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my day



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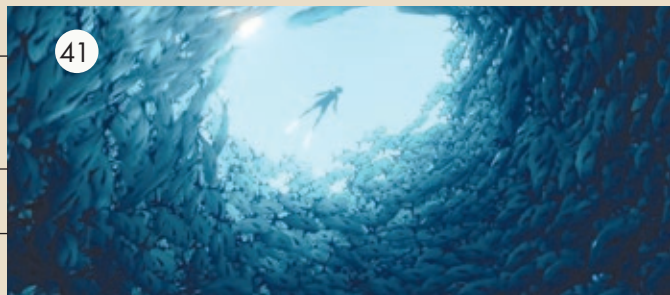
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Critic

Issue 22

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Cuts & divisions



Emeritus Professor Alan Musgrave told our History of Science class that our most radical innovation as humans is not the scientific method, nor our ability to farm and grow crops, but language.

Our greatest treasure as a species is our ability to communicate complex ideas with one another. To communicate effectively through writing and speaking you need to be able to structure your thoughts. Without the ability to communicate with clarity students of any discipline lack a fundamental tool to enable their ideas to benefit society.

To improve the world around us our thoughts need to be grounded in knowledge of our culture, our history, and our ideas. We need to understand our failures as humans as well as our triumphs. The humanities teach us how ideas are connected to each other, how there is no line between one subject and the next.

The split between science and art is an illusion. Scientists need creativity and passion in the same way those in the arts do. Humanities courses teach us critical thinking, logic, quality control, compassion, and an understanding of the people we share the world with. Karl Popper's hypothetico-deductive model may seem separate to the poetry of Sylvia Plath, but both are results of humans trying to make sense of the confusion we are born into.

You will be a better scientist if you know the history of science, and a better doctor if you know the history of medicine. But more essentially you will be a more critical and compassionate person if you know the workings of the culture you are immersed in, and those of the world around you.

Someone said to me yesterday that to decrease the size of the Humanities division is like going into a human body and deciding one valve on the heart is not currently pumping as much blood as another, removing it, then seeing how the body gets on. Downsizing the Humanities division will affect the community of Dunedin as much as it will affect the University. Our social services, orchestras, art galleries, libraries, local businesses, music venues, council, theatres, newspapers, schools, offices, and radio stations are full of Otago humanities graduates; our society is a body of diverse, interlocking parts.

Jobs in the arts are not measurable in the time or effort needed to do them adequately. Research cannot be put into estimated hours, and teaching cannot be reduced to a student/teacher quota. In teaching and in research you do as much as you are able to do. There is no point where you come to the end of your work and go home early at a loose end. Learning about culture and people is ongoing, and extra time will always be used to add to the multifaceted and overlapping web of human understanding.

Lucy Hunter

Critic deputy editor



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Disillusionment continues within the Humanities Division

On a rainy, windy Wednesday afternoon, a crowd of around 400 gathered to protest ongoing cuts to the Otago University Humanities Division. OUSA Admin VP Jarred Griffiths stood at the foot of the Clocktower addressing the raucous mob through a megaphone declaring "we stand here today surrounded by construction as part of the campus beautification project. I ask you this: Where do the University's priorities stand? Do they stand in adequately funding the departments which serve as the critic and conscience of society for the benefit of all of us? Or do they stand for pretty pavements and walkways?"

That protest has only served to heighten tensions between the University administration and humanities staff, who fear losing their jobs and believe their voice isn't being heard.

An anonymous letter provided to *Critic* this week from within the division made a number of damning claims, including that staff have been warned not to communicate their concerns and that dissent in any form will lead to a decline in divisional EFTS.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Humanities Tony Ballantyne strongly denies the claim, saying, "While I have certainly pointed out the need for us all to act responsibly when we are communicating with our current and prospective students and with our

external partners in light of the very real risks that we have around student recruitment, staff have freely expressed their views, both formally and informally, from the outset of the process."

Also claimed was that the administration had lied about its consultation process. The anonymous writers say that despite a promise to consult extensively with staff, very few Heads of Department had been involved and there was no back and forth, compromise or agreement, but rather an administration dictating terms, with not a single HoD agreeing substantially with the agenda.

