

**Critic** Est. 1925

ISSUE 02



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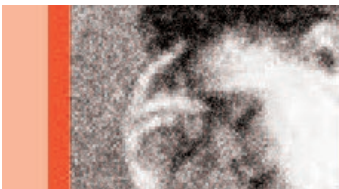
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## UNIVERSITY SET TO PERVE ON HOT GIRLS THROUGH WINDOWS

IT'S BEEN A WEEK IN WHICH THE UNIVERSITY OF Otago and, more so, the students associated have been the focus of national headlines and the debate that comes with it.

Many of the headlines have been centred on the University's plans to install surveillance cameras in the student area in response to calls about taking a tougher stand around student behaviour following Orientation week.

The discussion on whether or not the University should install surveillance cameras has most of the student population split, with valid reasons on both sides.

Earlier in the week an open letter to our Vice Chancellor, Harlene Hayne, was co-authored by ten collective students that suggested compulsory courses in respect, consent, and sexual health for all new undergraduate students after complaints about behaviour in the student quarter during O-week.

However, as the statistics from last week will tell you, with only two of the thirteen arrests up until Thursday actually being students, majority of the trouble from the past week has come from those outside of the student body.

This of course doesn't mean that students aren't causing some of the trouble; it's merely suggesting that majority of the mischief is from those outside of the campus who believe they can come here and get away with anything.

So, potentially, is there some merit in installing cameras around the University if it is to catch



those outsiders and clear the student name? But where do you draw the line? What about those small and innocuous misdemeanours committed by students that may, without the use of cameras, go unnoticed? Small and relatively minor things such as public nudity and the like.

When you enter into a public space, be that walking the main street, entering a stadium, or even filling up your car, you know full well that there's every likelihood you're being filmed. However, private residences are different. They're private. Filming students in their private homes is intrusive, prying, and shouldn't be condoned.

Perhaps money would be better spent on more Campus Watch personnel patrolling notorious streets at peak times. It's an idea that would hopefully mean those who feel threatened also feel safer at night as well as protecting residents' privacy in their own home.

Enjoy your upcoming week!

**HUGH BAIRD**  
critic editor

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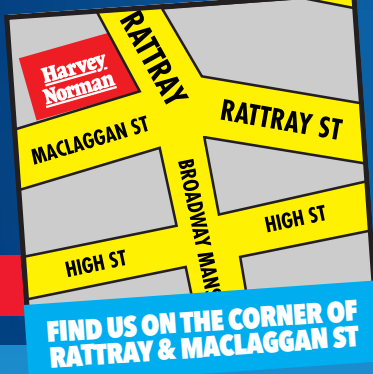
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# EXEC RABLE

## OUSA FUND THIRD PARTY RADIO SHOW

by HENRY NAPIER

**T**HE OUSA EXECUTIVE KICKED off the year funding a student political radio show on Otago Access Radio, despite students already having access to broadcast through Radio One.

The executive voted last Monday to support the show hosted by Tyler West to be held on Otago Access Radio. The show would be focused on student political news where youth and campus based groups would be interviewed.

However, Administrative Vice President Jarred Griffiths did raise

a number of concerns with West's original proposal asking why he saw a benefit to host a student based radio show on a paid station while Radio One is available. West responded saying his prior efforts to host the show on Radio One were unsuccessful due to scheduling clashes with his personal life. Griffiths went on to say he would not be comfortable permitting the use of OUSA branding on the show.

"I wouldn't feel comfortable having OUSA's branding on the show, but I would feel comfortable funding the show" said Griffiths.

The issue on possible censorship of the show was also raised by Griffiths who contended that having an OUSA funded show could create a situation where the executive may choose to discontinue the show if it was inconsistent with its views.

"As an executive as well we need to recognise that if we provide the money and you say something that is not really our position it shouldn't be a case of censorship and I think that's a real risk that you say something that we don't agree with. I don't want [the executive] to then

be in a position where we say hold on we can actually pull the show" said Griffiths.

The cost of show was proposed in two options. Option one offered 13 weekly or fortnightly shows running for fifty six minutes which totalled at \$494. Option two was presented as a more conservative \$260 for 13 twenty six minute shows.

The executive opted to fund the show through option one which Jarred Griffiths called a "minuscule amount".

## CC 'FUCKING' TV

by HENRY NAPIER

The University of Otago has confirmed their intention to install CCTV cameras throughout a number of student populated streets in Dunedin, with the aim being to keep Otago University students safer.

The specific areas intended for the CCTV surveillance are still being finalised, however proposed locations include Castle Street and Hyde Street. News arose recently that the University of Otago had already attached a camera to a University-owned building in early February that was intended to monitor Hyde Street.

According to the University up to fifty cameras are set to be installed, however the final number is yet to be confirmed. A statement released by the Deputy Proctor Andy Ferguson said the purpose of the new measures was based on keeping students safe.

"The purpose is to keep our students and local community safe and prevent behaviour, particularly from non-students attached to the area,

that causes harm to others. The frequency of fire lighting in Hyde St is, as a consequence, well down on the previous year due to this camera's preventative effect alone. We were also recently able to positively assist Police over the alleged theft of a bike in this street." Said Mr Ferguson. University of Otago Dean of Law Professor Mark Henaghan said that while cameras are allowed to be installed in public spaces, there could be an issue of legality if they were to breach the privacy of people's homes.

"There's always the issue if it's invading other people's privacy. If you put a camera pointing straight into someone's living room, even if it's on the street, I think you could argue it's an invasion of their privacy but if you put a camera in a street that's not looking into someone's house just looking at the street, I think that would be technically allowed", said Professor Henaghan.

However, Professor Henaghan believed that cameras were a mostly unnecessary measure and reflected a "sad" trend in Dunedin life.

"I can understand why people feel cameras provide safety and various things but I personally feel it's very sad when we have to put cameras up in our society. There are cameras, for example, right now when you go into supermarkets, there's a camera watching you when you go to the petrol station. So I think in those situations you probably don't even notice them in those public spaces. But I think in streets where people live I think people feel a bit uncomfortable."

Otago University Students Association President Laura Harris could not be reached for comment, however a member of the OUSA executive who did not wish to be named said the executive were not happy with the President's position.

"Laura [Harris]'s stance is not hard enough. I think it's a cop out to say we need more information. There are a number of executive members who do not feel comfortable with the position the President has taken. The Privacy Commission is against this. Pointing cameras down streets is not ok".



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## MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES FAIL TO INSPIRE

by JOE HIGHAM

**T**HE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE minimum wage will increase 50c from April 1, taking it from \$14.75 to \$15.25.

Having risen every year since 2009, when it was just \$12.50 an hour, the minimum wage still remains far below what some people have been campaigning for. The Living Wage movement, for example, believes \$19.80 is an hourly wage that is high enough to maintain a normal standard of living.

Michael Woodhouse, Workplace Relations and Safety minister, told Critic that "with such low inflation as we have in New Zealand right now,

it would be easy for government to simply ignore the minimum wage issue, but we felt we could help."

That 50c increase will total \$20 extra pay per week for full time employees who are paid the minimum wage, which is equivalent to \$1000 a year. Woodhouse said he would "defy anyone who says the increase is just a drop in the ocean... [The amount] matters to them doesn't it?"

Richard Wagstaff, president of the Council of Trade Unions (CTU) said, "In 2009 working people were campaigning for a minimum wage of \$15. It's taken seven years to get to \$15.25. \$15 was a fair minimum wage in 2009, it's not a fair wage in 2016." The CTU is calling on employers to pay working people the living wage of \$19.80, after claiming that \$15.25 is barely "enough to exist on," according to their media release.

The Labour Party policy is to see the minimum wage increased to \$16.50 and they want to give the living wage [\$19.80] only to the core public sector.

David Clark, MP for North Dunedin, said, "if you shifted overnight to \$19.80 there is no doubt in my mind that would send some companies to the wall." What he wants to see is the "government mapping out a path of increases that are sustainable but also progressive."

Clark added, "Currently, New Zealand has one in four children living in poverty, and a large proportion of those are in families with working parents and we have an extraordinary amount of people with health issues as a result. Low wages in New Zealand cause poverty and the taxpayer picks up the bill through healthcare for entirely preventable diseases."

## FOUR MONTHS ENOUGH FOR PROCTOR

by JOE HIGHAM

**T**HE PROCTOR OF OTAGO University, Dave Miller, has resigned from the position. He has accepted a job offer from the justice sector, which is where he was employed prior to becoming Proctor just four months ago.

Miller took over from Simon Thompson in late October, who had been Proctor for 15 years. The ODT revealed Miller would serve his last day as proctor on April 27.

"I have been offered and accepted a fantastic opportunity to work

in the justice sector where I came from, and it is with regret that I tendered my resignation to the university," said Miller, the ODT reported.

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## CAMPUS COP BELIEVES NON-STUDENTS INVOLVED IN FLAT FIRE

by **AUTHOR NAME**

**D**UNEDIN POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE couch fire that saw a house on Castle Street come alight in Orientation Week. Campus Cop John Woodhouse says the investigation is ongoing. However, he believes it is likely that non-students were involved.

Mr Woodhouse said that while couch fires are anticipated in Dunedin during Orientation Week, the clear level of intent to damage property and lives is not. The incident follows reports that of the thirteen people arrested during Orientation Week, only two were students.

"Realistically we've got an expectation that there's going to be the odd couch fire, but this occurrence in Castle Street where the couch was set alight beside the flat is incredibly out of character for a couch fire. I personally would not be at all surprised if in the final analysis the person who lit the fire was not a student" says Mr Woodhouse.

The couch fire, which occurred at 12am on Sunday 28 February, was started at the back of the Castle Street property where it caused the flat to catch alight. Though the residents at the property in question described the incident as "really scary", they praised Campus Watch for their valiant efforts.

"We just got woken up to screaming. Izzy was in her room and she came down told us all to get



out so we all just ran out of the house. I went down the alley way and saw it all but then cops shooed me away and told me to go back out

**"We just got woken up screaming"**

front. Campus watch moved the couch while it was on fire" said Alex Jenkin, a resident of the flat.

Campus Cop John Woodhouse went on to condemn the behaviour as playing "Russian Roulette" with people's lives.

"We think if that behaviour continues or couch fires in general there is going to be a tragedy and a student is going to lose their life. So we're working really hard to ensure that doesn't happen."

However, according to Mr Woodhouse this latest incident doesn't reflect a trend in behaviour in North Dunedin.

"I would be very fearful if that was a trend. The trend is that there has been a 30 percent reduction in couch fires from 2015 and 2014. I believe the efforts from Campus Watch and the efforts of the Police and the judiciary to not offer diversion or discharge without conviction for this type of activity and also the increased surveillance that's been put in place."

The University of Otago's Orientation Week has historically resulted in a number of notable incidents. In 2009 riots broke out throughout Dunedin causing widespread injuries and arrests with those involved. The severity of incidents have evidently diminished in recent years following a harder line on student behaviour from Campus Watch and the University. During Orientation Week this year a student was arrested for throwing eggs at first year students on their way to the Toga Party at Forsyth Barr Stadium, a long-standing tradition in University of Otago culture.

## REDDIT USED TO RAISE ALARM

by **JESS THOMPSON**

**I**N A DISTRESSING TURN OF EVENTS, A DUNEDIN student was saved by her fiancé with the aid of the entertainment and social news website Reddit. Melody Madill began experiencing a seizure during a Skype session with her fiancé, Anna Messner on Tuesday afternoon. Messner, situated in the US, was physically powerless.

"I was terrified," Messner said, "I had never seen her twitch and flail so violently, or her mouth froth and her lips turned blue. I tried to get her to respond or turn her head so she wouldn't choke. At this point I was screaming, begging her to stay with me."



Messner called the US emergency services but was informed they could not assist with overseas medical emergencies.

In an act of desperation, Messner turned to Reddit, begging a New Zealand audience to come to her assistance and call the ambulance. The post read: "Mayday need someone to call 111."

After ten minutes, Jana Hayes, a Christchurch woman, answered Messner's message and the number for the New Zealand emergency service was called. Hayes followed the call by returning to Reddit to report the situation. She admitted:

"I was a bit sceptical in case this was a joke (Had to give my cell number and name, and I hate lying lol) ... I'm glad I did it anyway. PLEASE keep us updated, let us know when she's out and that she's been given the all-clear."

A full forty-five minutes passed since the beginning of Madill's seizure to the moment the paramedics knocked on her front door. Still on Skype, Messner heard the knocks and yelled as loud as she could. Madill by this time was able to rise and open the door. Madill explained she was "very confused" by the incident. She had been diagnosed with epilepsy as a child, but had not experienced any seizures in 10 years.

# FRANCE RECORDS FIRST SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED CASE OF ZIKA IN EUROPE

by INDI LEISHMAN

**E**UROPE HAS REPORTED ITS FIRST CASE OF THE Zika virus spread through sexual transmission. The virus is usually contracted through the bite of the Aedes Aegypti Mosquitos.

A French woman contracted the disease after her husband returned from Brazil where he was visiting. The Parisian woman is one of few cases which have been reported as sexually transmitted.

France's minister for Social affairs, Health and Women's rights, Marisol Touraine told AFP, "the woman showed classic signs of the disease," but due to not being pregnant had a low risk of any complications and was not hospitalised. "She is recovering well," Touraine told AFP.

The virus has made headlines with experts believing that babies, whose mothers are infected with Zika while pregnant, are susceptible to microcephaly, and would likely inherit conditions

that cause abnormally small heads and hinders brain development.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have reported 46 countries with some level of evidence of Zika and a further 130 countries which are home to the Aedes Aegypti mosquito.

A total of eight United Kingdom cases have been diagnosed. These were typically of tourists traveling from countries including Barbados, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Mexico. The mosquito that transmits the virus is not found in the UK but is seen in warmer countries where advanced spreading of the virus has been present.

Brazil has been the hardest-hit country with a reported 1.5million of cases of Zika.

The announcement of this case in Europe is only a mild concern with the current winter climate in most European nations. During these

colder months mosquitos are inactive and the spread of the virus is lessened. However, the WHO have expressed concern to European nations about the possibility that the disease could spread quickly in warmer months.

WHO Europe chief, Zsuzsanna Jakab told The Guardian "European countries where Aedes mosquitos are present can be at risk for the spread of Zika virus disease." With the spring and summer months looming the risk that Zika virus spreads, increases.

Although majority of those infected with the disease have no symptoms, those that do show symptoms resembling those of the flu. These typically include; fever, joint pain, red eyes or conjunctivitis, headaches and sometimes an itchy rash.

There is currently no cure or vaccine against the Zika virus.

# DICAPRIO BAGS AN OSCAR

by HUGH BAIRD

**A**FTER YEARS AND YEARS OF being denied the award many believe he has long deserved, Leonardo DiCaprio finally graced the stage at the 88th Academy Awards and mitted himself a golden Oscar for his role in The Revenant.

The Academy Awards, more affectionately known as the "Oscars" were held last week to honour and celebrate excellence in cinematic achievement.

Much of the hype leading into the event surrounded DiCaprio and his lack of Academy Awards, despite years of nominations and deserved recognition. After four nominations without success, the

talk was whether or not this would be his year.

