ISSUE 15

18 July, 2016



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		Contents		
Issue 15, 18 July 2016			06	News Campus News
	18	Help, My Flat is Haunted!	09 12 14 16	News in Briefs Politics Sports
	22	Teaching Kids to Love Learning	33 34 34 35 35	Columns Letters to the Editor Dear Ethel Science, Bitches Vitalogy Sexcellent
	27	Flat Awards Review	36 46	Matters of Debate Love is Blind

	Books	37		- 6		
			THE REAL PROPERTY.			
			THE I	16	Tole V	
2.0	1		-	1	THE STATE OF THE S	
38	Film		James 1	11	All	21
40	Music				6	
41	Art					
42	Technology					
44	Games					
45	Food					
. •						

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Critic

Issue 15

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Pigs in pigsties

In honour of OUSA flatting week we've decided we'd jump on board and print a couple of features and news stories surrounding flatting in Dunedin. This week, we have a hair raising feature from Amber Allot on the many haunted flats in the student area, the 'Darryl Kerrigan, My House my Castle Awards', and Joe Higham has a look at the current state of flats on the market at the moment.

Flatting in Dunedin north appears to be a changing practice. Gone it would seem are the days of slumming it in a damp, mould covered flat, and playing parents to pet mice, with students now demanding a better standard of living.

Students seem to cop the brunt of the abuse when it comes to the state of the North Dunedin student areas, but landlords also need to be found accountable for the role they play in the formation of this so called 'ghetto'. One

councillor, David Benson-Pope recently explained that driving around the North Dunedin area was not too dissimilar to driving around a slum, commenting that many of the flats were similar to pigsties. But when landlords expect tenants to live in sties like that, surely they're not all to surprised when they act like pigs.

So why then isn't there more social pressure on landlords from the cities residents to tidy up these flats? When you as a landlord rent out a flat that has ripped carpet, stained walls and a toilet without a seat, I think you're a few fingers short of a high-five if you think that it's going to be respected by the tenants.

If the major stakeholders involved really want to clean up these so called 'slums', then surely something needs to be done about the state of the properties in the first place.

Hugh Critic editor Fractured jaw, surgery, weeks spent in recovery. One may not expect such an assault from a night out in Dunedin. Unfortunately, on Friday July 8 this very kind of attack took place.

A group of four to five males assaulted a man and a woman around 11:00 – 11:30pm that night, on Princes St near the Octagon and Moray Place. The man suffered a fractured jaw and is now in hospital, while the woman received minor facial cuts and bruises.

Sadly, this story is only one of many to be told. It follows a number of assaults that have taken place in Dunedin over the last month and a half.

In Andersons Bay on July 4, there was a serious assault that left a man unresponsive.

On June 26, the morning after the All Blacks test against Wales in the city, two assaults at opposite ends of the block between the Captain Cook Hotel and the Rob Roy Dairy occurred. One major arrest was issued from these events as a man dressed as a woman was arrested for sexually assaulting another man.

Following a home invasion in Green Island on June 22, a man suffered critical injuries. Earlier in the month on June 19, a woman in North East Valley was smacked on the head with a baseball bat.

Mosgiel was also prone to attacks, one incident occurring in the township on June 16th when four men beat a 45-year old man.

The last serious assault in the Octagon was on June 13, as a man was left with a bleeding face.

These events may be difficult to discuss, but they are important to consider as it is a recurring theme throughout Dunedin nightlife. Like any city, big or small, Dunedin is susceptible to these terrible kinds of attacks.

By Tom Kitchin



Studholme College

is looking for fun, organised and academically successful leaders to join their awesome team for 2017

RA information night 26 July at 7:30

(open to anyone interested in applying)

Apps will close 5:00pm on 29 July

Interviews from 2-4 August Offers made on the 8 Aug

The application pack available for pick up from the Studholme office, or we can mail or email one out: studholme.college@otago.ac.nz





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More landlords need to use HD projectors as bait for tenants

With Flatting Week upon us and students already searching for their 2017 flats. Critic thought it would look at all of the flats students are, or will soon be, choosing from. Every flat listed on Trade Me as of 14 July with three-plus bedrooms that are located in North Dunedin has been included, and everything from off-street parking to how the level of furnishing when you move in has been noted.

Out of the 312 properties on the site, the average price per week was \$129.22, with the maximum being a ridiculously expensive \$280 and the minimum an incredible \$79. One of the most important factors students take into account when choosing a flat may not necessarily be insulation, although it is an issue that has been on the minds of politicians the nation over. New insulation legislation, which came into effect on July 1, 2016, requires landlords to declare the level of insulation in their rental properties. In addition, all tenancies must have both ceiling and underfloor insulation with a minimum thickness of 70mm from July 1, 2019.

Many of the property listings were made before the July 1 cut off, and so were not legally obliged to declare their insulation levels. Only 42 properties listed full insulation among the selling points of their property, along with 22 who listed ceiling insulation and just two with

underfloor insulation. Double glazing, which can actually reduce heat loss by up to halve, can significantly reduces tenants' and owners' power bills and help to prevent health issues such as pneumonia and asthma. Only 27 properties boasted double glazing.

Parking is an increasingly problematic issue each year, with more and more students owning cars and the usual early morning fight for free street parks during the week being an ever-present drag for staff and students alike. Just over one third of all properties relieved this issue by providing at least one off-street park 19 properties have space for two; nine have space for three), and 12 had a garage to safely park vour car.

Some of the listings truly went beyond the call of duty, noting their property "comes with an oven" or has a "microwave included" in the tenancy. These listings could learn sales techniques from checking what some other landlords included, with some luring tenants in with HD Projectors, 51" Flat Screen TVs, and one even said they would only require rent for 48 weeks of the 52 week tenancy; take note landlords, students can easily be lured by expensive free treats.

By Joe Higham



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 bookgroups, writing buddies, and friends, flatmates or family to meet.

See you at the UBS!

RSVP not neccassary to attend but helpful for catering

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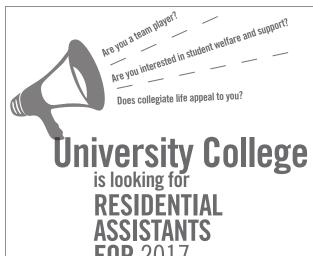


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MIDWEEK MIDWINTER At the University Book Shop 378 Great King Street Wednesday 20 July 2016

University Book Shop Description I theat Book Shop Et Cont Do, N - O-Conta - O-Lar





Being a Residential Assistant is a great way to develop your skills, give back to the Otago community and support younger students. You will also be warm, well-fed and paid for your work. What about joining the UniCol team, Otago's largest residential assistant group, and have a fantastic experience in 2017?

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Applications close on Friday 29 July.





- 1. Call Healthline 0800 611 116
- 2. Call Student Health or Urgent Doctors
- 3. If it's an emergency go to the Emergency Department



Opinion Piece

<u>'Secret' animal research facility</u> plans "appalling"

Otago Student Animal Legal Defense Fund are startled by Otago University's announcement of plans of a new animal research facility, to be included in a new \$50 million, five-sto-rey development on the Dunedin campus.

Critic would love to hear your thoughts on this... Send your letters to the editor critic@critic.co.nz

Otago Student Animal Legal Defense Fund are startled by Otago University's announcement of plans of a new animal research facility, to be included in a new \$50 million, five-storey development on the Dunedin campus.

As students whose fees contribute to the funding of University operations, we are appalled that these plans have been developed in secret, at a time when animal experimentation is becoming increasingly controversial, and increasing numbers of students do not want it to form part of their studies. In conjunction with a number of local and national organisations, we are working to oppose these plans and promote an alternative use of these funds that better invests in both science and animal wellbeing.

We believe the facility is both unnecessary and will further entrench the exploitation of animals for research and teaching purposes at the University of Otago. The University claim it will enhance their ability to uphold the three Rs of animal use in research, testing and teaching (RTT); namely reduction, refinement and replacement. Part six of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, which regulates RTT in New Zealand, requires that these three Rs be promoted. While we accept that centralisation of animal breeding and experimentation may make it easier to practise refinement, and could possibly reduce the number of animals used, it in no way promotes the replacement of animal use, which is the end goal of the three R's.

Groups including the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society, SAFE, the SPCA, the Dunedin Animal Rights Collective, and the Dunedin Vegan and Animal Rights Society have all spoken out in opposition to the proposed facility. In association with these and other interested organisations, we will seek to ensure that any University of Otago investment in animal use in research and testing will be limited to upgrading existing facilities. True commitment to the three R's would constitute allocating the bulk of the money to establishing an equivalent of the 'Centres for Alternatives to Animal Testing', such as at Johns Hopkins and UC Davis Universities

in the USA, and Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

Investing in alternatives would enable the University of Otago to move with the times, save on the high costs of breeding, housing and experimenting on animals, and become a leader in putting the globally recognised principle of replacement into effect. This would save tens of thousands of animals from being subjected to cruel processes in the name of science on our own campus. It also has the potential to radically improve the usefulness of data collected by researchers, and improve the relevance of what is taught to University of Otago students. There are several inherent problems with relying on extrapolated animal data in order to make advances in medicine and regulatory testing. Reliance on animals that are physiologically distinct from humans, rather than a more precise model such as cultured cells or computer modelling, inhibits the utility of biomedical research.

The proposed facility does not represent a sound use of our University's funds. Animal research should not be the focus of investment, because there are limitations to the usefulness of lab animals, and the rights of these animals themselves are only being increasingly recognised. Otago SALDF does not believe that there is an appropriate alternative to every experiment conducted on animals, but this is precisely why a Centre for Alternatives would be so beneficial; because using animals is not appropriate either.

by Otago Student Animal Legal Defence Fund



Sociability hit as 'Pokemon Go' takes hold

Gotta catch 'em all" has taken on a whole new dimension with the release of Pokemon Go on July 6. Topping Apple's app chart in mere days, the game has taken the virtual and real world by storm with users hitting the streets in search of Pokemon to catch.

New Zealand, alongside Australia and the United States, was the first in the world to experience the new "augmented reality" game, where players use iOS and Android smartphones to 'catch 'em all.'

The app uses geocaching to allow users to navigate the in-game map that corresponds to real physical landmarks as they capture, train and battle Pokemon. Players wait for their phones to vibrate, which indicates a nearby Pokemon, gym or Pokestop that a player must physically visit. For the uninitiated, gyms allow players to battle each other and Pokestops hold valuable supplies like Pokeballs. Using the 'augmented reality' function, the game superimposes Pokemon into the real world using the back camera of the smartphone. Joel, a Dunedin local, hints that there are many Pokestops to be found on the University of Otago Campus and the surrounding areas including the murals, the Robertson Library and the Botanical Gardens. He praises the sense of community that the game brings to users.

"One of my favourite things is walking around University and people have their phones out and you just know what they are doing."



Unintended Results

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Despite initial success, the app has amassed some unintended results. Four armed youths aged 16-18 were arrested in Missouri for reportedly exploiting the apps "lure" function to draw unsuspecting players to secluded areas where they robbed them.

One Wyoming user, 19-year-old Shayla Wiggens, got more than she bargained for while hunting for Pokemon when she came across a dead body in a river. The Fremon County sheriff's office stated that an investigation into the death was taking place but that homicide was not suspected.

New Zealand Police has issued a reminder via Facebook that users should "choose safety" when using the Pokemon Go in response to a growing number of reports of injuries sustained whilst pursuing Pokemon. One Reddit user reports he was taken to ER with a fractured metatarsal after he became too engrossed in hunting Pokemon on his phone to notice a large bank which he fell down.

The loading screen in the app also reminds players to "be alert at all times" and to "stay aware of your surroundings." **By Sally Wilkins**

Otago University is set to increase fees for international students in all subjects bar one, a decision that has not been welcomed across the student body.

The only papers that have escaped the increases are within the postgraduate clinical dentistry course, which will see their cost cut by up to 30.6 percent, leaving students enrolled in the course saving up to \$27,000 per equivalent full-time student (EFTS).

It is understood that 31 of the 56 papers taking the largest fee increases of 4.4 percent will be in humanities, a department that is struggling to attract the number of enrollments it would like.