Ballantyne again disputes this, insisting "I have had an open door policy and have hundreds of hours in meetings with individual staff, groups of staff, and whole Departments; with a lot of this resulting in ongoing communication. I have worked very closely with Heads of Departments and Deans and they have been fully appraised of every step in the process since April and they have had many opportunities to make suggestions"

With so many accusations flying back and forth and the management change not concluding until November, *Critic* will do our best to keep you posted on this developing story.

By Joel MacManus



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OUSA considers proposal for more Pokestops on Campus

The Executive met Monday in a highly disorganised and easily distracted fashion to consider a proposal by local artist Guy Howard-Smith to paint a large anti-pollution mural on the side of the Birdwatchers flat, 74 Albany Street. Howard-Smith has had a hand in producing a number of large-scale murals around Dunedin, almost all of which are now Pokestops – a fact unbeknown to the artist himself, but which Laura Harris was eager to point out.

Guy requested a funding grant of \$2000, which the exec did not seem super enthusiastic about, especially considering there was some confusion as to whether the 2016 exec could make financial decisions for a project which would not begin until next year. OUSA was willing to provide a

letter of support for the project to the DCC, which should offer some hope to aspiring Pokemon trainers out there.

After the first item of business though, the meeting quickly got off track. Laura presented her summary of activities for the past two months (a rather impressive list), which included a trip to the Invercargill with International Officer Rachel Goh, who described the trip as "Good, despite Laura's shit driving". Laura defending her driving ability and blamed the frosty roads, which in turn led to Colleges Officer Bayden Harris claiming he had a snapchat video of Laura almost running over a child. Laura's defence was that "it wasn't a child", but failed to elaborate further, from which I can only assume that

the almost-victim was a paraplegic puppy in a wheelchair.

The exec touched on a couple more salient points, including the establishment of a working group for more free flu jabs for students and the appointment of a returning officer for the upcoming OUSA election. But a series of dog filter selfies by a giggling Bayden Harris and OUSA CEO Debbie Downs continually dragged the meeting off track, with Laura eventually bringing out her year three teacher voice and asking "do I need to separate you?" with a complaint that that the meeting had "devolved into chaos." On that note, everyone pretty much gave up and went home early.

By Joel MacManus

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if you won't
use your ears.**

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Otago University conducting concussion research alongside Otago RFU

Otago Rugby Football Club has teamed up with the University of Otago to explore the connection between neck strength and concussion.

The ground-breaking study will focus on sensors placed behind the players' ears and will log information allowing them to assess whether or not the neck muscles reduce the acceleration forces of the head during contact.

The devices, no larger than a \$2 coin, will be worn during practice sessions and throughout the club's five home matches this season, two of which have already taken place.

A University of Otago press release notes that this has never been done at professional or even semi-professional level in New Zealand, but it has been conducted on American Football, where

it was found that increased neck strength could reduce the likelihood that a player would sustain concussion.

Dr Danielle Salmon, Research Fellow at Otago University's School of Physical Education and Exercise Sciences, spoke of how the research team hopes "to improve knowledge about concussion in New Zealand, a major medical concern in contact/collision-based sports at all ages and levels of competition."

The outcome of the research could provide a unique perspective of the implications for the prevention and detection of concussion in rugby, according to Ian Murphy, New Zealand Rugby Medical Director. He said how "grateful he was to Otago Rugby and the team at the University

of Otago for their innovative approach to this research and for working with us as we continue to learn more about concussion."

Salmon told Critic that this is a completely new piece of technology and because of this, "we had to get permission from World Rugby before we were able to use the sensor in a game."

Among the medical challenges facing the researchers, "the combination of sweaty rugby players and the rubbing of the ears during contact in the scrum and tackle have made for some interesting challenges. But we had some success in trialling a new method during the Otago B's game this past Saturday and have hopefully turned a corner in being able to keep the sensors on." **By Joe Higham**

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Otago University ranking rises four places

Otago University has improved in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by four places from 2015's results, moving from 173rd to 169th place respectively.

The improvement does nothing to alter their nationwide ranking of second, with the University of Auckland being 88 places ahead on 81st place. It has achieved a top 100 place in each of the last five years, with 2016 being the highlight for the capital's main university over that period.

Since 2012, Otago University's ranking has decreased apart from this year's decline; the institution was in 133rd place in 2012, 155th place in 2013, and 159th place in 2014.