The film in which DiCaprio featured in, The Revenant, was also nominated for best picture. However, it was beaten out by Spotlight, a film that follows a group of journalists from The Boston Globe and their investigations into cases of widespread and systematic child sex abuse in the Boston area by numerous Roman Catholic priests.

Best director went to Alejandro González Iñárritu from The Revenant who just last year won an Oscar for his part in the film Birdman, becoming the first director to win back-to-back Oscars in 65 years.

Brie Larson claimed the award of Best Actress in this years Oscars for her portrayal of a young woman kidnapped and forced to raise her child in a single room in a film adapted from the best selling novel Room by Emma Donoghue. Brie Larson also took home Best Actress awards from the Golden Globes and Baftas earlier this year.

Amy, the real life documentary based on the life of Amy Winehouse, won best feature documentary, Mark Rylance won best supporting actor for his role in Bridge of Spies and Alicia Vikander was victorious as Best Supporting Actress for her role in The Danish Girl.



**After four nominations without success, the talk was whether or not this would be his year**



# TRUMP VS CLINTON ALMOST INEVITABLE FOLLOWING SUPER TUESDAY

by JOE HIGHAM

**S**UPER TUESDAY, A DAY THAT CAN REVIVE OR destroy a candidate's hope for the presidency, took place on March 1 across America as eleven states voted in both the republican and democratic races.

Relatively early on, results showed that the Trump political juggernaut is continuing its unstoppable assault on the White House with wins in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Virginia and Vermont; in some of those states he won by as much as 16 percent to 30 percent. Other notable wins in the republican race belonged to Ted Cruz, who convincingly, and rather predictably, won his home state of Texas (by 17 percent) and also won Oklahoma (by 6 percent), with Marco Rubio only winning Minnesota, by a margin of 9 percent.

In the democratic race, Hillary Clinton swept to victory in the southern states on the day, triumphing in Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas as well as the eastern state of Virginia. Clinton's Super Tuesday wins come after a resounding win in the South Carolina primary, in which she trounced Sanders by almost 50 percent. The wins all but secure her nomination, and leaves Sanders, who won his home state of Vermont along with Colorado, Minnesota and Oklahoma, with little more than a glimmer of hope remaining in his sinking campaign.

Sanders did win four states, including his home state of Vermont, but he now faces an almost impossible struggle as the momentum he gathered in the early state primaries slips further and further away. The reason that Clinton is all but nailed in as the democratic nominee is her convincing triumph in the African-American

vote, raking in almost seven out of every 10 African-American votes across all voting states on Super Tuesday, whilst in Alabama she received 92 percent of the African-American vote. Bernie Sanders had to appeal to the minority voters (African-Americans and Hispanics) and the female vote in order to challenge Clinton, and his efforts failed miserably.

Trump's successes have dwarfed any optimism left in the remaining republican candidates, even if there was a reason for them to be optimistic in the face of looming defeat. Establishment candidate Marco Rubio, who was said to be the main benefactor of the votes left by the once favourite, Jeb Bush, won just one solitary state on Super Tuesday, effectively ending any hope of even challenging, yet alone succeeding, in the republican nomination. According to political analysts, he must now win by an average of 50 percent in the remaining states to stand a chance of gathering the delegates needed to be the nominee to challenge for the presidency.

Ted Cruz, who is the last remaining republican candidate left with the ability to derail the Trump campaign, won a respectable three states and recorded his highest campaign funding for any month (USD \$12 million) thus far. The reason for this surge in funding could be that the Republican Party is rallying around a less divisive candidate in Cruz, as opposed to Trump. Lindsay Graham, Senator for South Carolina and another former candidate, said that "we [Republican Party] may be in a position where we have to rally around Ted Cruz", reported the Guardian.

Cruz called for other Republican candidates to drop out to prevent the overall vote being split

among too many people, which many see as a key reason why Trump is gathering such a huge proportion of the vote so far.

Republican Ben Carson, who has led a less than successful campaign despite spending an enormous USD \$53.7 million (more than any other candidate), has all but suspended his campaign after only receiving more than 10 percent of the vote in one state on Super Tuesday: Alabama. In an official statement to his supporters, Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, said "I do not see a political path forward" and that he will not be attending the Fox News GOP Presidential Debate on Thursday night. Cruz and Rubio will desperately vie to win his 5 percent-10 percent of the vote in the upcoming states to boost their flailing campaigns.

On March 5 three states will vote in the democratic race, notably Kansas, Louisiana and Nebraska, with Maine on March 6 and Michigan and Mississippi voting on March 8. The republicans go to the polls on again on the same day, with Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana and Maine voting on March 5, Puerto Rico on March 6, and Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan and Mississippi on March 8. At least we now know that something extraordinary will have to happen in order to prevent Hillary Clinton coming up against Donald Trump by the end of the primary and caucuses on June 14.



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## NEWS IN

## BRIEFS



### 1 REIMS, FRANCE

Citizens in the town of Reims have lost a brand new piece of artwork that was commissioned for the town, after the anti-graffiti squad scrubbed it off. Though the graffiti artist C215 was commissioned for a street art mural, the town's cleaning department were not informed. The artist, whose real name is Christian Guemy, was not offended and has said he will return to the town this month to carry out more work.

### 2 NORTH KOREA

Students in North Korea may begin their new school year in casual clothing after the shut-down of an industrial zone left the country with a shortage of uniforms. The factory in question was jointly run by North and South Koreans. However, when the North ordered all South Korean workers to leave they had to abandon thousands of uniforms.

### 3 VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA

Russian soldiers have been left embarrassed after losing a large artillery gun in the middle of the city of Volgograd. Surprised locals called the police after finding the weapon blocking the pavement of a thoroughfare near the city centre. The gun went missing while being towed back to the barracks in a column of military vehicles.

### 5 GUILIN, CHINA

A Chinese prison compound has been attracting hordes of visitors keen to see the site's blossoming trees in full bloom with some people scaling walls in order to get in. Guards say that in the past there was only a trickle of visitors, but this year's spectacular display has seen thousands turn up, forcing the prison to limit access to people visiting inmates or staff.

### 6 UNITED KINGDOM

A new British branch of an existing international pressure group aiming to legalise drugs was launched this week. The group, LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition), is made up of a collection of former undercover drugs officers, military figures and police who are campaigning for drug law reform in the UK.





## 4 OREGON, UNITED STATES

Oregon will not be renewing a scheme which uses goats to eat invasive species due to rising costs and complaints over the animals' stench. The state capital, Salem, hired a herd of 75 goats to munch their way through plants in the city's largest park. However, the scheme ended up costing approximately five times what the city would have spent on human landscapers.

## 7 RAQQA, SYRIA

The Islamic State has killed eight Dutch members whom it accused of trying to desert. There has reportedly been tension between 75 Dutch jihadis and ISIS intelligence operatives from Iraq, with the conflict coming to a head. The ISIS leadership has since ordered the arrest of all members of the Dutch group and imprisoned them.

## FACTS and figures

Ben Carson, the American Presidential hopeful, has spent **US \$795** per vote he has received

**Potatoes** have almost all the nutrients a human needs to survive

**6.9 MILLION** litres of beer were consumed at Oktoberfest in 2014

**ONE IN FIVE BILLION** —odds of being killed by space debris

It would take **SEVEN BILLION** particles of fog to fill a teaspoon

The state sport of Maryland is jousting

The Greeks are the biggest smokers, averaging **8.1** cigarettes a day each

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



**1995-** The Auckland Warriors first game in the NRL

**1879-** Albert Einstein is born in Ulm, Germany

**1956-** New Zealand Cricket wins their first ever test match against West Indies

**1997-** Paul McCartney is knighted for services to music

# A QUICK CHAT WITH TODD BARCLAY

by JOEL MCMANUS

**T**O CALL TODD BARCLAY'S LIFE UNUSUAL WOULD BE AN understatement. At just twenty four years old, not only did he put himself forward as a parliamentary candidate in Clutha-Southland, he won by a landslide and stepped into the gigantic shoes of the outgoing MP, Bill English.

I sat down with Todd to discuss the life, experiences, and perceptions of New Zealand's youngest Member of Parliament.

**What was that first issue or event that sparked your interest in politics?**

I literally just walked into parliament one day and watched a bit of Question Time. I saw my local MP sitting down there, Bill English, who I knew from Dipton, so I sort of emailed him and told him I was interested in politics generally, and he invited me in to spend the day with him. I loved what I was seeing, so I ended up working for him about 3 days a week while I was studying, and it was that which really got me interested in working on issues for the electorate.

**What sparked your decision to actually run for parliament?**  
I knew I always wanted to, but timing was the most important thing, it's the one thing outside of your control. When Bill [English] announced he was going onto the list I decided to put my name forward. Ideally I would have wanted to wait for a few more years, but I didn't really get that opportunity.

**I heard you had to move back in with your parents for the campaign?**

[Laughs] Yeah, I was living in Auckland, so I had to move down back to Gore with them to campaign full-time for 6 months leading up to the election.

**What is something about your job that people may not be aware of?**

Probably just that it really is a 24/7 job. Anyone can call you at any time, and normally when they call you it's because it's a last resort and they've extended all other avenues with the department or whatever it is. So it's really long days, and your weekends don't really exist, but I'm really lucky I've got a really supportive girlfriend. If you're enjoying it, it doesn't feel like work.

**How much pressure is there to make sure you're acting professionally at all times, just in case you're recognised?**

Yeah, there is definitely some. I mean, it doesn't stop me from going out for a few drinks with friends or workmates, but as long as you're not doing anything stupid that you'd be embarrassed by, it doesn't really affect it.



PHOTO BY NZ NATIONAL PARTY / FLICKR / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Clutha District Council meeting with 24 year-old Todd Barclay.

**You're probably one of the only MP's that is really of the Facebook generation. Did you have to do a big sweep deleting all those old embarrassing photos and statuses?**

Um, well, I don't know... Maybe I should! [Laughs] I keep my work Facebook page separate to my personal account. I suppose there might be some stuff on there, but I've never really been a prolific poster.

**On the point of your youth, have you ever experienced anything you felt was ageist or that an older MP would not have experienced?**

I think one of the biggest challenges is around managing expectations. Taking over from Bill, who is highly respected, I guess some people kind of forget that I'm only 16 months into it. Nothing major, but I suppose I get a bit of flack from the opposition on my youth and inexperience.

**What would you say was your proudest achievement of the last 16 months?**

Well it's a huge electorate, 38000 square kilometers, it's the size of Switzerland, it's the largest general electorate, and so just getting around to all my constituents has been quite intensive. I'm on a couple of committees, I'm Deputy Chair of the Law & Order Committee, so pretty proud of that. Law and Order is a big pillar for National, and Primary Production is important for my district.

**Who is your favorite Non-National Party MP?**

Every interaction with people on any side of the house has been really positive, it's not like what you see on TV. You might get a bit of that in Question Time, but outside of that we're really productive. If I were to name one, I really enjoy working with Damien O'Connor (Labour – West Coast/Tasman). I find him really reasonable. David Clendon from the Greens as well.

**If you were in a street brawl, and could pick one other MP to be on your side, who would it be?**

Mark Mitchell, former Cop, you wouldn't want to mess with him.



# FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION COULD BE A REALITY

WIREMU STADTWALD DEMCHICK / ANDREW LITTLE AFTER STATE OF NATIONAL SPEECH / CC BY 4.0



Labour Party leader,  
Andrew Little

by TOM KITCHIN

**D**URING THE SUMMER BREAK, ALL STUDENTS were hit with something that could create a substantial change in the tertiary education environment. There's now a real possibility that university students in New Zealand will have access to free education. Labour leader Andrew Little presented a new policy entitled the 'Working for Futures' plan at the end of January, which provides any New Zealander wanting to gain a post secondary-school qualification with three free years of study.

Labour claim the policy will cost \$1.2 billion by the time it is fully implemented, and say the money needed to implement it has already been put aside by National for future tax cuts. The policy itself, although simple in its underlying theory, takes a bit of explaining. The plan will be introduced in three phases – the first one year of free education in 2019, the second in 2022 and the third in 2025. So yes, that means that if you start tertiary education in 2019 you get your first year free but you have to get a loan for your second and third year. If you hadn't picked up on it, this means you've got to vote Labour into power for three terms. Clever? Maybe.

The foundations of the policy are set, but there are still some contentious issues which Little says Labour are currently working through. For example, how will recent graduates and those at university benefit from this policy with crippling student debt, when new students will receive three free years? Also, since it's only valid for three years, those planning on doing more than a standard three-year Bachelor's degree will have to take a loan or pay their own way after their three-year entitlement is up. There could be a slight problem once Labour's first term is complete, if they are successful enough to gain power; Little will have to keep up pretty high ratings in the polls because if

National are elected only after one term of Labour, the whole game could change once again.

What's Labour's argument for this? Andrew Little and his associates believe that with low-skilled labour jobs becoming more automated as technology develops, many of them will become obsolete. Instead of a high school graduate fearing that they can't get a post-school qualification because they don't have the money, they can do any qualification they like at absolutely no cost for three years, meaning they will potentially be more employable for higher skilled positions. The theory sounds plausible!

The policy has significant backing from primary education union NZEI and the Tertiary Education Commission, who argue it will allow people to reach their full potential easily.

Of course, it has got its critics. Parties on the right were quick to fire back at Little's new proposal. Steven Joyce tweeted a response, calling Labour 'desperate' and said they were 'stealing' a policy from the Internet-Mana party, the unsuccessful Kim Dotcom/Hone Harawaira amalgamation from the last election. He's also passed a few comments around which claim there will be 'short courses, low rates of achievement and spiraling costs'. Act leader David Seymour argued that Labour are just fishing for votes, and free education means quality will decrease.

Free tertiary education sounds like a dream for students in New Zealand, but is it really achievable in our country? Similar plans for free post-school education have been implemented in countries such as Brazil, Germany and Finland. It will be interesting to see how Labour's education policies develop before the election hits us in 2017 – will they develop this plan to make sure all New Zealanders can receive the best from the system? Only time will tell.

## HIGHLANDERS HIT EARLY WITH INJURIES

by HUGH BAIRD

**T**HE HIGHLANDERS WILL HAVE TO DO WITHOUT Waisake Naholo and Fumiaki Tanaka for at least the next month, or longer, due to injury.

Naholo sustained a new fracture to the same leg that he injured before the World Cup last year. The injury occurred late in the game against the Blues and the fracture was confirmed by X-ray on Monday.

Team doctor Greg Macleod said "while this is very unfortunate for Waisake, the positive news is that this injury is not as bad as his last fracture. He is already managing well and it's expected his rehab will take 6 – 8 weeks"

The team will also be without their star Japanese halfback Fumiaki Tanaka after he injured his calf during the a training session

ahead of last weeks game in Auckland against The Blues. Macleod added that Tanaka had torn his calf and that his expected recovery would take around four weeks.

Head coach Jamie Joseph was philosophical about the injuries "to lose players for an extended period is always disappointing but you have to expect injuries to occur at some point, as a group we simply deal with it and move on, the focus for the players now will be to rehab well and work to make themselves available again".

Naholo will not be returning to Fiji for treatment as he did last year, his rehab will be under the guidance of Highlanders team doctor Greg Macleod.

