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01 August, 2016

ISSUE 17

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The problem of the slippery slates on campus

This week, inside *Critic*, the very talented Joel MacManus has written a piece: "Coming up short", outlining the ins and outs of donating your little swimmers in New Zealand... Which brought me think of our very own university. Not in a cumming up short sort of way, but in a coming up short sort of way... For a University that loves a high-vis vest and radical safety measures the University is coming up short when it comes to the slippery tiles around campus.

For years I have been skating around the paved tiles looking like Chaz Michael-Michaels out of *Blades of Glory*, but surely the path to class isn't intended to double up as a training ground for those heading to the Winter Olympics?

I know I'm taking the piss out of the situation a little bit, and that everyone else here in the office takes the piss out of me for bringing it up, but it's a relatively serious matter. In 2013 a visitor to the university, Katherine Casey slipped on the tiled surface in the commerce building, cracking her spine and pelvis in three places and leaving her permanently disabled. Sadly, this isn't a one-off incident. As well as this incredibly serious case, there had been another 70 com-

plaints prior in the commerce building itself.

However, at least now we are finally starting to see some action on the commerce building after Casey won a \$60,000 reparation following the incident. But that's just the commerce building. What about the rest of the campus that still preserve these slippery little slates?

Thankfully, the University in all of their wisdom have decided to—instead of ripping up these slippery tiles—put down a couple of stickers to warn students that you're about to walk on a path slipperier than a greased pig. Warning people is great and all, but if the tiles are slippery there's very little you can do to prevent yourself going head-over-biscuit.

Before spending millions on construction around the University, does no one suggest that they should check to see whether the tiles are fit to walk on? Or did someone just send the apprentice on the Placemakers run, only for them to mistake roof tiles for path tiles?

Perhaps this is an issue for OUSA to bring before the University in the best interests of the students. Before we end up with another cracked spine or ripped liver.

Hugh
Critic editor

Cull served with defamation papers ahead of election

Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull is facing a \$500,000 defamation action after being served with legal papers while walking down Bath St last Thursday. The claim was filed by fellow Dunedin City Councillor Lee Vandervis.

At a council meeting in December, Cr Vandervis had stated a belief that there were historical issues with the DCC tendering process, and raised concerns that the practice may be ongoing. He claimed that in the 1980's, while working as a lighting and sound fitter, he had been required to back a 10 percent back-hander in order to win council contracts. Mayor Cull took exception to the claim, and after receiving advice, instructed Cr Vandervis to leave the chamber, citing "repeated false statements".

Vandervis insisted that he had presented evidence of the fact, which Dave Cull denied. Vandervis believes that his personal testimony is "as good evidence as you can get", and claims this is not the first time Cull has called him a liar, but was the first time in public. Cull has since doubled down on the claim, saying "a liar is a liar". According to Vandervis "Liar is the one word you know to never use in politics. It seems Mr Cull just hasn't learned".

This is not the first time the two have clashed, during the last election Cull called Cr Vandervis "shonky", which was eventually resolved with mediation and an apology issued.

Vandervis says that the reason he filed the motion now was a result of meeting with a lawyer friend who urged him to pursue action, although some have speculated that the timing may be more due to the upcoming local body election.

He says he would still be willing to drop the claim if he were to receive a public apology and payment of his legal fees, and believes he has a very strong case saying "I can't see how it possibly isn't [defamation]".

Dave Cull was unable to comment on the matter as he had not yet filed a statement of defense, but he expressed regret that it had come to this, saying "It is disappointing that a fellow councillor has chosen to take this step but I will defend my position strongly".

Otago University Law Professor Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere believes the case could be contentious, and that Cull could have the defense of Honest Opinion available to him if he has reason to believe that Cr Vandervis' evidence was insufficient. Because such a case could require a jury trial, it is unlikely to be resolved until well into next year.

By Joel McManus

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Knox College
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Image by Sam Harrison



Hospital to change focus from specialised to general provider



The Dunedin Hospital may look like a carpark, but now, plans are being developed to completely rebuild the hospital, at a cost of approximately \$300 million. On top of that, or despite it depending on how you look at it, the Southern District Health Board are also in the process of changing the focus of the hospital from one of a 'specific focus' to one with a 'general' focus.

Southern DHB Commissioner Kathy Grant told Critic of how the "redevelopment is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build modern and sustainable health care services and facilities to meet the needs of the Southern community."

The reason for the redevelopment project is because of certain buildings on the hospital campus nearing the end of their economic life, including the Clinical Services Building, which is nearing 60 years since its build.

Of course, the rebuild is not an overnight project. It will take decades to complete meaning that the university's current medical students and the student population at large will unlikely be studying by the time it's finished.

The first stages may be well underway, but Grant outlined that an "Indicative Business Case will be developed establishing options for the redevelopment by mid-2017." Beyond that, the preferred option will be made into a Detailed Business

Case by mid-2018, which will then be implemented some time after that. Due to the complexities of the project, no time-frame is publically available at this stage. The plans for the change to the hospital's focus is also contained in this process.

With these preliminary plans and decisions having already been set in motion, the public may feel as though their voices are being drowned out by the bureaucratic process, but according to Grant, "the DHB recently ran extensive public consultation on how to improve health services across the Southern region." In addition to this, the board are still discussing and working on the opportunity for community engagement during the lifetime of the process.

The Medical School will undoubtedly be affected, and DHB Commissioner Grant finished by assuring students and staff that the "Dunedin Medical School is an important stakeholder in this work and we continue to work closely with them." Otago University Medical Students Association declined to comment.

By Joe Higham

07



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Labour and Greens already arguing, despite 'Memorandum of Understanding'

Trouble in Paradise? The Labour-Greens agreement has had its first public spat, a disagreement over housing policy.

Greens Co-Leader Meteria Turei said she wanted to see a 50 percent drop in house prices over the next 10 to 15 years, and outlines a plan to get there by introducing a Capital Gains Tax, banning foreign investors, and eliminating certain tax exemptions.

Turei claims that "If we don't have a plan for bringing down house prices then we are going to have a crash. And nobody wants a crash."

However, Andrew Little sternly refuted it, saying "We don't agree with it and it won't be happening under the next Labour-led Government.". Labour wants to see a stabilisation of the housing market by increasing supply through their Kiwibuild program, but does not want to see a drastic reduction

in prices, as it would be harmful to many New Zealanders who already have mortgages.

John Key was quick to criticise, claiming the Greens would "destroy the savings of New Zealanders".

Andrew Little says the agreement between the parties remains strong, and the Memorandum of Understanding allows them to be at odds on key policies without dissolving the deal, saying "We do have the right to disagree but there's a lot that we share... The relationship is strong and will continue to be so"

By Joel McManus

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John Key plans to eradicate all NZ predators by 2050

The Government has announced what John Key calls "the most ambitious conservation project attempted anywhere in the world", with a lofty goal of making New Zealand predator-free by 2050.

The plan would establish a new Crown Entity, Predator Free New Zealand, which will work alongside the private sector. The Government is looking to establish a "two for one" system wherein they would put in one dollar for every two dollars contributed to the scheme by private enterprises and local councils.

The government has set four interim goals which they hope to achieve by 2020:

- One million hectares (slightly larger than Auckland City) where predators are suppressed or removed
- Eliminating one small mammalian predator
- Demonstrating that areas of more than 20,000 hectares can be predator-free without fences
- Complete removal of all introduced predators from offshore island nature reserves

Conservation Minister Maggie Barry says "New Zealanders have rightly taken great pride in our conservation efforts to date. If we harness the strength of everyone who is keen to be involved in this project, I believe we will achieve the vision of a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050".

Labour and the Greens offered tentative support, but expressed scepticism at the proposal and were eager to hit

National for cutting DoC funding. Kevin Hague (Green) said "Auckland University estimate it will cost \$9 billion to make New Zealand predator free. To make Stewart Island predator free will cost between \$6 million to \$25 million alone... Since National became the Government eight years ago, DOC has had its funding reduced by some \$56 million a year on the last Labour budget. The Government can't do that on one hand and commit to eradicating the pests that endanger our native birds on the other." Labour's Nanaia Mahuta said the promise "just smacks of tokenism".

Richard Prosser of NZ First had a harsher response, saying "No human society in history has succeeded in exterminating the rat, and it is highly unlikely that we will be the first. The intention is so unrealistic as to be bordering on the irrational."

While the World Wildlife Fund, Federated Farmers, and the Rakiura Maori Lands Trust all applauded the initiative, the usually National-friendly Taxpayers Union called it a "policy driven by spin doctors rather than policy wonks. It's flag referendum 2.0... it puts a politically attractive goal ahead of all the costs and ignores tradeoffs."

By Joel McManus



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World Watch

Michigan, United States

A man has been arrested in the US state of Michigan after attempting to "return" more than 10,000 bottles from other states in order to claim the refund. Brian Everidge faces up to five years in prison for one felony count of beverage return of non-refundable bottles. The prosecutor in charge of the case has said that his office has "never had a case like this."

Texas, United States

More than 30 people have been treated for burns in Texas after a famous motivational speaker encouraged them to walk on hot coals to conquer their fears. Five people were taken to hospital while several others were treated at the scene for burns to their feet and lower extremities. They were attending Tony Robbins' four-day seminar, 'Unleash the Power Within.'

Munich, Germany

The teenage gunman who opened fire in a shopping mall in Munich had planned the attack for one year after visiting the site of a 2009 school shooting in Southwest Germany. Investigators' findings suggest that 18 year old Ali Sonboly was inspired by the actions of Tim Kretschmer, the gunman who attacked a secondary school in Winnenden, leaving 16 dead.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has renewed a ban on Pokemon because it violates Islamic rules on gambling and uses images such as Christian crosses and Jewish stars. The warning the popular game was haram, or forbidden, was first issued in 2001 when it was played with cards, and now Muslim clerics have re-issued the ruling following the release of the smartphone ap. It warns that symbols within the game promote the Islamic sin of worshipping any God other than Allah.

Mumbai, India

A temple in Mumbai has set up a bank account so that worshippers can donate company shares instead of money. The Siddhivinayak Temple has opened a demat account – an electronic facility for passing virtual share certificates between investors – so that people can give offerings to the Hindu deity Ganesh in the form of stocks and securities.

by Magnus Whyte

FACTS and figures

Finland

Finland's government is drawing up plans to give every one of its citizens a basic income of 800 euros a month and scrap benefits altogether. A poll commissioned by a government agency found that the plan had a 69 percent approval rating. The country's government will make a final decision on the plan in November of this year.

North Korea

North Korean leader, Kim Jong-Un's liking for expensive Swiss watches appears to have violated UN sanctions. The Swiss government has put an end to the export of luxury watches to North Korea. The UN bans the export of luxury items to North Korea due to its nuclear and ballistic missile projects. Kim and his sister were both educated in Switzerland.

Cambodia

Tens of thousands of Cambodians have marched in the funeral procession for a leading government critic who was fatally shot in an attack that raised suspicion of a political conspiracy. A farm worker told police he killed Kem Ley over a US\$3,000 loan. However, the suspect's wife has said that the family was too poor to lend so much money.

By walking an extra 20 minutes per day, an average person will burn off **7 POUNDS** of body fat in a year

Octopuses & squid are thought to be the most intelligent of all invertebrates

The sea cucumber spills its internal organs out as a defence mechanism

There is a town in Texas called **DING-DONG**, in 1990 its population was only 22

On average, a person will spend about **5 YEARS** eating during their lifetime

An oyster can change its sex

In Alabama, it is against the law to wear a **FAKE MOUSTACHE** that could cause laughter in the church

Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during WWII were made of **plaster**

Plea for Policy:

Why the government should devolve social services to iwi

Henry Napier takes a look at allowing local iwi to manage the provisions of social welfare

The 21st century so far has offered some significant ebbs in New Zealand race relations. If one were to ask a New Zealand politics student what the major blows for bi-culturalism were in the last 16 years you would likely receive a list of the following; the passing of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004, the "iwi/kiwi" slogan in National's 2005 election campaign and perhaps more recently, Maori dissatisfaction with the signing of Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement. The general outlook of Maori-Crown relations in this century is understandably bleak. However, a polar-opposite list is equally available to anyone willing to see it; the completion of Treaty settlements en masse, the passing of the Te Urewera Act 2014 and the creation of the Maori Party in the aftermath of the foreshore and seabed debate.

Maori rights have always been a hot-blooded issue in the eyes of your average New Zealander. It's hard to gauge the public sentiment towards Maori rights at any one given time. The public attitude prior to and during the 2005 election is easily classed as resentful (uniquely exploited by liberal-ultra Don Brash and Co.). Whether this matters politically or not is contentious, but in the past political parties have seen negative public perception as the main impediment in addressing Maori rights.

Has 'middle New Zealand' undergone an ideological shift away from the social conservatism of the early 21st century? My bet is no. Which is why the fifth National Government has been so successful. Negotiations, led by Attorney-General Chris Finlayson, have been largely completed unbeknownst to an historically unreceptive constituency. Whether this is still the case is hard to tell, yet the public attitude towards historical grievances in recent years has shifted from contemptuous to seemingly

lethargic. Finlayson's proficiency in balancing the empathetic aspect of Treaty settlements with the pecuniary interest has arguably stemmed the public display of contempt from Maori (with the recent exception of widespread Maori opposition to the TPPA). This reason is partly why the National Government must not allow the progress of Maori-Crown relations to plateau as the "full and final" settlement process nears its conclusion. The Government must continue to make hay while the sun shines.

Article 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi ensures Maori retention of tino rangatiratanga, a word that denotes absolute sovereignty. Maori never received this in the years following the 1840 signing. Now they never will. At least not in the way article 2 was intended. However, the Government still retains an untapped mechanism of establishing Maori sovereignty in the holistic post-Treaty political environment—the devolution of social services.

The localised provision of social services to iwi members is the most effective way of constructing tino rangatiratanga for Maori in a state that can never fulfil the promise of true sovereignty. But it also serves a greater purpose: providing better social services.

Over the past 30 years iwi have undergone considerable structural and organisational change. Historically iwi were robust local governing bodies that developed and applied a fluid law of morality (customary law known as tikananga Maori). They had a purpose—organise. This purpose was all but lost with the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Iwi lost their autonomy and with it much of their true purpose. The unity that formed around the iwi social unit devolved into a mere spiritual body, becoming centralised around emphasising the importance of tikanga Maori, rather than applying it.