University of Otago deputy vice-chancellor Prof Vernon Squire told the ODT that "Otago's latest ranking of 169 is a small but pleasing improvement on 2015's score of 173."

QS World University Rankings includes 916 different universities, and uses academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty to student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty, and international students as categories for assessment.

According to the system, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is the world's leading university, and has been for the last five years. QS gave them a score of 100 in each category apart from a 99.9 in 'citations per faculty' and a 96.6 for their 'international students'. Stanford, Harvard, Cambridge, and the California Institute of Technology round out the top five.

A press release from Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, reiterated that "New Zealand has a world class tertiary education system and it's great to see our universities continuing to excel in a highly competitive international environment."

The "Government has shown our commitment to universities by increasing funding for the sector by 24 percent since 2008. We also announced \$761 million in new funding for the Innovative New Zealand package of science, tertiary and regional development initiatives in Budget 2016, a lot of which will flow into the university sector."

By Joe Higham

Otago University & DCC to collaborate to clean up North Dunedin's streets

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) and the University of Otago are investigating and preparing the initial procedure to increase the frequency of rubbish collection in North Dunedin to improve the campus' street cleanliness.

According to the meeting minutes from a 30 August 2016 meeting of the Infrastructural Services Committee, "the University has identified that some funding is available for additional kerbside collections and street cleaning in the University Area."

However, the project will not be implemented anytime soon with the University planning on engaging a consultant to work on this project and briefs to be compiled, which will define the problem and scope of improvements.

Despite this, "staff will propose a three month trial of an additional Clean Street Collection Service to remove all visible mess from streets in the Campus area", the minutes state. The project has been specified as one of the council's 'areas of focus for the next quarter', with early next year being a potential timeframe in which to expect its implementation.

The reason for the proposed project is apparently that several University stakeholders have expressed concerns about the cleanliness of streets in the student area, which prompted action. One potential part of the scheme that has been identified in the meeting minutes are "educational initiatives that promote waste minimisation aimed at improving street cleanliness in the campus area", although at this stage the organisations are unable to provide specifics.

Property Services Director Barry MacKay said, "the process will largely be driven by staff from the University and DCC, with input from other interested parties such as OUSA. We are considering using a consultant to assist us with independent ideas and review, but this would be relatively minor work and within existing budgets."

He continued: "The intention is that cleaner streets will provide a wide range of benefits to the local community, of which supporting good behaviour would only be one aspect."

By Joe Higham

How Newshub started a national body shaming campaign against two university students for daring to be skinny

Last week, Farmers posted a photo on their Facebook page to promote dresses from the new Andrea Moore collection. The models were twins and 21 year old students at Auckland University students.

Unfortunately, as internet commentators are wont to do, the post had a bunch of negative comments calling the models all sorts of cruel things for being too skinny and claiming that the image promoted anorexia.

In a perfectly logical move, Farmers took the photos down. They're a business, and they obviously didn't want to be at the centre of social media backlash. They posted a pretty generic non-apology saying "We in no way meant to promote an image for women in NZ to follow that could be regarded as unhealthy." A spokesperson for Farmers did confirm that they intend to work with the models in question going forward.

And that would have been all, but for the fact that Newshub decided that people being dicks on the internet is apparently a valid news story, and suddenly two women who had never asked to be thrown into the middle of a body image controversy were all over the national media.

The first article to go up was titled "Farmers advert compared to The Walking Dead", which entirely consisted of harsh insults plucked from the comment section. As soon as Farmers sent a media response, a follow up was published titled "Farmers deletes 'gaunt and unhealthy' model photo."

Just off that headline alone, there's some pretty shitty journalism going on. The title of that second article would appear to imply that a spokesperson for Farmers or at least some medical professional qualified to determine someone as 'unhealthy' was being quoted. It wasn't, it was just some random angry internet stranger.

Newshub collected and collated the most creative and brutal comments, and published them on their hugely influential website, thereby giving the statements legitimacy but nowhere either explicitly or implicitly criticising those who made them.

However, at least Newshub refrained from naming names. Unfortunately, less than a day later Stuff.co.nz jumped on the bandwagon and released a near-identical article, except for the fact that it published the two models' names. Two women that had done absolutely nothing to deserve these headlines but dare to appear in photos while being thin.