## GOLDENS STATE'S GOLDEN RUN

by SEAN NUGENT

**I**S IT NOW SAFE TO SAY THAT THE CURRENT Golden State Warriors are the best NBA team since the Chicago Bulls of the 1990s? Their 53-5 record shows that they most certainly are, and shockingly, may even be better. Led by superstar guard Stephen Curry, the defending champs have had an extraordinary run during the regular season, placing them a mere twenty wins away from passing the 1995-96 Bulls and what seemed to be an insurmountable seventy-two regular season victories.

However, there is still plenty of work ahead. Having barely scraped past the Oklahoma City Thunder earlier this week, the Warriors have started to show slight signs of being beatable. After being annihilated by Damien Lillard and the Portland Trail Blazers, the Warriors barely snuck past the Miami Heat, and without the magic of Curry, would have gone down against the Thunder. With three more games to come against the San Antonio Spurs (plus another against the Thunder at the time of writing), there is a distinct possibility that the Warriors will fall short of the elusive seventy-two.

For all these doubts, there is one key figure that will almost certainly decide the outcome of this historic season – Steph Curry. Although some of his teammates have started to fade after the All Star break, Curry has stepped his game up to another level. Since the break, he has averaged 38.2 points per game on 56 percent shooting, while also making seven three-pointers a game at over 57 percent. These numbers are simply ridiculous and unprecedented in the NBA. There is no doubt that Curry has surpassed LeBron James as the best player in basketball and will capture his second straight MVP award.

Surrounding Curry is probably one of the best supporting casts in NBA history. Partnering him in the backcourt is All-Star Klay Thompson, an

## COULD THIS FINALLY BE THE WARRIOR'S YEAR?

by HUGH BAIRD

**T**HE ARRIVAL OF KIWI SUPERSTARS ISAAC LUKE and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck have many of the Mt. Smart faithful licking their lips with the prospect of their first finals series in five years.

Though 2015 promised a lot for the Warriors, a disastrous finish to the season losing star players such as Shaun Johnson saw them finish 13th on the table after failing to win any of their last eight matches.

However, after a big year of spending, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Isaac Luke bring some class to an already quality Warriors spine, joining Shaun Johnson and 12-season veteran Jeff Robson. The Warriors will boast one of the best rosters in the competition this year with 10 players having represented either their country or state in 2015.

The classy spine of Tuivasa-Sheck, Luke and Johnson will be complemented well with the brute strength of Lillyman and Matulino in the front row and the experience and leadership of Ryan Hoffman and Simon Mannering in the back row.



After years of promise the question still stands on whether or not 2016 will be the year the Warriors can bring the Provan-Summons trophy across the pond to New Zealand for the first time in their history. The expectation on the team this year is that they have the experience and the roster to do so. However, as only a Warriors supporter knows, that doesn't guarantee anything.



KEITH ALLISON / STEPHEN CURRY VS WASHINGTON 2016 / CC BY-SA 2.0

**STEPH CURRY**

up against a Washington Wizards player

**Since the break, he has averaged 38.2 points per game on 56 percent shooting, while also making seven three-pointers a game at over 57 percent. These numbers are simply ridiculous and unprecedented in the NBA.**

equally lethal long distance shooter capable of taking over a game at any moment, while the eccentric triple-double machine Draymond Green controls the frontcourt, dishing out assists, grabbing rebounds and most importantly, providing ferocity and leadership. With these three combined with an efficient bench that includes Finals MVP Andre Iguodala, the Warriors have a brilliant all-around team. Every member has a role to perform, and for the most part they do it admirably.

But for all their success, the Warriors still have a whole lot to do this season. By June, no one will care if Golden State won 73 games or not. Let's be honest, if the Warriors don't at least make the Finals, this season will be a complete disappointment. Criticism and controversy would undoubtedly be thrown in their direction, much like it was when the over-hyped 'Big Three'

lost to the Dallas Mavericks in the 2011 Finals. Although the situation may be different to that Miami team, the fact of the matter is that the Warriors hype-train is at full throttle due to their regular season performances. There will be extensive pressure placed on their shoulders by both the media and fans, which begs the question – will this Warriors team crumble under the heavy expectations?

Let's not forget about the difficulty of navigating through the Western Conference playoffs. Despite being first in the conference, the Warriors may still have to play a team such as Portland or Houston in the first round. It is highly unlikely that they would lose a series to either team, but there is certainly the possibility of a six or seven game series. From there they would most likely face the L.A. Clippers and then either the Spurs or the Thunder in the Conference Finals. So forget

about the regular season, the real test starts in around six weeks when the playoffs begin.

When the Chicago Bulls won 72 games in the 1995-96 season, they went on and won the championship. The following year they won 69 games and won the championship. The year after that they won a meagre 62 games but guess what? They won the championship. I'm sure most people don't know how many wins those teams had in the latter two seasons, because why does it matter? People remember champions. So don't get carried away with Steph Curry and the Warriors just yet. Yes he's amazing. Yes they're reigning champions. And yes the Bulls' record will probably be broken. But just wait until the final whistle, because in sport, you have to expect the unexpected.



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# Through Space And Time With Shapeshifter



Shapeshifter landed in Dunedin last week to transport us to all to outer space with their futuristic music. *Critic* managed to wangle their way into their fourth-dimension practise room before the big show to snap some pics, have a beer, and talk sci-fi with front man Paora 'P Digsss' Apera.



**Critic: I feel lucky to have seen you play just then. I didn't know what was going on until someone gave me the headphones. I was like where are the synths? Where's the singing?**

Digsss: That's our live setup as well. What we're using here is pretty much what we use live. We use in-ear monitors nowadays because we can afford it. Back in the day we used fold back monitors like a regular band, but you can damage your ears after years of doing it. Using the monitors we can be very accurate with what we have coming through our ears. Especially having three synth players with two or three synths each. It's really cool cos it's like having your own personal monitors in your ears.

**Critic: so that's what it will sound like when you're on stage?**

Digsss: Yup. That's what it will sound like for us. Out front it will sound even better. Tiki Taane is doing our mix. He's been doing the Shapeshifter mix since 1999.

**Critic: So you guys have been together a long time.**

Digsss: I joined in 2001. That's when I was officially in, touring with them and singing, all that good stuff.

**Critic: Do you guys work all year round?**

Digsss: Yeah. We've just finished recording our new album. It's taken about a year to write. Like most good things, they take a while to make. It changes the schedule a little bit when you make an album. You can't tour as much, which is all good, because after you make the album you tour it. The next couple of years we'll be touring lots. It's not continuous. We'll be New Zealand for rehearsals, tour Australia, then do Europe later on in the year, have a little break, then tour New Zealand, do our summer stuff.

**Critic: You recorded at Roundhead Studios. That's Neil Finn's place isn't it?**

Digsss: Yeah. It's a beautiful place. That was our first time working there. We wrote most of the stuff, the noisy stuff, in our personal Shapeshifter studio. Our setup is portable so it can be played anywhere. Then we did the crunch, did the proper mixing, getting levels and getting everything right, mixed down. We had Jeremy and Dylan from the Upbeats helping with the production. They're amazing. It's all done. Not mastered, that's our next stage. We haven't even named the album yet. We haven't even named all the songs! It's a process. It's like having a child, naming the baby. This is going to be Jeremy! This is going to be Dylan! Eventually it comes and you go "that kind of makes sense."

**Critic: Any idea what it might be called or is that secret?**

Digsss: Nah, it's not even secret, it's just really early in the process. We literally just finished, like last week.

**Critic: Not much downtime then?**

Digsss: Nah not much downtime. But we're not a 9-5 industry, our profession. We're like a cram it all in, squash it all in, then you have heaps of breaks. At the moment we've just slugged it out and we're ready to get back on that horse and tour. It's actually the best feeling about doing an album: having new music to play. It's refreshing for us as artists. It puts a nice little spark into the set again when we get the chance to introduce new songs. It's a good feeling.

**Critic: I saw you guys play years ago, in 2008. What was nice about tonight was seeing you guys hugging each other at the end of the practise, and seeing you practise. I didn't even know if you guys would be practising before the show. Is that normal?**

Digsss: It's very normal. We're like any normal band; we've just been doing it for a long time. But performance and our live set is precedent. We still love to rehearse; it's still the





best thing. We spend a lot of time making these songs and when you rehearse them and practise them and get them really good, it's a great feeling. Why not hug? We're all about the love. It's good to be back playing our songs again.

**Critic: Do you always practise before shows?**

Digsss: It's very important. We don't want to get out there and be shabby. We put a bit of effort in. We start at 10am, go till sometimes 10 at night. We go over and over it, get it tight, add little things into it. Some songs are slightly modified for live performance. That's why it's fun to have a live set. You can extend the songs, let it marinade in the people instead of a quick wham-bam-thankyou-ma'am. Let it really take you on a journey, let it roll.

**Critic: You must have done a few O-weeks?**

Digsss: No, this is our first ever.

**Critic: Really?**

Digsss: No! We've done tonnes of them. We haven't been back in Dunedin for a long time. It's exhilarating and exciting for us to come back and play. Kids are always crazy, but we were once those kids too. What better way to help them start their year off? With sobriety of course!

**Critic: Do you find Otago kids especially crazy?**

Digsss: Nah, kids are kids and they're awesome. Our fans we get in New Zealand are always awesome. Crazy and beautiful. But they're pretty crazy down these ways.

**Critic: Do you guys like science fiction?**

Digsss: We're all about it.

**Critic: Can you tell me about that?**

Digsss: We're all linked to science and all that stuff. My dad is Neil De Grasse Tyson.

**Critic: I didn't know that. I'm going to put that on Wikipedia.**

Digsss: He doesn't know I'm his son. Of course, with the name Shapeshifter. We play lots of keys, you know.

**Critic: It's totally sci-fi. Star Wars or Star Trek?**

Digsss: Depends which Star Wars. The Empire Strikes Back is still the best out of them all. The Dark Side wins, it's quite cool. But the last two Star Treks were pretty awesome. I actually prefer Interstellar. Have you seen Interstellar?

**Critic: I haven't.**

Digsss: That's the movie you need to check out. In-Ter-Stellar.

“Why not hug? We’re all about the love.”



Fans at Shapeshifter's O-Week show this year.



**Critic: What do you like about Interstellar?**

Digsss: It's onto it. Really onto it. Sometimes, you know, science fiction movies can really stretch the truth of science. Interstellar is clever. Maybe stretches a little bit.

**Critic: So you think it could be the future maybe?**

Digsss: It's a good movie. It's hard to explain without giving it away. Matthew McConaughey plays an incredible part.

**Critic: Who do you think is the handsomest celebrity?**

Digsss: In our band? Me man! Oh shit. Handsomest celebrity? Tom Sellek, Tom Jones. It's gotta be a Tom right? With a moustache? Although my mum would be like "Tom Sellek. It's got to be Tom Sellek."

**Critic: Anything you'd like to tell Critic readers especially?**

Digsss: Have a great year! Maybe think about supporting New Zealand music a little bit more than you usually do. Support your home-grown stuff. Buy your home-grown artists' music. Don't burn it, don't dub it. We're all trying to survive. It's choice when you support the movement. From the roots out. We're living in the day of mp3s and it's so easy to forget. I love buying quality music. If I love an artist I buy their t-shirt, their albums. The last band I did that to was Hiatus Coyote. They're from Australia. They're the best band I've seen for a long, long time. Outrageously good. Almost taking the piss how good they were. New-school Jazz and soul, but jazz and soul without it being corny or cheese-ball. The girl that sings is an absolute queen. A diamond. They just got nominated for a Grammy award.

**Critic: Any kiwi bands you want to plug?**

Digsss: Just my good friends mainly. I've always loved Kora. I love Team Dynamite. They're quirky happy dudes. Hip-hop group from Auckland. They do cool shit. Some good buddies of mine that I've just recorded – Yoko Zouma. They're jazz kids. They're young – four years younger than me, like 21.

**Critic: It's cool you get excited about music!**

Digsss: I saw Prince last night! Mind blowing! Two and a half hour set of just him and a piano, flexing absolute muscle, absolute soulful muscle. I was flabbergasted. He didn't need a backing band. He's a child prodigy. He's a freak. He's the king of pop.

**Critic: Someone told me today you did a free show after the Christchurch earthquake.**

Digsss: Originally the band was from Christchurch. All jazz school kids, bar me, I'm a garage learner. We did that because we needed to bring some love back into the city, to the people. We needed to give it to them because it was heavy shit that they'd been through. You can drive down some of the streets in Christchurch and it looks like it happened last week. It depends. If you drive through Fendleton it's all beautiful, like nothing happened. Then you get to New Brighton, it's like the forgotten lands. Admittedly they did feel the effect a lot more. It's crazy. If you think about how long humans have existed, in geological time. We're just this little dot that's existed on her back. No one ever thought of Christchurch as an epicentre for quakes. Surprise, it happens. It just goes to show that we're just this tiny little dot that has existed on this earth ■

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FILTER

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OSC ASB  
FILTER

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FILTER



# STUDENT FLATS OR STUDENT SLUMS?

**by Joe Higham**

**Now that students have made it back to campus and are holed up in their flats fresh for semester one, Critic has decided to look at where students spent most of their time.**

**M**uch criticism has been levelled at the condition of many student flats in North Dunedin, and countless solutions have been proposed, but who is the blame for the situation? Is it the landlords' fault for not caring for properties enough and allowing the condition of their property to slowly deteriorate? Is it tenants' fault for treating the properties so poorly that landlords can only look on and ignore the much-needed renovations for the following year's tenants due to the cost? Or is it local and national government's fault for not implementing legislative change to prevent rental properties falling into a state of disrepute? *Critic* investigates the living conditions of Dunedin students.

### LACK OF INSULATION WORRYING

Every winter we see temperatures plummet; it's not surprising given Dunedin's proximity to Antarctica, and the southerly winds that regularly sweep through the city. Last winter we saw temperatures in the centre of the South Island plummet as low as -21 degrees centigrade, with temperatures in Dunedin reaching as low as -6 degrees. With that in mind, "our best estimate is that only a third of all New Zealand houses are insulated and as rental housing is more likely to be the older stock it's a safe bet that a high percentage of rental properties are uninsulated too," according to Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman, Director of the Housing and Health Research Programme. In light of this information, we can deduce that much of student rental property is also uninsulated.

Within any group of 20,000, (the approximate amount of students enrolled at the University of Otago,) people will be looking for different experiences with their flatting situation. For student Cameron Mackie, "the prices of Dunedin flats are totally ridiculous considering the standard of

living some students must endure." This is a common complaint among students, especially as one's living costs can diminish over 75 percent after paying rent in some properties. Some students will be willing to pay premium prices for a run down flat on Castle Street, which is due in part to the weight the name 'Castle Street' holds with some. That goes for all streets in North Dunedin in which a premium is attached, in comparison to a reasonable market price for a similar property elsewhere.