Those in the upper echelons of the University are attempting to further tap into the lucrative international student sector in an attempt to bring more money into struggling departments. There is, however, a fine line between making more money by increasing fees and putting people off studying at Otago University.

Furthermore, the University's total enrollments have declined year-on-year since 2010, including a five percent decline between 2010 and 2014. Auckland University on the other hand saw a year-on-year increase of four percent over the same time frame, potentially providing another window into why this decision was taken.

OUSA Acting President, Jarred Griffiths, has categorically stated that OUSA opposes all fee increases for students. He noted "that one of the saddest things is that we have normalised the increases. Fees may increase by 1.5 percent one year and three percent another, and people are becoming less and less outraged."

With fee increases more generally, Griffiths believes "there is an underfunding of tertiary education by this government. When you have funding from central government decreasing and universities facing increased cost pressures, that has to be met somewhere and unfortunately

for us, you, and international students, that gap in funding is being bridged by students themselves. Fee increases are placing an increased burden of the cost of tertiary education onto students, and we don't agree with that."

OUSA International Officer Rachel Goh is calling for more explanation about the fee increases. She is calling for a detailed explanation concerning the reasons why this decision has been made, before saying she thinks "we need a more frank discussion between the University and students."

Although she said it is too early to confidently forecast the effect of the decision on international student numbers, she suspects that "by raising the fees you may see a more significant drop in international students [coming to Otago University]."

By Joe Higham





Iceland

Biologists in western Iceland are hoping that brightly coloured roads could prevent Arctic terns being hit by traffic. Scientists have painted a long stretch of asphalt on the Snaefellsnes Peninsula red, yellow and white to try and discourage the sea birds from wandering onto the carriageway. Young birds are particularly vulnerable to traffic as they gravitate towards the warm road surface.

Canada

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will find new ways to strengthen relations with Indigenous communities, the force's chief vowed after an admission that "there are racists" within the national police force. The goal is to build consent among Indigenous peoples to be policed, as well as to reduce discrimination among officers toward these communities.

Frankfurt, Germany

A German museum hopes to draw children into the world of archaeology through the use of Lego building bricks. The Archaeological Museum has taken the unusual step of placing topical models made from the popular bricks next to genuine artefacts from its collection. The museum had to source bricks from collectors and other sources, as Lego did not currently stock all the required bricks.



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksander Vucic got more than he bargained for when he invited citizens round to his office for a chat, with more than 5000 people from all around the country applied for the chance to discuss their problems with him. Mr Vucic has publicly criticised ministers for turning up to their offices late, and said he wanted to set an example of a different working culture.

Turkey

Environmental officials in Turkey have decided to stop a flock of critically endangered birds from migrating to Syria because in recent years they haven't come back. The officials plan to keep more than 200 northern bald ibises in cages to stop them flying south due to concerns for their safety amid Syria's civil war.





Novgorod, Russia

A region in north-western Russia has said it won't accept any divorce applications on the 8th of July, as the country celebrates its version of Valentine's Day. Officials in the region say that on Friday they'll only let people tie the knot, not undo it. Additionally, couples who have been together for 25 years will be given medals for "love and faithfulness."

Henan Province, China

The Henan Province in central China saw record rainfall over the weekend, but one young couple did not let the floods stop their wedding plans. The couple had invited over 300 people, but the terrible weather and travelling difficulties meant that only 10 turned up. The couple decided to go ahead anyway despite having no limousine, no fireworks and no music.

South China Sea

A court in The Hague has ruled that China has no historic legal rights over the waters of the South China Sea. The move has infuriated Beijing, and marks the first legal decision over the waters that hold some of the world's most promising oil and gas fields and vital fishing grounds. China, which boycotted the hearings, vowed to ignore the ruling and said its armed forces would defend its sovereignty and maritime interests.

Otters sleep holding hands

O.J Simpson was originally cast to play Terminator, but the studio was afraid no one would buy him as a remorseful killer

20% of office coffee mugs contain **fecal matter**

Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors

All the clocks in Pulp Fiction are at 4:20

Forbes estimated in 2011 that Scrooge McDuck was worth \$44.1 billion

TWO-THIRDS of people on Earth have never seen snow

When snakes are born with Two HEADS, they fight each other for food

A jellyfish is 95% water

18 July | **2016**

Emails reveal DCC deception over 2013 voting booth decision

Emails have been acquired by *Critic* between DCC Electoral Officer Pam Jordan and a number of advisors within the DCC and other local councils in cities with universities. They show the DCC misled and withheld information to both OUSA and the media about their decision to scrap a voting booth on University campus during the 2013 Local Body election.

DCC Electoral Officer Pam Jordan had publicly claimed that she had made the decision in response to then OUSA president Francisco Hernandez's decision to run for a council seat, telling Critic "My concern was the perception of the public and other candidates that the provision of the booth in that location might favour the candidate who (quite legitimately) in his other role, had requested the booth."

However, emails reveal that they had privately planned to pull the booth even if Hernandez had decided not to run. Hernandez, who maintains he was acting in good faith in his role as OUSA President and had not yet decided whether to run for a council seat or NZUSA President instead, had inquired as to whether his running would impact the decision to provide the voting booth. He said he would not have run if it meant "disenfranchising students".

Jordan appeared to react to the request poorly, privately accusing him of issuing "an ultimatum", and saying "I have no option but to decline [the booth] even if he decides in the end not to stand, because he could say if someone asked him why his nomination didn't eventuate, that he didn't stand so I would provide the booth". Throughout the emails, Jordan appears more concerned with avoiding the appearance of impropriety than actual impropriety, even as she admits Hernandez was acting legitimately within his role, saying "I am trying to look at this story as it might play out on the front page of the ODT".

Several advisors replied to Jordan's original email, and their reactions demonstrate a consistently dismissive and suspicious attitude toward student voters. Not a single person consulted was in favour of the booth, all recommending pulling it or seriously limiting its availability.

In one email, an advisor suggested that providing the voting booth "only lends itself to the possibility of political shenanigans in a place that is well known for it".

Two aides encouraged Jordan to delay the decision and ignore Hernandez' inquiry, with one telling her "My view would be a strong no, but to kick for touch and tell him you are too busy to consider it this week (on account of being too busy with close of noms, or perhaps having to consult wider, or some other suitable fob off), then politely decline once nominations close", and another saying "I'd do nothing this week, wait for him to call you, then say terribly sorry I'm too busy to give it the full attention this week."

Jordan never did respond to Hernandez' request, and his decision was ultimately made without the knowledge of whether the booth would be provided or not.

by Joel McManus

Not a single person consulted was in favour of the booth...one email suggested that providing the voting booth "only lends itself to the possibility of political shenanigans



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DCC accused of "active and wilful campaign to discourage student voters"

Negotiations have broken down between OUSA and Dunedin City Council over plans to place a special voting booth on campus for this year's local body election. After OUSA pulled out of an arrangement in response to a series of increasingly "ridiculous" demands made by DCC Officials, with one source within OUSA calling it "an active and wilful campaign to discourage students from voting".

One source close to the negotiations described the DCC representatives as "terrified of the idea of having [the booth]" while another described them as "dismissive" of the OUSA elections committee, saying "They don't trust students. They're worried that students are going to tear up the system. Together we have 20,000 potential votes. They're worried about that."

OUSA had wanted to place the booth in the Link, where early voting booths had been located during the 2014 general election, but DCC representatives insisted that it be placed in the OUSA reception area, which has far lower visibility and foot traffic. OUSA would also have been required to have an executive member supervising the station at all times.

DCC also made it clear that they would consider pulling the booth if anyone from the university were to run. OUSA Campaigns Officer Sean Gamble says he found the provision "unfair", and that when he had inquired whether her criteria applied only to students or extended to university staff, he had received no reply.

A DCC representative told Critic they expected to attend meetings of the OUSA Campaigns committee overseeing student enrolment. OUSA denied her entry to the meeting, saying they felt her attendance was "inappropriate" as they are an independent organisation and should not be accountable to the council.

One source expressed concerns about how close Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull, who himself is up for re-election is year, was to the process. Laura Harris confirmed that at a private meeting both he and Jordan had both expressed OUSA

refraining from endorsing a candidate as a factor in DCC providing the booth. Dave Cull recently found himself on the wrong side of OUSA after attempting to get the Student Union to organise and pay catering for a voter enrolment event where he would speak. Gamble says they pulled out over concerns that the event was shaping up too much as a tool for Cull to promote his own campaign. Cull is still intending to go ahead with a similar event at Otago Polytechnic.

Since pulling out of discussions, OUSA has planned its own extensive initiative to promote voter enrolment and participation among students, with up to \$10,000 invested in an awareness campaign. Over the coming weeks, teams will be visiting halls of residence to enrol new voters, with a goal of registering 5000 students, a number which Sean Gamble categorises as "ambitious but doable". This initiative has also faced some resistance from the DCC, which denied a request for a bulk lot of 5000 blank enrolment forms, instead providing them only on a piecemeal basis.

Because local body elections operate by postal vote, special voting is particularly important to students, who may be registered to vote at previous flats or their home electorate. A booth on campus would have been a simple way to counter this. However, special voting forms are also available via a simple phone request. OUSA believes that by encouraging students who do not receive their form to request one, and drawing attention to the postbox located outside Archway Shop in the Link, they can essentially replicate the benefits of a polling booth without DCC-imposed restrictions.

by Joel McManus

OUSA Campaigns Officer Sean Gamble says he found the provision "unfair"

They don't trust students.

Together we have 20,000

potential votes





Are the Olympics starting to lose legitimacy?

After Rory McIlroy's comments this week, one was reminded of the ridiculous amount of sports now included in the Olympic Games. This year's games will have 308 events across 28 different sports, an Olympic record. To put this in context, there were only 43 events at the first modern Olympiad.

McIlroy is right — what place does golf have in the Olympics? It is not considered the pinnacle of the sport and only clogs an already busy schedule. Nor is it alone. In the same category are sports like football, tennis, boxing, and the rugby sevens – none of which see the Olympics as the pinnacle of their respective sports (if we count sevens as union, and boxing as professional).

When I watch the Olympics, I want to watch the best athletes competing at the highest level. I want to see the emotion of four years of hard work come to the fore. I want to see champions cry as they sing their national anthem on the

podium. These scenes are what the Olympics are all about, and I for one am worried about the current climate of the games.

It is supposed to be a privilege to go and compete at the Olympics. Athletes work their ass off to get there, and work even harder to win. It's for this reason that I find the inclusion of some of these events a joke. The fact that Sonny Bill Williams and Jarryd Hayne (although unsuccessful) basically wrote their names on the sign-up sheet to go and grab an easy Olympic medal speaks volumes about the legitimacy of the sport in the games.

When I talk of wanting to watch the best athletes, this does not mean I want to watch a team full of Brazilian teenagers (and Neymar, for some reason) play some street football for a laugh. Nor do I want to watch some obscure boxer from Kazakhstan triumph over another from Malawi (I thought we had moved on from the amateur era, but apparently not).

Hard work is what defines the Olympics in my eyes. The athletes train for years and battle through injury and pain because they know this is their moment on the world stage. It's for this reason that I don't want to see Rafael Nadal pull out in order to "save himself" for future tournaments. If it really mattered, he would be there no matter what.

The crazy state of Rio has distracted us from the ridiculousness of the Olympics and the sports that have been thrown in to simply bulk up the schedule. In future I hope some of these issues are addressed, even if it does mean less medals for New Zealand. As Rory said, I'll be watching the sports "that matter." by Sean Nugent

Around the grounds:

basketball



23 July Mens-Varsity A vs. Magic A Edgar Centre (court 6) 12.30pm

rugby



23 July Dunedin Club Final Forsyth Barr Stadium 2.45pm

nethall

16



21 July Southern Magpies vs. Uni Albion Edgar Centre (court 7) 8.00pm

hockey



23 July University vs. Taieri Hockey Turf 4.45pm

23 July University vs. City Highlanders Hockey Turf 3.00

What's on the box?