Arguably the greatest trick played on Maori was convincing them that tikanga Maori could co-exist alongside the Westminster political

The management of iwi is, in most cases, interchangeable with any large functional private company

system. It couldn't then, and it cannot now.

Since the settlement process began to take flight in a meaningful way Iwi have regained a portion of their lost relevance.

The purpose of the historical grievances settlements may have, at least on the side of the Crown, served to recognise and remedy the wrongs of the past. But for Maori (and Iwi specifically) it also meant reacquiring the means to have a meaningful purpose in the lives of their members and whakapapa.

The assets received through the settlement process have led to the organic development from iwi being purely spiritual bodies to becoming well-oiled corporate entities. The management of iwi, at least on the provisional-side of the organisational model, is now, in most cases, interchangeable with any large functional private company.

In all ways except one: Iwi are intrinsically political.

The iwi modus-operandi is service-maximisation, as opposed to profit maximisation. This is an oversimplified explanation of iwi aspirations and goals, and the generalisation of the term "iwi" as a unit is problematic alonesummed up aptly by former Prime Minister Jim Bolger



who recently said, "different iwi will have their own perspectives". However, it is equally fair to say that the thread that weaves together the division of perspective between iwi is the shared goal of making the lives of their members better.

Thus the argument for privatisation of social services, specifically to iwi, becomes two-fold. Not only does the late 20th century selling-point of neoliberalism still apply, but now with the added benefit of the securitisation of minimum standard services.

The biggest argument against privatisation is the inherent interest of a profit-driven company to make profit-orientated decisions irrespective of their social consequences. A company will cut corners in order to save costs regardless of who they may effect and how. Serco's mismanagement of Mt Eden Prison has been the poster-child of this cautionary tale for the last year.

Such is why iwi are the perfect candidates for this experiment. Iwi fulfil the aspirations of the neoliberal model, which is to enjoy the benefits of free-market principles in the provision of social services, while also omitting the risk of neglect of the participants themselves.

For example, if the purpose of social welfare

is to distribute welfare provisions, then the secondary purpose must be to reduce welfare dependency amongst participants. Therefore, who better to tackle generational welfare dependency in Maori than Maori themselves.

Allow local iwi to manage the provision of social welfare to opting-members. Pay iwi on a base contract to distribute welfare payments to their members and establish a social impact bond on top of the principle service that provides monetary rewards for meeting tailored targets such as reducing dependency, pushing skills training or increasing interaction with the workforce.

This idea isn't completely new by any stretch. Whanau Ora provides alternative health services based on many of the same principles, such as the use of the spiritual connection with iwi to more aptly address the health needs of whanau. Yet mostly what we have seen materialise is limited to deconcentration of administrative social service functions rather than a full fiscal and political devolution.

More recently iwi have begun to negotiate towards a privatisation model for providing social services to their members. The Ministry of Social Development commissioned a report

last year titled *Decentralising Welfare – Te Mana Motuhake O Tuhoe*. The report outlined the potential for Ngai Tuhoe to absorb some or all of the functions of social welfare provision for its members currently managed by Work and Income New Zealand. Yet what we see, which is the case for Ngai Tuhoe, is the concept of reviving relative autonomy for Maori through iwi-Government partnerships purely based on their relevance in historical grievance claims. The model that should be strived for must rest on not only addressing past wrongs, but rather building policy that actually makes sense.

The main opposition to Whanau Ora is the impossibility in quantifying its effectiveness. This is the downfall of public policy in the age of peer-reviewed studies and international think-tanks. We seem to tailor policy specifically to collect, analyse and output statistics that reflect the proficiency of the initiative. This problem has been specifically detrimental in area such as education and health where positive outcomes are experienced on the ground level yet unable to be quantified at the top end and vice versa. For anyone who has passed through New Zealand's public education system recently they will likely know that statistical evidence collected is arbitrary at best. The system literally recreates itself until the required statistical result is achieved.

This culture is no one's fault. Nor is it, as some suggest, a unique staple of the National government. The reason governments want their policies to be statistically measurable is purely political. But what we see with policies like Whanau Ora and the developing idea of allowing iwi to manage themselves is that the majority of their usefulness exists on a personal level, rather than a macro one.

By Henry Napier

The final whistle



Opinion

IOC just another dodgy sports organisation

In the early hours of Monday morning, the leaders of the International Olympic Committee convened to discuss the banning of the Russian Olympic team from the upcoming games. Over the course of three hours, they had the chance to come to a conclusion that could change the future of sport forever. Yet, whether or not they were scared of a political backlash, failed to impose their authority on the grandest stage.

The decision of whether or not Russia was to be entirely banned from the Rio Olympics was the biggest in Olympic history to date. By not imposing a blanket ban on Russia for the upcoming Olympics, the IOC wasted the greatest opportunity to finally cut doping out of top-level international sport. Instead, they passed on the responsibility to the governing bodies of each sport. In the most defining moment of their history, the IOC unsurprisingly wet the bed.

This decision confirmed my many fears. The IOC showed that they are nothing more than a fabricated collective of two-faced money launderers. By doing so, they joined the exclusive list of irrelevant, corrupt governing bodies, alongside FIFA and the ICC. What an honour. Like their counterparts, they specialise in cashing cheques and taking bribes, but are not overly keen on actual work and decision-making such as this.

Now don't get it twisted. My views are not politically motivated. I get no satisfaction out of watching Putin and Russia crumble. I'm not a fanatical westerner writhing in glee when challengers to the throne fall to the wayside. I'm a Kiwi who knows that no global superpower either knows where we are, or gives a shit anyway. I look at this in only a sporting context. Russia committed arguably the greatest crime in sport – state-funding a doping program. There can be no excuses, no ways around it. It



happened and they should have been punished accordingly. People argue that banning the entire team would be unfair to those athletes with clean records. However, these athletes still could have still competed—but they would have done so as independents, rather than under a Russian flag.

Doping programmes are not just a way of bending the rules and producing better results. It literally warps reality. Back before most of us were born, a similar scandal took place in East Germany for nearly two decades, with the truth only emerging once the nation disbanded in the early 1990s. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s the East Germans systematically pumped their athletes full of hormones and steroids. The result? They became one of the most dominant sporting nations on the globe, even occasionally nudging out the United States on the medal count. Millions of people watched those events unfold, and were only told of the lies years later. But saying it was false does not erase it from memory or reality. That stuff happened—ask your parents—and some records still stand to this very day.

I guess what I'm saying is that doping creates a false illusion of the reality we watch on television. As Kiwis, we have experienced this ourselves. Just four years ago Valerie Adams was robbed of a gold medal in London, thanks to a not-so-clean Bulgarian. Sure, Adams goes

in the record books as having won, but we can never erase what we saw. We didn't watch her win. We saw her standing on the second-place podium, crying in disappointment. That image does not simply get erased nor replaced.

Of course, Russia is not the only nation that have drugged-up athletes. Almost every nation has, at the very least, someone in the same position. There's no doubt in my mind that there are several US athletes that have snuck under the radar. In fact, sprinter Justin Gatlin was caught a couple of years ago, but for some reason was allowed back into the sport. In the past, the likes of Marion Jones, Carl Lewis, and 'Flo-Jo', have either been caught or been suspected of doping. The fact of the matter is, this was an opportunity to cut out doping, as the athletes would have seen the dire consequences that it brings.

Yet here we are. The Russians have been given a slap on the wrist, which in my eyes will only help encourage dopers to continue their cheating exploits. How are we to know whose clean and who's not? We've all seen the amazing performances of both Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps, but how are we to know if that was reality or just an illusion? Having just witnessed a major injustice, it's unlikely that we will ever know.

By Sean Nugent

What's on the box?

Opening Ceremony
Saturday August 6, 10:50am—Rio Pop-up 1

Men's Hockey Australia vs. New Zealand
Sunday August 7, 4:20am—Sky Sport 4

Men's Basketball USA vs. China
Sunday August 7, 9:50am - Rio Pop-up 6

Women's Sevens New Zealand vs. Kenya
Sunday August 7, 2:30am—Rio Pop-up 1



The greatest ever Olympic moment?

After a four year wait since London, this week will see the commencement finally of the Rio Olympics. In honour of that, we here at *Critic* decided to take a look back at likely the finest moment in Olympic history: Eric Moussambani—"Eric the Eel"

Eric Moussambani produced quite possibly one of the greatest Olympic moments of all time when the little known swimmer from Equatorial Guinea, who had never been in a swimming pool until only two months prior, won his heat at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Moussambani was the beneficiary of a new initiative from the IOC which looked to develop

and foster athletes from developing countries by introducing a wildcard position. Following an advert on the radio encouraging athletes to tryout for the Equatorial Guinea Olympic team, Moussambani decided to put his hat in the ring for the country's swim team. Despite never having swum in a swimming pool, he was awarded a place on the team, given that he was the only one to show up to the trials.

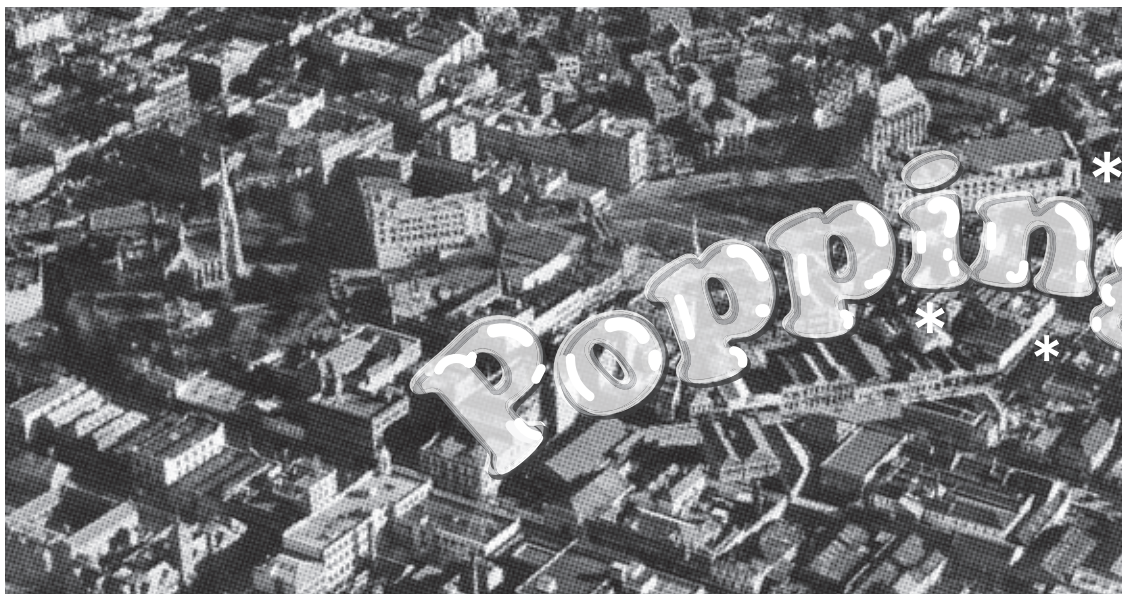
By Moussambani's own admission his training was relatively poor. His training consisted of two hours during the weekend which he would spend swimming in either the sea or the river. The first time in fact Moussambani had ever swum in a swimming pool was two months prior to the Olympics when he was able to splash around in the 12m long well at the hotel he was staying at.

Upon his arrival at the Sydney Olympic Pool he was apparently shocked at the size of the pool, which was a lot larger than he first thought.

Here at the Olympic pool, whilst training alongside other athletes, Moussambani first learnt how to properly dive and swim.

However, against all odds, Moussambani managed to win his heat in the 100m freestyle. Although, this was mainly due to the fact that all others in his heat had been disqualified for a false start. Sadly, due to his very slow time, and the fact that he almost had to stop halfway and be rescued, he did not make it through to the next round. However, Moussambani can lay claim to a new record for the fastest 100m freestyle for Equatorial Guinea at the Olympics. Although he can also lay claim to the slowest ever time at the Olympics...

By Hugh Baird



By Hannah Fletcher

As students we live and breathe the student culture. It's all around us. The crazy initiations, the clubs and societies —even our neighbours are students. Is it too much? Is it suffocating us?

As fresh as a fresher can be migrating from the capital I stepped onto the broken glass, filth ingrained, couch burning 'road' that is Castle Street... so the Scarfie life began!

I quickly realised my home for the next two years did not back on to the likes of the 'Honey Pot', '8 Man' and 'Haunted House' flats, renowned for booming bases and ruckus flat parties. I was to be entering the cult life of Selwyn College.

Almost as soon as I entered the terracotta buildings I was a converted Selwynite, involved in every tradition and cultural, sporting, social event Selwyn threw my way. No missed opportunity, never a spare second. Living and breathing student life.

■ The days are so awesome in the 'Student Bubble'. It's easy to get swept up in a whirlwind of events and remain within the confines of the North Dunedin radius. However as a wee adventurous soul I was shocked to find out there are people who have never explored places right in their doorstep.

Signal Hill and Ross Creek Reservoir are five minutes from Uni and are must go to places for Sunday strollers and hardcore runners alike.

There is NO EXCUSE!

Instead of that cheeky outing to Rob Roys, don the runners and hit the trails. There is nothing more therapeutic than

popping that 'Student Bubble' and getting out into the bush, away from the stress of student life. Take a picnic, make an afternoon of it and explore your backyard while you're at it. If you're feeling rather adventurous continue out the other side of the Reservoir and trek up the Pineapple Track to the top of Flagstaff Hill. The view from the top is worth the climb and don't forget the Instagram potential – just think about the likes! If that isn't enough to persuade you, the fresh air will work wonders for your hangover.

Some of the best adventures, stunning sights and getaway places are just on the other side of your single glazed or non-existent window. See that blob of land across the Harbour? Yeah that's the Peninsula, and no it's not an Island. Quit staring at it, load up the bandwagon with Scarfies and hit the road.