The designer who commissioned the photo shoot was eager to come to the models' defense, calling them "healthy, fun models... they have a great sense of who they are and what they want to achieve in life. We love working with them because of their sense of self-worth and uniqueness." The designer described the women as being "most upset by the whole thing." According to the brand, the campaign was about "preppy grunge, not promoting unhealthy body types or anything else."

As someone who has known the models in question I can personally attest that they have always been naturally thin ...To accuse someone of anorexia is to brand them as mentally ill without a shred of proof

Colin Mathura-Jeffree (NZ's Next Top Model) got pretty barred up, saying "It seems alright to attack thin people for being thin... These girls, it's just their body type." As someone who has known the models in question since we were in year 9, I can personally attest that they have always been naturally thin and it is an extremely unfair assumption that their body type is the result of an eating disorder. To accuse someone of anorexia is to brand them as mentally ill without a shred of proof.

The women themselves did not wish to comment or have their names appear in the media, and expressed a hope that the whole thing would blow over soon, though their agency did confirm that they "received a lot of support from their peers."

In an opinion piece from March this year, Newshub described online commenters who had called Minister for Social Development Paula Bennett a "pig" as "disgusting", "hugely unkind" and "childish". That they would then turn around be complicit in promoting the ugly ridicule of two women who dare to be thin is not only shameful, it's highly hypocritical.

By Joel MacManus

Cost of homelessness more than anyone at Critic will earn in a year, ever

The Government has stated that it will consider a report by opposition MPs on homelessness, despite being unconvinced with the originality of its findings.

It found that each homeless person in New Zealand is costing the taxpayer up to \$65,000 per year, a figure that, if correct, would likely swamp the cost of providing homes to the homeless community in the long term.

The Labour Party has called for a 'state of emergency' in relation to the issue of homelessness, with Labour's housing spokesperson Phil Twyford recently stating: "there are 42,000 people homeless and living in severe housing stress while the National Government behaves like a possum in the headlights. It is time to declare a state of emergency and treat this crisis with the urgency it deserves."

The National Party is currently spending approximately \$10 million a year on its nationwide programme of emergency housing, although the Labour Party is requesting that figure be urgently tripled in order to provide accommodation for an additional 5000 individuals and families in urgent need of state housing.

Our local Dunedin North MP, David Clark believes that "New Zealanders are deeply disturbed by seeing pensioners living out their days in campgrounds, and families living in cars. They want positive solutions, and a Government with the political will to fix the crisis."

Collaborative research between the University of Otago's Wellington and Dunedin campuses has discovered that more than half of all homeless adults in New Zealand are either working or studying, a finding that goes some way to disprove the widespread belief that the homeless community are dangerous due to drug or alcohol abuse.

University of Wellington researcher Dr Kate Amore, from the Health Research Council-funded He Kainga Oranga/Housing and Health Research Programme, stated that "even among one of the most stigmatised populations in New Zealand, most people are participating in society in ways that should allow them to thrive. But this group cannot even access one of our most basic needs—a home."

By Joe Higham

John Key calls Australian PM his "BFF Forever"

Drama broke out on the international relations front after Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull tweeted a picture of himself with newly appointed UK leader Theresa May, with the caption "There couldn't be two countries with closer bonds than Australia and Britain".

A heartbroken John Key, who apparently doesn't know what the third F in BFF stands for told the press that he and Malcolm were still "BFFs forever".

Malcolm reportedly was like "he's cool, but Theresa's hair is super cute and John is totes annoying sometimes" but then John Key was all "WTF, I invited you to my birthday party and gave you those friendship bracelets, super not cool man". Then Malcolm told Julia who told Kevin who told Helen who told me that he doesn't even like John that much and kind of wishes that his locker was next to Theresa's instead.

Rumours of a sleepover party at Malcolm's mum's house next Saturday remain unconfirmed.

By Joel McManus

Mt Eden Prison suggested as shelter for homeless

The derelict grounds of Mt Eden Prison could be used to shelter the homeless, according to submissions from a cross-party inquiry into homelessness.

Submissions to the inquiry will "initially be heard in person at four locations: Te Puea Marae in Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, and Christchurch between the end of August and early September", although you can make submissions online as well.