Rory McIlroy blasts inclusion of golf in Olympics

Earlier this week top golfer Rory McIlroy dished out a scathing attack on the Olympics, maligning the inclusion of golf in the games for the first time since 1904. He spoke bluntly and honestly about his decision to not compete in the games, citing the fact that the Olympics are not, and never have been, the pinnacle of the sport.

His absence from Rio has been seen as a disappointing move during a time where golf is trying to expand. However, McIlroy did not believe that he had any obligation to be a part of this process.

"I didn't get into golf to try and grow the game, I tried to get into golf to win championships and win major championships," McIlroy said.

Asked which events he would watch, McIlroy said, "Probably the events like track and field, swimming, diving—you know, the ones that matter."

These views reinforce his opinion on the inclusion of golf in the Olympics. Recently, the former world number one explained why the Olympics were not as important to golfers as they are to other athletes.

"Most other athletes dream their whole lives of competing in the Olympics, winning Olympic gold. ... We dream of winning Claret Jugs and we dream of winning green jackets." McIlroy joined a long list of top golfers not travelling to Rio, including Jason Day, Jordan Spieth, and Dustin Johnson. The quartet are the top four golfers in the men's game, and their absence will cloud all golfing events in Rio.

However, New Zealanders Danny Lee and Lydia Ko will both be competing, with the latter the favourite to take home the gold in the women's event.

The men's event will be held from August 11–14, with the women playing from August 18–21. **by Sean Nugent**



Amber Allott risked her immortal soul to bring you stories of the extra flatmates you may wish you didn't know about.

unedin is reputed to be the most haunted city in New Zealand. You could end up living in one of New Zealand's oldest, most fascinating residential buildings, in various states of disrepair, with a unique and possibly tragic history. You may, like many before you, end up hearing footsteps clunking up the stairs when nobody else is home, have household objects disappear and reappear without cause, have lights switch on and off by themselves, or even hear a faint whisper from the somewhere in the dark as you lay in bed one night. So how do you know whether or not your flat has an unseen flatmate hanging around, not paying rent, and what, if anything, can you do about it?

Dunedin has a pretty colourful history for such a small city. Andrew "The Hairraiser" Smith runs infamous nightly ghost tours around Dunedin. He'll show you an alleyway haunted by a sinister black dog, an old factory where a mysterious fire claimed several lives, and an innocuous looking building in the city centre where a fatal mail-bomb was set off. Dunedin's most famous haunted buildings are the glamorous old churches, hotels, theatres, and the magnificent but dark-historied Larnach Castle, but scores of the more mundane looking places are chock-full of the same essence of tragedy and mystery. As

such, Dunedin is not short of people who have had their own brush with something unexplained.

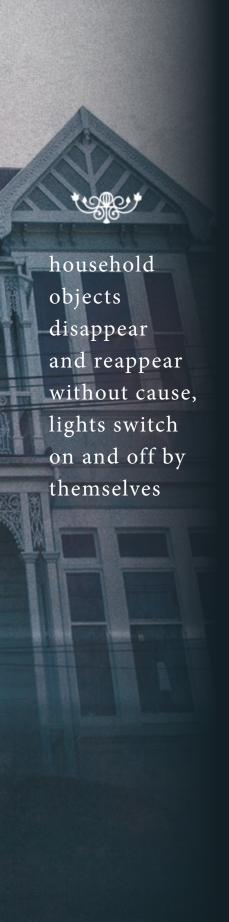
Whilst visiting Larnach Castle with her family, high school student Emily and her younger brother, David, had a spooky experience. After reading the kids brochure, which talked about ghost sightings on the third floor, young David was rather spooked. Since there were still twenty minutes left on the tour, Emily decided to take him along for a look, to show him that there was nothing to be afraid of. Up they went. Emily felt slightly ill-at-ease when she noticed the floor angled on a slight slope towards the open staircase. Meanwhile, David was examining one of the bedrooms. Emily realised that it was just her and her brother on this floor, alone. That's when she noticed the curtain covering the entrance to the boudoir was shivering. Wanting to show David everything was ok, she said to him, "See this shivering curtain?"

"It's not moving." He replied.

"Yes it is, just a little if you look closely."

Emily was just about to launch into her totally logical explanation so that he wouldn't be scared and they could be off on their merry way when David leaned towards it, only getting to: "No it's n-" before the heavy, green velvet, draping-on-

the curtain covering the entrance to the boudoir was shivering



the-floor curtain concaves inwards a mere thirty centimetres from his head. Inwardly exclaiming 'what the fuck?' but ever logical, Emily said, "Okay Davy, see there must be some tourists in there, making it move." David pulls back the curtain and looks inside, comes straight back out, looks her right in the eye, as pale as a sheet, before sprinting for the stairs nearly screaming. Still thinking maybe it could be air currents making the curtain move, Emily tried shaking her hand vigorously in front of it. It didn't move an inch.

I received stories from Dunedin residents past and present, as well as by people from around the country, encompassing everything from cats spooking at unseen objects, to a homemade Ouija board stirring up serious trouble in a former rectory. Current Dunedin student Elizabeth* had her experience with the paranormal in a flat in Wellington, with a dark, scary little kitchen. One night, after walking into the room with the lights off, she thought she saw a ragged-looking figure in the corner. Scared, she told her flatmates, who all believed that Elizabeth had seen a ghost. After that, they had a few people staying in the lounge right by the kitchen, who claimed to hear footsteps, clinking glasses, and muffled speech coming from the kitchen at night. One day, Elizabeth and her boyfriend were woken late one night by a curious sound. Despite turning on the light, the sound continued; a deep 'bong' coming from the corner of the room. They looked and saw the boyfriend's double bass lying on its side, making a noise as though someone were plucking the strings, despite nobody else being in the room

Another current Dunedin student, Jasmine, recalls a story from when she lived in the Philippines at age eight. Growing up in the Philippines, she heard some interesting stuff, and Jasmine swears that half the country is either haunted or possessed. As a kid, she was told never to go to certain areas, lest something sinister befall her. One of her nannies was not one to listen to local legends, and headed off to one of these taboo places. Next thing Jasmine knew, her nanny was being exorcised because she had disturbed a violent spirit. Jasmine was eight and doesn't know what went on in the exorcism. Her parents laugh

about it now, but at the time she was shit-scared. The nanny had to be replaced after that incident, and Jasmine doesn't know what ended up happening to her.

There are plenty of residential buildings with stories as strange as these right here in Dunedin. Demelza Clinch is a Dunedin resident who has been researching local paranormal activity for a book on haunted Dunedin. She grew up in a house with various unexplained goings on, and has a deep fascination with the history of buildings and houses, so this book seemed like a perfect marriage of her interests. What has surprised Clinch, in the course of her research, is just how many stories she has heard about student flats. One flat on Cargill Street has had reports of various paranormal experiences dating back to the '70s. One woman reported doors banging, and objects being mysteriously moved. Another man had the same experience in the '80s, and Clinch has found an archived story from the Otago Daily Times reporting students having problems there in the '90s. The house has a sad story behind it. The original owner of the house was building it for his beloved wife, who passed away before it was finished – leaving him heartbroken and unable to complete it.

So, if you're living in one of these flats, what should you look out for, and what should you do? Mark Wallbank, an investigator for one of New Zealand's most prominent paranormal research teams, and author of two books on the subject, Talking to Shadows, and Voices in the Walls. He has a lifetime of experience with all things out of the ordinary. As a kid, he was obsessed with horror comics and ghost stories, and UFOs, ghosts, and elusive cryptids like bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster fuelled his imagination. He first headed out into the research side of the field aged ten, exploring burned out or abandoned old houses that were littered around the bush and paddock-lands of pre-suburban Howick. Around 1985, he teamed up with a couple of mates, and armed with a torch, camera, and tape recorder, set out to document and hunt ghosts. They were called "Auckland Ghost Hunting Group," and although it hasn't been verified, they may have been New Zealand's very first paranormal investigation team. Nowadays, Wallbank is the leader of Haunted Auckland, a paranormal investigation and research group based in Auckland, who offer support and assistance to people who believe they are experiencing paranormal activity in their home or business, for a standard home-visite of some chocolate biscuits or baking, and a cuppa.

One of the most jarring experiences Mark has ever had with the supernatural involved a home with a dark past in New Lynn a few years back. "We spent a full night in the home, while the family stayed elsewhere. I spent some time, by myself, lying on the daughter's bed, as there had been many incidents reported coming from that room. I had the audio recorder going in an attempt to have a few staple questions answered. I was lying on my back with both arms up behind my head, my camera ready at my side. Almost ten minutes into the session, I jumped up, as I felt the exact sensation of long hair slowly being dragged along my arm... It was like a woman had leaned over me, moved from left to right, slowly draping her long hair across my arms. It was an amazing experience. I could feel all the long hairs running through my arm hairs!"

If you think that your flat might be hosting a mysterious presence, Wallbank says that there are some common phenomena to look out for. These include:

- · Footsteps, and sounds of movement.
- · Doors, cupboards and drawers opening unaccountably.
- · Household items disappearing and reappearing without cause.
- · Voices being heard.
- · Lights switching on and off by themselves.
- · Seeing unusual moving shapes, mists, or shadows.

True hauntings are reportedly very rare, and it may be difficult to determine whether or not any strange occurrences you are experiencing in your house might be due to an actual haunting. For one thing, no one has really defined what a 'real' haunting is — or what causes it. No two cases are alike, and while one may feature only a single,

very particular phenomenon, others may feature the whole shebang, from odd noises to full-blown apparitions. "There are no experts or professionals in this field. Anyone that claims to the contrary is fooling themselves and their clients."

If you are being haunted, the most important thing to do is to stay lucid and rational. Don't get into a blind panic about ghosts running amok in your flat. "Many people jump to an instant ghost answer and spend the rest of their time being miserable, anxious, and too scared to live at peace in their own house. The imagination can be a powerful thing. Don't let it take over." Instead, Wallbank advises that you thoroughly investigate to see if anything seems out of the ordinary. Look closely, use your brain, and work through the possibilities. He recommends that if there is ongoing activity, you keep a log or a journal, noting down dates, times, and a description of what happened. From there, it can be determined whether there are any patterns to help form an investigation strategy or approach. Clinch adds that if it is particularly bothering you, you can contact the Dunedin Spiritualist Church, or even your local church, for a cleansing or blessing.

If you want to get out of the ghetto and do some real ghost-busting, keep in mind that it's not all fun and games. "In reality," Wallbank states, "paranormal research isn't exciting. Sure, it has its moments, but the majority of the time it can be very dull. Sitting quietly for hours in dark, cold rooms, waiting for something to happen. Then there's the post-investigation review and analysis work... We have people contacting us wanting to join the team all the time, inspired by the television shows. They are quick to bail when they find out that they have to actually do things resembling work." It's also important to remember that for some people, the paranormal can be an area of much fear and superstition, and it's important to respect them, and their beliefs.



I eaching Kids to Kids

f you, much to your great misfortune, happen to be born poor, there are a lot of opportunities that you are going to miss out on that your more well-off peers will receive. While the differences between the rich and the poor appear much more overt in third-world, they are still very tangible and very real, even in first-world countries, New Zealand included. In fact, the relationship between your economic background and your educational achievements is so pronounced in New Zealand that many third-world countries surpass us in terms of educational equality.

Teach First New Zealand is a government-endorsed programme designed specifically to combat these educational inequalities. The highly lauded programme employs graduates of New Zealand universities, placing them in low-decile secondary schools, in academic areas where there are often shortages of teachers. The organisation's mission attempts to sculpt a world where what you can achieve in life is not determined by how much your parents earn.

The Teach First programme was first established in the United Kingdom, but was brought to New Zealand by CEO Shaun Sutton in 2011. "I'm a Kiwi originally from Auckland," Sutton states, "but I spent about five years in Asia, and then five years in London. That was where I heard about Teach First UK — traditional teaching pathways didn't appeal to me, but I was instantly hooked." Sutton was quite possibly the first New Zealander to go through the programme, and was stationed at the UK equivalent of a decile one school in West London, in a primarily white, working

class neighbourhood. The school was located right by the Heathrow Airport runway, and it was there that he first realised the power of great teaching.

"Research shows that the quality of the teacher and of the leadership is the most effective change — That's what Teach First is about. No matter what these kids end up doing they carry that with them."