Sandfly Bay and Sandy Mount Point Reserve seem like a world away from North Dunedin, with golden sand dunes and sheer cliff drops. Take a romantic outing across the mountain tops of the 'Lovers Leap' circuit, listen to the waves crashing, birds singing as the sun sets across the horizon.

Whip out those bin liners, toboggan style, for a quick descent down the dunes but don't be deceived, the sand is not always as soft as it looks. A piece of advice is to be wary of the sleeping sea lions. They may look like cute little blobs of flubber but get too close and they'll release some serious sass.

It is an incredibly magical place where time is but a number and where Law readings become increasingly less appealing. If you're lucky, dolphins and penguins are also known to

the student bubble



make an appearance, so if you don't see them first time round I guess you'll just have to make a second trip!

Does this talk of activity make you tired just thinking about it? We all have those 'I just can't be bothered' feelings and an incentive is sometimes just what we need to get out and about.

Stash some marshmallows and choccy biscuits for an adventure to Long Beach, a secluded beach located over the hill from Port Chalmers. It has an epic cave at the far end, ideal for an overnight excursion. Chances are the cave is warmer than your \$100 a week room, but either way I suggest layering up on thermals—it is Dunedin after all.

In true Scarfie style, try tying a couch to the car, carrying it through the trees, wading through the sand. Then boom—you have a couch to sit on for the rest of the night! However, if you're still a Scarfie in the making, I suggest a log from the beach will suffice. Once you're out there the hard work is done and it's time to settle in for a night around the campfire and tuck into those toasted marshmallows.

What better way to finish the adventure and work off that food coma from the night before than with a cheeky morning swim.

If you only do half of what I suggest it's worth it. Avoid being swamped by assignments, the Scarfie life and getting too comfortable in North D, explore further afield and POP THE BUBBLE!





Joel McManus

Coming Up Short

Exploring New Zealand's Sperm Deficit


In February of 2016, a post on the reddit forum r/newzealand entitled "Are You My Future Baby Daddy?" caused something of a stir. Rather than an inelegant attempt at internet dating, it told the story of a young couple looking for someone, anyone, who was willing to meet up in Wellington and give them some healthy sperm so they could start a family. Quickly upvoted to the top of the page, it was then suddenly deleted, only to appear a few hours later. The poster took questions from curious commenters, but then deleted their account without warning. It spurred hundreds of comments, intense discussions, and inside jokes for weeks afterwards as punters speculated about whether a meme site had really brought a child into the world. I tracked down the couple behind the post to discover just what it is which drives someone to look to a look to get pregnant from a bunch of anonymous internet strangers, and find out whether their strange quest was eventually successful.

James and Lexi* (Not their real names) are a pretty normal couple. They're financially stable; she's a midwife and he's a security consultant, they own their own home, and by all means they are in a long term stable, loving relationship. They're young and healthy, and looking ahead to a bright future together. While she feels no urgent rush, Lexi says she is a "pretty impatient person", which is why three years ago they decided they were ready to have a baby.

But what should have been an exciting time soon became a painful reality, as a year of trying and failing led to the heart breaking discovery that James was sterile. That's where things got hard, as they mounted an increasingly futile search for a sperm donor. Their quest to have a child together saw them encounter difficult family issues, the incredible backlog of New Zealand's undersupplied sperm banks, dodgy online "sperm dealers", legal controversies, and truly put their relationship to the test.

For many couples seeking a sperm donor, the first port of call is family members, so that the child can still share some of the father's DNA. Unfortunately, one of James' brothers revealed he had had a vasectomy, and a personal falling out between Lexi and the wife of James's other brother eliminated the other option. Lexi considered asking her friends, but ultimately decided against it, saying "It's an awkward situation. Most are married and I wouldn't want to put their wives in that position, as much as it is a male's seed, I also have to take into consideration the partner's feelings about it".

Seeking a donor through a sperm bank was their next move, which proved to be almost as fruitless as the last. Fertility Associates, the organisation responsible for sperm banking and IVF treatment in New Zealand, is facing a massive shortage of donors while demand is at historic heights, meaning wait times for women seeking IVF treatment just keep on growing.



punters speculated about whether a meme site had really brought a child into the world

According to Fertility Associates spokesperson Alannah Hunter, wait times have now blown out to between 12 and 24 months, depending on the procedure and the amount of sperm needed. The sperm bank currently has just 50 active donors in the entire country, and regulations specify that each donor's sperm can only be used to impregnate a maximum of five women, meaning there is a rather limited supply. An additional 150 donors a year would be needed just to keep up with those already waiting.

The biggest recent change putting a strain on the system is by far the booming population of single women in their late 30's seeking to have children on their own, now the largest demographic of applicants, surpassing infertile couples. Many donors choose to restrict who their sperm is donated to on an age basis for health reasons, which only puts more pressure on the waitlists.

James and Lexi were originally hoping for a good looking Island/Maori donor to reflect James' appearance, and while Fertility Associates does make it a priority to provide that sperm of the same ethnicity of the family be made available if requested, this has become more and more difficult due to the ongoing sperm shortage. The bank currently holds just one sample from a Maori donor, and none of Pasifika origin, making it nigh on impossible for some women to find an ethnic match. James and Lexi now say they just want anyone who is "genuine and healthy and willing to help us out".

All these factors combined mean that committing to IVF treatment has become a difficult, stretched out process. One woman in her 30's I spoke to claimed she had been on the

waitlist for 12 months, only to be given the option of three donors, all of whom were in their 40's. Fearing the risk of birth defects from older sperm, and aware that she may only have one chance at pregnancy, she rejected all three options and opted to put herself on the waiting list once again and wait another year.

Between the horror stories of wait list times, and a price tag of up to \$10,000, James and Lexi balked and decided to look elsewhere.

James made an effort to look online, at 'sperm dealer' sites such as privatesperm.com, where potential donors post biographies and information about themselves. He says he emailed "seven or eight" of them, but decided not to pursue that avenue because he found some of them to be "super creepy dudes", and many of the site's users attempted to solicit payment, which is illegal in New Zealand under the Human Assisted Reproductive Technologies (HART) Act 2004.

Which led them to the idea of reddit. Not a typical semen repository, [r/newzealand](https://www.reddit.com/r/newzealand) exists mainly to discuss politics, new Whittakers flavours, and attempt to convince wayward Americans that our government has banned gardens. The comments on James and Lexi's post go a long way in demonstrating just why Fertility Associates has had so much trouble in attracting donors; New Zealanders just aren't aware of the issue. While American films have normalised the role of the sperm donor (Mark Wahlberg in *Ted*, Vince Vaughn in *Delivery Man*), James' request was treated with a sense of mystification by many.

Commenters were for the most part unaware of the need for donors in NZ, and many were bewildered at the basic mechanics of it (Lexi says she was planning to use the "turkey-baster method", except with a needle-less syringe).

James and Lexi say they had "a few bites", and four which they considered "legitimate requests", which they say exceeded their expectations, but they were not successful in the end, as the potential donors all backed out after an initial meeting. Lexi says she "[doesn't] blame them, it is a big ask and the risks obviously outweighed the benefits for them". Several of those they talked to expressed concerns over legal issues, something which was no doubt compounded by the comments on the original post discussing horror stories about sperm donors in other countries who had been forced to pay child support, and the misinterpretation of a NZ Law Commission report.

Otago University professor of family law Mark Henaghan says these concerns are unwarranted, explaining that the law makes it very clear that sperm donors for children conceived through artificial methods are not in "any way whatsoever" the father of the child. This applies equally to donations through sperm banks and at home.

In the end, the search proved unsuccessful. Lexi says that while James had always been enthusiastic about the prospect of fathering a child from a sperm donor, the stress of the search combined with meeting potential donors in person had manifested an unease at the situation. The pressure started to take a toll on their relationship, and they ended up taking a "mutual break" for a short while. Since then, they have largely abandoned their search and settled on the idea of adoption. As a result, Lexi says they are "doing much better".

So is there any hope of improvement for the system that has so far let them down? Politically, probably not. The two features of the HART Act most attributed to the low rate of donors are the provisions which ban compensation for donors, and which require donors to provide identity information to the HART Register, which can be revealed to the child upon request.

I contacted the Health spokespersons for every major parliamentary party to ask their thoughts on the matter, and while all of them acknowledged that there were serious issues with the current system, there is little consensus about what to do and apparently little motivation to do it.

While Fertility Associates has no desire to amend rules around donor identity, which they feel are essential in giving children the right to know their genetic origin/whakapapa, they are currently lobbying to be allowed pay donors a bulk sum of \$500 for the entire process, which involves making around 10–15 'donations'. Minister for Health Jonathan Coleman would not comment on the matter, though Alison Douglass, who chairs the Ministry's Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology said that she was supportive of measures to allow donors to be compensated for "reasonable expenses incurred in the process".

ACT leader David Seymour endorses the proposal, saying his party is "slowly relaxing our attitude to people being compensated for medical procedures", drawing a parallel between paying sperm donors and National MP Chris Bishop's proposed Financial Assistance for Live Organ Donors Bill. However, Bishop was quick to dismiss the idea, simply saying "This isn't something we're considering as a government". NZ



New Zealand is facing a massive shortage of donors while demand is at historic heights

First's Barbara Stewart outlined a plan to establish both an open and closed register of donors to allow men the option to stay anonymous, something which is not backed up by expert advice and does not appear in any NZ First policy documents, suggesting her team may have made it up on the spot. Green party spokesman Kevin Hague takes the opposing view, arguing that the identity register should be less anonymous, and wants to see sperm donors listed on a child's birth certificate as a third parent. Annette King of Labour opposes any change on either issue, but declined to provide any reasoning or offer any alternative proposals.

It is unclear just how deeply held these positions are, and Seymour claims he is "not aware" of any particularly intense partisan disagreement on the issue, speculating that it is simply not a priority issue for the Minister or parliament as a whole.

For their part, Fertility Associates is hoping to influence the public opinion of sperm donors going forward, and is pushing the idea of donating sperm as an honourable altruistic gesture. Their newly launched ad campaign titled 'Heroes Wanted' features a comic book superhero complete with an 's' shaped sperm insignia, promotes that sperm donors are "real life heroes for a family in need". After everything James and Lexi have been through, they couldn't agree more.

Any male aged between 18 and 45 can be a sperm donor with Fertility Associates. Anyone interested can contact them on 0800 10 28 28 or visit spermdonor.co.nz

PUTIN'S NONSENSE MEDIA

GEORGE ELLIOTT



George Galloway, the abrasive former British MP and leader of the left-wing Respect Party, was once a prolific moonlighter. In 2014 he made as much money working for dubious state-run news broadcasters than he did as a British Member of Parliament. Two years later, after a failed bid at becoming Mayor of London, Galloway has quit his day job. He's now a full-time pundit, or propagandist, depending on how you look at it. His new employers – far removed from the British people of the constituency he once represented – are, effectively, the Russian, Iranian and Syrian governments and the militant Hezbollah movement. These repressive regimes have found a loyal friend in the loud-mouthed former MP, a self-proclaimed "left-wing" and "anti-war" "activist". Galloway has worked for Iran's state-broadcaster Press TV, and the Hezbollah and Syrian regime linked news station, Al Mayadeen. He has also joined the likes of Steven Seagal and Julian Assange to become a lieutenant in Russia's global (dis)information war, disseminated through the increasingly popular television state-funded news network, Russia Today, now known as RT (not to be confused with Rotten Tomatoes or 're-tweet!'). What does this veteran British activist and the propaganda arm of the Russian government have in common? Their hatred for the West and a willingness to abide by that ethos no matter who you have to jump into bed with.

Russia's new propaganda drive presents observers with a unique phenomenon that is both hilarious and deeply worrying. It is a propaganda born in a world of savvy advertising agencies, sexy television hosts, God-like television personalities, an individualism driven by shrewd consumerism and the noise of the internet, an inherently decentralised medium. As journalist Peter Pomerantsev puts it, why should authoritarian regimes fight the information age and globalization when they can use it to their advantage?

Thanks to the internet, you would have undoubtedly come across Russian President Vladimir Putin and his cult-of-personality

status. To some, Putin is a sex symbol, a saintly statesman and the resurrector of Russia's past glories. Putin is also a television man. His rise and Russia's current political situation makes more sense if we see him in this light. Even as president, Putin would sit down after the working day and analyse tape after tape of the television news coverage of himself. In the first years of his presidency, the Kremlin was chasing the private television oligarchs out of the country, they set out limiting the reach and scope of non-governmental organisations and civil society, and ordered the killing (however indirectly)

PUTIN WOULD SIT DOWN AFTER THE WORKING DAY AND ANALYSE TAPE AFTER TAPE OF THE TELEVISION NEWS COVERAGE OF HIM

of journalists and opposition figures who had uncovered corruption or were critical of the war in Chechnya, such as Anna Politkovskaya. Politkovskaya, known for her award-winning impassioned reporting, was murdered in 2007. It was never clear who actually masterminded the assassination.

After it was revealed that Politkovskaya was under surveillance by the FSB (the successor to the Soviet security service, the notorious KGB)

at the time of her death, the investigation into her killing was quickly closed. It would take authorities nearly eight years and two trials to convict five men for her murder, in 2014, but the individuals that ordered her death remain unknown and free. Amnesty International and the Committee to Protect Journalists maintain that the five secondary culprits were arrested and sentenced in order to divert international attention away from a case that, to this day, is still not solved.

In 2005, the Russian government created RT. Margarita Simonyan, RT's editor-in-chief, said the aim of the new English-language network was to provide a perspective on the world from Russia. She said, "Many foreigners are surprised to see that Russia is different from what they see in media reports. We will try to present a more balanced picture." RT is a not-for-profit entity that now broadcasts in six major languages. It is very difficult to get reliable information on just how popular RT network is. According to The Daily Beast, the channel has repeatedly over-exaggerated its audience count. The Inter Press Service's statistics shows that in 2011, RT was second most popular foreign network in the United States, after BBC World. RT is funded and directed straight from the Russian government. Simonyan has admitted that she has a direct-line to the Russian President's office and meets with government officials on a weekly basis.

