think she was almost enjoying herself. I decided that I would try and strike when the iron was hot. I mustered up the courage and invited her back to mine on the premise that I had a train set at home. When we arrived at mine one thing led to another and before I knew it we were in bed. But just my luck I had the balls of a stunned field mouse. Thanks all the same for the date Critic! I hope to see this girl again in the near future and I'll be sure to cut my alcohol intake!



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## President's Column

Welcome back, I hope you all enjoyed a restful semester break and are prepared for the rest of the year ahead.

ReOrientation week kicks off the semester, with something for everyone over the next week. We have an humongous Rummage Sale, a larger than life Market Day, the always popular International Food Festival, and on the last night we are bringing you BROODS as part of their Conscious Tour supported by Thomston and October.

Clubs Day is the first event on Wednesday, held in the Link. With the offer of free popcorn and enthusiastic club leaders wanting you to join their ranks, it is definitely worth stopping by. It's never too late to join

a club or society, and it is one of the best ways you will find to engage in the vast extracurricular world here at University. Recently, Malaysian students' associations from all over New Zealand came to Dunedin to compete in the annual Bersatu sports games. I was lucky enough to attend a few of their events with our International Officer Rachel Goh, and was witness to great enthusiasm, spirit and camaraderie amongst these students from all over New Zealand. I would like to extend my congratulations to the overall winning team - our own Otago Malaysian Students' Association, and to Eric Lim and his organising committee who really put on quite the spectacle.

Coming up next week we have the annual OUSA

flattening week. Our Student Support Centre have a lot of stuff in store - check out the website for all the details. Highlights for me include the opportunity to get your flat checked over for fire safety and have any smoke alarm batteries replaced free of charge, and of course the annual best landlord and best flat awards. Make sure you nominate yourself or someone you know online at [bit.ly/ousaflattening2016](http://bit.ly/ousaflattening2016).

As I mentioned in my last column (all the way back in May!) I'm off to China this week! You can still catch me on email or otherwise see you when I return at the end of the month.

*Laura Harris* **Laura Harris**  
president@ousa.org.nz



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1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE WINS \$100!  
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For more info and to enter, head to [tournaments.ousa.org.nz](http://tournaments.ousa.org.nz)

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- Double pass to Broods • Double pass to Winterfest
- Double Zoo pass for Highlanders v Chiefs
- 2 x Highlanders Onesies • ReOri Recovery Pack
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WED 27 JULY  
9PM • RE:FUEL

ENTER ONLINE AT [OUSA.ORG.NZ/FUTURE-DJ/](http://OUSA.ORG.NZ/FUTURE-DJ/)

# OUSA FUTURE DJ

2016 STUDENT DJ COMPETITION

ENTRIES CLOSE 25 JULY, 5PM - BE IN TO WIN SWEET PRIZES!

**ousa**  
otago uni students' association

Re: **FUEL**

1  
91 FM

BE IN TO WIN  
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EXHIBITION RUNS  
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ENTRIES  
DUE 2  
AUGUST