After returning to New Zealand five years ago, Sutton was eager to introduce the programme to New Zealand schools. Although the programme here was inspired by Teach First UK, it was built to fit New Zealand. This means acknowledging the fact that we are a bicultural society, and honouring the Treaty of Waitangi. For Teach First NZ, that means accepting as many Maori and Pasifika graduates as they can, so that all children can have role models who share a background and a culture with them to help foster their aspirations. Sutton said New Zealand needs a programme like this because: "The sad reality in New Zealand is that your post code will be the greatest predictor of your success."

"We are an initiative set up to tackle New Zealand's educational inequalities," states Teach First NZ's Recruitment and Selection Manager, Steph Curley. Despite being widely considered a first-world country, there is a huge disparity in educational quality and achievement between those of high and low socio-economic backgrounds, a fact that has even been criticised by the United Nations, who claim that we are "embarrassing." This is especially poignant when the fact that many countries with higher rates of

"With our current educational system, people don't get the opportunity."

Teach First NZ's Steph Curley



inequality in education than we do. "In New Zealand, if you're from a high socioeconomic area, there is a 90 percent chance you will go to uni," claims Curley, "Whereas, in places with a low socio-economic rate, only 58 percent of students achieve NCEA Level 2. With our current educational system, people don't get the opportunity."

poverty, such as Thailand, India, and China, have less

Teach First recruits high-achieving graduates with areas of study focusing on the sciences, mathematics, ICT, Te Reo, and English. They run an intensive six-week programme on teaching, which fast-tracks these students for a placement teaching in a decile one school. Deciles are ratings used by the Ministry of Education to determine the level of funding that a school will receive, based on census data for households in the school's zone. This includes factors such as average income, the number of parents on benefits, occupations, levels of education, and the number of people per household. Every school will be given a decile rating from one to ten, with approximately ten percent of schools in each category. Schools rated decile one, the lowest decile, have the highest proportion of students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Not as many graduates are deciding to go into teaching in recent years, and those that do often don't want to work in low decile schools. Those that take these positions are often recruited from overseas, may not be fluent in English, or have a marked disinterest in the students' education. Curley reports being shocked upon hearing one teacher remark to students, "You don't want to get more than achieved, I'll teach you to answer one question."

Mitchell Denham is a recent Otago graduate who is currently doing a placement teaching English at Northland College, a decile one high school in the rural township of Kaikohe. He first saw the Teach First NZ page advertised on Facebook, and thought that it sounded like something he wanted to do. Being only 24 years old, Denham looks quite young, and often gets mistaken for a student. At last year's prize-giving ceremony, an elderly woman even scolded him for sitting with the teachers. His students still listen to him, however; "when kids know you mean business they will listen. Age doesn't really matter to them if they know you are there constantly and have their best interests at heart."

Most of the problems Denham has noticed with teaching in a decile one school are issues around funding. The school lacks money for events like school trips, resources are limited, many of the buildings are not well kept, and there is a high turnover of staff. However, he doesn't believe that there is a difference between the students in low and high decile schools. "I think at the end of the day, kids are just kids — it shouldn't matter what decile their school is."

Apparently, it's the little things that let you know you're really making a difference. "We've just had parent-teacher interviews. Whanau came in and told me that they've 'never seen them read before, but now they've bought home that book you recommended,' or 'for the first time, they want to tell me what they did in English today." In the end, Denham thinks the most rewarding thing is watching the changing perspective these kids have of school — as a safe, comfortable space; somewhere they can enjoy themselves.



"The sad reality in New Zealand is that your post code will be the greatest predictor of your success."

Shaun Sutton

Shaun Sutton also has a story of a time he knew he had made a difference. "I remember taking the Year Ten students to the University of Oxford for a day, to the robotics department. None of the students had ever set foot on a university campus before, let alone a collegiate one. One small boy came up to me, and he told me, "The only reason I came was to get off school for the day. Now I want to apply."

To teach in a decile one school, the most important qualities to have are resilience and self-reflection. "On the bad days, you need to reflect on what went wrong, and come back with a positive attitude and change it. You have to want to teach the kids." Mitchell Denham would highly recommend the programme to anyone who is interested. "It's the most challenging thing you'll ever do in your life — definitely not for the faint of heart. Particularly for those kids who've had a rough start to life. I'd say 100 percent do it. Despite the challenges, it's so rewarding — all the little things make the hardships worth it. I really believe in the programme. Teaching is not a last resort — you get to be an agent of change within a community."

To date, Teach First NZ has made significant headway with their goals. The selected participants represent a wide array of diverse backgrounds, many of which are underrepresented in teaching, such as Maori, Pasifika, and male teachers. Despite many of them not previously having considered teaching as a career, all of them chose to take their placements in low decile schools, where they have filled many places as teachers of Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Science, and Te Reo. Participants are proving to be well-liked, with all principals of partner schools wanting to employ more Teach First NZ participants in the future. They have also judged Teach First participants to perform extremely well in the classroom, and other school staff describe them as "high calibre," "hard working," "friendly," and "resilient." After a recent evaluation by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, the evaluators found that, "In most departments staff reported that they noticed comparable, if not improved, levels of student achievement for participants' classes. They were able to justify this by standardised literacy test results, NCEA moderated internal assessments, completion rates for achievement and unit standards, as well as informal judgements about student engagement."

The praise these young teachers have received aside, 93% of the first group are still teaching as of 2016.

Despite the glowing reports of the programmes by principals, parents, and the graduates who have undertaken the programme, the Post-Primary Teachers Association recently opposed the methods by which these teachers were placed into schools. The debate was the subject of a recent court-case, where the ruling was that the current method is illegal, and that it breached the State Sector Act. In order to prevent qualified teachers from missing out from teaching posts in these schools, the decision was made that they had to be advertised via the Education Gazette, rather than exclusively offered to students in the Teach First NZ programme. Anna Kirtlan, the PPTA Communications Advisor, clarified that the PPTA does not oppose the scheme itself, and that teachers being paid to train, receiving mentoring, and spending more time in schools is a positive attribute of the programme.

According to Steph Curley, "Educational inequality is tangible. We've got a problem with this, and we've got to fix it. Young people will make a difference — our generation can resolve this." Four cohorts have undergone the six-week training programme, and have been placed in low decile high schools throughout the country. The praise these young teachers have received aside, 93 percent of the first group are still teaching as of 2016. One of the ways in which participant Mitchell Denham said that he gained the respect and trust of the kids was by being a constant presence in their lives, and if that is the case, then surely the teachers who have completed the Teach First programmes are making an enormous difference.



Applications for the Teach First graduate programme close on August 15th.
Finalist best Graduate Development Programme in NZ.
Follow the story at teachfirstnz.org



The 2016 Darryl Kerrigan "My House My Castle" Awards

by Hugh Baird

Since Jesus wore sand shoes, students in Dunedin have been subjected to living in cold, damp and unkempt flats. As part of the OUSA flatting week festivities we decided to run a competition to find those flats and showcase some of the best, and worst of what Dunedin has to offer.













Winners of the Flat with Most Character - Dowling Street

A home can have a different meaning for the many different beings on earth. For most a home is a place to take refuge after a hard day's work. A place in which you can just relax, knowing you are safe in the sanctity of your own home. However, for some students in the North Dunedin area, home is a place where electric shocks plugging in the electric frypan aren't all too uncommon, and eating dinner alongside rats is a favourite pastime. This year's winners of the prestigious "Flat with the most character award" goes to the gentlemen who call this humble abode on Dowling Street home.

The mail dates back to the start of the year. The boys insist that bills are paid online and that mail is just a waste of a good tree.

The stairs are draped with carpet not glued down, making an ideal slope for mattress surfing.

Lounge: The lounge is a small and confined space heated by a single fireplace. The tenants tell me that wood is expensive and hard to come by, so as a cheap alternative they run their open fireplace on leftover rubbish.

Rubbish seems to be a bit of a problem inside the residence, with bags shrouding the couches, limiting seating. One of the residence informs me that it's a first-in-first-served type system, with stragglers having to find a place on the unkept carpet.

A pool table also takes centre stage in the middle of the lounge, a valuable asset to any flat, although this pool table seems to have taken on a different role, playing home to many various flat artifacts, including broken chairs, shopping trolleys and numerous amounts of clothing.

Kitchen: Like many kitchens in the North

Dunedin area, this cooking space is more of a home for unwashed dishes and rotting food items than a space in which to prepare meals. On close inspection an electric fry pan looks to contain the remains of last night's mince dish, but I'm corrected when one of the boys tell me that was infact last month's chicken.

Bedrooms: The bedrooms are small, with the average room only being able to house a single bed, a problem I'm told when trying to court members of the opposite sex.

Given that the flat is located in the middle of the centre city, external windows are non-existent. Instead, each room is equipped with a skylight in the centre of the ceiling. Curtains are hard to come by for skylights and I'm told that Sunday mornings can be tough, with a steady stream of light flooding the room from above.

Winners of the "Flat that Resembles Normality" award -Cannington Road

Lounge: The centrepiece of the lounge is the classical Yunca fireplace, which I'm told runs on a mixture of pine and leftover takeaway wrappers. Relaxing in the area is never a problem, with a large corner couch and beanbags which can be positioned in front of the fire when reading one of the many books from the corner bookcase or watching TV.

Kitchen: The kitchen area is a clean and open space with plenty of room to maneuver and prepare meals. The large windows above the bench top open up to the outdoor deck and provide panoramic views of Dunedin North, looking towards Mt. Cargill. The large open area also means that there is plenty of space for two cooks in the kitchen at each time and cook offs are often on the cards. The stove-top is induction,

a luxury not often seen in North Dunedin and has led to a few burnt fingers.

The Nescafe Dolce Gusto takes pride of place on the benchtop and I'm told it makes one hell of an early morning brew.

The artwork lights up the room and gives the flat a real sense of home.

Normally seen in grand ballrooms or aristocratic estates, the chandelier provides a touch of class as you open the front door to the home.

Outdoor area: Opening out to the back of the house you walk out onto a large and extended deck which sees sun all day. With the backyard of the property facing north, the deck is bathed in rays from sun up to sun down. The boys tell me that many sausages are rolled and chops flipped during the summer months when they're

able to make use of the longer nights.

The grass area is newly planted and provides an ideal space during the warmer summer months for the residents to run back and forth through the sprinklers to cool down.

Bathroom: Without any doubts the highlight of the bathroom is the bath itself. Baths are hard to come by in the North Dunedin area and are usually savoured for trips back home. The tenants inform me that at least once a month one of them will buy a couple of bath bombs from the local bed, bath and beyond which will usually lift spirits.



























Finding your dream flat!

Allow time to go flat hunting and allow all the tenants to see potential homes. Preferably wait until January to find a place – it saves paying rent for weeks you're not here and bargains can be found!

The University Accommodation Office gives out lists of flats for rent and people looking for flat-mates. They also give advice on the legal and other aspects of flatting!

Contact the landlords before you visit. Tenants hate it when some keen beans show up at the door on a Sunday morning without any notice. Landlords can talk to the tenants to organise a time you can look through the flat.

Furnished flats! Some flats come fully furnished, meaning that you don't have to fit the place with sofas and tables or other such objects. Enquire about this when searching around!

Setting up your flat: If you are flatting, set up a flat account so that the rent and bills get paid on time and everyone is paying their share. On a weekly basis put aside money towards the rent and bills. If there's money left over at the end of the month save it for expensive winter power bills or go out for dinner as a flat perhaps.

Insurance: Individual insurance is essential when you're flatting, especially personal liability cover. It'll come in handy if your flatmate burns down the house and then flees the country. Without personal liability cover you may have to foot the bill on your own.

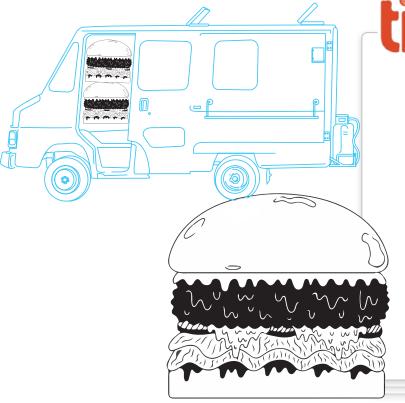
Be sure to shop around and get the best deal. When getting quotes they'll need to know roughly how much all your stuff is worth and details about your flat, such as where it is, who you'll be living with and the security of the flat.