Following the lies, mistakes, half-truths, coercion, and messy consequences of the 2003 Coalition invasion of Iraq, citizens in the West have understandably been hungry for the truth and weary of the official narrative. A pop politics has developed where the every-person sardonically or even hysterically mistrusts any foreign policy decision or global current affair that involves the United States and its allies. Obviously, this apprehensiveness about the political elite is age-old, whether it's in the West or the East (if we can still divide the world as such). However, with the US as the world's top dog, and with our meme-tastic pop culture, the dissent seems more pronounced, fashionable, and accessible for anyone with a social media account.

I am in no way trying to imply that this criticism is not warranted. It is underlined by an anti-imperialist or anti-capitalist presentiment and a weary thinking about policies of the past, which is crucial for a healthy democracy. The Kremlin's propaganda machine and its proxies, however, have capitalised on the trendy vitriol to expand their interests and advance their own goals. "Giving a voice to the voiceless is, indeed, a noble journalistic mission," former RT reporter, Liz Wahl wrote earlier this year for stopfake.org. "However, my experience as an RT reporter and anchor was that RT's main goal is not to seek truth and report it. Rather, the aim is to create confusion and sow distrust in Western governments and institutions by reporting anything which seems to discredit the West, and ignoring anything which is to its credit."

Especially during and since the war in Ukraine, RT has been criticised for its heavy anti-West rhetoric and a rampant and unabated pro-Putin stance. The cracks have started to show in how RT does business. During the aftermath of the 2014 MH17 plane-downing in eastern Ukraine, Sara Firth, a London-based correspondent for RT, said she became upset about a lack of editorial independence regarding reporting the plane crash, being directed to put the blame on Ukraine and to avoid any questions of Russia's involvement. "It was the most shockingly obvious misinformation and it got to the point where I couldn't defend it anymore," she told the Guardian in 2014. RT's coverage of the MH17 disaster is one of the most explicit examples of how they operate. The Russian Ministry of Defence would present some wild theory about how the plane was downed; RT would disseminate it with flashy graphics and exclusive interviews with government officials. The theory would subsequently be disproved by independent experts and investigators and, the next day, another outlandish theory that contradicted the last would be released through RT. The cycle would repeat and repeats to this day.

RT fabricated many stories about the crisis in Ukraine in an effort to spread fear and, confusion, and to distract from Russian actions. One of

the most outrageous was when one show, ironically named "Truthseeker", claimed that the Ukrainian Army had crucified young children and babies while forcing their mothers to watch. The story was subsequently deleted. Rosie Gray, another former RT reporter says the channel has repeatedly used fake images or falsely attributed information to create a narrative that sees Putin as the hero of Ukraine. Gray says reporters were forced to act as extensions of their editors and follow instructions to the letter no

WHY SHOULD AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES FIGHT THE INFORMATION AGE AND GLOBALIZATION WHEN THEY CAN USE IT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE?

matter the story. "Correspondents who rejected the leadership's underlying agenda in their work were reprimanded; those who followed it were rewarded," Gray wrote for BuzzFeed in late 2014. "Over time, employees learned from these experiences and began to adapt in ways that would be receptive to the Russian bosses."

For this article I watched a few hours of RT, which is available for those with Sky or whatever and streamable online. I found it quite entertaining (but also tedious and cringeful), just the same as I like to watch MSNBC's Morning Joe in the wee hours of the morning. The channel presents itself as very edgy and envelope-pushing. Every single story I saw was in some way or another angled in order to show the United States as both

a dystopian hellhole and a psychotic conquer that is responsible for all the ills in the world. Some stories are more subtle in their bias. For example, the current heroin epidemic that is sweeping American suburbs is explained away as completely the consequence of the US' invasion of Afghanistan and because heaps of Mexicans are flooding the border.

Russia's domestic politics are seldom mentioned. When thousands of Russians marched through Moscow in 2011 to demonstrate against election fraud, RT ignored it and made sure their news was heavily focused on Occupy protesters being rounded up by police in New York. Another story effectively whitewashes the atrocities Russia committed in its small republic of Chechnya by not mentioning them at all in a documentary about post-war Chechnya. During the Ukraine war, RT hysterically blamed Ukraine for the war, declaring that Russia "was forced" to invade its neighbour, "which had been taken over by neo-Nazis". The channel has given huge chunks of airtime to American actor and Putin fanboy, Steven Segal, who is adamant that the United Nations wants to invade the US.

Other stories are blatant and loud in their misinformation. RT has repeatedly aired some very bizarre segments on conspiracy theories. One example, from the hip youthful "The Resident" show, ran a story titled "Obvi-Illuminati" about how US presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, uses a data analytics start-up company that has a triangle in their logo and whose parent company has a Hebrew name. The conclusion: Clinton is linked to the worldwide Jewish conspiracy. Is this a joke? Are they serious? That is not the point. If it goes against the "mainstream narrative", then it's fair game, and, as the axiom goes, all bad press is good press. One of the weirdest RT clips I've come across is a live performance of some dude on his laptop playing an electronic song featuring Barack Obama's spliced voice saying "we've killed" children, Martin Luther King, Bobby Kennedy, and people on 9/11.

RT has a habit of inviting very questionable experts, such as "World Bank whistleblower"

Karen Hudes, who has claimed the Bank is controlled by a "second species", an ancient race that has different DNA to humans and have some kind of connection to the Jesuits and Jews and have somehow transported the US' gold reserves to the Vatican. Last year, RT's go-to expert for German political issues was Manuel Ochsenreiter, the editor of a German neo-Nazi magazine named Zuerst!. Other guests have included a "human rights expert", Ryan Dawson, who is also a Holocaust denier that claims that Judaism encourages pedophilia, rape and ritual murder. RT's commercials are also hilarious and sadly ironic. One triumphantly states: "When politicians and the mainstream media work side-by-side, the joke is actually on you. At RT News, we have a different approach." Rich coming from a news organisation that is directed and funded by the Russian government.

University of Otago's expert on Russian and European international relations, James Headley of the Politics Department, says RT bases its criticism of the West on an argument of "double standards", a type of rhetoric coined as "whataboutism" during the Cold War. If Putin is under fire in the international media for anti-LGBT laws, then RT will fill the airwaves with stories about the lack of LGBT rights in the United States. If Russia is condemned by Western governments for violating international law and breaching other country's sovereignty, RT will make sure its viewers remember the illegal Iraq War. If you criticise Russian foreign policy, they will be quick to point out the United States' wrongs, no matter how relevant they are to the given debate. Headley says Russia's defiant stance (as well as the moral high ground that the West undoubtedly likes to stand on) has significant consequences for international peace and cooperation and officials from both sides will find it difficult to conduct diplomacy in this environment.

Other experts are more worried about the effects of Russian propaganda has on domestic populations, in both Russia and the West. Russian academic and journalist, Mikhail Klikushin, writes "As in America, the Russian public is largely informed by TV shows and other media,

which never miss an opportunity to remind viewers that the current occupant of the White House is the world's biggest villain—but not one to be taken too seriously." Conspiracy theories and alarmist rhetoric are no longer out in the fringe. They are steering the foreign policy and public opinion of the two most powerful countries in the world, Peter Pomerantsev, an expert on the Kremlin's misinformation campaign, says. The Kremlin's narratives spread alarm and distrust, purposely so to destabilise others and strengthen Russia's position, Pomerantsev claimed in a report for the Legatum Institute.

There is something seductive and special about bullshit. RT represents a propaganda that does not provide one monolithic all-encompassing counter-narrative to the message pushed by Western mainstream media, but instead, pumps out a confusing, contradictory and dissonant mix of narratives; a technique the scholarly filmmaker, Adam Curtis, has called postmodern propaganda. You've got your resident neo-Nazis and your resident left-wing radicals, like George Galloway. RT creates a spectacle that provides an already slightly formed putty of information that the viewer can further mould into a narrative they can comfortably accept or at least enjoy. One study, by the Open Estonia Foundation, found that ethnic Russian audiences of television channels like RT find the content "emotionally attractive, because some news you watch [like it's] an exciting movie. You don't trust it, but watch it gladly." Some Russians interviewed in the study said they find they cannot trust both sides of the West/Russia media divide and struggle to form solid opinions about important issues. Pomerantsev argues that the idea of a democratic and unbiased free press is under threat; "If there is a competition between different versions of reality, in other words, the side that is less constrained by the truth may be more likely to win."

CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND ALARMIST RHETORIC ARE NO LONGER OUT IN THE FRINGE—THEY ARE STEERING THE FOREIGN POLICY AND PUBLIC OPINION OF THE TWO MOST POWERFUL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

Sensational Seagulls

Mikayla Cahill



It turns out our NZ seagulls should be treated with more respect than flying screaming rat-demons.

When people ask you what your favourite animal is, they definitely aren't expecting to hear the word seagull; but that is exactly what my favourite animal is. The seagull is an ethereal being, with wonderful powers of persuasion and a cunning attitude. From their snow white and charcoal grey feathers, to the tiny satanic eyes that rest above their lusciously red beaks, there is nothing quite as soothing to my soul as the long echoing call of a gull flying above me. The seagull is a bird that everyone should not only learn to love, but also strive to protect. Incredible specimens of wit and intelligence, seagulls have strategically evolved to become the perfect bird, that's right, perfect. At least perfect in my own, somewhat biased, loving perspective of them.

I myself once hated seagulls and their pesky determination to steal my food at the beach. However, over the last few formative years at university, as I found myself, I realised I'd begun to find seagulls in all their light and glory, too. Unfortunately, there aren't that many of them to love – as the population of seagulls in this country are hitting all-time lows, and are even being classified as endangered, almost alongside our Kiwi and Kakapo (who are critically endangered and in urgent need for protection)! Don't believe me? Hit up the Department of Conservation and talk to them about it – they recently (sometime in 2014) published a report which said that the black billed seagull population numbers are so low that they have been labelled as "nationally critical" – a privilege we reserve only for our rarest birds. Back when our parents were shit gurgling soul destroyers, A.K.A 'youngens'; the seagull was nowhere near as special as it is today.

They really were a pest back then, with numbers of up to two hundred thousand along the coastlines battering people for a bite to eat. Today, they are really quite a special presence among our coast lines, and it is a harsh reality we need to face up to. In 1977, the number of black billed seagulls was around 200,000, but now, they are resting at a scarily low rate of anywhere from 60,000

to 70,000. For the red billed seagull, the original number is not known but their current population is resting at approximately 100,000 and that is expected to decline by 70 percent in the next thirty years. 70 PERCENT!?! Whether you like them or not the reduction rates predicted in their density is pretty unfair, and scary! The threat of animals as well as a lack of sustainable and safe environments among larger coastline and cities is contributing factors, but surprisingly people are the biggest threat to the seagull's survival. It is something more New Zealanders should think about; they may not be the most glamorous of birds, but to me they play a crucial role in the New Zealand summer (even if it is a pesky one).

The red billed seagull, the ones that often wander through campus with their cute little beady-eyed glare, were declared as a nationally vulnerable species – sharing the status with the yellow eyed penguin – in 2008 after a series of substantial population declines around the country, particularly in Kaikoura (good one folks). As annoying as it might seem the distinctly kiwi experience of having your chips nicked by devil eyed "sky rats" might not even be a thing in the future. Is an Aotearoa without the iconic beach bird a place we really want to live in? As far as I'm concerned, definitely not! A New Zealand without the seagull is a world without water! Okay, that might be a bit of an exaggeration, but still—we should be doing more as a nation to preserve the birds. Thankfully for all of us in Otago, the declining number of seagulls doesn't appear to be so much of a problem.

Dunedin ornithologist Lyndon Perriman and marine science researcher at the University of Otago, Dr Chris Lalas published an article in a 2013 issue of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand which highlighted the fact that although the specialised breeding grounds in the south east region of the south island were meeting great efforts at revitalising the population of the birds, with their numbers in the area almost tripling since 1992, the threat to the red billed seagulls on a national

Is an Aotearoa without the iconic beach bird a place we really want to live in?

scale was still a big problem. It also mentioned that the "decreases in red-billed gull nest numbers and breeding success have been reported and attributed to human disturbance..." as well as the "...predation of eggs, chicks and adults by introduced mammals", like cats and rats. Seagulls are prevalent all around the world, and they aren't always so dangerously underpopulated, but ours are. The only endemic gull to New Zealand – the Black Billed Seagull – is on the brink of disappearing, and when people find out I'm rather annoyed that they seem to be so happy about it.

Yes it might just be a silly beach pest in your eyes, but it is unique to our wonderfully beautiful and picturesque landscape, and I think we should be doing everything in our power to keep them a part of it. Admittedly I have no idea what that would entail, or any advice to give you on the issue. Perhaps we should start with not running them over with our cars, and not being afraid to give them the last little bits of our food when we are eating in public? They are cute as all heck and if you feed them they might just show you a little tenderness and love.

Aside from their scarily low population (in New Zealand at least) seagulls are very intelligent, territorial birds, and have evolved in the most interesting way! Being birds of prey, they are incredibly territorial, and can do a hell of a lot of damage to other birds and animals, even other gulls that share their mating territory – don't get caught in the middle of a breeding ground, you may never live to tell the tale. What makes their evolution just so exquisite is that being so predatory, yet sharing such a small breeding ground with other gulls; they developed distinctively unique social signals which help to reduce violence and fighting in their colonies. Seagulls apply these signals and plan out subdivision-like areas within breeding colonies that they protect with their lives, they will peck to death other gulls to protect their territory. The gulls don't just do that every year though, like choosing a mate, they settle

at the same patch of land in the colony they did they year prior; like a true creature of habit. Every year when the new breeding season begins, and the gulls migrate to their love nests, they wander around – scouring the area for perfect places to make their nests. Unfortunately, as they are such territorial creatures, they must constantly defend their nests.

Like us humanoid thing-a-ma-bobs, seagulls use their words to try and resolve problems before resorting to violent and dramatic means of conflict resolution. Those loud piercing calls aren't just made to annoy you on your morning or evening commutes, they are a language – one that has evolved over hundreds of years to allow them to communicate specific pieces of information to one another. The long, wailing cry you hear at the beach (kind of like a high pitched baby seal) is a threat made to those trespassing on their territory. Seagulls also have another territorial call, which they use to call in reinforcement in their arguments – they literally request backup. It sounds kind of like a mutated and warped meow without the tonal shifts, and it is called a mew.