### POOR PROPERTIES AND POOR HEALTH

One of the main complaints from students does not necessarily involve rent prices but rather insulation. As Professor Howden-Chapman noted, not many rental properties have insulation. Philippa Keaney from OUSA Student Support said that some of the most common issues brought to them by students are to do with "sub-standard flats" in terms of the cold, mould, dampness and general disrepair. This is a pertinent issue for the students in Dunedin, and something that not all students are prepared for upon leaving home. Will Stovall, a postgraduate student, believes one of the drawbacks in flatting is a "poor insulation standard in Dunedin, many flats don't have adequate and affordable heating." Another student, Miriam Young, noted that although the landlord for her current flat is adequate in responding to problems so far during her tenancy, the state of the flat is "definitely worse than I expected. Nothing prepares you for the cold in the mornings!"

Much of the time, a cold flat is put down to being part of the student experience, a rite of passage almost, and little is made of the issue. As students, we act stoically: layering up and getting used to it. However, this situation may be an altogether more serious one than we have considered it to





■

**"New Zealanders would be horrified to hear the Government doesn't think it's 'cost effective' to save children and older people's lives by making homes dry and warm."**

**- Green Party  
co-leader  
Metiria Turei**

be up until now. The Guardian Newspaper published an article providing research showing that living in cold properties "increases the risks of cardiovascular, respiratory and rheumatoid diseases as well as the worsening mental health." Students are left in a conundrum between living in cold properties and facing the associated health risks but saving money, or on the other hand financing their heating by seeking employment, if one's not lucky enough to have parents who can fork the bill for them. Either way, it is a dilemma many student tenants regularly face.

### **WHERE DOES THE BLAME LIE?**

One of the most outspoken voices on the issue of student flats is Councillor David Benson-Pope. Last year, he told *Critic* of how he is "embarrassed as a Dunedin resident to have a slum [Hyde Street] in the middle of the town." When looking at the bigger picture, he seemed to deflect blame away from tenants by proposing that "if you give people pigsties to live in, do not be surprised if they act like pigs." Conversely, Mayor Dave Cull is not so sympathetic towards the situation many students endure throughout the academic year. He argues: "given the choice that is on the market, there probably are not many students at all who can only afford really bad lower rent flats, because, for the same price, you can get a better one. It might be a few blocks further from campus, but it will be better."

Jamal Stent, a commerce student who currently lives in a student flat, believes "if you give students a rubbish flat to live in, they will probably treat it like a rubbish flat. So the fault is with both the landlord and the tenant."

Benson-Pope looks beyond tenants, though, and rather sees landlords as being the predominant guilty party here. This is because "landlords are in charge of the properties, so they know what they are like, they choose who goes into them and monitor how they are used." Another Dunedin councillor, Jinty MacTavish, who has flatted in

Dunedin for many years, believes landlords are often culpable for the state of flats in Dunedin, especially those she labelled "old, cold, and unhealthy" properties. She believes "it's totally inexcusable to be renting out something that is so poorly maintained and with such inadequate insulation and ventilation as to be a health hazard, and I think that's the case in some of Dunedin's rentals" [...] "it comes down to landlords taking responsibility for the quality of those premises."

It's hard to deny that landlords are more culpable than tenants in relation to the standard of rentals in our city, but are local and national governments doing enough to help the situation?

### **GOVERNMENT CULPABILITY AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRESSES**

Some people say local and national governments' have failed to protect renters thus far. Benson-Pope said that both the "City [council] and University, but the City Council in particular, need to use all the tools they can to remove the people who aren't playing the game properly. For me, I have no interest in the slum landlords. I think it's disgraceful and an embarrassment to Dunedin."

MacTavish agrees. She recognises the power councils have on issues such as this one, and assures those concerned that "the Council will continue to advocate for this issue. There are a number of things that the Council is doing to try to contribute towards 'fixes', but until all landlords are compelled by law to improve the quality of their rentals, I don't think we will see all of Dunedin's rental stock up to an acceptable standard."

Among many other important pieces of legislation on the issue, the most important is the Residential Tenancies Act 1986. The most relevant parts to this ensure that tenants' enjoy "quiet enjoyment of the premises", requiring landlord's to "maintain the premises in a reasonable state

of repair" throughout the tenancy, and compelling landlords' to "comply with all requirements in respect of buildings, health, and safety under any enactment so far as they apply to the premises." However, seeing as this is a pertinent issue almost thirty years after the assent of these provisions, further or different legislation is needed to secure safe and healthy flats for tenants across the country.

The Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill (No.2), which many considered to pass without any problem, was picked in the legislative ballot, although it was deemed too similar to its predecessor (HHGB No.1), and was therefore dismissed. David Carter, speaker of the house, said that "In future, bills that are the same in substance as ones read or defeated in the same calendar year, will not be permitted into the ballot." The bill provided a 'minimum standard' for flats, thus providing qualitative information on what the lowest accepted standard of rental properties must adhere to in order to remain a lawful property for rental. Although this is a step in the right direction, many people interested or invested in this issue, along with Vernon Small of stuff.co.nz, say it falls "short of a full "warrant of fitness" for rentals but is aimed at ensuring all tenants have a safe and healthy home to live in."

## WARRANT OF FITNESS

One of the most popular proposals among those privy to this issue is a Warrant of Fitness (WOF) type test for rental properties, similar to the method used to determine if one's vehicle meets required safety standards. Jinty MacTavish believes the introduction of a WOF test is "totally essential" to address the problem that faces us and assures Otago University students that "the Council will continue to advocate for this." Moreover, David Benson-Pope told Critic, "I am an absolute advocate for a warrant of fitness, and I don't mind whether it is implemented by central government or local government, but I sure as hell think we need it."

Dave Cull, however, dismisses the WOF because it "is just a means to an end for 'minimum standards.' The more factors you include in any move, the more expensive and complicated the process gets and there is a point where it becomes too hard, as there is an extra cost to the landlord and that, in turn, gets passed on to the tenant. My instinct would be to start slowly, just with a few factors and work the system in, before adding other necessary factors." In addition, the Green Party have been scathing of Building and Housing Minister Nick Smith, saying he must explain how many New Zealanders need to die and be admitted to hospital before he will add a life-saving rental housing warrant of fitness to the Residential Tenancies Amendment (RTA) Bill. Green Party Co-leader Metiria Turei assured the public that "a rental housing warrant of fitness will save lives and keep kids out of hospital – that's the bottom line" before adding that "New Zealanders would be horrified to hear the Government doesn't think it's 'cost effective' to save children and older people's lives by making homes dry and warm." "It's the Government's role to keep its citizens safe. With rental housing, the National Government is completely dropping the ball," said Turei.

Cull reassures people that "minimum standard is a good start. I see it as a consumer issue, for example, we do not allow café and restaurant owners to sell food that makes people sick, so I do not see why we allow people to sell accommodation that makes people sick." It seems that the National Government have sided with Cull on this issue, rejecting Andrew Little's first Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill earlier this year, which provided for a full WOF style test before properties could be legally rented. Many consider it a huge shame that the WOF test and now the Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill (No.2) have been rejected, but at least there is significant movement to help people nationwide who are plighted by cold, damp, and decrepit accommodation ■



# WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH CHRISTIAN SCIENCE?



Lucy Hunter talks to a community of people who  
believe the physical world is an illusion and  
sickness is not real.



**HEAL THE SICK. RAISE THE DEAD. CLEANSE THE** lepers. Cast out demons," reads the proud emblem of the Church of Christian Scientists. No wonder a man at the first service I went to told me that being a Christian Scientist is "very difficult".

Most people who have heard of Christian Science know one thing about it: Christian Scientists do not "believe" in doctors. More accurately, Christian Scientists do not believe in medical science, or what they call "materia medica." They generally do not accept medical care for themselves, and many do not permit it for their children. They believe they can heal through prayer.

What I discovered in visiting a Christian Science church and talking to the congregation was a community of people living according to a different set of physical laws to those of the general population. In Christian Science, the material world is an illusion, a dream, from which we must awaken. The only real thing is God and God's ideas (including man). This is the opposite of scientific materialism (the belief that physical matter represents the world's underlying reality). Christian Scientists might interpret the word differently, but they call it science because they think it is certain, consistent, and replicable.

I was nervous walking into the church. I sat on my own, across from a lady wearing an amazing hot pink outfit who smiled at me. Each week, every Christian Science church in the world reads the same Bible Lesson from a quarterly pamphlet. There are no church leaders, so members of the congregation take turns leading the services. The lessons are read out by two people, usually a man and a woman. I enjoyed the silent prayer; something that one man said attracted him to Christian Science over other churches. He didn't like the way many churches tell the congregation to pray over a certain world event or certain people.

I had assumed that health in the Christian Science sense was only part of their faith, and was surprised to find that a large amount of their lessons are devoted to healing and the superiority of Christian Science treatment over medicine. This particular service included a Bible story about Jesus spitting on the ground and making a poultice to treat a blind man's eyes. Selene Mize, one of the readers at the service, spoke to me on her interpretation of the Christian Science faith, and not as a representative of the

Church. She said the poultice wasn't necessary to heal the person, and that Christian Science treatment is "entirely mental." She says if you read the Gospel that "Jesus was all about healing. Other churches may tend to de-emphasise it, but we give it the same prominence that the Gospel does."

After the service the smiling lady who I will call Sarah introduced herself to me. She told me how being a Christian Scientist is an ongoing process, and she is still working on not needing her glasses. A group of friends asked me to join them for coffee where they discussed their faith with me.

Christian Science is based on the premise that God is entirely good, and He created all reality, and therefore everything that really exists is entirely good. Logically, therefore, there is nothing bad. Since the material world appears full of destructive, painful, difficult phenomena, the material world is not real. Only God is real. We are made in the image of God, and therefore our natural state is in the non-material spiritual realm of God. The material world manifests around us as a result of our thoughts, or "mortal mind". This means that if we feel sickness, distress, or pain, we do not need healing because there is nothing there to heal – we are perfect images of God, and so if we become close enough to God we can realise that present perfection and the discomfort will vanish.

Christian Scientists do not believe in Heaven or Hell as places, but see Heaven and Hell as different states of mind we can inhabit. They believe that we do not die, but only "appear to die," and that we can reach a higher plane of existence by ascending, as Jesus was said to do. Selene told me "death is like sin and sickness – not real, though seeming to be real, and it needs to be healed in the same way, by affirming God's goodness and dominion, and denying the possibility of death."

Selene was not born into Christian Science. When she first heard about it at intermediate school she thought it was almost the "dumbest thing" she'd ever heard. She used to tease her friend about it, saying "so you think that if I shot you, you wouldn't die?! Unbelievable!" She used conventional medicine for more than half her life, her mother was a nurse, and she is knowledgeable about medicine. She had a diagnosis of connective tissue disease from the Mayo Clinic. Selene says Christian Science can be "very hard

to practise," and there is no way she would ever do it if it weren't for two things: 1) on a memorable occasion, she "got a very strong impression that it was TRUE," and 2) it has worked for her. "I have been healed of things or had enormous improvement using Christian Science, when doctors had said that there was nothing more they could do." She also says Christian Science has made her a nicer and happier person. She likes the God of Christian Science, who she says is about "universal salvation and unqualified love for everyone." She also likes how the congregation run their own services: the church has no clergy. She says the church encourages people to be actively working on improving themselves and giving back, and learning to be better people.

Some members become "practitioners": healers who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by phone who give Christian Science treatment (prayer) to bring healing to members of their congregation who have something appearing to go wrong with their mind, body, or anything in their life. The practitioners aren't allowed to work at other jobs, so they charge money for their healing sessions.

I spoke to Anne Melville, the media representative for Christian Science in New Zealand. Anne is a practitioner (a healer) and a "certified teacher of Christian Science." She explained death in the Christian Science thought. "Death we would explain more as passing on. You might not be

She used to tease her friend about it, saying "so you think that if I shot you, you wouldn't die?! Unbelievable!"<sup>27</sup>



She believes that taking her son to the doctor abolished her fear, which could be what was making her son appear to be sick.

seen here but you still exist." She said Christian Scientists know and accept that we "continue on" after we die, but not in the sense of a ghost or spirit that can be contacted by the living. Instead, you "continue to work out life's problems" although you might not be here. After death you can come to understand more of your relationship with God and your spirituality.

I asked Anne why Christian Scientists do not like to take medicine to help their body, when they still eat, drink, and keep their bodies warm and sheltered. She answered that people can only "take one step at a time," and that Mary Baker Eddy, the "discoverer and founder of Christian Science," had said it would be unwise to give up food and drink. In a perfect state, a person would be able to survive without any earthly means.

The religion stems from Boston, Massachusetts, where the first Christian Scientist church was built. Mary Baker Eddy, the developer of a theory of "divine Mind" as a healing force. In 1866, Eddy injured her internal organs when she fell on the ice in Massachusetts. After three days of suffering she reports to have consulted her Bible. On reading Mathew 9:2, where Jesus heals a man who is "sick of the palsy," she

realised the healing truth of the words. She claims to have got up, dressed herself, and felt in better health than she had been in before her fall. She devoted the rest of her life to teaching others the secrets of "Health". She interpreted the King James Bible and wrote the central text of the Christian Science religion – Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, first published in 1872.

Numbers of Christian Scientists grew rapidly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mary Baker Eddy wrote that her followers could have broken bones set, have dental work done, wear reading glasses, and visit obstetricians. Everything else should be treated with Christian Science prayer alone. These were actually pretty good choices on what doctors could be trusted to heal at the time. Modern medicine was still in its infancy. Before 1920, medical knowledge was bad enough that if you were sick or injured, you were better off doing nothing than going to a doctor in many cases. Despite huge advancements in germ theory, sterilisation, and pain control, medical practitioners were still often doing more harm than good to their patients. However, after the discovery of penicillin, improved hygiene in hospitals, advances in

surgery, blood transfusion, physiotherapy, and myriad other things, numbers of Christian scientists began to decline.

At Wednesday night services, the congregation share stories from their recent and distant past that demonstrate what they believe to be the power of Christian Science to heal as Jesus was said to heal. I had a headache and a twitchy eye, so I decided to go along and allow the Christ to heal me.

I found the session distressing. One woman had a terrible, persistent cough. Another had visible tremors. A man from the congregation who I had spoken to over coffee told a story about an episode he had had recently which sounded to me like he had suffered a minor stroke. He said he felt like a deflating balloon, sinking lower and lower until he had to lie on the floor. His arms went limp. He and his friend went through hymns that seemed appropriate to them for about an hour, by the end of which he was able to sit up and go to bed. In the morning he felt recovered. After a long pause, Sarah, my friend, told a story of healing from the day of the session. She had something at her house break down which a neighbour was able to fix easily. Later, she was outside and fell down. She said out loud:

"NO, there's no sensation in matter, NO, I'm not going to accept anything like that." She said she is grateful for the practicality of Christian Science that it doesn't make that statement seem absurd because she has come to understand that there is no matter. Silence and waiting, then a man told a story from 20 years earlier when he had to fix a broken boiler that was almost too hot to enter. He had covered himself in protective clothing and completed the job without harm save a touch of browning on the back of his neck, which did not hurt or rub on his clothes. These are all considered healings by God in Christian Science. I looked around at the tiny, aging congregation and felt sad. Selene sees it differently, pointing out that "The fact that there are lots of old people in the congregation, who have been Christian Scientists for all their lives or at least many decades, maybe indicates that it isn't a ticket to an early death after all."

When I left the service my eye was still twitching and my head still hurt. I decided I needed to lay off the coffee and get some sleep more than I needed prayer.