According to the Green Party, "the inquiry was launched after National MPs turned down opposition requests for a Parliamentary select committee inquiry into the issue. As a result, only representatives from Labour, the Greens and the Maori Party were present at the Te Puea Marae for the inquiry."

Labour Housing spokesperson Phil Twyford said in a joint press release that "we want to hear from those [homeless] families and the agencies working with them about the best ways to support them and reduce the reasons they lose their homes in the first place."

By Joe Higham

A bit of beef at the beach

Multiple cows have washed up on Dunedin beaches in recent weeks, with local residents confused as to how they got there.

As many as three cows were washed up on St Clair beach, with two others appearing in the Lawyer's Head and Tomohawk areas.

Brian Benn, Senior Sergeant of Dunedin, said that locals had informed police that as many as three dead cattle were washed up on St Clair beach on the 3rd of September. Although, police could only officially confirm that one carcass had been found, but removed by a contractor for the council prior to the police arriving.

Scott MacLean, director of environmental monitoring and operations at the Otago Regional Council, told the New Zealand Herald that the owner of one of the beasts had been in contact with the council. His farm was located on a clifftop above St Clair beach. MacLean said the farmer was able to identify the animal as his "based on an ear tag from the carcass."

It has also been suggested that some of the animals may have been washed out to the beach due to flooding.

Contractors for the Otago Regional Council have removed the carcasses. In one case, the animal was buried on site at St Kilda beach because it was unable to be removed due to the state it was in, according to a Dunedin City Council spokesperson.

Critic spoke to Hans Kriek, the executive director for SAFE, about the welfare of these animals. He said that it was "hard to judge because we don't know how they ended up there." He said it was "most logical that they fell off cliffs or got swept away" and there was "not necessarily foul play." "We don't have any particular reason to believe there is anything more sinister here."

He did believe that the appearance of the cows "definitely needs to be investigated," especially if they are found to be all coming from one farm. However, "it could just be a coincidence as the odd animal will wash up," Kriek said.

Kriek urged that if anyone feels there are reasons for concern, they should report it to Ministry of Primary Industries.

By Laura Starling



artist rendition of the beach of horrors

Quarterback's protest moves beyond football field

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's decision to not stand for the national anthem before games has caused debate in America. During the team's most recent matches, Kaepernick has either sat down or kneeled during the anthem to protest against racial injustices in the country. Now other sports stars have joined in the protest, including American soccer player Megan Rapinoe.

On Friday 26th August at a game in San Francisco, Kaepernick sat on the bench during the performance of "The Star Spangled Banner". He clarified his reasons with NFL Media. "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of colour," Kaepernick said. "There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Kaepernick has received criticism from some, mainly on the grounds that his protest is disrespectful to the military. A union for police officers in San Francisco wrote a letter to the 49ers saying if the team's management did not discipline Kaepernick they would boycott the stadium and refuse to work.

On Thursday September 1 in San Diego, Kaepernick and teammate Eric Reid kneeled for the anthem. They decided to kneel instead of sit because they felt it would be more respectful to those who were offended by the protest.

Kaepernick said he will continue kneeling for the national anthem until he sees some "significant change" in US race relations.

On Sunday September 4, American soccer player Megan Rapinoe kneeled during the national anthem. Rapinoe said it was "very intentional" and a "nod to Kaepernick". "We need to have a more thoughtful, two-sided conversation about racial issues in this country."

Naturally, political reaction to the situation has been mixed. When asked for comment, President Barack Obama said he respected Kaepernick's decision. "Maybe his critics will start seeing that he has a point around certain concerns about justice and equality and that's how we move forward," he said. "Sometimes it's messy, but that's how democracy works."

On the other side of the spectrum, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said he thought Kaepernick's protest was a "terrible thing" and that he should "find a country that works better for him."

By Tom Kitchin

German Chancellor Angela Merkel defends immigration policy

Angela Merkel has laid down a strong defence of her immigration policy after witnessing the dramatic rise of right-wing parties in Germany's regional election in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

The country's most popular right-wing party, Alternative für Deutschland, received 20.9 percent of the vote behind the Social Democrats, and with Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party coming third with their worst regional election result ever, with 19 percent, securing just 18 of the 71 seats available.