Their skills at defusing potentially violent situations in the baby making homes don't end there though, as seagulls also developed visual signs of intimidation, that they demonstrate through posture and varying their size. The upright posture, where gulls stretch their necks tall, and straight, and move with caution, and legs poised slightly to the side signifies to others in their colony that they're ready to attack, and even more aggressive yet is their charging stance – where they stretch out the wings, and appear as giant, valiant beasts of honour and charge towards another, sending their opponents a strong warning of extreme action about to take place. Turns out that when I was joking about them running around, bullying each other and scaring them away from whatever they were herding around was very true – who'd have thought?

I don't just love them for their impeccable evolution, or their cute appearance, I also love them because they wreak HAVOC if they feel like stirring the pot a little bit. Steve Higgins, a 52 year old man from Yorkshire, was enjoying his summer holiday, visiting his mother in Devon. He decided it would be a nice idea to enjoy an ice cream by the beach (a move which local residents realised was both simultaneously brave and stupid). This ostensibly innocent act of pleasure lead to utter turmoil and terror as a swarm of my beloved seagulls attacked him, as they tried to take his ice cream. Terrified, Higgins abandoned his ice cream and ran to his car seeking safety and refuge from the demonic birdies. Seconds later he was rudely issued an £80 fine, the equivalent to a whopping \$170 New Zealand dollars, for littering – as he had let his ice cream fall to the sidewalk, missing the garbage bin.

Seagulls, as beautiful and evolutionarily exquisite as they can be are also very dumb and silly wonders, in the Bay of Plenty a large gull was blamed for knocking down power lines and causing power outages at the beginning of last year, and in November last year a seagull hit power lines so hard it caused a fire in the Marlborough region which firefighters said could have been extremely hard to contain if they didn't get to it when they did.

I understand that seagulls are definitely not perfect, but they are birds that have had to adjust to the influx of humans destroying their habitats and posing risks to their safety and survival – so we should at least try and show them a little bit of compassion. These glorious little creatures make a wee sprinkle of joy and wonder pump through my body when I see them. I could remind you that they recognise and have a soft spot of fondness for some people; like the kind man who feeds them regularly at nine thirty in the morning near Queens Gardens. I could remind you that when they interact as a pack they are absolutely HILARIOUS to observe, and may possibly even

leave you in stitches. I could heavily go into the fact that I think they are the most misunderstood creatures of the sky, the most underrated, set aside, and misrepresented souls this planet has seen. But I won't. Chances are you either like them, or you don't. I certainly hope that whether or not you dislike them still, you can acknowledge their infallible evolution and amazing biological behaviours that allow them to live such intriguing and interesting lives, and hope that you remember these when you next see one. Maybe, just maybe, if you do, you'll find that they can be pretty darn neat.

**They are birds
that have had
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influx of humans
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posing risks
to their safety
and survival**

An Ode to My Friend Jeffery:

**Snow white feathers,
Shifting grey suns,
Strong, protective birds in all types of weather,
Who when I watch I have fun,
Don't listen when they boo you,
Don't hide when they chase you away,
Just know that I love you, really, I do;
I loved you then, I'll love you now, and of course –
I love you today.**

tinderesting stories

One dude told me never to cut my hair

One woman spent the first half of our date talking about her juice bar, so much so it was like a strange infomercial. Then she tells me her fiance financed the juice bar, and spends the rest of the date describing their upcoming Vegas wedding

One guy told me his wife was still living with him, 'but she's moving out'

I went on a date with a white dude who wanted to adopt African children so he could dress them up as Tupac at Halloween. When I had him up about it, he responded "what, don't you have Halloween here?"



The suspense, the drama, the glamour, the medical puns. Ahhh what a night we had at this year's Med Revue. Equipped with a printed out cheat sheet of obscure medical terms and in-joke references, *Critic* moles snuck into the inner sanctum of Otago's med school community to watch the annual Med Revue, and in doing so were magically teleported into a realm most Otago students will never see.

The clear star was Shanella Nallaiha as Latika, "The Chocolate Lady", a lecturer bent on preserving the purity of the medical bloodline by insisting that doctors only marry other doctors. She is surrounded by a hissing group of minion lab demonstrators who obey Latika's whims, becoming human furniture, seductively demonstrating parts of anatomy, wearing attractive blue lab coats, you name it...

Our favourite parts were those beautiful harmonies, long-winded medical puns (stetho-noscope!), a story-line that actually might mirror med school (minus the oompa loompas...), tight buns either side of some sensual g-strings, 50 Shades of Pink (don't ask)

The down-sides: We could have done with another 50 jokes about the stereotypes of asian students, and the awkward sex-gags didn't last nearly long enough! To be fair, as is the case with a lot of racially themed humour these days, everybody was equally picked on from dumb Maori med students, to socially awkward Asian students, Intellectually inferior maori students, overly bookish Asian students, sexually-undesirable Asian students, buzz-kill Asian students... as long as you remember med students are the smartest and best people on campus. The Med Revue won't let you forget that.

What we learned: O.U.M.S.A will be changing their name to O.U.M.S.O (NDTFDODEGUSOP) (Only Us Med Students Only-Not Dentistry That's for Dummies Only, Don't Even Get Us Started On Physio), Med students really are high-achievers, we witnessed a performance from a group of people with talent at the highest saturation point.

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As part of our conversational inter-course with lecturers we thought this week we would catch up with Marketing guru Associate Professor Rob Aitken, who enjoys listening to Van Morrison, sipping on a cold Guinness and stalking trout around the Otago area.

CONVERSATIONAL INTERCOURSE WITH ROB AITKEN

What did you have for brekkie this morning?

I had what I always have every morning which is two slices of homemade bread. If you were to ask me what are the greatest inventions of the 21st century, up there with the electric blanket and the popcorn maker, would be the bread maker.

What type of bread do you go for?

Well at the moment it's white french bread, but I've just read an article on the weekend we should be eating more whole grains... Why is it that those things which are so good for you taste so shit?

So apart from bread, what's your go to in the kitchen?

Well if I was to take something that crossed all seasons it would be different versions of soup. The spicier the better.

What's your current mode of transport?

At the moment I'm driving a toyota truck, I do a

lot of fishing and I can carry a lot around.

What's better to ask for? Forgiveness or permission?

I would say forgiveness. I think if you're a risk taker you're always apologising for fucking things up. But as long as it's not intentional, malicious or malevolent then people are usually very forgiving... Anyway doesn't the bible say you should forgive for everything?

Wine or Beer? Or...?

First and foremost it would be Guinness. It's not a beer, it's a stout. But as far as wine goes, I've just recently got into riesling. But I'll drink anything, and as the evening goes on I tend to drink lots more of anything.

And finally if you could punch one person in the face who would it be?

John Key

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THE DUNEDIN LOOK

A Photographic Showcase of Dunedin Street Style

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

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

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

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WHAT'S YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT TO DATE?



by David Clark

I stood for Parliament because I want to play a part in making New Zealand a better place. I believe the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' has grown too large.

The role of an opposition MP is to hold the Government to account. On a good day we can give the Government a bloody nose by describing their folly and drawing attention to reports that highlight the short-sightedness of their approach—and propose alternatives.

During my first term, as Labour's tax spokesperson, I am proud to have played a role in challenging the Government to make society better and fairer—by highlighting specific examples of tax avoidance amongst multinationals over a period of months. The Government eventually stopped talking about 'legitimate tax avoidance' and started talking about 'cracking down on multi-nationals not paying their fair share'.

I can claim one success no other opposition MPs have been able to in the term of the current Government. A Bill I proposed passed into law against the wishes of the main governing party. The 'Mondayising Bill' ensured ANZAC and Waitangi commemorations were allocated a public holiday every year, not just in years where they fell on a weekday. I'm immensely proud that the growing significance of these days to our national identity has been recognised.

Above all of this, the most satisfying aspect of being an electorate MP is helping people when the system, and Government lets them down. Much of the work done in my electorate office on Albany Street goes unreported. These are the things that ultimately satisfy: helping students get their entitlements from Studylink; helping a rural community get connected to broadband against the odds; helping families with difficult immigration issues reunite with loved ones. Serving, and working alongside local people is the most important work I do.

I would be remiss not to thank the people who work hard to get me elected, the team that supports me in my office, and the good people of Dunedin North who continue to cast their vote for me. Because of all these people my majority as an electorate MP has grown, and I am in a position to help more people. Without their ongoing support, none of this is possible.

by Michael Woodhouse

I'm not sure 'proudest' is the best way to describe those moments in my Parliamentary career where I'll look back with a sense of satisfaction on what was achieved. So for the purposes of this piece I'll try and articulate three things that have given me the best sense of contributing to a job well done:

Health and Safety—Shepherding in new laws that improve New Zealanders lives is the goal of any Minister. It might surprise readers to note that the issue that saw me as the butt of so many jokes and cartoons about worm farming and lavender growing was also the most satisfying moment in a legislative sense. The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 is the biggest health and safety reform in a generation and will improve our poor record of serious harm and death at work. We won't know their names, but there will be hundreds of kiwis who in the future will be walking around safe and well who wouldn't have been otherwise but for the change in behaviour brought about by that law. That's a pretty cool feeling.

Constituent successes—So many Dunedinites approach my office requesting help with things such as ACC, Housing and (until I became Minister and was prevented from becoming involved) immigration. There is no feeling as great as picking up the phone and telling a family that their residence was granted, or ACC cover accepted as a consequence of the assistance and intervention of my staff. I say my staff, as every MP should admit that, while they receive the credit, the lion's share of the effort in achieving such results is down to the work done by their out-of-Parliament team.

Veterans' Commemorations—As Minister of Veterans Affairs it was my privilege to lead delegations of Veterans back to the location of their World War II and Korean War service. Seeing the reunions, listening to stories of sacrifice, and standing at the graves of their fallen comrades was the single biggest privilege of my Parliamentary career.

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Meet David Clark
MP for Dunedin North



12 - 1pm, Thursday 4th August



University of Otago Link



Authorised by David Clark, 32 Albany Street, Dunedin

THAT IN-UTERO GENETIC SCREENING SHOULD BE MADE COMPULSORY

+Affirmative

by Squealer the Pig

The decision to enter or continue parenthood is, for most, a serious and deliberate process and there are many factors that affect this decision. It often means recognising the reality of sacrifices that are going to have to be made financially, socially, and personally in order to raise their child in a loving, caring environment. Mandatory genetic screening, the capacity for the genes of a foetus to be tested for any potential defects or genetic disorders would give parents the preemptive ability to change or to adjust these considerations appropriately. Since the raising of a child with a genetic disorder of any kind often means investment of time, money, and energy beyond that of a normal child.

We don't stand for the introduction of eugenic abortion and factory babies. Under most current practices, parents are offered the option of having the genes of their foetus tested for certain genetic diseases; this would be an extension of the services that are already being offered. This is a positive for those parents who carry some sort of dormant or active gene for a specific disease like Parkinson's or Huntington's and want to assurance of its absence or presence in their child's DNA.

At the core of this debate are the parents. By creating a system that enables parents to test the DNA of their children they're able to make as rational a decision as possible, and we all benefit from this. Because on a wide scale what we can expect to see is significantly more parents who are going to be better equipped and better prepared for raising their children – based on what adjustments may be required or services that may need to be accessed accordingly.

But there's another good that is generated from the implementation of anything that's compulsory: funding. The Health sector: mental health, disability, service providers should see a big boost to their funding as increased demand for those services to be provided and are implemented to a higher standard.

At the end of the day no harm can actually be generated as a result of this – it's always going to be an act in the best interest of parents and actually for what is going to be a non-issue for most parents the reassurance is always preferable.

–Negative

by Old Major

In this debate we must respect the autonomy and privacy of individuals, but we must also value those individuals' non-consenting unborn children. The affirmative side wants to say that because there are so many practical benefits to in-utero genetic screening, making it compulsory should be supported. However, this argument is about more than just practicality. We must be careful when we talk about the precedents we set, the sort of culture we create around children, and the lives we want them to live.

There are ethical and moral concerns to discuss when we think of genetic-screening, let alone making it compulsory. The issue with making something compulsory is that it's non-negotiable. Parents should be given the ability to make a decision whether or not they want to have their child's DNA screened. It's true that for most parents, there might be no need or concern. But when parents aren't given the ability to opt-out and parent the way they choose, it's problematic. For some families, genetic screening is a necessary option available and they benefit greatly. However, it is not something that a state or any government should ever enforce on people. Parents deserve the right and opportunity to be introduced to parenthood, and not have the identity and perception of their baby determined by what their genes say.

The worth of a potential future child's life may be decided on based on the result of a screening. There is underlying social pressure for parents of children with disability to abort. While the affirmative may argue that eugenics are not what they're after – that doesn't mean that social expectations and inequalities are going to disappear overnight. Even if they choose to keep the child, making genetic screening compulsory may force parents to view and identify disabled children by their disabilities and not as people. All children deserve the right to be seen as people, whose identities extend beyond their appearances or disabilities and that's not something that we should diminish or change.

Screening should be the choice of the parents involved. Anything involving the testing of a pregnant person should be optional, not mandatory.



URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

If you're feeling a burning sensation when you pee and a persistent need to go, you might have a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). It's most common in women, appearing in about one in every four women at some point in their lives, whereas for men, it's about one in every twenty.

After filtering out the bad stuff from the blood, the kidneys produce urine, which goes down into the bladder through the ureters, and then is later expelled from the body through the urethra. Urine is sterile. There are no bacteria in it. However, a UTI can occur when bacteria makes it way up the urethra and into the bladder or ureters. There are a number of ways this can happen usually through bacteria from the bowel wandering up the urethra (remember, always wipe from front to back) and through sex. For women, vaginal bacteria can be massaged into the urethra during sex.

As such, it's important to be aware and vigilant. One way to clear the urethra is to urinate after sex, flushing out the bacteria. It's also good practice to wash the genital area before and after sex (and just regularly in general). If you are unfortunate enough to have contracted a UTI, head straight to your doctor. Describe the symptoms, they'll get you to pee in a cup, and test to ensure you do have an infection. After that, you'll be prescribed a course of antibiotics and you're usually good as gold.