Good health is difficult to define in itself, being more an absence of unwanted things. Christian Scientists print collections of "testimonies" – reports of members who have experienced healings – you can read them at open library sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays. The testimonies are stories of disappearances – disappearing headaches, pain, bumps, addiction, anger, coughs, rashes, and even scar tissue. Sickness can appear like the arrival of something on or into the body that needs to be abolished. In this sense it could seem as though healing involves the dissolution of matter.

But there is another conspicuous absence in the books of testimonies. There are no stories where healing does not happen, when the prayers fail to alleviate sickness, when people live with chronic pain, discomfort, congenital disease, disability, depression, or illness. Turning to the chapter on pregnancy and childbirth I expected to find advice on coping with labour without pain relief. Instead I found stories of painless, blissful childbirth, and of babies cured overnight of incurable disease. There are no stories of people who suffer and then die. Selene finds this criticism unfair, saying they are "clearly, deliberately selected as success stories. At the Oscars, do they talk about the dreadful films?

No, because they are a celebration of success. So are the testimonies."

In strict Christian Science churches, adherence to the faith and their way of healing can harm children. There are many stories of American children who have died from preventable causes because their parents have failed to get them medical attention, sometimes as a result of pressure from their church. The American foundation "Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty" (CHILD) was set up by Rita and Doug Swan: ex Christian Scientists who left the church after their baby son, Michael, died from complications resulting from spinal meningitis. Though the couple did manage to get their son to hospital, treatment was delayed for two weeks while practitioners attempted to cure Michael with prayer alone. According to the Swans, the practitioners demanded more faith and gratitude from them. They complained that the Swans' fears and other sins were obstructing their treatment.

Selene contends that there are also many instances of children being healed through the use of Christian Science. There are also children who died even though they were receiving medical attention. Many have died because of medical malpractice, adverse reactions to drugs, or complications in surgery. These, too, are tragedies, and, as Selene points out, we don't blame the parents in those cases. "Medicine says those deaths under Christian Science were preventable. Christian Science says that deaths under medical care due to a belief that the child's cancer or whatever is incurable were preventable. They have opposing world views."

The Swans now work to protect children from harmful religious and cultural practices, especially religion-based neglect. Their website and others like it have many stories of terrible suffering children have endured in the name of the religion. Two-year-old Robyn Twitchell died of peritonitis and a twisted bowel after a five-day illness in 1986. He received Christian Science prayer instead of medical treatment. Andrew Wantland, 12, died in 1992 of untreated diabetes. He could have been saved hours from his death by a shot of insulin. There are many more of these stories. A few Christian Scientist parents have been convicted of involuntary manslaughter for failing to get medical help that could have saved their children's lives.



Inside the Christian Science building, pictured opposite





Most of the tragic stories are from the '80s and '90s. Anne didn't want to comment on these children's deaths, other than to say she doesn't know of any of them personally. She told me: "we love our children, we don't take risks with our children." Anne got her children vaccinated and took her son to the doctor when he was sick as a baby. He had pain in his stomach and wasn't eating or drinking, and her husband (who is not a Christian Scientist) asked her to get him looked at. She was clear with the doctor that "there could be nothing wrong" found with her baby. The doctor examined him and said he had an "unexplained fever." Anne said at that moment her son ran out of the room and asked for a drink of water, and appeared cured. She believes that taking her son to the doctor abolished her fear, which could be what was making her son appear to be sick.

I asked my friend Sarah how Christian Scientists feel about aging, when most people expect to experience more sickness and pain. She replied: "that is the belief isn't it." Christian Scientists believe that as they progress through their spiritual journey they become better equipped with dealing with physical and emotional suffering. Some keep records of past "healings" so they can reflect on them and remember if they are in periods of intense suffering when they may struggle to believe that relief will come. Anne and several other Christian Scientists said virtually the same thing: that although Christian Scientists can't expect to go through life without experiencing hardship and physical problems, they are more equipped to deal with them when they do happen. This synchronised thinking may be the result of the identical lessons each church reads around the world every week. I can't say if this is true or not, but the idea of needing to watch your thoughts when feeling suffering and hardship makes me uneasy, and the prospect of illness without pain killers, drugs or surgery terrifies me.

Everybody I talked to insisted that seeking medical care is a personal choice in Christian Science. There is no rule against taking medicine or visiting a doctor. However, doing so will make the prayers of the congregation less effective, and a person can't receive treatment from their practitioner if they are getting medical treatment.

Sarah said that she couldn't imagine her life without the knowledge of Christian Science. One time she was badly beaten and realised she was looking down on her body from above. She thought "but my eyes are down there on the ground, I can't be looking at myself." She felt no pain after the beating. Sarah did say that there could be limits to her reliance on Scientific Prayer: "If I went outside and got hit by a car, and my body was squashed, I don't know if I would rely entirely on Christian Science. I may, but I may not."

The Christian Scientists were very welcoming and said they are inclusive of all faiths and all people, "even if they don't all accept us". They acknowledged that many people think they are weird. I didn't find them weird: their beliefs are weird, but they were kind, intelligent, caring people who told me their honest thoughts on my questions. They said they love to have visitors as they learn from other people and do not try to push their faith on others, even though they are delighted when somebody joins them. One said over coffee he was "absolutely terrible" at languages at school, another said, "only God is absolute, so you must have only been reasonably terrible." We all laughed.

# THE PASSAGE

Author: Justin Cronin

by ANNE OOSTHUIZEN

**T**HE HUNGER GAMES, MAZE RUNNER, THE Martian, Interstellar, World War Z. . . Dystopian and post-apocalyptic chronicles are hot! *The Passage* by Justin Cronin – book one in a trilogy soon to be transported to the big screen to join its blockbuster predecessors – fits right in with the rest. In terms of concept, this gem of a novel may remind the Sci-Fi connoisseur a little of *I Am Legend*. A virus, created by the US military, is accidentally



unleashed upon the population and nearly wipes out humanity (oops). Those infected by the virus are transformed into bloodthirsty, indestructible monstrosities with a hypersensitivity to light (yeah, basically vampires – but much uglier).

The book follows a group of survivors as they abandon their Californian safe-haven when they realise the generators keeping their protective UV lights on at night will soon run out



of power. What follows is an epic journey through the wreckage that was once the proud nation of the United States; a world they basically know nothing about as none of them have

**Cronin employs diary entries, emails, maps, and legal documents as the multifaceted narrative jumps back and forth through time, slowly revealing what nearly brought about the end of humanity... The "found manuscripts" add to the confusion and mystery of the story**

ever set foot outside the walls of their stronghold, or even seen the stars. Are there other colonies of survivors out there? Probably. Will they find a solution, or a weapon, or a cure? Maybe. And what's with that mysterious young

girl, Amy, who one day came wandering into their settlement? Who is she? Yet, it isn't the intricate plot or wide variety of relatable characters that makes this book stand out from the rest.

What hooked me, right from the start, was the way in which Cronin employs diary entries, emails, maps, and legal documents as the multifaceted narrative jumps back and forth through time, slowly revealing what nearly brought about the end of humanity. These are the tropes of Gothic literature, harking back to Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and the original Gothic Sci-Fi, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The "found manuscripts" add to the confusion and mystery of the story.

*The Passage* is a beautifully written book for which you will need to keep your wits about you, and as you do, you will be rewarded with a piece of post-apocalyptic prose at its absolute finest, leaving you craving more.



# BULGUR WHEAT & AVOCADO SALAD

Satisfied six flatties

*If you're looking to step up your salad game, but are lazy as f like myself - this week's star ingredient is for you.*

**B**ULGUR WHEAT IS LIKE COUSCOUS' SOPHISTICATED OLDER COUSIN. IT'S MORE WHOLESOME so I find using it in meals makes you feel more healthy and like your life is just a bit more put together\*\*. It's also effortless to prepare, full of protein and filling with fibre. You can find it in the organic section at the supermarket for around \$5. I decided to accompany it with some avos, courgettes, and peppers while they're in season and cheaper than chips.

This salad would go well with some grilled chicken. And/or some red onion and a squeeze of lemon.

## Ingredients

- 2 cups bulgur wheat
- 3 cups boiling water
- 2 cubes of veggie stock
- 2 courgettes
- 1 red pepper
- 4 avocados
- 2 tablespoons of oil
- 1 pinch of ground coriander
- Salt and pepper to taste

## Method

1. Put bulgur wheat in a large bowl pour the boiling water on top
2. Break up veggie stock cubes and add to bulgur wheat and water. Mix and leave to sit for the wheat to absorb all the water (should only take about 10 minutes max)
3. Meanwhile, slice up courgettes in to small circles, and the pepper into thick strips. Add salt and pepper to them to season
4. Dry griddle (or pan fry if you don't have a grill pan) courgettes and peppers separately. They should look a little charred. Put aside
5. In a medium bowl, scoop out 2 avocados. Add a pinch of ground coriander, the oil and some salt and pepper to taste. Mash it all together into a dressing. (Make more if you like a creamier dressing as this amount dresses the salad sparsely)
6. Add dressing to cooked bulgur wheat, then the veggies. Slice the remaining two avocados into cubes and toss that in too
7. Serve immediately (optional - squeeze a bit of lemon or add a drizzle of balsamic glaze on top)





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# WHY DO WE NEED... streaming sites?

*Anthony Marris reviews tech ideas, gadgets, and websites to tell you how they will help or hinder your life*

**S**TREAMING SITES LIKE COUCHTUNER, watchseries, putlocker and xhamster are what the world wide web was built for – the freedom of information and sharing of ideas.

This sharing of information and knowledge helps to inspire the next generations. Star Trek forecast the invention of the cellphone, tablets (and thus the iPhone), and voice to computer communication (Siri, Cortana). How many of you will branch off and change the world from an idea, a throwaway line, or a gimmick you will see on television?

I did not include Netflix in that list because it is a limited paid service. Netflix is arguably the

largest subscription-based streaming company, boasting a market share of 75 million subscribers. But if a show is not licenced to play in certain regions, their subscribers can't access it. Hence the need to use VPN (virtual private network) services.

While Netflix has greenlit some noteworthy shows like Daredevil, their business model is unsustainable. Seriously, their last quarterly report noted that they were –\$921 million in cash flow for the year. They might have the market share, but they are running at a massive loss. I would not be surprised if 15 second adverts pop up before each show in the next six months to pay the bills.



## So why do we need streaming sites?

### HERE ARE THE UPSIDES:

1. It's free. Enough said.
2. You choose the time and place you can watch them.
3. Wait Time. The joy of sites like these is that we can see content like the latest episode of your favourite show without having to wait until it ends up on NZ screens. You can catch references before they become outdated and avoid spoilers.
4. Variety. Political news shows like The Rachael Maddow Show, or manufactured drama like Real Housewives of Atlanta not shown on the mainstream channel are all available.
5. No adverts. You can watch a program for 22 minutes (or 44) and not have to put up with screaming interruptions about "Public Holiday Sale", or "Back to School Specials".

### WHAT ARE THE DOWNSIDES...?

1. Pop up Adverts. You can fix this problem with some pop up ad killing software (or a quick reaction with the mouse).
2. Technically it is illegal, but not really. My understanding of the current law is that streaming is okay, but downloading and sharing the content is not. Just keep an eye on copyright law.
3. Quality. The compression algorithms can vary between programs. Often shows are shown in 144p, 240p, 360p, 480p, 720p, 1080p and upwards (p stands for pixel aspect ratio). Given that most viewing screens are only about two feet from the face, it does not matter a huge deal. You pick the resolution you are comfortable with, and how fast your connection speed is.
4. Over Consumption. You can watch what you want, when you want, for as long as you want. So if you end up binge watching entire seasons of The West Wing, that essay comparing Avicenna's Floating Man and Plato's Cave analogy might not be as well thought out as it could have been.

In sum, streaming sites provide a chance to develop a new audience. You might find a show or movie that you would have never been exposed to before. It is short sighted of studios and television networks to think "argh...pesky pirates" and then try and block access.

TL;DR – Free streaming sites are great.

# DEADPOOL

*Directed by Tim Miller*

**Rating: A-**

**review by LISA BLAKIE**

**W**ADE WILSON (AKA DEADPOOL), IS THE newest addition to the slew of superheroes in the Marvel cinematic universe. Played exceptionally well by Ryan Reynolds, Deadpool is all about sex, hefty violence, and Wham! This is not a Disney Marvel film (Avengers, Iron Man, Thor etc), it is a 20th Century Fox Marvel film (X-Men, Fantastic Four, etc) and it is the first R rated Marvel film released.

Hype and context aside, I was feeling very neutral prior to seeing Deadpool, and as I walked into the cinema the whole place was awash with lads wearing caps and snapbacks. But, despite the smell of ciggies, body odour and Lynx ruining my general comfort levels, Deadpool was a hilarious and fun time.

Flashback storytelling as a filmic device is done superbly well, with no boring, hour-long build up before Wade finally puts on his suit to

become Deadpool. This action from the get go, that makes this film a little more enticing and different to other Marvel origin stories, where audiences are forced to listen to an hour of context and character motivation that then drives the plot of the film. Deadpool begins right in the middle of an action sequence making a lasting impression from the start. There are a ton of nerdy and bizarre references to Green Lantern (which Reynolds was the star of), Hugh Jackman's genitals, and the attempts at presenting Deadpool in previous films (see, Wolverine Origins. Actually... maybe don't)

True to the characterisation and format of the comics, Deadpool is fun, entertaining, breaks the fourth wall constantly (and at one point a

16th wall), and unashamedly shows all forms of genitals. Each action scene is tremendously entertaining and will have you reciting the superb one-liners long after. Most importantly, Deadpool doesn't require the standard superhero "saving the world plot", and this is constantly made fun of throughout the film. While the film pokes fun throughout at how the characters are all cardboard cut-out stereotypes, (ie. The hot chick, the comic relief, the moody teenager), this film still suffers from the recurring Marvel disease of boring villains. Conversely, Reynolds captures the crazy Deadpool spirit brilliantly, and consequently, he is truly the only character that shines, inevitably the factor that let this film down.



## STEVE JOBS

*Directed by Danny Boyle*

**Rating: C+**

**review by LUCY HUNTER**

**W**E DIDN'T NEED ANOTHER FILM ABOUT Steve Jobs. This latest work shows us behind the scenes of the digital revolution, where we see the man at its epicentre, the late Steve Jobs, portrayed by Michael Fassbender. The film's plot unfolds backstage at three iconic product launches, ending in 1998 with the unveiling of the iMac.

I was interested in this film because I'd heard it showed Jobs' dark side, and the film certainly characterises the man in a new and unseen way. During the film, he makes insane requests, like getting his assistant to find a stranger wearing a shirt his size with a different pocket and buy it off him so Jobs can wear it. He is also cruel to his ex-girlfriend, implying in Time magazine that 28% of American men could be the father of her child. He is condescending and nasty to his friends and co-workers. Alongside him, Kate Winslet plays Jobs' long-suffering, assistant, with a non-specific European accent and a series

of bad hairdos. Her acting is fantastic but her character seems absurdly un-professional for such a high-powered position. She gets involved in his personal life, and threatens to quit her job over Jobs' relationship with his daughter.