Sources are divided on the amount of refugees the German Government's policy has allowed to enter the country since the refugee crisis began, but figures tend to range from 400,000 to 1,000,000. Regardless of the number of refugees accepted, the policy has seen increased tensions and conflict among Germany's population.

The decision to implement the policy has received both support and criticism as well as being the central reason given for her success as 2015 Time Person of the Year in her 10th year as leader of Europe's largest economy. Accordingly, she was heralded as being the "Chancellor of the Free World".

However, many see these triumphs of her continuing tenure as disastrous policies that could, if they are not careful, ultimately see the deterioration of a country that has come so far in the 70 years since World War II.

It is unclear whether Merkel will seek a fourth presidential term, "her popularity is sharply down—polls showed uneasiness over Muslim immigrants even before the events of the summer...which her own Finance Minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, termed an "avalanche.""

An estimated 11 million Syrians have fled their homes as a result of the on-going Syrian Civil War and 6.6 million being internally displaced, the situation will certainly plague the refugees' largely preferred home, Europe. Merkel, having implemented the policy, may now be embarking on a defence of it in order to lay the foundations for another presidential campaign; this time around it will be even more difficult for Merkel to succeed.

By Joel MacManus

World Watch

Copenhagen, Denmark

Copenhagen residents used crowbars, power tools and a bulldozer to demolish an infamous open-air drug market known as "Pusher Street" following a shooting that injured two police officers and a bystander. Fed up with crime in the area, residents of Christiania, a semi-autonomous enclave, tore down the makeshift wooden stalls where hash and weed dealers have been allowed to sell for decades.

South Carolina, United States

The fight to stop the spread of Zika claimed millions of unexpected casualties this week after aerial pesticides were sprayed in a bid to control mosquito populations. Soon after the pesticides were released over the area huge numbers of honeybees started crawling out of their hives in a bid to escape, dying just outside the entrance. At a single Bee Farm it was estimated 2.5 million individual honeybees were killed.

Mexico City, Mexico

The Mexican President, Enrique Peña Nieto, ditched his usual scripted speeches in favour of a dialogue with 300 young people in which he tried to explain his disastrous meeting with Donald Trump. On the meeting, Nieto said "there were two options. We could have confronted him...or seek a space for dialogue that can stop him." The Mexican President had been widely criticised for meeting with Trump who has, and continues to, insult the Mexican people.

Sao Paulo, Brazil

A massive demonstration to protest the ousting of Dilma Rousseff from the presidency of Brazil ended with clashes, tear gas, stun grenades and water cannons. Organisers claimed 50,000 Brazilians took to the streets of Sao Paulo four days after the Senate voted to impeach Rousseff and swore in her former vice president, Michel Temer, to serve out the rest of her term. The Senate removed Brazil's first female president from office on the grounds that she broke fiscal laws by glossing the size of the deficit before her reelection in 2014.

Uzbekistan

The president of Uzbekistan, one of the world's most authoritarian regimes, has died after more than 27 years in power according to Turkey's prime minister. Islam Karimov's death was announced during a televised meeting of Turkish cabinet ministers even though the Uzbek government is yet to provide official acknowledgement. Karimov, who was 78, reportedly suffered a brain haemorrhage last week.

FACTS and figures

Finland

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is warning Finns who plan to head abroad for work or holidays to leave their phones and laptops at home because of security concerns. The Spokesperson for the intelligence service has said that people "should not speak on the phone about confidential matters abroad" because networks may not be secure.

Yunnan Province, China

A college in China is trying to stop excessive toilet flushing by giving students electronic passes to access the facilities on campus. Each student at the college is assigned 3,000 litres of water per month on a preloaded card which must be swiped to use the toilets. If they flush more than their allotted amount they'll have to pay extra, although the amount isn't specified.

Australia

Australia's newest banknote has just gone into circulation with a feature designed to help people who are blind or visually impaired. The A\$5 note has two raised dots on both sides of its long sides, allowing those who cannot see it to identify its value. The new design follows a petition started in 2012 that gathered more than 57,000 signatures that is now being credited with persuading the Reserve Bank of Australia to make the change.