While these symptoms are tell-tale signs of UTIs, if you are experiencing any discomfort, pain or itchiness in the genital area it's important to get a check-up at the doctor. If you're sexually active there's a chance you may have contracted a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI). Even if you're not experiencing any discomfort, it's good practice to get a regular check-up regardless, or at least between partners. A friend of mine has always had a check up between every boyfriend she's ever had, because it's very important to her not to pass an STI on to any future partners.

Otherwise, keep your fluids up, keep yourself clean, be responsible and enjoy good, safe sex.

Love,

-S

PUTTING SLIPKNOT IN MY MICROWAVE

by Steve-O Hawkins

Have you ever wondered what actually happens when you put metal in the microwave? And no I'm not talking about stuffing it with your favourite pair of black skinny jeans or the t-shirt you last wore to that Slipknot concert, I'm talking about what happens when you chuck your knife and fork in with last night's leftovers, or accidentally forget to take the tin-foil off that cold kebab.

Ever since I was a kid, I had it drummed into me that no metal was to ever go in the microwave...I was certain, and I still am, that if I was to leave a stray fork on my plate it was the end of the world. However, contrary to popular belief, some metal is acceptable to be microwaved. Funnily enough the walls on the sides of the microwave, and the mesh wall on the front that prevents waves from escaping are both made from metal.

Metals conduct electricity with electrons that move freely. It's really the shape of the metal that matters if you want to avoid sparks. Hence why some people will say you can put a spoon in the microwave, but never ever a fork.

Microwaves bounce off the walls inside and are absorbed by such things as water, fat and sugar inside your food. However, put metal in there and microwaves will cause the metals electrons to move. It's these moving electrons that can produce sparks and heats. When you put metal in the microwave and you see sparks flying, that means that there's a buildup of charged particles. So how does the shape of a fork produce more sparks than a spoon? Because spoons will spread the charge, whereas forks will cause the charge to build up, which will give you sparks!

Chuck down a metallic base if you're ever looking to cook such things as a microwaved pizza. The microwaves will bounce up off the plate and provide you with a much crispier base.



SUPER-UNFAIR SUPERVISOR

Dear Ethel,

I've just finished a placement for my course and yesterday I found out that I have failed. I was being bullied by my supervisor the whole time and I think they deliberately failed me because they don't like me. What can I do? I don't want to have to repeat placement because of them—it's so unfair!

–Miffed

I'm sorry to hear you had such a difficult placement. Most courses where students are required to undertake practical placement have guidelines and advice on what to do and who to speak with if you are having difficulty.

There is a power dynamic in any supervisory–student relationship and it can be problematic, especially when the person supervising you is not technically University staff. Having said that, by taking on the role of supervising University of Otago students, supervisors are considered members of the University Community and are bound by the University's Ethical Behaviour Policy. This policy specifically identifies the 'abuse of supervisory authority' as unethical behaviour.

There are both informal and formal ways of seeking redress. More informal ways, (which, in our experience, are the best first step), include meeting with someone appropriate from the department to discuss your concerns. We'd be happy to attend any such meeting in a support capacity if you wished. Or, you could discuss the matter confidentially with the University Mediator (mediation@otago.ac.nz).

More formal processes include raising an academic grievance if you feel you have been academically disadvantaged by the conduct of your supervisor. You are also able to make a formal complaint to the University's Human Resource department regarding a breach of the Ethical Behaviour Policy.

As always, it's important to look after yourself when things are difficult. Make sure you spend time with friends, eat well, sleep well and try to focus on the positive aspects of your current studies. You can be assured that we will do everything we can to get you through the rough stuff, so we look forward to seeing you at 5 Ethel B!

Whole lotta love,

–Ethel xox

BLOTCHES ON THE FACE*

Blotches on the face—flesh-worms—eruptions on the face. These are common names of frequent eruptions, consisting of small pimples, often containing matter, occurring chiefly on the face. The curing of facial eruptions can be seen as a measure of health rather than a vanity, as putrid skin is an indication of impure habits of the mind and body.

The causes of flesh-worms and eruptions are general vice. Intemperate use of spirituous liquors, excessive indulgence in eating, neglect of cleanliness, self sexual abuse, cold, menstrual irregularities, physiological changes (as puberty), the use of cosmetics, and chronic inflammation of the stomach and bowels, are the chief causes of this difficulty.

The Worm-Pimple, with Black Points—these are very unsightly, giving the skin an oily, greasy and dirty appearance. Their origin is to be traced to the obstruction of the glands placed immediately under the skin, from which a minute pipe carries off the perspiration. If squeezed violently between the nails, this thickened matter will be driven out, in the form of a yellowish-white worm, with a black head, which is nothing more than the extraneous matter just mentioned. They should be thoroughly pressed out of every pore.

When the eruptions are red, they are caused by a small insect working under the skin. Hygienic measures and the correction of faulty habits are of the first importance in this difficulty. Indigestion, menstrual derangement, debility, or any other constitutional or local affection should be corrected.

Daily out-of-door exercise is favourable to the cure. The private parts should be frequently washed or douched with hot water. All cosmetics, paints, etc, should be avoided.

Vigorously brushing the nodules with a tooth-brush and soft-soap is said to be exceedingly efficacious. The surface of the body should be bathed with a weak alkaline solution daily, composed of water and soda, or saleratus; or, in their absence, seep may be employed. As articles of diet, uncooked fruits and vegetables are recommended.

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



LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dear *Critic* Editor,

With the National Government having proposed an extra \$22.8 million a year to eradicate pests from New Zealand, I'm wondering if this will include the pests who have made a home in Parliament over the last decade? The specifically troubling ones to get rid of are Brownlee: a pest who's been terrorizing and destroying Christchurch for years; Coleman, who frequents hospitals and picks on the sick and vulnerable; and Nick Smith, who nibbles through so much wood (and seemingly paint stripper) that 51 houses now need to be built a day to keep up with New Zealand's housing demand. I hope they're included...

Anon.

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

Subway next please...

Dear *Critic*,

I'd just like to say congratulations to the University Union on getting their shit together and putting a sushi store on campus. I'm so over having to walk all the way over to Sushi Station only to be fleeced out of the last of my savings just to buy a stupid little rice ball and the added soy sauce that everyone knows is compulsory. Hats off also to Mr Miyagi in the kitchen who has been making a killer Teriyaki Chicken with Avo of late.

Cheers,
Seaweed smoker.

A sincere thank you to all the real MVPs

Dear *Critic*,

I'm writing to you today to express my sincere gratitude for everybody dropping lures at the Pokestops all over campus in the last couple of weeks. As somebody who lives and works in the inner city, the limited range of Pokemon I get on my way to and from work consists entirely of little shitbag Pidgeys, stupid fucking Zubats, and if I'm lucky, a shrivelled-dick-nose Drowsee or two.

Those of you kind souls consistently dropping lures in the library, at OUSA, down at the Walnut Tree and in the Union—you the real MVPs and have kept me going through these cold winter days.

May the wind always be at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, and may you accrue 400 Magikarp candies.

Your friend,
Tom

P.S. I accidentally transferred a goddamn Caterpie I'd been building up for ages so I'm pretty gutted about that.

P.P.S. why do low CP Zubats make it so difficult to catch them? Like gtfoh you little bastards I'm only using you for Stardust anyway so stop wasting all my Pokeballs >:-(

Pics or it didn't happen

Dear *Critic*

You've finally done it. It's taken a while, and we've been through our ups and downs during that time, but my faith in you has finally paid off. I know some people had given up hope and I pray that they regret their swift judgement, and that they can find the graciousness not only to forgive you but to embrace the gift you have given us. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. I will cherish your first actually completable sudoku for the rest of eternity.

Love
Excited for the Future

Miss you Heaps

Hey guys

Does anyone else miss Sue Heap's letters? They were the best part of BUS1103!

Cheers,
-Anon

Don't you mean DINGEr?

Dear *Critic*.

Here's three sentences on Ding Dong, Texas: Ding Dong is in DANGER! Danger of a less than stellar rating on its incredible Facebook page. Please help Ding Dong!

Sincerely,
Concerned Donger.

RAISE UR DONGERS



Notices:

\$1500

Funding for Student Performances

Funding, usually up to \$1,500 per project, is available to help University students and staff fund public performances (e.g. comedy, dance, theatre, film, music) that wouldn't happen without this support.

For more info go to: www.otago.ac.nz/performingartsfund or email: humanities@otago.ac.nz

Closing date for applications to the Division of Humanities Performing Arts Fund: 26 August 2016

The Otago Sri Lankan Students' Association presents to you "UNMASKED"—a cheeky romantic comedy sprinkled with traditional and modern dance, music and of course, plenty of Sri Lankan spice to make your night just right!

Come with us as we take you through the journey of Jay's quest to win the heart of the beautiful Ashani—it's not that simple though, he must get through numerous obstacles, namely the sleeping dragon Rushma a.k.a Ashani's sister!

Ticket info: Cash sales are only \$10 from any committee member, or simply buy tickets online for \$12 via this link: ouslsa.org.nz/shop —just show the confirmation email and invoice number on the night to get your ticket.

So get amongst, bring your mates and get set for a spicy night ahead! On: 05-08-16 8pm



ODT Watch is back and better than ever. For too long the ODT has been able to get away with shitty puns and shittier news.

Let's start off with a bang. The ODT has a reputation for not shying away from the big issues.

No country music festival

It's a slow news day when you report on an event not occurring, though to be fair 'no country music' is the best type of country music.

In other news, a Whangarei man enthusiastically defended his dairy from armed robbers.

one of them
just donged on my head with a
crowbar and I said 'hey' and I
pushed them and they pushed
me. I was so angry with them, I

just said 'come on boys, get
ready to die', because I'm ready
to die as long as they're ready to
die.

They breed 'em tougher than a *Critic* Sudoku in Whangarei. In a later quote to police the man showed his righteous fury to be tempered by virtuous charity.

He suggested the offenders be
dumped miles out at sea and left
to try to swim back into shore.
"If they swim, they have a life,
if they don't, then too bad ..."

And finally, this week in the ODT's ever popular "Name the Ethnicity" segment:

Mexican named



BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE

Rating: B- (bad for Laura)

Director: Sam Liu

by Laura Starling

This animated film adaptation of Alan Moore's *Batman: The Killing Joke* accurately depicts the story from the original one shot comic. The first half begins with a prequel (not from the comic) about Barbara Gordon, Batgirl and the daughter of commissioner Gordon. She is a young librarian, an apprentice of sorts with Batman, and has obvious feelings for him. We watch through her eyes as she attempts to communicate her desires with an ever distant and aloof Batman. They pursue criminals, mainly a particularly creepy sociopath with feelings for Batgirl. Following this prequel, it goes into the actual *Killing Joke* story, which is for all intents and purposes exactly the same as the graphic novel. The *Killing Joke* section of the film was perfectly adapted into animation, keeping with many of the shots and panels from the graphic novel.

The film saw several voice acting veterans as key characters. Tara Strong did an excellent job as Barbara Gordon, Kevin Conroy and Mark Hamill return as the iconic voices of Batman and the Joker respectively. Hamill's performance, unsurprisingly, was standout above the rest.

The prequel exists for a number of reasons. The content of *The Killing Joke* is not enough to fill out an entire feature film, so adding in more material at the beginning is an attempt to make it a full feature. It also provides a context and backstory for Barbara Gordon, who plays a pivotal but minimal role in the *Killing Joke*. It is also intended to make this minimal role more meaningful.

However, in the process of giving her more story, the creators highly sexualised her. One shot pans from her ass to her breasts while she runs, before moving on to another shot. She's the lusty librarian after batman, she's desirable and objectified. This is unfortunate, especially as her role in the *Killing Joke* narrative is to be victimised by the Joker violently in order to motivate Batman.

In the end, the prequel tacked onto the beginning of the story not only failed to give a more meaningful role to Barbara Gordon, it actually exacerbated the existing problems in the original material.



SING STREET

Rating: B+

Director: John Carney

by Lisa Blakie

Summing it up in one sentence, *Sing Street* follows the story of Cosmo, a teenager living in Dublin in the '80s, who is motivated to start a band in the hopes of impressing a girl named Raphina.

Yes, there are songs in this movie and they're pretty good, so it's basically like an episode of *Glee* but not shit. I wouldn't really define it as a musical, but all of the set pieces where the band is playing music give opportunities to show the characters complete awkward teenage vibe of 'trying to look cool but really having no idea what they're doing'. Cosmo really comes into his own with the guidance of his brother, Brendan (played by Jack Reynor who is super hot, just putting it out there). Brendan gives him homework of listening to different records and showing him music videos. Depicted as a stereotypically drop kick character who just smokes weed all day, pure joy for him does come from seeing his brother be happy and passionate.

The costumes were great, especially as the band goes through numerous different genre iterations, and seeing them go through the visual aesthetic is really funny, especially when Cosmo attempts to dye his fringe blonde. In one particularly memorable scene, Cosmo wears makeup to school and the super duper strict Catholic headmaster is like nahhhhhh that's shit and scrubs his face with soap (it's ruthless and hard to watch).

While this was a fun film to see and there were plenty of parts I laughed really hard at, a number of elements fell flat near the end and I would have loved to see a lot more character development of the other band members and other supporting cast. Similarly, Raphina herself deserves a little more attention as she sort of ends up as a typical manic pixie dream girl, instead of a fully fleshed out lead character.

Overall, *Sing Street* is a largely inoffensive watch; best suited for lazy weekend entertainment purposes.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Rating: B+

Directors: Matthew Saville



by Alex Campbell-Hunt

Australia seems to be quite good at producing heartwarming comedies, and when I went along to this one I was expecting something in the same vein as *The Castle* or *The Dish*. In the end, it felt more like a Wes Anderson production, in that it is artfully shot and could be described as quirky and offbeat. It also left me feeling the same way that Wes Anderson movies usually do: entertained, but like I was missing something.

Anthony LaPaglia stars as Frank Mollard, a cynical real estate agent in Adelaide. He is estranged from his ex-wife and teenage son, and beneath the surface he is clearly not at ease with himself. One day he gets a phone call from a woman he assumes is his deceased mother. It turns out to be another woman who dialled the wrong number, but he strikes up a friendship with her, and she allows him to deal with his unprocessed grief. Fred Dagg himself, John Clarke, has a supporting role as Frank's colleague Philip.