The premise of the film was bizarre. At each unveiling of a product, Jobs is bombarded by the mother of his estranged daughter demanding money, by his assistant and co-workers, and later, by his grown daughter trying to have a meaningful relationship with him.

Visually, the film consistently sets scenes with low lighting and dark wood grain backgrounds; a different look to Apple's familiar, bright-white aesthetic. The highlight was seeing Jobs take his shoes and socks off and dip his

feet one by one into a toilet. He then walks across the room and dries his feet with a towel.

Overall, it was a pretty strange experience. The plot failed to draw me in. Perhaps if you are more into corporate arguments than I am, you may enjoy this film more than I did. I didn't relate to Jobs' "feelings" and found him totally hateful through the whole film. But maybe that was the point?





## CONCUSSION

*Directed by Peter Landesman*

**Rating: B**

**review by ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT**

**T**HIS MOVIE SEEMED VERY PROMISING. JUST like its contemporary *Spotlight*, it tells an important, recent true story about a powerful organization covering up wrongdoings, following the individuals who attempt to expose the truth. *Concussion* isn't a catastrophic failure, but somehow it isn't as cohesive and engrossing as *Spotlight*.

Will Smith plays real-life doctor Bennet Umalu, a Nigerian-born forensic pathologist

working in Pittsburgh in 2002. Umalu discovers that many former pro football players seem to be suffering from a previously unknown form of brain damage, likely caused by repeated blows to the head. He suspects many others may have the same affliction. Of course, his attempts to bring this knowledge to light are met with harsh resistance from the NFL, and the football-going public. It isn't long before Umalu becomes the target of xenophobic mistrust, and starts to receive angry phone calls to his home (leading to one of the film's most memorable lines: "Why are you trying to vaginize football?")

The stakes rise very quickly, as Bennet's research could potentially shake up a beloved cultural institution. Sweeping aerial shots of

Pittsburgh's Heinz Field stadium (which you might also recognize from *The Dark Knight Rises*) are a constant reminder of football's enmeshment into the city, and the nation.

Where *Concussion* ultimately falters is in its sticking to many of the formulaic plot points required of the genre. We have the obligatory love-interest side plot, and the mandatory scene where Umalu is doubts himself and 'said love interest' (played by Gugu Mbatha-Raw) gives him the whole "I believe in you, you just have to follow your heart blah blah" speech. And even though the film provides some commentary on the dangers of nationalism, we also get a gratuitous "America, fuck yeah!" moment towards the end (though that part is perhaps open to interpretation). Additionally, The film doesn't make full use of its strong supporting cast: Paul Reiser and Luke Wilson each appear for a grand total of about five seconds.

Despite these shortcomings, Smith himself gives a solid performance as the even-tempered Umalu. Even if I occasionally hoped he'd channel some of his *Men In Black*/*Independence Day* persona and lay some sass down on those fools.



## DAD'S ARMY

*Directed by Oliver Parker*

**Rating: C+**

**review by HALAEVALU MAKAI**

**D**AD'S ARMY IS THE CINEMATIC OUTCOME OF Britain's famous 1970's sitcom. Directed by Oliver Parker, and set in 1944, in the midst of the Second World War, it follows the Walmington-on-sea platoon in their daily lives as home guards within their town.

The film sets up the interesting dynamic of the war so close to being won by the allies, yet with the home guard in Walmington-on-sea

exceptionally low on morale. It is here that the Walmington platoon make it their mission to patrol the Dover army base, in the hope that this will build their reputation and make up for their seemingly fundamental lack of intelligence.

The plot follows a gorgeous journalist, Rose Winters (Catherine Zeta Jones), who moves into Walmington to write an article about the Walmington-on-sea platoon, and forms close ties with the men on the squad. Trouble arises when the MI5 informs Captain Mainwaring (Toby Jones) of a mystery German spy, who is reported to be working within Walmington-on-sea to reveal all their plans and secrets to the enemy. Here, the platoon recognise an opportunity to

boost their reputation and they take on the challenge to capture the mysterious spy.

The humour in *Dad's Army* was hilarious and well utilised, and ranged from physical comedy to witty remarks, setting a "feel good" tone at its roots. Toby Jones and Michael Gambon (who played Private Godfrey) became immediate favourites within the film due to the humor that their characters provided. Early on, it became clear why the 1970's sitcom was so popular within its time because the platoon members were a positive investment and supplied an abundant amount of entertainment within the film, whether it was the drama they presented or the humor they offered. Catherine Zeta Jones also shone with her outstanding performance of Rose Winters, as the classically seductive 'femme fatale', and formed an essential part within the film, bringing havoc and chaos to drive the otherwise ambling plot forward.

Anyone with a sense of humor will find themselves satisfied with this movie, simply down to the robust humour that largely made up for the lack of army related action and the cliché, predictable plot.





# BLOODBORNE: THE OLD HUNTERS

PS4 | Developed by From-Software, Published by Sony Computer Entertainment

Rating: A+



by **CAMPBELL CALVERLEY**

**B**LOODBORNE WAS RELEASED IN MARCH OF 2015, and I realised that it was the best game that I would play for a long time. Its bloody Gothic aesthetic and notorious difficulty made it both an excellent action-adventure game and a scary survival horror game. The Kafkaesque plot involves a traveller to the haunted city of Yharnam finding themselves recruited as a Hunter of Beasts. The story is unsettling in its utilisation of stock horror tropes to create a deep, Lovecraftian mythos. Now, we have the only piece of Bloodborne DLC, The Old Hunters, and an already scary game has been made absolutely terrifying.

The expansion is enormous. The content of the DLC is equivalent to about a full third of the base game's content. This takes the form of new weapons, new armour sets, new bosses, and new locations. The only downside of this is that any new weapons you find will be all but useless in comparison to whatever you have already fought through the base game with. You will still need to put in a few hours to upgrade anything new.

One marvels at the variety of horror The Old Hunters adds. There is cosmic horror wrought

from the sense that now the universe itself is against you, Lovecraftian horror in the feeling of being a very small ant compared to the gods you are fighting, and – most prevalent and disturbing – body horror. Many of the enemies used to be human, but are now warped and torn into monstrosities by sickness, madness and experimentation – the perpetrators of which are some of your allies. Rivers of blood flow through the streets of Yharnam, with barely-alive victims lying in piles, pathetically pawing at gates leading to nowhere. The overwhelming helplessness imbued by the environment is almost nauseating.

After you install the DLC, you are given a new item that grants access to what the game refers to as "The Hunter's Nightmare." The locations that make up the nightmare will be recognisable to Bloodborne veterans, only twisted and morphed, as though the landscape itself was infected. This is an area where the consciousnesses of Hunters are transported after their deaths in the real world. Their presence makes the game exponentially more difficult. They are just as fast as you, have weapons that you are unfamiliar with, and are more aggressive attackers than any enemies in the main game. The same can be said of the new bosses: they are a challenge by any measure, and their identities are tragic for anyone who knows Bloodborne's lore.

All of these features are tied together by the plot of The Old Hunters, which is as sparse as ever. In Bloodborne, you spend most of your time working for a Hunter named Gehrman, who looks after you and points you in the vague direction of the elder god whose birth into the city of Yharnam you are trying to stop. In The Old Hunters, you dive into the backstory of

Yharnam, and how the elder gods first started paying attention to the smaller city. You learn snippets of the figures and events that led to Gehrman breaking away from the rest of the religious and scientific institutions in Yharnam, why he is wracked with guilt, the significance of his servant doll, and why on occasion you can hear him crying with a desire to wake up from the blood-soaked nightmare that you are both trapped in.

If I was to describe Bloodborne in one word, that word would be 'nightmare'. In the case of The Old Hunters, that word is now 'holocaust'. Bloodborne was already my favourite game of 2015. The Old Hunters turns it into one of my favourite games ever, and by far the scariest game I have ever played.



# G.L.O.S.S. GIRLS LIVING OUTSIDE SOCIETY'S SHIT

by **MILLCENT LOVELOCK**

**I** WAS INITIALLY TEMPTED TO DESCRIBE G.L.O.S.S.'s debut EP *Girls Living Outside Society's Shit* as feeling like a punch to the gut, but I was wrong, it's a whole lot more like throwing a punch with all your weight behind it. This EP makes my heart race and my palms itch. It is walls of chugging, pounding rhythm and screaming guitars, with vocalist Sadie ripping through it all in a series of blood curdling yells and sneering, cold truths.

In only eight minutes the Olympia, Washington hard-core band reclaim what the genre is supposed to be all about: outcast solidarity. With punk music dominated by cis, straight, white men, G.L.O.S.S are there for everyone else; for women, for trans and queer kids. For anyone who feels alone and unsafe, Sadie declares "this is for the outcasts, rejects, girls and the queers." It is a rallying cry.

But, it's not just politics that makes G.L.O.S.S worthwhile. The band are so well-versed in what makes a hard-core song good that although the EP starts at full throttle and never lets up, it's never a drag. Rather, it sucks you in immediately, pulling you in and out of songs with scorching hot guitar feedback and shoving you along with perfectly placed guitar solos. The longest song clocks in at a minute and fifty-five seconds, so G.L.O.S.S really gets to the point straight away, never cushioning the blow. When music finds its foundations in intense emotional responses there can be a tendency for things to get out of control, but G.L.O.S.S never let that happen. There is nothing extraneous, the parts all slot together cleanly and clearly. The band members seem to be following each other, shoving forever forward, never looking back.

The lyrical content is at times obviously personally painful, but Sadie is so aware that she is not alone in her experiences. Her lyrics demand accountability and preach solidarity. In "Masculine Artifice" she scathingly lays bare societies expectations of trans women and then tears them down, screaming, "I'm



not pathetic, I'm not your project, I wasn't put here for you [...] masculinity was the artifice, rip it away. Femininity is always the heart of us, trans girls be free."

Even in the midst of writing and playing music about massive injustice, trauma and fear, G.L.O.S.S is not disheartening. The fast paced, driving songs feel like catalysts for personal and interpersonal change. They are angry but they are not stagnant. Sadie, Julaya, Tannrr, Jake and Corey are not creatively paralysed by their outcast status, they are pushing and refining a genre, forging more space in music for people who don't have enough space in the world. Hard-core usually isn't an easy genre to just slip into on a whim, but whether you love it or hate it, I can promise that G.L.O.S.S are a band worth listening to. It's loud and confronting, but if you're feeling threatened and alone it's guaranteed to make you feel like someone's got your back.

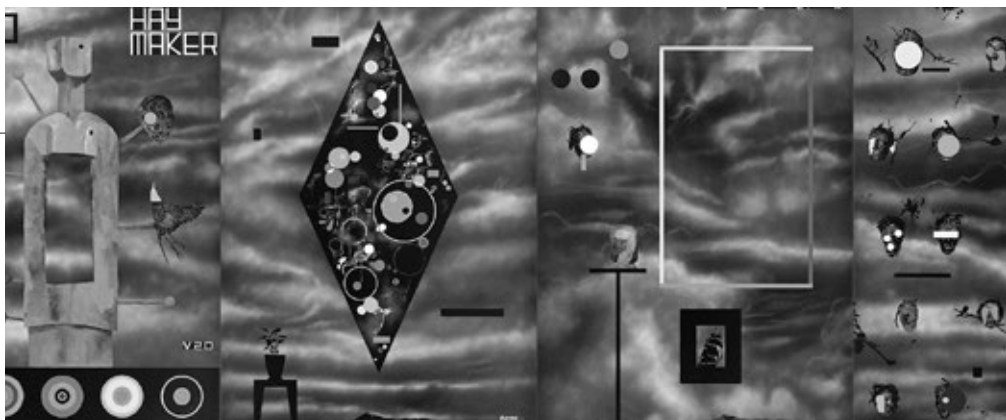


## EXPLODED WORLDS

Works from the Dunedin Public Art Gallery Collection

**6TH FEB 2016 - 31ST DEC 2016**

Free entry



by **MONIQUE HODGKINSON**

**T**O KICK START YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE FOR 2016, HEAD TO Exploded Worlds at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.

This exhibition is a kaleidoscope of vivid colour, contrasting canvases, and mixed-up mediums. Offering an 'exploded view' of art, the gallery combines works of drastically differing colour, material, size, and context, which come together to create a slightly haphazard but fascinating experience.

Check out the bright and cheery "Lattice no. 45" (1978) by kiwi artist Ian Scott, which hangs in sharp contrast to Picasso's simplistic "Danse des Faunes" (1959), where abstracted figures prance in a circular motion on the canvas. Juxtaposing the black and white with the bright and the international with the local challenges you to see each work in a fresh way. Plus standing in front of a Picasso is always a buzz.

"The Haymaker Series I-V" (2012) painting by Shane Cotton dominates the central space, an enormous stretch of cloud-like grey canvas dotted with futuristic, digital symbols, rusted objects and native birds. Vast enough to feel lost in, Cotton's landscapes - or in this case, a skyscape - encompass themes of culture and memory. It's easy to become immersed in the gallery environment seated between Cotton's work and the colossal "May and the birds of ice. The moon drowns in its voices of water." (1970) by Ralph Hotere. Hotere's works are characteristically dark in tone, and this beauty is no different, comprising of immense deep blue spheres floating on a black canvas. The title of the work taken from a haiku by Bill Manhire.

■ Stare at this giant work long enough and you'll begin to feel an odd floating sensation, the words LOVE and HATE becoming apparent in the void.

38

Completing the trio of large-scale kiwi works hangs "The Five Wounds of Christ No 3" (1977-1978) by Colin McCahon,

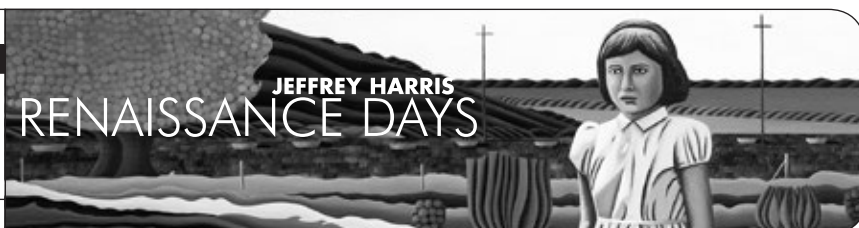


detail from **Shane Cotton, The Haymaker Series I-V, 2012**, acrylic on linen, 5 panels, each 2400 x 1800 mm (above)

**Colin McCahon, The Five Wounds of Christ no. 2, 1977** synthetic polymer paint on unstretched canvas, 2320 x 2075mm (left)

one of New Zealand's most prolific and adventurous 20th century painters. McCahon returned recurrently to scenes of crucifixion throughout his career, this stark work a demonstration of his heavy abstraction and bold use of black and white. The sparse visual language used by McCahon in his visual portrayals of biblical stories isn't for the faint of heart, but his works contain enough mystery to keep you searching for clues amongst the squares and stretches of canvas.

If you're new to art and find this a bit heavy, never fear - the exhibition as a whole is fresh, fun, exciting, and accessible. Careful placement of works continues throughout the exhibition, ensuring fresh contrasts and unexpected similarities around every corner. This is, indeed, an art world exploded - into quirky new comparisons and suggestions.