Power: Visit powerswitch.co.nz to estimate what your flat's power usage might be and to compare plans. Power is more expensive during winter (it costs more per unit and you use more of it). Winter power bills can be a nasty surprise.

If you aren't receiving power bills, this doesn't mean that the power is free! It is your responsibility to chase this up!

photo credit: Hugh Baird & Sara Hewson

...or orange, or green, or purple, or whatever colours you choose



tinderesting stories

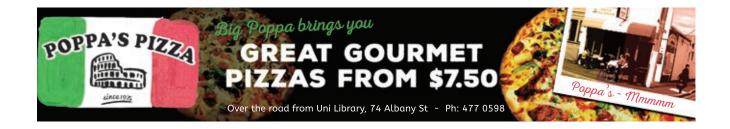
I met this woman on tinder, we went to a weird yuppy bar, she asked me why I was on tinder and I told her because all my friends were having fucking kids, she then tells me it was her 13 year old son that encouraged her to start dating again. When I come back from the bathroom the barman is sitting at her table with a huge bowl full of alcohol and three straws, his mother has just died and he's out to get blotto. Sweet, the date wasn't going anywhere anyway. After a few rounds I pop across the road to see if the gig's still going, and return to find that the barman and my date have left together. lol.

Easy

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Medium

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Professor Brookes' research interests include gender relations in New Zealand, and the history of health and disease in New Zealand and Britain. Critic asked her some important questions.

Do you have any pets?

A Spoodle called Scout. Black and curly with a little white chest.

If you could punch one person in the face who would it be? (no Hitler answers)

I would rather not punch anyone in the face. I am against violence.

Who is the sexiest theorist in your field?

Elsbeth Probyn (who literally wrote a book called Sexy bodies: the strange carnalities of feminism. We saw photos of Barbara as a student dressed as Puss-In-Boots. We think she could be the sexiest theorist in her field).

What was the band that got you through your study?

Little feat (Also Zepplin's Jimmy Page's favourite American band).

Wine or beer (or ...?)

Carbonated water with a little bit of unsweetened blackcurrant cordial, or green tea.

Favourite lecture venue?

Quad 4. If you've got too many people crammed into one level, you can't really talk to the back row. I recently went and talked

to school kids and suddenly realised how much I was enjoying talking to a group who didn't have laptops.

In the "Methods" class I sat down the back while they were giving presentations. I called people out who were on facebook while their fellow students were giving presentations.

Best spot in Dunedin?

My verandah at home. It faces the sun and the garden.

Where did you study?

At Otago, and then at Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia. It is one of the seven universities that were all women's colleges, but now only Bryn Mawr is. (Somehow Barbara met the man she'd marry at an all women's college...).

How long have you been teaching at Otago?

I came back as a post-doctoral fellow, and have been teaching since 1983. (Barbara was head of the History department for eight years).

What is your favourite disease?

Favourite disease? To study? I'm interested in mental illness. Possibly because it doesn't have a clear biological answer.

RA HAYWARD COLLEGE 3

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





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
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

pacific@otago.ac.nz | 03 479 8278 www.otago.ac.nz/pacific | Cnr Clyde St & Leithbank St

Second Semester Events

Welcome Back Taimane

Monday 18 July, 4-6pm Pacific Islands Centre

Beginning of supplementary tutorials

Monday 18 July

Oceania House, Pacific Islands Centre

How's it Going? Taimane

Thursday 11 August, 5:30pm onwards

Pacific Week

4-10 September

Praise and Worship Lotu SUNDAY 4

Pacific Cultural Fiafia Night MONDAY 5

Debates and Poetry Night THURSDAY 8

Pacific Ball SATURDAY 10

Pacific Graduation Breakfasts

8am, 20 August 2016

8am, 10 December 2016

8am, 14 December 2016

8am, 17 December 2016

University of Otago Staff Club

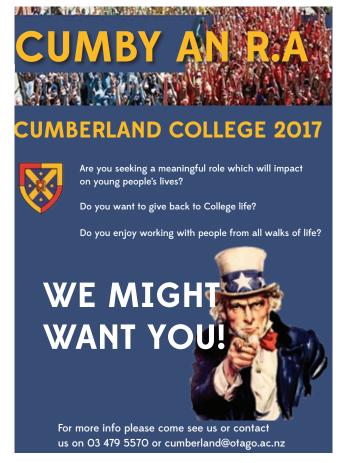
End of Year Taimane

Thursday 13 October

Pacific Voices XII Postgraduate Symposium

Friday 14 October, 8:30am-5pm Main Common Room, University Union





LETTER OF THE WEEK

To All PokemonGo players,

I am used to having to dodge freshers using their phones as maps and having to weave through them when walking on the pavement, but this Pokemon Go craze is too much. Moving in 'gaggles', heads down, intent on "catching them all", I am now either forced to walk on the road or carry a tailored made taser disguised as a pen to ward them away if they come too close. Pokemon Go - fuck yourself...

Anon

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

Critic would like to apologise for printing an incorrect advert for the Pacific Island Centre. Please see opposite page for corrected advert with the right dates.

A RESPONSE TO ESAPING THE CULT OF A.C.E

As a state-trained teacher with many years' experience working with a wide variety of curriculum options in a wide range of educational contexts, I believe that Jean Balchin's article entitled 'Escaping the Cult of Accelerated Christian Education' paints a highly emotive, superficial and twisted view of what is a globally-recognised education option of the highest academic calibre.

The author's scathing review appears to be based on her personal rejection of a "religious" Judeo Christian worldview in favour of a post-modernist philosophy.

The Accelerated Christian Education curriculum is made available globally to any individual or organisation which wishes to make use of it. It is Biblically-based, but no education ever takes place in some sort of moral vacuum. As the nature of education is inextricably rooted in the nature of truth, all education is therefore fundamentally religious. Consequently, what distinguishes one curriculum from another at its root level is its underpinning religious bias.

Within a theoretical context, one could imagine a young person being locked away in a cupboard for 10 or 11 years with nothing but the A.C.E. curriculum and no other human interaction or intellectual input. If one was to do so, it would be logical to assume that the outcome would be a young person who held a conservative, Bible-Belt Baptist point of view. However, much the same could be said of a student who had been locked away in the same cupboard with nothing but the current NZ state school curriculum. But in the real world, how likely is this?

Given that the aim of any education is to influence thinking, the question is not "is my child being brainwashed?", but "who is brainwashing my child?" As a homeschooling parent, I have never been afraid of educational material coming into my home that I disagree with, as it has given us as parents the chance to discuss with our children what we believe and why, as opposed to what we don't, (an opportunity that few parents of students in state schools have).

Nevertheless, Jean Balchin seems to assume that anybody who touches the A.C.E. curriculum turns their brains off, and that students are somehow disgorged at the end of their education as naïve, intellectually-stunted, religious morons.

Can you really ascribe racism to A.C.E on the basis that comic strips show black students in black neighbourhoods going to black schools? Is that a deliberate attempt to teach racism, or is that depicting the actual reality of life on the ground in the area in which the PACEs were written (remembering that in the first instance they are produced for a local, American market)? I would suggest that harmonising relative proportions of ethnic identities in comic strips for the sake of political correctness is simply disingenuous.

To be defined as "homophobic" because one does not accept homosexuality is a perversion, pun intended. A phobia is fear. Few Christians I know have a fear of homosexuality – they simply reject it as a lifestyle because it is contrary to the teachings of the Bible. In rejecting a lifestyle one does not necessarily reject the person. I would have thought that the Christian attitude of accept-you-but-not-necessarily-your-beliefs-and/or-practices" demonstrates a more open-minded approach than that shown by Balchin, who clearly assumes "queer" lifestyles, evolution, feminist theology and unfettered (safe) sex to be divine and any contrary view to be evil.

While A.C.E. clearly and unashamedly takes a creationist standpoint in regard to science, it also discusses at length the issue of evolution. Although I have been involved in state education at primary, intermediate, and secondary level in various capacities for many years, I have never once heard student given any other viewpoint to even consider apart from evolution.

In conclusion, Balchin fails to mention the vast numbers of A.C.E. students just in New Zealand who have gone on to succeed in all walks of life. Jean Balchin may personally reject one worldview in favour of another, but to attempt to marginalise and discredit others on that basis is intellectually arrogant and presumptuous in the extreme.

Roy Herbertson, Whangarei

(This letter has been shortened by *Critic*. The full letter is on our website critic.co.nz.)





FLATMATE BULLIES

Dear Ethel,

Two of my flatmates are being really awful to me. They turn the hot water off when I'm in the shower, they walk out of the room if I walk in. Yesterday they shoved me against the wall and said 'sorry' as if it was an accident. I started to cry and the two of them pretended to cry and called me a stupid c*. Today I went to get in my car and found two of my tires had been let down. I'm scared. Can I get out of my tenancy?

-Free Me

Dear Free Me.

It's tricky, but yes. Physical violence is not OK under any circumstances. Call the police and talk to them about a protection order! What you've described is criminal behaviour. Your flatmates should be held responsible for their actions.

It is vital to keep you safe. Can you stay with a friend until you can get out of the flat permanently? If you have to go back to the flat, take a friend or Campus Watch person with you. Make sure you're not alone with the flatmates who are being abusive.

If you are on a joint and severally liable fixed term lease, you need to find someone to replace you on the lease and the landlord and other tenants need to agree to them. You could talk to your landlord about other tenants interfering with your peace and privacy. In exceptional circumstances, the landlord might apply to the Tenancy Tribunal for a termination of the existing lease. If the landlord won't do anything, you may be able to apply to the Tenancy Tribunal to have your lease terminated because the landlord has failed to meet their responsibilities under the Residential Tenancies Act. It is worth getting some free legal advice from Otago Community Law (Filleul St).

If the flatmates are students, you could speak with the Proctor. All students are bound by the university's Ethical Behaviour Policy and your flatmates are clearly behaving unethically.

These may sound like drastic measures but you are in a very unsafe situation. Pop into 5 Ethel B for a chat—we can connect you with other agencies, support you in whatever action you decide to take, help find temporary accommodation, talk to your landlord...anything at all! You deserve a stress–free and safe flat with supportive flatties. Don't take anything less.

Whole lotta love,

-Ethel

CAN A FALLING BULLET KILL?

by Steve-o Hawkins

If you've ever watched a gang of militants running around firing off rounds into the air, then it's probably likely you've also wondered what happens when those bullets fall? Do these madmen end up with bullets in their heads themselves? Or do those in the town across the river get peppered with a volley instead?

The answer actually depends. Shot at a complete vertical angle, the bullet would tumble, lose its revolutions and fall at terminal velocity, rendering it less than lethal. However, if in a more likely situation the bullet was to be fired at a non-vertical angle, then it will retain its revolutions and reach a speed high enough to inflict a lethal wound.

Shooting off rounds into the air has long been a way of celebrating in certain parts of the world. Regions such as the Balkans, Middle East and countries from Central Asia all feel the need to fill the air with lead to celebrate such things as bringing in the New Year or religious holidays.

In 2014, a 20 year old pregnant mother of two was struck in the head and killed by a stray bullet from her neighbours' wedding in Lebanon. While in 2012, ironically following a cease-fire ending fighting with Israel, a man in Gaza was killed and three others wounded following a few rounds of celebratory gunfire.

However, if you are looking to let off a few rounds and skip the fatalities then I'd recommend doing it under water. That age old myth that water is bulletproof is indeed completely factual.

A 44 Magnum, one of the most powerful handguns on the planet, firing a bullet at around 1600 kph is only able to penetrate three water balloons before coming to a halt. This is all due to the density of water. As soon as the bullet leaves the barrel it starts to slow as it has to cut through the air. Upon impact with the water, which is 784 times more denser than air, the bullet immediately starts to lose its energy and velocity, slowing and then coming to a complete stop. It's the same principle that makes running in water so difficult compared to running through air.