To the movie's credit, I really couldn't guess which direction it was going in. From that plot synopsis you'd assume it follows a predictable "grumpy man learns to focus on family over career, has heart of gold deep down blah blah" trajectory, but it wasn't that clear or obvious. But for the same reasons, it sometimes felt a bit aimless and indecipherable.

For instance, much of the comedy was lost on me (aside from a few laughs courtesy of John Clarke). Eventually we understand why real estate is central to the movie: it is a story about the cyclical nature of things, which also ties into the parent-child relationship themes. And there are moments with a clear visual metaphor of leaving the nest and facing the outside world.

Overall I'm still not exactly sure what I thought of this movie. But it is competently made, well-acted (LaPaglia is very good), and it's clear that plenty of thought and effort went into it. Perhaps it just requires a second or third viewing.

HIGH FIDELITY

Rating: A-

Director: Stephen Frears



by Nita Sullivan

The film *High Fidelity*, based on British author Nick Hornby's bestselling novel, is perhaps a good example of the way some film adaptations are not always better than their literary beginnings. Despite this, the film does an admirable job of harnessing Hornby's humour and quirks into a film that both educates and entertains in all things love, life, and music related.

While the story's setting is transferred from London to Chicago for the film, it stays true to the book in exploring the rambling (romantic and otherwise) musings of protagonist Rob Gordon, played by John Cusack, as he and his 'friends' spend their days at his used-record store. Rob is the movie narrator and he guides the film through his recent dumping by his most recent girlfriend Laura, and his quest in finding out why his previous relationships also failed, all the while essentially paying homage to music lovers and geeks everywhere.

Rob's enthusiastic employees, Dick and Barry, or as Rob refers to them, "the musical moron twins" play an essential supporting role as they indulge each other in oftentimes useless and elaborate debates about music. Their musical snobbery and endless top five lists would in most cases make for a hideously tedious 90 minutes of film, but strangely it works. My only criticism is that Hornby's witty and sarcastic conversational prose means that this kind of creative content is almost more enjoyable in book form than in its filmic adaptation.

Jack Black does a fantastic job as Barry, one of his sad sack employees spewing musical facts and comic word-vomit, often stealing scenes from Cusack's relatable and self concerned Rob. While I realise I have made limited criticisms in regard to Stephen Frears' film version of *High Fidelity*, something about the adaptation just seems to miss the menial and trivial magic that Hornby captures in the story's original form. Regardless, I would definitely recommend a watch if you're feeling like a bit of '80s British humour reimagined in a 2000 Chicago setting.

THE CURE

live at Vector Arena—July 21

by Millicent Lovelock



Three months ago I sat at work, squinting at my computer screen and chewing my lip. Ticketmaster reminded me I had two minutes left to buy my ticket before I would lose my place in the queue. I wasn't sure, did I really need to see The Cure, the band that cushioned my teenage angst and later determined the entire way I play guitar? It's a risky business seeing old bands, bands you love but who have been touring for such a long time that you'd get it if they were tired and disappointing. Mercifully, I got it together and bought that ticket, and The Cure really pulled through for me. It feels futile to even try to describe what it was like seeing them in concert, they were so much, so perfect, completely unreal.

There was no opening act. Vector Arena, packed to the brim, went totally dark. In the pitch black chimes were ringing and guitars humming, my heart raced at the deep pulse of a venue about to totally lose control. Spots appeared on stage and The Cure made their entrance, Robert Smith instantly recognisable for his baggy black clothes and shock of spider web hair. Four drum stick taps ricochet around the stage and everyone is plunged headfirst into Plainsong, a deep masterpiece off the album *Disintegration*. The Cure are so together and so in control it feels as though you are swimming inside the studio recorded album. I am so far away I can't make out Smith's trademark messy eyeliner, but I make up for it by smearing my red lipstick and mascara across my face wiping away the tears slowly streaming down my cheeks.

Smith's voice is unbelievable. He conveys tragedy and wild abandon with ease. Everything he does on stage is soft, comfortable. The Cure are totally immersive, huge, fluid and utterly visceral, and Smith seems content to let the music speak for itself, peppering the set with gentle arm movements and an occasional shimmy, each gesture deliberate and calm. The set covers a huge array of material and lasts three hours, the band slipping between glistening, ambient compositions, blistering guitar songs, and heavenly pop hits as though it is the most natural thing in the world.

The Cure are one of those bands you find when you're a teen and never let go of. Like many millennials my first introduction to them was their greatest hits compilation, and those songs send me back to my old room, I can see myself spinning around in the dark at three in the morning, singing Friday I'm in Love under my breath, fit to burst with a combination of angst and pleasure. That compilation led me to harder things, the album *Seventeen Seconds* shaping the way I think about guitar tone, the way I write songs. When they play *A Forest* I am totally overcome. Smith doesn't say a lot during the show, but his songwriting is ever conversational, even when it is deeply sad, introspective, searing, or carnivalesque. The set list is perfectly curated, and the accompanying lights and images make for a visually stunning and compelling show. There is something for everyone, emphasising The Cure's versatility. If you don't like one song, you'll like the next one, and if you don't, Smith jokes, you're at the wrong fucking concert.

The Cure were everything I hoped. For three hours I swam in bottomless oceans of guitar, and wept at Smith's plain spoken, heart-rending lyricism. By the end of the show I was overwhelmed by how beautiful and cleansing music can be. As The Cure closed their set with *Boys Don't Cry* I found myself singing, laughing, and crying with all my might, choking out sincere thank you thank you thank yous as they finished the song and walked off the stage. Before they left they promised they'd be back, so if you missed them this time I recommend you don't do that again.

POKÉMON GO

Mobile | Developed and Published by Niantic



Rating: B-

by Lisa Blakie

When I was younger, my family used to go to this beach at Kaka Point near the Catlins. My brother convinced me that if I open my eyes underwater in the ocean I would see Pokémon. I never did – because, you know, salt water and stuff – but for whatever reason I one hundred percent believed him. My family still rips me out about it to this day. Well, now the JOKE'S ON THEM because now you CAN see Pokémon underwater... if you have an Android or iOS device with a waterproof case. Pokémon Go is a free-to-play mobile app that lets you roam around and catch Pokémon using augmented reality. This app makes you as close to a Pokémon trainer in real life as you can be. This is basically a dream come true: I used to pretend-play Pokémon all the damn time. If I told my younger self that this would be a thing in the future she would lose her damn mind.

This app was released a little over three weeks ago in New Zealand, Australia and the US. This is what is called a "soft launch", where a few countries gain access and essentially test play a game. And, boy, did we play. This shit has blown up. It's been taking over the Internet, news articles, television coverage, people have been finding dead bodies while hunting for Pokemon, and it's being made fun of in every single form of meme.

Despite the huge hype, there isn't that much to the app itself. The gameplay is very simple. You walk around, Pokemon appear on your screen, you tap the Pokemon, and then boom: there it is on your device in your real life environment. It's pretty cool seeing Magikarps on the water and Caterpies in the forest, but the coolest thing is seeing them just hanging out inside. I've had a Goldeen, Dratini and Electabuzz all turn up on my desk, and it's just as adorable and hilarious as it was the first time.

You can travel to places called Pokéstops, which give you items like Pokéballs, Potions and Eggs. If you place lure modules on the Pokéstops, you increase your chances of rare

Pokémon appearing. The more people there are, the more likely they will appear. This is also a really cool way to see places in the city you might not have come across before, and seeing dozens of people on their phones around landmarks is really funny. I've never seen Monkey Bar pop off as hard when it was just a night club as it does now that it's a Pokéstop.

Pokémon Go has its flaws. Constant server issues mean you can't log in all day. The app sometimes crashes, causing you to miss rare Pokemon. You can end up in the middle of the ocean when the app loses your GPS location. I can forgive this. Working in the industry has made me absolutely empathetic towards free-to-play companies. Niantic only has roughly 11-50 employees according to their LinkedIn, which is very small considering the scope of Pokemon Go's audience (daily active users is at 21 million!). This is probably why they are advertising for a ton of job positions right now...

The best time to be playing Pokemon Go is right now. If Niantic don't constantly release new Pokemon from other generations or add new features soon, the hype is going to die down as quickly as it was built up. Thankfully, Niantic has announced that they are aiming to update every two weeks. While I assume most of these will be bug fixes and fine-tuning the core features of the app, I'm still optimistic that they will try to innovate and keep the game fresh. All I really want to see is the ability to battle your friends with the AR and use actual moves similar to that in the original games, rather than just constant tapping and rock-paper-scissors type advantages. With the support of their huge partner Nintendo (and my unconditional love of Pokemon), I have faith that it will continue to be as fun and widely-loved as it currently is. Seeing people walking the street playing Pokemon Go is a regular occurrence now, and it warms my heart. I've seen every kind of demographic playing, and I've talked to so many different lovely people at PokeStops. I'm convinced this how we are going to achieve world peace guys, honestly.

CYBER WARFARE

By Anthony Marris

TD;DR—All the locks on the door cannot stop the determined from gaining entry. Just ask the Trojans.



Cyber crime is the catchall term used for crime which makes use of the internet. Interpol acknowledges that most law enforcement have two distinct categories: advanced cyber crime, in which sophisticated individuals or groups target computer hardware or software ("cracking" or "hacking"), and cyber-enabled crime, traditional crimes where the computer and internet are employed advantageously to help the criminal (fraud, child exploitation, stalking). Often crimes like the 2014 leaked celebrity nudes are the result of a basic phishing scam and not an advanced hack.

Advanced cyber crime is often portrayed by mass media as acts carried out by lone individuals in their parents' basement. This view is skewed as cyber criminals often belong in a gang with a formal structure. These groups breach large organisations like banks, large corporations, or universities which often go unnoticed. Security expert Nicholas Percoco notes that the median time it takes for a company to detect a breach varies between 146 and 210 days.

The easiest way to breach a company is by hacking the person. Dubbed social engineering, the premise is to build a fantasy scenario that is believable to the victim. A presentation by Dave Kennedy at DEFCON 23 highlighted how easy it was for first timers to find out information from Fortune 500 companies. Sadly the stereotypes work. Act like a naive young female caller, and most male egos will feel satisfied by lending assistance. One participant was able to find out the type of operating system in use, their antivirus programs, and other seemingly trivial but potentially relevant data. From there, an attack strategy is decided.

The methods to breach the computer system can range from the very basic like phishing (malicious email links), and candy dropping (leaving tainted USB drives lying about to be plugged in), to the more advanced, like using zero-day exploits (flaws in a computer programmes source code). The payoffs can be huge. The Economist reported that \$81 million was transferred out of Bangladesh's central bank in February

2016. While the details are scary (for obvious reasons), the overall reason was blamed on the banks outdated and inadequate security.

While advanced cyber crime is limited to those chosen few who have an advanced skill set, computer assisted crime is basic in comparison. 99.85 percent of people with access to an internet connection have on some level been involved in at least one cyber crime, cyber stalking. Yes, going on Facebook to check out your ex's cuddle buddy is still stalking, even if you are just trying to see what they have that you don't. Sites like Facebook are a brilliant means for those who wish to do harm. Given the amount of information people willingly post, with enough time and a keen mind, the bunny boiler/creep can find out any and all information about you. Even if you monitor what you post and upload, you cannot control the actions of others.

Television shows like CSI: Cyber are great at highlighting the dangers of the online world. Strip away the drama, the plot lines, and the (deliberately?) erroneous content, you are still left with situations that are highly plausible or have happened such as webcams being breached, car computers getting cracked, revenge porn, and ransomware. Ransomware is code designed to lock the user out from their device until a sum of money has been paid. Often displayed with an official law enforcement icon, past targets have included hospitals, private citizens, and companies. This attack is brilliant in its simplicity. Based on the principle of hacking the person, few victims are going to front up to law enforcement requesting help if their device contains questionable material.

There are some ways to limit the chances of being a victim of cyber crime occurring against you, like being careful who you share your passwords with, and watching which links you click. Cyber crime though, like crime in general, can happen despite the victim having done all they could to mitigate the likelihood. If people want to do you harm they will.

BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE

Authors: Alan Moore, Brian Bolland



Review: Laura Starling

The Joker is the antithesis of Batman. While Batman continues to fight and defeat many, many villains throughout the years of DC comics, the one big villain that jumps to mind is the Joker. Comic genius and veteran Alan Moore (also wrote *Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta*) wrote *The Killing Joke* (1988), a one shot giving the backstory of the Joker. It shows his motivations and reveals why he's so messed up.

It begins with Batman visiting the Joker in Arkham Asylum to talk. He wants to know he tried at least once to communicate with and help the Joker resolve his issues. The Joker targets Commissioner Gordon and his daughter Barbara Gordon (who was Batgirl at this point in time) in order to make a particularly disturbing point to Batman. Violence and detectiveing ensues, with casualties, characteristic insanity and an incredibly dark plot line.

The illustrations are amazing, detailed, and unsettling. A lot of the imagery from this graphic novel are what we conjure in our minds when thinking of the comic incarnation of the Joker. Panels featuring his manic expression surrounded by the equally manic laughter, the lettering reflecting the tone, is just perfect.

The *Killing Joke* gave an insight into the mind of the Joker and developed the relationship between Batman and the Joker considerably. However, it is not without its flaws. Without going into too much detail, the treatment of Barbara Gordon in the comic is frustrating. She is reduced, through violence, to a motivating plot line, and what her character endures to further the plot is pretty fucked up. This is one of the darkest stories associated with Batman because of what happens to Barbara Gordon and what the Joker attempts to do with this violence.

While the graphic novel is considered iconic, it has also been met with considerable controversy over the years. Many believe that it doesn't live up to Alan Moore's usual standard of writing. Something he actually agrees with critics on. He believes that the comic didn't say anything relatable to humans, and that's what makes it boring. Furthermore, he has gone on to say that his treatment of Barbara Gordon was regrettable and not well thought through.

None-the-less, this graphic novel has had a massive influence on the DC universe, and has shaped how people think about the Joker. It's interesting and morbidly entertaining to read. I've always been a fan, despite the problems. This is a Batman comic you could pick up and read without much other context, but be warned—it's quite depressing.