## CULL'S COLUMN

### *Minimum standards for rental housing*

**F**OR MANY OF YOU, A NEW YEAR ON CAMPUS will also mean a new student flat to live in. As you have likely discovered by now, Dunedin has a large number of properties – including student flats – that are not warm or dry enough to keep people healthy and comfortable at a reasonable cost.

It seems somewhat ironic to me that we live in a country where, for example, if you want to have more than one dog on your property, an inspection is required to make sure your property is fit for purpose, but there are no such inspections or standards for people renting a house! There is no reason why minimum standards shouldn't be applied to protect all consumers, including renters.

The accommodation in the area around campus was once working-class housing that has now been turned into student flats. It has been customary for some of these not to be well maintained.

Historically, many students saw it as a rite of passage to live in a cold, run-down flat while, to some extent, others were forced to live in these conditions due a lack of suitable alternative rental properties.

Over the past few years there has been considerable building and development resulting in the provision of many higher quality rentals. As a result, students who want to live close to campus now have far more choice and poor flats and poor landlords can be avoided.

That doesn't mean, however, that any landlords are justified in letting sub-standard, cold and shoddy flats. That's not acceptable.

The reality is that poor quality flats don't encourage tenants to look after them. And landlords that provide high quality flats should expect them to be well cared for and not trashed. In other words, it is in both parties' best interests to have a good quality, well-cared-for property.

To this end, the University of Otago (Wellington) is working with the Wellington and

**"It seems somewhat ironic to me that we live in a country where, for example, if you want to have more than one dog on your property, an inspection is required to make sure your property is fit for purpose, but there are no such inspections or standards for people renting a house!"**

Dunedin city councils to study the effects of introducing a rental housing warrant of fitness. The WoF for rentals would include minimum standards that would need to be met for things like heating, ventilation and safety.

I see this as one tool to help further increase your choices when it comes to flatting, as well as helping to fulfil the city's goal of making sure everyone in Dunedin lives in a warm and cosy home by 2025.

**Dave Cull**  
Mayor of Dunedin

## HENRY'S WORD

### *Richie McCaw: New Zealander of the Century*

by **HENRY NAPIER**

**G**ROWING UP IN NEW ZEALAND I'VE OBVIOUSLY experienced the youthful discontent of our country's size and status. Often you hear maxims of New Zealand being "too small" or "not exciting enough" compared to the rest of the world. Further to this is New Zealand's longstanding reputation of exerting 'tall poppy syndrome'. The condition in which apparently we actively seek to knock down anyone who has successfully achieved their goals and is happy to be recognised for them. I will concede that this is a fair diagnosis of New Zealand's social temperament. However, I contend that it is not all bad. In fact I believe as New Zealanders we have an innate understanding of a fundamental flaw in the human condition that taints success. We see the vanity of success not as something in need of gratification but rather as something in need of dismantling.

Explaining my position is easy because there is a man known to all in this country that embodies the core principles and values of New Zealand. His name is Richie McCaw.

King Richie, as many have grown fond of calling him, epitomises the virtues and values we glorify as a nation. He is, for all intents and purposes, the quintessential New Zealander. Why you may ask? Well not merely due to his immense achievement as arguably (but undisputedly) the best rugby player in the history of the sport, but his dedication to a higher purpose.

McCaw seeks no personal glory, fame or fortune. Over his decade-spanning career he has refused many overseas contracts that would yield riches exponentially greater than he has earned as a rugby player in New Zealand. Moreover he has continued to adamantly refuse the title of Sir or even go as far as admitting the feat of his success publicly. When asked to reflect on his career the general response is "that's not for me to say", or better yet he diverts the



JEANFRANCOIS BEAUSSEUR / FLICKR / CC BY 2.0

interview towards the achievement of the All Blacks rather than himself. That is his defining quality. McCaw dedicated his career not to the pursuit of personal success but instead to a higher purpose. One that he regarded as admirable and pursuit-worthy. His passion to the sport and his team was unprecedented. It is my belief that the dedication of Richie McCaw was the key ingredient to the unstoppable force of the All Blacks – a team that encapsulates the idea of collective spirit which could only be led by a man that sees the success of a higher goal more important than his own personal glory. Richie McCaw isn't the New Zealander of the Year, he is the New Zealander of the Century.

## CRYSTAL HEALING

by WEE DOUBT

**L**AST WEEK I MENTIONED HEALING CRYSTALS AS AN EXAMPLE of the placebo effect, where something can make you feel better even though there is no logical reason why it should. I think crystals are beautiful and I own a few of them. However, I don't buy into the people who propose different "meanings" and "energies" to crystals. Isn't it enough that they look cool?

Thousands of websites will tell you how crystals will change your mood. Agate is apparently a stone of strength and courage; it tones

and strengthens the mind and body, grounding and stabilising emotions and physical energy. I don't know what this means, but a crystal is a stone, the same as a stone on a building, and probably won't influence your body unless somebody throws it at you very hard.

Quite often the healing qualities of crystals seem to be based on their colour and our traditional associations with it. For example, crystal healers call rose quartz the "Love Stone." A website listing crystal meanings says: "it's energetic hallmark is that of unconditional love that opens the heart

chakra [sic]."

Its association with love and affection is probably because it is pink, the colour of our Valentines Day cards.

There are very sweet question and answer sections on the websites, like one reader who wants to know how often they should "re-charge" their crystal in the moonlight. The reply says to carry the stone around close to the skin to help it hold its "charge," so you won't have to do the moonlight treatment so often.

The websites I found tend to promote crystal healing for a general sense of wellbeing rather than curing physical illness. For this

reason I don't feel much resentment toward the people selling and talking about crystal healing. The crystals may be calming in a way, and even if they aren't, they look nice and can be used as ornaments. They can, however, be very expensive, perhaps because of their supposed metaphysical benefits as much as their rarity.

Crystal are beautiful, their shape can be astonishing, but they should be marvelled at as a wonder of chemistry, not magic.



Dear Ethel,

Every time we walk up Castle Street to go to New World, we get harassed. We've started to detour and walk via Cumberland Street but I really don't see why we have to do that. My friend was driving down Castle Street last week and had a bottle thrown at her car. We're over it. There's a difference between having a good time and being total dicks.

-Over It

by STUDENT SUPPORT

*Dear Over It,*

Yeah, we hear you. There have been a number of drop-ins at Ethel B from students who share similar concerns. I wish we could wave a magic wand and make people chill the f\*\*\* out! You should not have to detour in order to feel safe walking to the supermarket. We're not talking harmless fun here, we're talking harassment and abuse, both of which can be dealt with as offences through the justice system. Clearly, such behaviour breaches the Code of Conduct that all students are bound by while studying at the University of Otago.

So, what are your options? Keeping yourselves safe is the first priority. Walk wherever you feel safest. Why shouldn't we be able to walk where we like though? Is there some way you can reclaim the route you would usually take? Maybe get a group together, if that's what it takes. Think about reporting incidents of abuse and/or bottle throwing. You can even do so anonymously if need be. These things need to be stopped as they are happening, not later

when accusations can easily be denied or blamed on 'visitors'.

Last week, a student told us about seeing a gaggle of pre-schoolers with their teacher precariously picking their way through the glass on Castle Street. Last year, I spoke with a second year student who nearly died from a serious infection after a cut from broken glass on the same street. What will it take for people to, as you so eloquently put it, stop being total dicks?

OUSA takes these issues seriously and Laura Harris, this year's President, is very keen to talk to students about their experiences and to promote respectful behaviour. We have a chance to work together to quash intimidation and reclaim all of campus, to let that minority of trouble-makers know that their behaviour is crap and we will not be forced to restrict our freedom because of it. We'd love to hear from you if you have comments or ideas about this. Drop into 5 Ethel B and have a chat!

-Ethel

# WOODHOUSE V. CLARK

the TPPA



DAVID  
CLARK

**L**ABOUR HAS A LONG COMMITMENT TO international trade. Eighty years ago, the first Labour Government pushed for increased trade access and the opportunity to grow international markets.

Generally countries only give up barriers to trade when they believe it makes good sense for them to do so. As a small nation heavily dependent on trade, we have often led the charge. Labour signed the first free trade agreement with China. Our country is better off as a result.

Like previous Labour trade spokespeople, I am committed to trade. I don't want to live

without coffee and bananas. If we stopped trading in dairy or tourism, we couldn't afford to keep our schools and hospitals open. As a country, we need trade for our prosperity.

Because barriers to international trade are a lot smaller than they used to be: by definition the potential gains from modern trade agreements are increasingly modest. The Labour Party supports these gains still.

Labour will oppose moves to undermine our country's constitutional integrity. Months ago, Andrew Little released our bottom lines on the TPP. It has since become clear that our concern about protecting Kiwi land – expressed in those bottom lines – is not addressed in the agreement.

Yet Australia, Singapore and others secured sovereignty protections for home-ownership. It turns out New Zealand did not even ask in negotiations for the right to ban foreign housing speculators. Our Government failed to get the best deal for New Zealanders.

The Government has given up trying to sell TPP benefits. Instead they are focussed on

scaremongering about threats to future market access. Yet exchange rate fluctuations, economic confidence and the ability to curb distortions in our economy such as those presented by speculators in our housing market matter more to our future prosperity.

One study suggests a 0.9 percent increase in GDP for New Zealand by 2030 from the TPPA deal, as compared with an expected 46 percent gain if growth follows historic trend without such an agreement.

With projected economic gains in rounding error territory, it beggars belief that the Government hasn't modelled the effect on inequalities, employment and wage distribution. An independent international study shows a distinctly negative impact for New Zealand in that regard. Watch out for rises in social welfare cost!

The Government has the numbers for TPP-enabling legislation in Parliament. Despite this, Labour will unapologetically oppose those things that have no place in an agreement that should focus on market access and increased trade.

**I**MAGINE YOU'RE A SHOPPER IN TOKYO. New Zealand lamb is for sale in the supermarket beside Australian lamb. Both products presently have a 38.5 percent tariff applied to them. Those who enter the TPPA will have that reduced by 9 percent, then eventually eliminated.

If Australia enters TPPA and New Zealand doesn't, the Australian lamb is about ¥2,000 a kg, the New Zealand lamb is ¥2,800 a kg. Price sensitive shoppers will buy Australian lamb while foreign income and New Zealand jobs are lost. This is the simple equation we face if New Zealand is not in TPPA.

Lots of protesters chant slogans and wave their banners without any idea of what is in the agreement. They say things like:

– **It will erode our sovereignty:** Rubbish. It's our sovereign right to withdraw from any trade agreement at any time, there is no one holding us to any of them. However there is a reason that we tend not to leave; we'd have to give up the benefits which far outweigh the costs.

– **It's bad for Māori:** Also rubbish. New Zealand is the only country that specifically recognises its indigenous people in the agreement and provides for the protection of the Treaty commitments we had made.

– **It's bad for PHARMAC:** A very small number of pharmacy items will have their patent lives extended from 5 to 8 years. The annual cost is estimated to be around 2 to 3 million dollars per annum and the users of those drugs will not see any increase in cost. The small extra amount the taxpayer has to pay will be overwhelmingly covered by the extra revenue gained by greater trade.

– **Companies can sue the Government:** Well they can now, and the interstate dispute mechanism is there to protect countries like New Zealand not attack it. Many of the protestors mention French company Veolia suing the Egyptian Government over its decision to increase the minimum wage.



MICHAEL  
WOODHOUSE

This is incorrect. Simply Google the issue and find out what is actually happening in Egypt.

This is an excellent trade deal for New Zealand. We must be in it and the costs of not being so are high. I cannot help getting the feeling that the major opposition from the Labour Party, who say they support free trade and signed the largest free trade deal we have with China, is in opposition because they are not the ones signing the agreement.



# MATTERS OF DEBATE

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

**"A DEGREE IN PHILOSOPHY IS BETTER THAN A B.COM."**

## AFFIRMATIVE

by **BY OLD MAJOR**

**A** B.COM WILL TURN YOUR BRAINS TO SHIT. FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU TAKE Economics at Otago as a Commerce degree you are never required to take any maths or stats papers. The problem with this is that all proper economics involves a lot of maths, which means that when you graduate you'll come out with a pseudo-degree in Economics that hasn't equipped you with the skills needed to work as a proper economist.

The same thing goes with Management. People who are in management level jobs have got post-graduate level qualifications, like an MBA, which they gain after getting a proper degree in something useful. If you want to be the manger of the Gore Four Square, sure go ahead, study management. In England you don't even need to study accountancy at Uni, you learn on the job. All this adds up to a Commerce degree being rather a waste of time and money.

According to the Philosophy Department's website, Philosophy students end up in better paying jobs than other Humanities students. Take that, Politics. This is because employers recognise the value of hiring people who have developed their capacity for rational, analytic thought. It means that, unlike the Politics student, the Philosophy student is able to sort through the evidence for and against a given plan, policy or proposal and construct clear and articulate reasons for that action.

Not only do you have decent employment and career prospects with a Philosophy degree, it is also an enjoyable subject to study. There is something satisfying about drinking one's third soy latte of the day whilst reading Plato. No one has ever come out of a first year Commerce paper lecture and thought "gee, I sure did learn a lot today and golly was that interesting." While it may be that no one had this particular thought, because no one uses words like "gee" or "golly," people do get a huge buzz out of philosophy. Just walk into a first year tut and see them all arguing with enthusiasm about whether or not athletes should be allowed to take performance-enhancing drugs.

Even Kayne is up with this shit... Here are some lines from "No Church In The Wild": "Is Pious pious cause God loves pious?/ Socrates asks, "Whose bias do y'all seek?"/ All for Plato, screech".

So screech for philosophy everyone. The affirmative side has clearly won this particular argument.

## NEGATIVE

by **SQUEALER THE PIG**

**I**F YOU STUDY YOUR 'PASSION' AND GET THOSE A+ GRADES, IT DOESN'T MATTER what degree you choose (just go and be smug elsewhere). But if you're reading this, you're probably a lost and confused BA student with a mounting pile of student debt and little idea of how to use your degree in the real world. Still a fresh-faced and eager first year? Read on, it's not too late to switch to a degree that gives you good prospects for minimal effort...

First, you need to study something that gives you options in the real world. The University of Otago B.Com is structured so that every student must take compulsory 100-level papers in the various Commerce subjects. Not only does that give you a broad knowledge base, you have flexibility to figure out which major(s) suit you. You might not have considered 'boring' (but high-paying) disciplines like Finance or Accounting otherwise. Philosophy gives you more freedom to pick and choose subjects, and the average first year probably isn't seeking to challenge themselves beyond a half-hearted attempt at LAWS101, let alone hard-core Maths papers. The Commerce student is more likely to find themselves having to take courses that give them sought-after technical skills (at least at a basic level), whereas the Philosophy student will try and get away with pretending that they're above being such a sell-out to the demands of the corporate world.

Second, let's talk jobs. Philosophy students like to pretend they have other priorities, like "finding themselves" and having endless yarns about abstract concepts. Commerce won't distract you from the cutthroat world of graduate applications. B.Com students have endless opportunities to get relevant part-time work and summer internships. Businesses and community organisations will always need students with skills in Accounting, Marketing, and Information Management. An A-grade in the-history-of-what-old-white-guys-thought-300-years-ago doesn't seem quite as appealing to the average employer, does it? A Philosophy student might be able to reason well, but that means nothing without a solid grounding in how the commercial world works.