But to be perfectly honest, the easiest way of not being shot is if idiots don't fire off their guns in such a way. It's not hard.



<u>A MAN HATER SEXUALLY</u> (WOMEN TO AVOID FOR MARRIAGE)

Last week I gave a warning to the young ladies of Otago University of men who appear decent on the outside, but inside have an evil spirit visible only through the back of the eye by a keen and knowledgeable observer.

Alas, avoiding degenerate women can prove more difficult even than this. While a male degenerate will have unpleasant facial characteristics — the low forehead, chin narrow, jaw widening rapidly, eyes near together —his female counterpart could be fair of face. So, attention must be drawn to other physical qualities.

It is in the nature of things that man should desire to "multiply and replenish the earth". With some women and with many men the chief object and aim in marriage is to bring into the world healthy, intelligent and robust children to illuminate their early and cheer their declining days.

With all who seek the married state, the expectation is that it shall result in a prolonged intimacy with the chosen one and in securing a home —a peaceful, happy home. Is it not then of the utmost importance that steps should be taken, intelligently, to so choose as to gain the ends desired? And is it not the height of folly to go blindly into this, by far the most important relation of his lifetime?

If a man is full-blooded, sexually vigorous and strong, do you suppose that he could reasonably expect satisfaction if he married a girl like the one illustrated as "A Man-Hater Sexually"? A woman whose sexual development was arrested in early youth—who has not enough sexual passion to last her through two years of wedlock? Assuredly not. Such women usually have flat chests, narrow hips, bloodless and thin or peaked features, indicative of arrested sexual development and a lack of that warmth and softness that attracts and holds the affections of men. Some women marry because they want a man to support them. They will have a horror of bearing children or rearing a family. Sexually they are man haters. Let them alone, young man, unless you likewise are indifferent to such things.

*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 & KUDDOCK



DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP

Hi Sexcellent,

All of my friends are having sex but at 18 years old, I'm still a virgin. I feel like I'm not part of the group when they sit around discussing their exciting sex lives. I really want to have sex but I have low self-esteem and I'm too self-conscious around guys. How can I stop feeling so lame and left out?

- Virginia

Hiya Virginia,

Firstly, it is crucial that you understand this—virginity is an outdated concept. But if you are saying you haven't had sex, you are definitely not the only 18 year old virgin here at Otago Uni! According to a worldwide sex survey of 10,000 people carried out by Durex in 2000, the average age of first intercourse in New Zealand is 17.6, so at 18 years old, you are not in any danger of falling behind the pack.

Being a virgin at any age is fine. Many of my friends didn't become sexually active until their mid-twenties, and this has not in any way negatively impacted their lives. Your sex life and what you do with your body is nobody's business but your own and anybody lucky enough to be intimate with you in the future.

My primary concern here is to make sure that you're not rushing into anything just because you feel like you need to "get it out of the way", or conform to some kind of sexual social "norm". Sexuality is just about the most diverse thing that we humans have, and there are no norms where sexuality is concerned—this should only ever be celebrated!

If you're feeling like you have nothing to contribute to the conversations your friends are having, let them know—they are your friends and should understand where you're coming from. Alternatively, get involved in the conversation by asking lots of questions, their experience could be valuable insight for you to use in your own sexual future. If your friends can't be compassionate or respectful of your sexual inexperience then perhaps you should ditch those weak-ass hoes and find some better mates.

All the best and make decisions for you, not the rest of the world. Love,

-5

MOOT: A BREXIT WILL PROVE TO BE A GOOD DECISION FOR BRITAIN

+Affirmative

by Squealer the Pig

The EU has become more of a super-state than a free trade zone and it is trampling on Britain's sovereignty.

British lawmakers are beholden to European and Brussels' parliaments, and often get outvoted on important matters. Britain's inability to control the free movement of EU citizens through its borders is one of the costs of being subject to EU law.

The immense flow of EU immigrants, combined with the refugee crisis, is putting unprecedented strain on healthcare, education and housing sectors. Further, the free movement laws obstruct efforts to weight total inflows more heavily toward higher-skilled workers. This means lower-skilled EU migrants are absorbing opportunities and resources that could otherwise be offered to, arguably, more deserving migrants from outside the EU—a significant cost (which a Brexit would absolve) to the productivity and sustainability of British immigration.

A Brexit would also reject democratic deficits in EU leadership, such as the behind—doors decision making of the legislative council, bureaucratic nature of the European Commission, and its intrusion and influence in the affairs of elected national governments on matters such as Berlusconi's departure in Italy, Papandreou's resignation as Greek premier, and Tsipras' inability to get rid of austerity policies. A Brexit would empower British democracy and, without the EU available as a scapegoat, Britain's national government would likely become more accountable too. Following the national referendum, a Brexit is the only truly democratic way forward.

Potential short-term, economic damage could be offset by a successful renegotiation of Britain's trade relationship with the EU as well as opportunities to form new trade partnerships elsewhere. Because the EU has an incentive to negotiate as quickly and smoothly as possible to mitigate damage, negotiations could well be favourable toward Britain. Additionally, a Brexit could provide stability in the long-term.

The Euro has historically been a much weaker, less stable currency than the pound, due in part to the influence of smaller EU states. New pressure to adopt the euro by 2020 poses a huge threat to British financial markets that a Brexit could avoid. Further, Brexit would mean Britain would no longer be obligated to pick up the pieces for other member-states (like Greece) who suffer financial downfalls. A Brexit would enable hefty weekly membership costs to be re-allocated to other domestic priorities too.

-Negative

by Old Major

As the world's largest trading bloc, the EU comprises a single market of over 500,000,000 consumers. With 48 percent of exports and over half of their imports being attributed to the EU, a Brexit would leave a sizeable hole (3.1 million jobs) in Britain's economy. This would be amplified by a (probable) decrease in foreign investment and a slump in confidence in both financial and business markets. The economic benefit easily offsets the cost of membership.

Though there is potential for trade benefits to be retained through a new agreement, it is likely that, as in Norway, the price of those benefits will be open borders as the EU sees free movement of people as a fundamental characteristic of the single market. Though fast, smooth negotiations are desirable, there is also significant incentive for the EU to make an example of Britain to deter further "exits", meaning a new deal may not be so generous. Establishing new trade alliances could take decades and is unlikely to be as profitable as EU membership.

Despite open borders, migrants are net contributors to public finances; statistics suggest concerns about immigration are largely misplaced. Open borders also allow British citizens to live, work, and retire anywhere in Europe, and offers consumers and travellers greater protections.

The EU may not be perfect democratically speaking, but a Brexit would mean divesting a powerful platform for influencing reform. Particularly following the referendum outcome, Britain is better placed than ever to exercise its political power as an EU heavyweight. Steady progress has been made recently on matters such as the introduction of national government "red cards"—so the climate for change is, evidently, improving.

Moreover, for a mid-sized country like the UK, which is becoming increasingly less dominant globally, and whose diplomatic and military resources are declining in relative terms, they stand to lose a critical lever for international influence that arises from membership of such a strong regional institution.

Finally, the UK referendum suggests a Brexit could estrange the likes of Scotland and Northern Ireland; who voted, overwhelmingly, to remain. The gravity of the consequences of a Brexit mean it could well become "the straw that breaks the camel's back" when it comes to Britain's relationship with its UK neighbours (who have previously considered a split) making for a much less-United Kingdom.

BOSSYPANTS

Author: Tina Fey



Review: Hayleigh Clarkson

Tina Fey's Bossypants delivers everything you hoped it would. Humour, honesty, punchy one-liners and a whole lot of cleverly disguised feminism in the form of flatulent jokes. There is not one single dull page in this book and the jokes just keep rolling.

It is not so much a memoir as it is Tina sitting down across from us and simply sharing the weird, wonderful and bizarre events that have happened in her life that tend to revolve around comedy. While it is written in chronological order, and has an incredible chapter all about her father who comes across like Tony Soprano, it is heavy on story-telling and strong opinions.

Tina opens up to us like a friend, sharing her concerns and proudest moments of her career. She struggles with the ratings of her show 30 Rock, but achieves the greatest comedic moment of her life playing Sarah Palin's comedic twin. She offers forceful and impressive arguments for working mothers and breastfeeding while confiding in us her concerns in having a second child.

If you think comedy isn't for women, or that women aren't funny, then you need to think again. Tina writes brilliant one liners, absolutely tears down the men in her Saturday Night Live office for peeing in jars, then takes on the internet trolls and sends them running home crying to their mothers. "Tina Fey is an ugly, pear-shaped, bitchy, overrated troll," writes one critic, to which Tina says it is unfair to call her an overrated troll since this critic has never seen her guard a bridge. For all they know, she could be the best

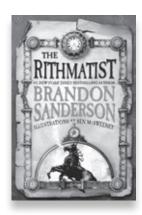
bridge guarding troll this world has ever seen. Then she signs off with "now go to bed you crazy night owl! You have to be at NASA early in the morning, so they can look for your penis with the Hubble telescope." Ouch.

We all know that Tina is a strong feminist without shoving it down your throat. The chapters entitled "Remembrances of Being Very Very Skinny," "Remembrances of Being a Little Bit Fat," and the hilarious "Amazing, Gorgeous, Not Like That," are full of wisdom and kicks to the balls of a society forcing women to look a certain way. On being skinny, she remembers she "once took a bag of sliced red peppers to the beach as a snack," and sleeping with "a pillow between my legs because my bony knees clanking together kept me awake," and on being a little bit fat, she remembers "my boobs were bigger," and "if I was really ambitions, I would get a Whopper Jr. at Burger King and then walk to McDonald's to get the fries. The shake could be from anywhere." Tina describes photoshoots as "THE FUNNEST!" "When you inevitably can't fit into a garment...reinforcements are called in to push on both sides of my ribcage until the zipper goes up." But when push comes to shove, she prefers that feminists do her photoshopping because "they leave the meat on your bones... they leave in your disgusting knuckles but they may take out some armpit stubble.".

Fey's writing is strong, the book flows easily from one chapter to the next and it leaves you wanting more. If you are a Tina Fey fan, then you will want to grab this book. She really is a boss.

THE RITHMATIST

Author: Brandon Sanderson



Review: Jack Blair

Remember the magic pencil and evil doodle from Spongebob Squarepants? If that episode had been set in Hogwarts, and there had been a murderer on the loose, then you'd have The Rithmatist.

Even though you may not care about the magical benefits of being able to draw a stick figure, you will by the end of this. So if you've got a spare evening and a hankering to re-live that childhood dream of going to a magical high school, then strap in and get your chalk because this is the escapist fantasy you've been waiting for.

37





INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE

Rating: C 333

Director: Roland Emmerich

by Andrew Kwiatkowski

With deep sadness I report that the promise of a worthy sequel made to us by the trailer was exploded into a million fragments like a landmark in a Roland Emmerich film. Granted, it was an ambitious and difficult task to ever try and match the supreme awesomeness of Independence Day, and I will give anything a two-star bump for featuring Jeff Goldblum in a speaking role, but it only ended up gilding the lily; the first one is just a perfect film, and cannot be outdone.

When the aliens return for another go at world domination, the gang reunites to tackle it all over again. It's pretty much the exact same plot as the first film, with the exception that the characters have no development left to run, and it is set on Earth with an alternate sci-fi history, so we can no longer recognise or buy-into the world being attacked. Almost every character who survived the first film returns, but the problem was always going to be that WILL SMITH IS MISSING. His 100 percent pure awesome '90s sass was instead meted out in tiny parts to everybody else to try dismally to cover his absence. I scoff—and I won't even dignify Liam Hemsworth taking up 50 percent of the screen time; I believe it was Alfred Hitchcock who declared "one Hemsworth is one too many." Practical effects pioneer Patrick Tatopoulos is also sorely missed, as without him this film is a Transformers-level mess of CGI employing a planet of engineers.

Beyond the surface level, though, the film seems thematically bankrupt also. The greatness of the first film in this franchise was that it put us in our place, and showed us that all our military might could not defeat the aliens; it would take self-sacrifice, ingenuity, and borderless humanism. The gun was not power. In Resurgence, however, we just need to find bigger military options, so the bottom line is...'Murica?