IN ORDER TO LIVE

Author: Yeonmi Park



Review: Hayleigh Clarkson

In Order to Live is an incredible real-life story of Yeonmi Park, a North Korean girl, who escaped into China and then into South Korea. Her epic fight for freedom is nearly unbelievable: Yeonmi survived starvation, abuse, trafficking, and near death just to have the simple freedoms we all take for granted. It is a heart-breaking and at times a horrific story to read yet I found it impossible to put down. Curious about North Korea? Grab this memoir and strap yourself in for a trip to hell on earth.

RIDICULOUS SUBLIME

Dunedin Public Art Gallery
Closes 24th October
Free entry

by Monique Hodgkinson

"The sublime and the ridiculous are often so nearly related that it is difficult to class them separately. One step above the sublime makes the ridiculous and one step above the ridiculous makes the sublime again."

-Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*:
Part II. c1795

I stumbled across the DPAG's latest art exhibition, *Ridiculous Sublime*, purely by accident on a rainy and miserable morning the other week. Stepping into the gallery after walking through the grey drizzle outside made me suddenly feel like Dorothy waking up in Oz; the works of *Ridiculous Sublime* are simultaneously kitsch and stylish, artistic and absurd, hilarious and thought-provoking.

This unique exhibition showcases the work of four Dunedin artists: Nick Austin, Jane Dodd, Scott Eady, and Rachel H. Allan. Surprising and original, the artists' differing styles and mediums somehow come together to clash in the most harmonious way. In the centre of the space, for example, enormous marrows on bar stools pour fountains of water into plastic, clam-shaped paddling pools, filling the gallery with the sound of cascading water. Titled *Sons of a clouded sky*, this work reflects Eady's interest in the elevation of private, domestic objects into more grand, monumental settings.

Austin similarly abstracts objects from their familiar realms, such as in "Milk Bottle Abstract #1", where the outline of a plastic milk

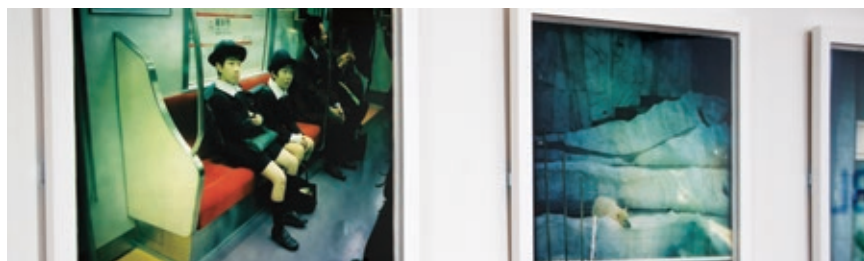
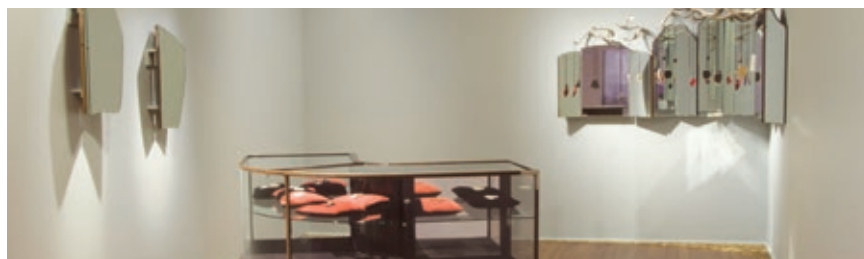
bottle hides amidst cow print camouflage. In "Negative Production", we are presented with cardboard boxes but no indication of their contents, although Austin has suggested that what's inside them are the paintings themselves. Viewers are encouraged to 'solve' his works like puzzles, interacting uniquely and thinking about possibilities in new ways.

Dodd's fantastic jewellery-centred art works were a stand out for me, interweaving unique, animal-related forms and outstanding technical skill. Part jewellery boutique, part natural world, her section of the gallery space felt like stepping into something of a modern antique store, riddled with mice, bears, wolves, and mirrors.

The photography of Allan rounds off the exhibition beautifully, demonstrating her interest in concepts of curiosity, reality, mimicry and restraint. Her works create a shadowy, lonesome world in which polar bears gaze into the distance and old women sit in the shadows of monumental, nude statues. Haunting, this series imbues the exhibition with a sense of poignancy to prevent the bubbly absurdity from taking over completely.



Ridiculous Sublime somehow works. Despite contents which are haphazard and kaleidoscopic at best, something strings these four artists together neatly and succinctly. This exhibition left me feeling wacky, wonderful, and slightly nonplussed.



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

DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY

FREE ADMISSION + WWW.DUNEDIN.ART.MUSEUM



RIDICULOUS SUBLIME

NICK AUSTIN . JANE DODD . SCOTT EADY . RACHEL H. ALLAN

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

A WASTE OF FOOD

by Kirsten Garcia



So instead of a recipe I thought I'd write another important aspect to consider about food. It's an all too familiar scenario at my flat with leftover dinners. It's a particular problem for one of my flatmates, who forgets about food and ends up buying more while the forgotten food rots away in the pantry. At one point we would hide her mouldy oranges in her room and wait until she'd notice, somehow she never did.

I guess day by day, throwing food out is an easy problem to ignore until you realise the extent of it. Households are the largest contributor to food waste in our society. The average household wastes 79kgs of food annually. It's me and you in our little homes who are contributing the majority of the food that ends up in landfills.

One third of food produced is wasted globally. That's like having three shopping bags and just dropping one of them. In New Zealand, we throw out enough food each year to feed the whole population of Dunedin for two years. Clearly something needs to be done to address this, that's where Love Food Hate Waste comes in. All this research has been done under their campaign in collaboration with local councils and the University of Otago. They even went through people's rubbish bins on collection days to find out the extent of it.

Throwing away food is not just a shame because someone could have eaten it. It's a waste of energy that was put into growing, manufacturing, transporting and selling that item. This isn't a new phenomenon, people have recognised this issue in the past and that's why

people started dumpster-diving. I have attempted to dumpster-dive before, but they lock and hide the bins now. As anticlimactic as it was, it's probably better to address the problem at a more individual level anyway, since so much of the waste is coming from homes.

Do you regularly throw out food? Maybe you buy too much, that it just ends up getting spoilt? I'm sure we all agree that it's a shame to buy and then just bin food.

Dumpster-diving may have been a bust anyway since both New World Centre City and Countdown, as well as many cafes donate their leftover food to a local organisation called FoodShare.

FoodShare then distributes the food to charities around Dunedin. In their four years running they have rescued over one million meals which have been fed back to the Dunedin community to food banks such as Presbyterian Support and Women's Refuge.

Despite the world having an abundance of food, riches are concentrated in the developed countries, and many people are still suffering from malnutrition. Being conscious and smart about your food waste could be the simplest but most effective environmental and humanitarian effort you make during your lifetime. Possibly more than turning vegan even. Plus you'll save money.

Love Food Hate Waste started in the UK where it's been a massive success. France now has a law that forbids supermarkets from throwing away unsold food, forcing them to give it to charities. New Zealand has all the potential to

benefit from the Love Food Hate Waste campaign. We do want to maintain that clean green image after all. We just need to cultivate a culture that cares and shares enough not to let food go to waste.

If you want to start reducing your food waste, lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz has some really good resources and recipes. Some University of Otago consumer food science students have also produced a "Waste Not Want Not" recipe book which you can download online. If you have been moved to act in the community, you can also volunteer at FoodShare.

Some general tips to start cutting down your food waste at the flat:

- Eat seasonally
- Learn how to use as much produce as you can.
- Only buy and prepare enough food to eat in a short amount of time
- Have a "use first" shelf in the pantry
- Have leftovers for lunch

"The way humanity manages or mismanages its food supply will in many ways define the 21st century—currently we know that we are not doing a great job, with at least one third of all food produced lost or wasted. It is an ethical and economic challenge but also an environmental one." —Nick Nuttall, Global Director of Communications, United Nations Environment Programme



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Seasonal, local, healthy & affordable

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www.otagofarmersmarket.co.nz



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.

his

GRIFFITHS

After a sexless and sad semester I caught wind that a mate, who was "unable" to attend the blind date had pulled out. I leapt at the chance to do likewise (after a lovely date) with a lovely girl.

In true Dunedin fashion I got ready for my date with a warm shower and cold wine funnel. I donned my finest shirt and (not wanting to outdo my date) a pair of filthy pants. I came into the fine establishment of the Dog with Two Tails, and begun a date with a lovely lass, who was great company. With great amounts of alcohol already coursing through my veins we ordered another bottle of wine, and the conversation really started flowing. Despite my horrible chat she seemed to be enjoying herself and the topic of where to go from here popped up. We wandered around and found ourselves conveniently located at my flat.

I invited her inside, strictly to see my etchings, one thing led to another and we were in bed before I could say "Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me" - she was taking advantage of me. All of this turned out to be inconsequential as there was a third member at this party who was playing us both for fools, this quickly forced us to cuddle.

All in all an enjoyable night thanks to Critic, rate it 10/10 would do again, although I must apologise to my date for my impairment.

hers

HARRIS

So after being overly psyched up for the night by my very enthusiastic, yet highly sober, flatmates I managed to down a bottle of wine and set off for my date in true drunken fashion. I was truly looking forward to a night of being plied with free alcohol and food. Walking into Dog With Two Tails I was more than happy to lay my drunk eyes on my date, who in fact was very cute and had too already downed a bottle of wine! After deciding that the tab best be spent on more alcohol, besides a bowl of fries, we went on with our night with great chat.

Our time consisted largely of football chat (thankfully landed myself with a bloke who also plays this wonderful game) and the usual drunk topics. The bar tab was slowly decreasing so we decided to get out of there and make the chilly walk back to his place. The walk was rather cute, as he let me use his puffer jacket pocket to keep me wee hand warm. We were both extremely drunkipants when got to his place, so we played a bit of 'scrabble' to pass the time...

Following this fun game I set off for my warm bed while he went for more alcohol, so he walked me to the door in true gentlemanly fashion. When I reached my flat I was greeted by my entire flat overly intrigued by my drunkenness and the fact that my shirt was on inside out (in my defence I knew that but couldn't be bothered trying again). So cheers Critic and Dog With Two Tails for a smashing night, you've succeed to make my week.

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Dog With Two Tails, right beside Rialto cinemas | Open 7 days, Tues-Sat open late | live music performance | www.dogwithtwotails.co.nz | 03 477 4188



President's Column

Hello everyone!

It is great to be home. I hope you have enjoyed hearing the international experiences of the ever wonderful Rachel your International Officer. I have spent the last few weeks learning about the benefits of international relations and what we can take from learning about how operations like ours function the world over. I have met incredible lead-

ers who will make friends for life, and have learned skills that I hope will be of use for the rest of my time in this role.

But now I'm back and events around here are abound. I hope flatting week was all you wanted it to be and more. Flatting for the first time can be a steep learning curve no matter how much you prepare yourself for it. Navigating social relationships, household accounts and chore wheels is no easy feat. If nothing else, then you can trust that it will never be completely smooth sailing, but learning a little bit about conflict management and how to be a savvy tenant using information from Student Support about how to keep yourself safe legally, emotionally and physically will keep you on the right track. So never be afraid to ask for help or advice - we all have to start from somewhere.

Upcoming now is Art Week, a very popular time of the year for students to get their creativity on. If you haven't had the opportunity to pursue your creative passions at a tertiary level, then too often it can take a back seat to study. Art Week is one of the ways you can get back on the bandwagon and pull out whatever the tools of your trade are to create a masterpiece. Or perhaps you already have a masterpiece on the go that you want to include in Art Week. All and any entries are welcome, every contribution helps put on display all the talent we have around the place - get in quick though as entries close this week!

I hope your first weeks back have been wonderful! Take care,

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

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

FROM 1PM AUGUST 14

UNIPOL 1ST UNIVERSITY PLACE / 130 ANZAC AVE

1ST PLACE WINS \$200!
2ND GETS \$75. 3RD GETS \$50

FREE TO ENTER!

WIN CASH!

For more info and to enrol, head to tournaments.ousa.org.nz

OUSa presents the 2016 University of Otago

BLUES & GOLDS AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN UNTIL FRIDAY 17 AUGUST

For more info, and to nominate, check out bgawards.ousa.org.nz

QUEEREST TEA PARTY

Wednesday 10 August, 12pm - 2pm | Main Common Room

The Queerest Tea Party is a popular biannual event that celebrates sex, gender, and sexuality diversity on campus. Anyone, queer or queer friendly is welcome to come along for a FREE hot beverage, some cakes and slices. **We run a cupcake decorating competition from 12pm - 1pm with some sweet prizes to be won.**

BE IN TO WIN WHEN YOU SIGN UP TO THE OUSA COMMUNIQUE NEWSLETTER

Sign-up to hear all the latest from us and be in to win weekly prizes! Every week we've got a care package to give away, once you have subscribed you are automatically entered into the draw. **This week be in to win a Micathermic Heater worth \$100 and cruise through the rest of winter in toasty bliss!**

Sign up at bit.ly/ousanews

Local Body elections

It's time to enrol to vote in the local body elections!

Local body elections are coming up, and it's important you meet your legal requirement to enrol to vote under the Electoral Act 1993. If you're not correctly enrolled you can be fined up to \$100

We'll be giving out some cool prizes to those who enrol to be voters. These include:

- Shouting pizza for your flat
- OUSA Executive members cleaning your flat
- Free access to our sauna and squash courts
- Music passes

These elections matter to students. The Dunedin City Council decides on how long bars and clubs are open for, whether or not North Dunedin is a liquor ban area, how often rubbish and recycling are collected, and whether or not some student events receive funding.

Across the community older Dunedin folk will be casting their vote for the representatives they want on Council. Your voice matters as much as theirs. Let's make sure student voices are heard. The first step to that is making sure you are enrolled at your Dunedin address.

Grab an enrollment form from one of our receptions at either the Main Office or the Clubs and Societies Centre, and then leave it with them to go into the draw for prizes.

WEDNESDAY
9 AUGUST, 7.30PM

RADIO ONE 91FM AND
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Purple Pilgrims

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Dawn Lucy Hunter Indi + Motte

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