Although Philosophy might seem *prima facie*\* more enjoyable, it's difficult to keep motivated after studying Nietzsche. Commerce will make you think that money is the only meaningful thing in the world, which is quite a sensible delusion when you're starting a career \$30k deep in student loan debt.

\* As well as teaching you how to drop wanky Latin phrases into everyday conversation, Law degrees let you claim to have "analytical skills" despite failing high school maths. Not prepared to become a B.Com sell-out but scared of getting nowhere with a Philosophy degree? It's never too late to switch to Law...



**SOMETHING  
CAME UP**

## BOOZE AND YOU

by **ISA ALCHEMIST**

**I**T'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, WHEN THE STREETS and pubs are alive with freshers ! So great to see them. If you're new to the student scene, the Ori week may have treated you harshly. Tanking up with alcohol can make you feel like the dregs of the glass, especially if you're a newbie to the culture.

**But take heart, we've all been there.**

### IT'S A DRUG

Hardened old-timers to the scene will have gradually increased the enzymes in their liver that act to break down alcohol. So while you may feel off the planet on one jug/wine/or RTD, it's because your liver has yet to ramp up the levels of enzymes, so the alcohol builds up quicker and to a higher level in your blood with a comparatively small amount of booze.

Beer is lower in alcohol content than other drinks (about 5% alcohol by volume or ABV, white wine about 13% and RTD's or Ready-to-drink, about 6%) but it contains a lot of fluid, mostly water. If you drink 3 to 4 jugs too quickly, the volume is too much for the stomach, and it comes OUT and at a much greater speed. Which is not only embarrassing and messy, but a waste of good dosh.

### IT MAKES YOU PEE MORE

Alcohol is a "diuretic " which means you have to pee a lot more, and that pounding headache in the morning may be caused by dehydration. Sip water the night before (if you remember) or the next morning and lots of it.

### ITS CALORIES

An RTD is about 170 calories, which is 4 McDonalds chicken nuggets, a chocolate chip cookie or a small bottle of full-sugar coke . A Speights beer is 106 calories (BUT 330mls ! ) and a glass of white wine 130 calories, the same as a pack of crisps.

### IT AFFECTS MEMORY

Sometimes it's good not to remember the night before ! If you can't remember it, did it happen? But there are always those helpful flatties who are laughing too hard to get the story out. Alcohol can wipe the memory slates clean.

### IT LOWERS INHIBITIONS

Which is just what you want when you're a newbie in a strange city looking to make new friends. The down side is doing things you might regret, offending your friends, or having dodgy sex. Be careful and set a limit on how much you are going to drink before you go out.

### IT DEPLETES VITAMINS

Particularly the B vitamins which we need for stress and digesting alcohol. There are plenty of supplements to be had, the effervescent kind gives you a water boost too.

### THEN THERE'S THE BOOZE POOS

Explosive diarrhoea in the morning is pretty common after a big night out. It happens when the alcohol and its vehicle move too fast through the body to be absorbed properly. Not great if your flat/hostel is economical on the loo paper. Usually gone by lunchtime.

### AND THE BOOZE FLUSH

Some of us will get a raging headache and bright red face after just a sniff of booze. We have a variant gene for the enzyme, Aldehyde dehydrogenase, which breaks down alcohol. Very low levels of booze will be unpleasant and even toxic. The differing gene is most common in people of Asian descent: 30 to 50 % of us of Japanese and Chinese origins will be in this group. If your flattie seems pissed after a sniff of booze, they may not be unsociable but poisoned!

**Welcome to Dunedin, enjoy your student days, and look after each other!**



**Mandy Ma**

Graduate of Otago Pharmacy School, speaks Cantonese, and has been with the pharmacy for four years



**Greg Andrews**

Graduate of Otago Pharmacy School, had a previous life as a programmer



**Debbie Young**

Graduate of Otago Pharmacy School, owner of the pharmacy which she opened in 1996



**Nicky Hewson**

Graduate of Otago Pharmacy School, now also a part-time lecturer at the University



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by **SEXCELLENT**

Hi Sexcellent,

I'm in second year and my girlfriend and I have been together since Year 13. She's awesome and I love her but for the past few months she hasn't been as interested in sex and I'm feeling a bit hard done by and unloved. How can I get her interested in sex again?

Help!

J Dog

S'up J Dog (if that even is your real name),

You should suck it up and talk to her, in the least whiny way possible. Start with a polite "I've noticed you haven't been feeling very amorous lately my dear, how can we work through this?"

She's probably lost interest for one of the same reasons you might from time-to-time. Here are five things to think about, and to talk to her about if you think it could help:

1. Self-esteem and body image issues.

Often women suffer major distress over their perceived flaws, which lead them into feeling too unsexy and ashamed to bang. Do you compliment her often? It can help her feel more comfortable in the sack.

2. Stress.

Has she had any unusual stress in her life lately? Any study/work/family/friend troubles? Nothing gets in the way of libido more than a dead relative or failing a semester.

3. Lack of attraction to our partner.

Have you changed your personal style much since you got together? Have you possibly grown

a huge unkempt lumberjack beard feat. mutton chops and are accessorising with ripped Canterbury pants? These are the questions you need to ask yourself, J Dog.

4. Unhealthy lifestyle/medication.

If she's been drinking and partying more than usual, or has started taking prescription meds like anti-depressants or a new contraceptive pill, or just plain eating nothing but processed rubbish, then these can all be massive libido-killers.

5. Environment.

Are you a slob? Do you have filthy sheets and dirty plates on the floor in your room? Simply put: is your room the kind of place that a girl wants to be fucking in without a tetanus shot?

Or she could have a low libido at the moment for no reason in particular. Focus on the non-sexual aspects that you love in your relationship, and talk to her about how you feel and what you can do about it.

xx S

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# LETTER OF THE WEEK

## FOOD FESTIVAL FLOP

**I AM A DEVOTED FAN OF OUSA'S "INTERNATIONAL FOOD Festivals"** and go every year. Experiencing the diverse and absolutely delicious range of foods and meeting friendly international students is such a special treat!

Until this year OUSA had a great token distribution system. Anyone could buy tokens during the week before the festival and get refunded for any unused ones during the week after the festival. Awesome!

Unfortunately, this year that ceased to be with disastrous results!

I went to the OUSA office during the week before the festival only to be told they weren't ready and to come back at the end of the week. I came back on Friday but was told they were not selling any.

When I arrived at the Festival on Saturday shortly after 6pm there was a huge crowd. Zooming in, I found that the majority of the people there where in very long, snaking queues to buy tokens! It took me 20 minutes to buy tokens, then stand in a food queue for another 15 minutes. When I got to the front, I found out the main dish had already sold out! After eating some yummy dishes, I had one leftover token. I was told, however, that this was the only day I could get refunded so I spent another 15 minutes in a queue!

The dishes were delicious but everyone I talked to was complaining about the token queues. This made a supposed-to-be-fun event, a huge ordeal! What a disappointment to say the least! I can only estimate that OUSA's poor planning this year was due to pure laziness as previously an efficient token distribution system had been in place.

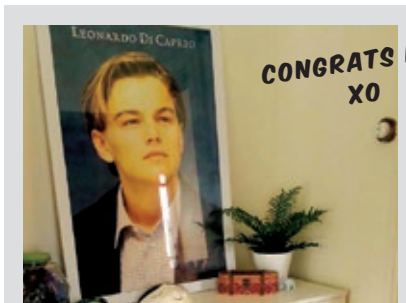
**Come on OUSA!!! You can do better than that!**

Here are my suggestions: Simply re-enact your previous system of pre-buying tokens and later refunding them. Make sure that you advertise these facts in the event posters, etc. and encourage students to buy tokens beforehand! Such simple things to do! Good luck with it, OUSA! We're counting on you!

Signed,  
Tokened-off

riddle me this:

**WHAT WORD BECOMES SHORTER WHEN YOU ADD TO LETTERS TO IT**



groovy



— escape —

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*Critic's* infamous blind-date column brings you weekly shutdowns, hilariously mis-matched pairs, and the occasional hookup.

Each week, we lure two singletons to Dog With Two Tails, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports

to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz). But be warned —if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a *Critic* writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

## Jim

In the depths of an O week hangover I received the unsolicited call up for the *Critic* blind date. Never wanting to turn down a bit of tucker or a beer I thought why not. The potential to meet the love of my life was just a bonus really.

And what a girl she was.

With this in mind I made my move to Dog With Two Tails. In typical student fashion I arrived early and far too sober. In hindsight this was a mistake. Finding myself surprisingly nervous I did hold myself back from breaking into the bar tab before the lovely lady's arrival.

She was a tall, rather stunning brunette, sporting a boots-and-jeans combo. I'll tell you there were no regrets in signing up. She looked like the sort of girl that you would take home to your parents but blow you on the way there.

The conversation flowed, as did the red wine. We talked about everything and anything. Initially beginning with your standard chat, university, summer etc. we soon were debating and solving the greater problems of the world.

She ordered a large burger – tick. I ordered a lamb salad and we quickly put away a bottle of red wine.

All in all it seemed to be going pretty swimmingly, like I said, great girl.

She suggested we head down to Mac Bar and I certainly had no complaints. We downed a couple Sambuca's and entered the gin and tonic zone as one does.

Being Wednesday in the middle of O week I was sort of caught between wanting to stay and hang out and get back and enjoy a fine octane or twelve with the lads. We wound things up in due course, swapped numbers, and who knows what the future will bring.

Cheers to *Critic* and cheers to my date for a great start to the night.

## Gertie

After being roped into the blind date by one of the flatties and enduring the endless banter about meeting the love of my life, it's safe to say I was apprehensive and somewhat cynical about the whole encounter.

Rocking up a casual 10 minutes late and far too sober, the bar staff gave me a cheeky grin and pointed me towards my date. The introduction was sufficiently awkward, mostly due to me going in for the kiss on the cheek. He was definitely cute, tall and really friendly – nailed the first impression.

The chat flowed well and we had a shared enthusiasm for ordering the cheapest bottle of wine on offer. Tick. We covered the conversation basics; study, work, travel, summer holiday, friends in common etc., and I became increasingly loose-lipped as we powered through our wine. We had a few laughs and when the food came, it was awesome too.

After we finished up, I suggested we grab a drink or two elsewhere. He was keen and we headed to the Octy for a few more drinks and a well-timed Sambuca.

For those of you who were hoping for a modern day fairy tale ending (A.K.A. becoming heavily inebriated, then partaking in a passionate night of casual sex), you will be sadly disappointed. We managed to swap numbers while still in a state to, and then parted ways with another equally awkward kiss on the cheek.

For now, I'll be eagerly awaiting the 2am text of "Up to?" to complete the fairy tale and make all my dreams come true. Thanks heaps to the *Critic* and Dog with Two Tails for shouting a fun night, and to my date for all the good yarns.



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## President's Column

### Couch Burning in Scarfie Town.

I have been a University student for four years prior to this role, during which time I have lived in four different flats. As a result, I have become very fond of the student culture that prospers in the residential community of Dunedin North. Students are always welcoming and the weekends are pleasantly filled with potluck dinners, creative red cards, and movie marathons at each others' homes.

It's a culture that brings new people together, and has resulted in some of the most memorable experiences of my life. However, as you may have seen in the media recently - these student residential areas aren't always safe.

Last year, my flat on Castle Street was broken into, as well as a couple of others in the area. An apparently hungry, drunk guy stumbled into our home, cut himself on a broken wine bottle, and stole four blocks of our cheese (there's no

such thing as too much cheese). Everyone in my complex naturally found it quite unsettling, and hugely invasive. There's nothing fun about waking up to the police in your kitchen and blood on your carpet. This was where we lived. Our home. Many of us treat our flats with pride. Whether that is naming them "creatively", adorning the walls with flat quotes or half-hearted attempts at chore wheels. These are our homes away from where we grew up, and we have a right to feel safe here.

Last weekend, a burning couch was purposefully moved next to one of these homes, a thoughtless incident which almost ended in disaster. For me, couch burning barely registers on the things that encapsulate being an Otago student. I have never had a penchant for arson, and I certainly did not gain that after coming to Dunedin. But I do get bored of the inflammatory furniture jokes tossed my way when people find out I'm an Otago student. Because we are so much more than that.

There is nothing safe, or funny, about arson.

It disappoints me that people from outside the university community think Orientation is a good time to come down here and cause trouble. Our Orientation and culture is well known for its fun and dynamic events, and we're a pretty welcoming group. Many students will open their homes to these strangers, and it saddens me to see this kindness and generosity tarnished by visitors who have little investment in the Dunedin city and our university.

OUSA tries really hard to circumvent these issues, so that you can be happy and safe during your time here. If you are feeling worried or unsafe - do get in touch with either myself or our Student Support Centre. You are our utmost priority. Take care of yourselves, and each other.

*Laura Harris*

Laura Harris - president@ousa.org.nz



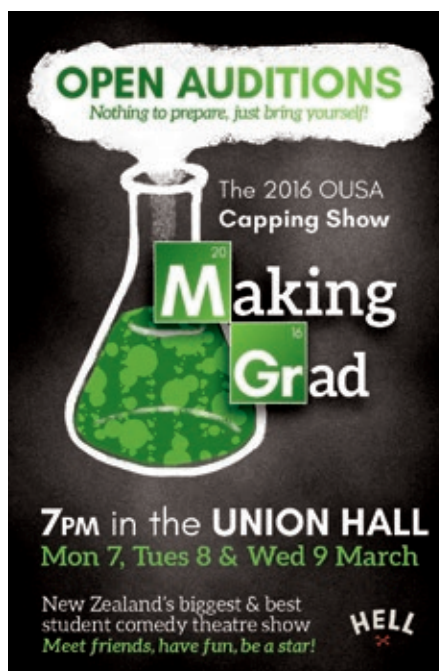
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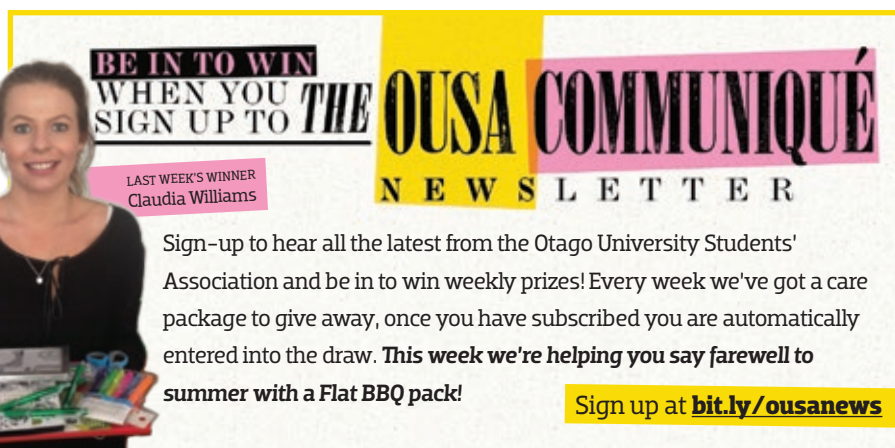


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