Resurgence is not worthy of the first film. But with the bewildering addition of a gigantic, invincible alien Queen, however, it may just be that Godzilla reboot we all were hoping for in 2014.

THE LEGEND OF TARZAN

Rating: B-

Director: David Yates

by Laura Starling

It's been 10 years since Tarzan (Alexander Skarsgård), also known as John Clayton III, was discovered by Jane (Margot Robbie) and brought to live in England. George Washington Williams (Samuel Jackson) convinces Tarzan to accept an invitation to the Congo from King Leopold in order to inspect the treatment of the Congolese. Jane insists on returning with her husband, despite his concerns for her safety. However, King Leopold's invitation is orchestrated by the film's villain, Leon Rom (Christoph Waltz), to lure Tarzan to his death in exchange for rare diamonds.

I went into the film knowing nothing about the premise, assuming it would be the same old Tarzan story. I was surprised that it was a sequel of sorts, but thought that it was a good decision—something different. There were some beautiful shots, cool scenes with animals, and I quite enjoyed the flashback scenes showing Tarzan's upbringing. Some scenes were pretty cheesy, and a few of the jokes didn't land for me, but overall it was entertaining.

However, I do have some strong aversions to the premise of this film. George Washington Williams was a real person and King Leopold's ownership of the Congo and abuse of the Congolese was real. George Washington Williams really did go to the Congo to inspect the treatment of the Congolese. He then went on to write an open letter which brought attention to the issue and resulted in the first public outcry against the regime and the lives lost.

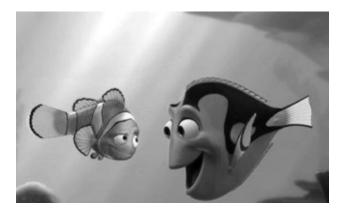
In retelling this historic story PLUS Tarzan, you have a different narrative. The way the film frames it, George Washington Williams' findings are only made possible by Tarzan. Instead of this being a fun movie about a child brought up in the wild and being able to communicate and talk with animals, it becomes a story of a White Saviour. In altering history, I felt that the film took away from George Washington Williams' real life achievements, in favour of turning the fictional Tarzan into the hero.

38

FINDING DORY

Rating: A

Directors: Andrew Stanton, Angus MacLane



by Lisa Blakie

Before I even begin to talk about Finding Dory, I NEED to yell about about adorable and flawlessly animated "Piper". This was the short before the feature film and sends the very simple message of facing your fears and learning from others. The animation was so gorgeously done with perfect lighting and textures to make it look like it was real but still uphold the wonder and magic that animation delivers. This was by far my favourite short out of the Pixar catalogue.

Anyway, onto the fish. Obviously, the animation is astounding and the movements and behaviours of the species are executed meticulously; one scene of Hank the Octopus' animation took two years to complete. I've seen Finding Nemo approximately 37 times and so quoting it comes as second nature to me, and I still find it hilarious to this day. Upon the first viewing of Finding Dory, I didn't find much of the dialogue immediately memorable, but I'm sure if I watch it enough times the hilarity will come through stronger.

Another thing that is done superbly is flashback storytelling where Dory recollects memories of her youth in an attempt to find clues on the whereabouts of her family, even though baby Dory is a little bug-eyed and creepy, the voice acting is adorable. I must mention how beautifully handled Dory's disability is: her short term memory loss is never made fun of, and in flashbacks her parents are constantly reassuring her of her positivity and strength. The characters she meets on her adventure are equally as kind, and it isn't used as a punchline.

However, there are two characters, Becky and Gerald, who are made into stereotypical "idiot for comic relief" characters, with exaggerated features and zero dialogue, bullied for their "oddness". This left a really sour taste in mouth, especially since the whole film is trying to champion the opposite, adding these two characters in for cheap laughs seemed really irrelevant in the wider scope of the film.

ME BEFORE YOU

Rating: A

Director: Thea Sharrock



by Halaevalu Maka

Me Before You is a film based on the book written by JoJo Moyes and directed by Thea Sharrock. It follows Louisa Clark (Emilia Clarke) a local English woman who is unemployed and looking for a job to financially secure her family. In order to stabilise her family's situation she takes a job offer as Will Traynor's caretaker (Sam Claflin), a quadriplegic who can't move anything from his chest area down. Throughout the film, you notice the extensive contrasts between both Lou and Will's personalities. Lou is warm, vibrant and quirky, and Will is cynical, close-minded and bitter. Lou one day overhears an argument between Will's parents and realises Will is contemplating suicide. After an insightful discussion with her sister Trina (Jenna Coleman) she decides that it is her duty to show Will, with the time that he has, how to live life boldly. So she puts a lot of energy into spending time and booking events with Will to improve his view on life.

The casting was the main reason why Me Before You was high on my list of movies to pay to see. I mean, it's a movie featuring the "Mother of Dragons", Emilia Clarke and British heartthrob, Sam Claflin. I loved watching Emilia in a comedic role, which was a change to her usual serious roles.

This movie gave caused dinner debates amongst my friends on the topic of disabled people and Euthanasia. The underlying problem was the question "Where are the lines drawn for a person's right to death?" However, I found this movie beautifully tragic—not only in the choice of Lou's clothes—but in respect of the love story between Lou and Will. I chose to appreciate the account of Lou Clark as one story about an individual person's life and choice rather than a poor representation of disabled people or of our society.

I thought the movie was rather moving and heart wrenching and I would definitely advise sobbing unashamedly during the film or the overwhelming feeling of sadness could indirectly affect other areas of your life.

TRACKS & WINTER READING

The semester break is when I like to catch up on my reading and my listening, and usually I combine these activities. So, for this week I've put together a summary of my winter reading list and some of the music that has accompanied it.



TiO (Zayn) & A selection of poems in The Male Muse: A Gay Anthology (Robert Peters)

Peters' poetry reads like the most intimate of caresses, he throws words together, toying with enjambment and biting, visceral bodily imagery that makes it hard to breathe as you read. His poetry, like Zayn's song, comfortably vacillates between tension and release and there is a palpable physical connection between the speaker and addressee. Peters' work is an exploration of intimacy, working to dismantle barriers between lovers, sexual and domestic. "Hubris" tackles intense, carnal desire that cannot be separated from the urge for tenderness, the poet explaining his need to "leap past gestures/ we know/ to savor cin-/namon, eat crushed thyme/ and fall/ locked with you/ through to that kingdom/ of exhaustion, wet/ breathing nerve-and-sinew/wisdom,/burning the gods." Zayn is fully embracing his sexuality, imploring the subject of his song to "take it off" and desperately admitting "I just can't wait to see it all". It might seem strange to peer Zayn's "TiO" with poetry like Peters', but there's something in this song that is tender yet propulsive, like these poems it is pulsing and erotic, an honest exploration of bodies, sexuality and intimacy.

Tweez (Slint) & Ryder (Djuna Barnes)

I couldn't pick only one song for Ryder, maybe because it is a whole novel and not only a handful

of poems or a single short story, or maybe because it is so varied. Barnes's first novel is a terrifying jaunt through turn of the century American gothic, and so it absolutely makes sense to listen to Slint while reading this book. I picked Tweez as my soundtrack rather mostly because the song titles being names of people in the band members' lives ("Darlene", "Warren") reminded me of chapter titles in Ryder ("Sophia and the Five Fine Chamber- Pots", "Wendell Is Born") and seemed to resonate with the autobiographical nature of Barnes's novel. Slint's music shifts between fragmentary statements and narratives, driving riffs and smashing, sudden percussion. Slint provoke in me a deep sense of malaise. Their music mirrors Barnes's writing in that it feels like a slow, often draining, trek through sonic and conceptual sludge. It feels totally appropriate to listen to a bunch of Kentucky teens bashing out creepy bog music while reading Barnes's dread inducing phantasmagoric portrayal of her bigamous, bestial father, and isolating rural upbringing.

Speedy Ortiz (Death Note) & Mathilde in Delta of Venus (Anaïs Nin)

I want to start by saying that I don't want to compare this song to this story, which, while Nin's prose is brisk, light and delightful, ends up being beyond horrible. But I felt some kind of connection, be it emotive, situational, or just a result of over thinking my reading and listening processes. "Mathilde" is an erotic short story, and "Death Note" is a bass heavy, wailing poetic ramble. Speedy Ortiz's Sadie Dupuis drags us

into the song, murmuring "be kind to your bad self because sooner or later you'll come out good". She alters the line in the second verse, adding "be kind to your bad self because sooner or later someone else grabs the whip". Nin's story features a hat maker named Mathilde who leaves France, tired of men crudely objectifying her, picking up on her sensuality and physical attributes and seeking to take them without reciprocity. Dupuis sings about writing love letters to herself, and Mathilde eventually learns to pleasure herself and to be pleasured as she wants, I suppose in a sense shedding a negative experience of sexuality. Dupuis's song is a song nurturing the negatives in your life, and to a point so is Nin's story.

Sleaze live at None Gallery Saturday 9 July, 2016

Reviewed by Jacque Ruston

Sleaze are: Tim Player (vocals); Mick Elborado (bass). Malcolm Deans (drums) & Dene Barnes (quitar/fx)

Sleaze are a rock solid rhythm section of Mick Elborado (Terminals) shredding the bass & Malcolm Deans (King Loser), the driving, sometimes surging rhythms anchoring the wild guitar fx. Tim Player dances, writhes and paces at the front of the stage while expressing visceral vocalisations. The audience were suitably excited by the raw energy in this supergroup.

40

MICHAEL PAREKOWHAI



Jim McMurtry, 2004 installation – Gwangju Biennale by Michael Parekowhai

by Monique Hodgkinson

Several years ago, whilst working at Te Papa Tongarewa I was lucky enough to view Michael Parekowhai's On First Looking into Chapman's Homer, a magnificent sculpture installation coinciding with the 54th Venice Biennale exhibition. The installation included an enormous and intimidating bronze bull standing atop a piano, poised as if ready to leap into the air. Alongside this was the beautiful and intricate He Kōrero Pūrākau mo te Awanui o Te Motu: story of a New Zealand river, a red piano which would be played daily in haunting and echoing melodies. From this initial experience viewing the work of Parekowhai, I have come to strongly appreciate the striking art of one of our most important contemporary national artists.

Michael Parekowhai was born in 1968, in Porirua. After working as a florist's assistant for a period, he completed a BFA at Auckland University's Elam School of Fine Arts, then later a MFA between 1998 and 2000. Currently Associate Professor in Fine Arts at the University of Auckland, Parekowhai's career has included numerous solo exhibitions, publications, and awards including the Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate.

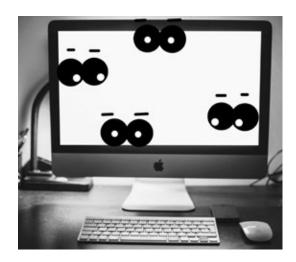
Stylistically, Parekowhai draws upon an impressive range of materials and media in order to create large scale sculptural and installation works. Curator Justin Paton described Parekowhai's art as having "a way of sneaking up on you, even when they're straight ahead". And I think this certainly is, somehow, true; even when the artwork in question is a 12 metre long, blow-up cartoon rabbit, apparently dead, lying on the DPAG floor. If you managed to see this exhibition last year, titled Jim McMurty, you would have been struck by the unavoidable, yet surprising nature of this eerie critter. Works like this truly summarise the quirky, distorted, subtly humorous nature of Parekowhai's oeuvre. We are constantly being pushed to the boundaries of our understanding of space, size, scale, and cultural normalcy.

If you ever get the chance to view one of Parekowhai's exhibitions or works, in particular On First Looking into Chapman's Homer, absolutely go for it. Whether it's a majestic iron bull perched atop a piano, frozen in time, or an oversized Looney Tune-esque rabbit, Parekowhai's art never fails to surprise, impress, and inspire.





CYBER SECURITY (PART ONE)



There are three topics that I will be discussing over the coming weeks that are all related to cyber security. They are personal cyber security, cyber warfare, and cyber crime. Cybersecurity is all about protecting yourself from your device being used against you. It is not just updating antivirus software, and changing your password. It is also being aware that everything, and I mean EVERYTHING that you do online is being collected.

by Anthony Marris

Passwords. Most people hardly ever change them and often we use the same one for multiple accounts. Cyber security experts like Z. Cliffe Schreuders advocate for lengthy passwords with numbers and characters, or even pneumonic type phrases. For example, "My absolute favourite comic book character is the Question" could be written as " M_{\odot} fcbc1t?" The phrase takes the first letter of each word, and has a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols. This is one way to protect yourself from competent coders who use password crackers with multiple dictionaries uploaded to them.

Sadly, the strongest password we need but hardly ever change is the one for emails. Once you have that password, you can change all the passwords for all the other accounts used, as websites helpfully send new login details to that

account. Know where to look, and you can also buy the login details to other people's email accounts if you lack the patience to crack it yourself. If you think your cell phone is safe, think again. There are a number of videos on Youtube explaining how to unlock an iPhone without the passcode. As to the legitimacy of the claims, I was unable to confirm it, as my own device is slightly younger than the Morse key.

Cracking iPhones was a huge story recently where Apple and the FBI faced off. Law enforcement sought the help of the tech giant to unlock the phone of a terror suspect. The Economist noted that there are potential intelligence benefits for the FBI as to the suspect's motivations and contacts, however, if Apple complied then precedent would be set for potential misuse by ambitious lawyers and the government. In the end, the FBI found a way around the cryptography without Apple's help, and so the eternal battle between the government and corporations over customer privacy continues. However, in this battle the average citizens have no ally.

Corporations have been known to use the mass data collected from websites to tailor their advertising. It is no coincidence that Facebook adverts display products similar to what you have previously viewed on other websites. And that is the material they have acknowledged they have access to. It is safe (and slightly paranoid) to assume that botnets seek out and copy all the material on your hard drive. But as Harold Finch has often commented on "Person of Interest", governments do not need to spend countless hours on surveillance when all the information is displayed online voluntarily. To keep yourself protected, Schreuders recommends deleting cookies and using "In Private" browsing to maintain some level of personal cyber privacy, and to use browsers like TOR and search engines like DuckDuckGo. However, TOR was funded by the US military, and we all know how little they care about mass surveillance.

If you want to change your password regularly, it is best not to use online password generators for obvious reasons. Maintaining different (and ever changing) passwords for your various accounts (email, social networks, cloud storage etc) is another way to protect yourself. To go further, covering the camera and microphones, disconnecting Bluetooth, and restricting which wifi networks you use are easy ways to maintain personal cyber security. These are simple measures to protect yourself, just like wearing a seatbelt when you are in a car. You might not be invulnerable, but some protection is better than none.

TL;DR—You should change passwords often and use a mix of characters and numbers.

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DOOM

Xbox One | Developed by id Software, Published by Bethesda

Softworks

Rating: A



by Carl Dingwall

Twenty-three years ago, the landscape of gaming was changed forever. Sure, there had been other first-person shooters before—id Software's own Wolfenstein 3D among them—but none were as influential or widespread as the original Doom in 1993. It's fast-paced gory action, coupled with a demonic sci-fi aesthetic, quickly grew into a cult classic. It added a multiplayer component under the now-ubiquitous term Deathmatch, which caused headaches for server administrators due to its overwhelming popularity. Now, in 2016, a reboot has been presented to us by id Software once again. Living up to its namesake was no easy feat-yet somehow, despite all the project—scrapping, doubt, and rocky Multiplayer Beta, DOOM has pulled through.

The single player campaign is easily the best part of the game. Those who weren't fans of the slower-paced Doom 3 can breathe easy, as DOOM slams you straight into the action. Fast, brutal, and responsive, the game plays like a reimagining of the original in a modern environment. Health does not regenerate, and you require health pickups to stay alive. This has been made easier by the addition of Glory Kills. If you get an enemy's health low enough, they may stagger, and then you can perform an animation to brutally finish off your foe, after which they will drop some health. It's fast enough to keep the flow of combat going, while giving you a constant source of health, as long as you keep killing—and

this is a good thing, as killing in this game is a joy to behold.

Each gun, minus the underpowered infinite ammo pistol, has its place in the pace of combat, requiring constant switching to adapt to each threat. All of the weapons from the original game are accessible, from shotguns, rocket launchers, and the overpowered BFG. A plethora of additional weapons have been added, along with upgradeable weapon mods. The chainsaw makes a return too, as a limited-use insta-kill device that drops a loot explosion with every swing.

Each level plays like a modern version of the original: you can find collectables, ammo caches, key cards, and secrets. Some secrets grant armour and weapon upgrades, while others unlock levels from the original Doom I and II—which you may freely play through with DOOM's new weapons and enemies. If you manage to complete the campaign, you gain access to extra difficulty levels—including Ultra-Nightmare mode, in which you only have one life to finish the game on the hardest difficulty, much to the delight of your inner sadomasochist.

The game's story is shown through small in-game scenes, often locking the player in a room or enclosed area, so they can explain what's going on. The rest of it is told through collectable logs, giving information on areas, foes, and characters. It's a competent-but-bare story, and that's the point. The game starts with

a 30 second cinematic, and then you are thrown into gameplay. Doom Marine himself is silent, but aggressive. Smashing that which makes him angry, his sole purpose in the game is to destroy anything demonic in the facility he has invaded —much to the detriment of its Robotic owner. He is the voice in your head, trying to guide you to his own benefit, and is often ignored in favour of Doom Marine's everlasting hatred for hell spawn.

Unfortunately, DOOM's multiplayer lets down the full package. Co-developed by Certain Affinity, it does DOOM no favours, and feels disconnected and lacking. It contains a few simple game modes but these all feel sub-par. You are limited to two weapons, and the multiplayer makes use of a loadout system, with no weapon pickups at all. The SnapMap level editor feels confusing: even though they have enabled the player to make use of logic and triggers, their use is often frustrating and difficult to manage. id Software has announced their plans to have a go at fixing the Multiplayer and Snapmap modes, but as it is now, it lets DOOM down.

Doom is for those who want to experience the classic circle-strafing, run-and-gun gameplay in a gory environment. If large amounts of visceral gore—or a sub-par multiplayer experience—don't sound like your thing, steer clear. For everyone else, rip and tear.



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CHICKEN FAJITAS

Fajitas are a grilled meat usually accompanied with onions and bell peppers and served on a tortilla. At most restaurants they'll serve the meat and veggies to you on a sizzling plate. You then assemble the ingredients on to the tortilla yourself with as much extra cheese and guac your heart desires.

This is the cheat way of making this Tex-Mex (Texan/Mexican) meal in the slow cooker. It's super easy to prepare with plenty of time to let the flavours come through. I know peppers are a bit pricey at this time of the year so I used frozen pre-cut peppers which worked just the same. Not only was it cheaper but it made prepping this meal even more effortless.

by Kirsten Garcia

2 chicken breasts

1 can of diced tomato

1 onion, sliced into strips

2 bell peppers, any colour, sliced into strips

4 cloves of garlic, diced

2 teaspoons of cumin

2 teaspoons of chilli

1 teaspoon of paprika

1/2 teaspoon of oregano

Place peppers, onion, and can of tomatoes into a slow cooker. Place chicken breasts on top and sprinkle on the diced garlic, herbs, and spices. Stir to combine with tomatoes and veggies. Slow cook for three hours on high.

Once chicken is cooked, scoop out as much excess watery liquid as you can (avoid scooping out tomato and veggie chunks), then shred the chicken by pulling it apart using two forks.



Salt and pepper to taste

1 small lime

2 tablespoon of honey

6 Tortillas

Shredded cheese

Optional: Sour cream, guacamole, or fresh salsa as condiments, chopped parsley to garnish

Squeeze the juice of one lime and add the honey. Stir to combine.

Leave to cook for an extra 30 minutes without the lid on for the sauce to further reduce

Serve on warmed tacos with your choice of fillings such as cheese, sour cream or guacamole.





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 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 2.0

Following true *Critic* blind date tradition, I was rudely informed by my flatmate one afternoon that I was going on the blind date. In three hours. So as any self respecting girl would, I immediately cracked into the vodka and yelled at said flatmate.

So approximately ten minutes late I wander into the bar, hoping that I had arrived at the perfect level of fashionably late. Turns out I had, wandering in a minute or two after my date. As a six foot tall girl, it's always a treat to find a tall guy, and this guy was tall, and cute, and he was my friend's flatmate... Which kind of ruled out hopes for no strings attached, no holds barred, kinky fuckery in the bathroom. However, he was lovely, about as cooked as me, and a pretty good companion for drunk chats.

Our strategies aligned pretty perfectly, aiming for minimal food and maximum use of the bar tab. The conversation definitely flowed, and at some point we decided to nick the rest of the bottle of wine and gap it. We headed back to the party at his, only stopping on the way to grab more vodka from my place (bad idea).

The rest of the night I spent getting progressively more smashed,

and eventually found myself drunkenly zigzagging home at 4 am. Sadly, no juicy goss to share with the *Critic* readers, but I definitely had a thoroughly entertaining evening. Cheers *Critic* and Dog with Two Tails for a great time, and the opportunity to cross off that bucket list item.

his JARED 2.0

Being a typical hot blooded male, I leapt at the chance for a free date with a pretty girl at the world class establishment of the Dog with Two Tails. My amazing flatmate set the date up, tidied my hair and ironed my shirt (despite making it to the age of 20 relatively unscathed, I have not yet figured out basic household appliances). After downing a few too many shots of vodka, I tottered off to town, where I was pleasantly surprised to find a gorgeous girl waiting for me. Like any true scarfie, she also had more alcohol than blood in her veins, and we proceeded to demolish the bar tab with style. Banter was top-notch – although to be honest, I was a bit intimidated by her beauty and intelligence. Given that my flatmate was one of her good friends, we decided that a cheeky quickie in the bathroom was probably not a good idea, and thus after drinking our fill, we headed back to mine, where a party was raging already.

I immediately caught the eye of a beautiful blonde girl who was dominating at beer pong. The fact that she had been invited as an attempt to set up one of my close friends with a girl didn't dissuade me from making a move. Classy pashing next to the kitchen stove resulted. My date meanwhile was off on her own romantic pursuits but she was too far gone for any sexcapades. Cheers Critic for the wonderful date, please don't pick someone so obviously intellectually superior to me next time xoxo



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Hello all! This is Rachel, giving y'all a break from Laura's ramblings for the next two weeks :D Anyway, welcome to week 2 of Semester 2! I trust that you are all pretty much settled into the "hustle

and bustle" of Dunedin life.

For this week, let's take you into the mind of an International student. I first arrived in Dunedin in 2010, and I remember feeling super frightened. Here I was, 8336 km away from Singapore, with no friends, no immediate family, no bank account, and no mobile phone capabilities because I didn't have a NZ number.

ousa page

For the first time in my life, I was made very aware of my very average height, and my Singaporean-accented English. Oh and don't forget how lost I was in this big campus (no GPS back then). My first year in Hayward was also nerve wracking; I literally ran out of the dining hall the first night in because I didn't have any high school history with anyone, and I was surrounded by people of different ethnicities.

I was a wimp. And it took me a few months to actually feel comfortable in Dunedin and make friends.

International student or not, you can probably relate to my experiences as a 'fob' in Dunedin. But as an International student, it feels like an even steeper learning curve; you have to juggle loneliness, being super far away from family, a new culture, strange environments, different education system, and if you're a foodie like me — a lack of proper Asian food. Don't forget trying to understand kiwi slangs like "chur", "jandals", and that when someone asks you "how are you?" they mean it as a greeting and don't really want you to tell them all about the great day you're having haha.

So if you happen to meet an International student, it's worthwhile asking them how they are going (not as a greeting), where they are from, and give them a spot of encouragement. Making people feel welcome goes a long way.

My time in Dunedin has certainly been enriched by friends from NZ and other places in the world who took the time to get to know me, and make me feel super welcomed... Singaporean-accented English and all. Now here I am, doing postgrad at Otago and feeling like I'm home.

Have a great week everyone! Stay warm.

Rachel Goh – International Officer international@ousa.org.nz









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