The average person spends

6 months of their lifetime

waiting for a red light to turn green

In **1386** a pig in France was

executed by public hanging for the murder of a child

1 in 5 adults believe that aliens

are hiding in our planet disguised as humans

A US dollar bill can be folded

approximately **4,000** times in

the same place before it will tear

It would take a sloth **one**

month to travel **one mile**

Avocados are **POISONOUS** to birds

In 2006 someone tried to sell NZ

on eBay, the price got up to

\$3,000 before eBay shut it down

Human thigh bones are stronger

than **CONCRETE**

NZ First's time to shine in an age of populism?

Order is crumbling. The democratic world is in disarray. Neoliberal capitalism, academia's Marxist identity politics, immigrants, the expert elite – they're all dragging us into an abyss. Only the toughest 'anti-politician' politician will rise to lead us in our anger, our discontent, and our confusion.



Winston 'The Immortal Pinstripe' Peters was in Dunedin last weekend for NZ First's annual gathering, drawing about 300 people and covering a range of topics ahead of next year's general election. In his speech, there was no shortage of talk of the strife and hardship that Kiwis are suffering. Peters covered tertiary policy, drivers' licences, foreign investment and Auckland's housing crisis (an average of one million dollars for a house).

NZ First's biggest policy announcement, the so-called Up Front Investment Tertiary Policy, looks good. Under this scheme, for every year a student stayed and worked in New Zealand after completing their studies, a year is deducted from their student debt. Steven Joyce, the Education Minister, was quick to dismiss it as unaffordable, but that's beside the point here; NZ First might be taking a bit of a generational pivot from its traditional greyed base. Whether or not you support NZ First, this is a good thing, because it means more pandering to students next year, fulfilment of campaign promises is not guaranteed.

Looking at Peter's speech as a whole, in all its rhetorical, ideological glory, it seems that Peters desperately wants to evolve from king maker to simply king next election and he's going to get there by riding the anti-establishment wave of populism that has swept across North America and Europe—fundamentally, getting the disillusioned masses to vote.

Winston Peters is already well placed to do this. University of Otago politics lecturer, Dr. Bryce Edwards, says the first principle of populism is not to sit comfortably at the centre of the political spectrum, "but instead to pivot between the margins of the left-right scale."

Peters took aim at the two major political parties and their similar "neoliberal" economic ideas, describing Labour and National as a choice between Coke and Pepsi. He cham-

if NZ First can pump out some dank memes then they won't need an attractive tertiary policy

pioned the regions over the urban (the decision to hold the conference in Dunedin wasn't an accident) and a hard day's work over creative industry.

Most importantly, Peters took aim at the mainstream media, the expert class and the so-called commentariat. "Be ultra-cautious and ultra-careful," he said. "[The other parties and news media] won't want us to have a decent run at the election. But the wonderful thing on our side now is new technology." Indeed, new media has played a significant role in the Trump, Sanders and Brexit episodes. A more cynical person might say if NZ First can pump out some dank memes then they won't need an attractive tertiary policy.

I'm not convinced NZ First can transform into the kind of mammoth populist movements we've seen in the Western world. Peters is viewed as a master of the old guard. He's the quintessential politician. MMP will continue to give us a colourful parliament, though, and it's not as if Labour has really shone in its role as leader of the opposition. There is disillusionment and anger bubbling away in New Zealand; time will tell whether Peters can tap into it.

By George Elliott

Hong Kong's revolution alive & well

For about 80 days in late 2014, hundreds of thousands of mostly young Hong Kongers took to the streets in an unprecedented act of protest against China's rule over the semiautonomous territory and the increasing detrimental effects of late capitalism.



The student-led occupation of streets and public spaces, called Occupy Central and the Umbrella movement, began after the government said they would not enact democratic reform and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) said it would not relinquish its power to vet and veto candidates for the Chief Executive elections planned for 2017.

The former British colony's politically disenfranchised have once again disrupted the territory's status quo and shown they pose a threat to the pro-CCP elite. Last week, elections for the legislative council (LegCo) saw many voters switch from the more moderate established factions of the pro-democracy opposition to the new radical 'localist' parties born out of the Umbrella movement, culminating in six young activists gaining seats on the 70-seat council. The election also drew a record turnout of some 2.2 million voters or 58 percent.

Of significance is the election of 23 year-old Nathan Law, who, together with fellow activist Joshua Wong, founded the Demosisto party in the aftermath of the 2014 demonstrations. The party, along with a few other one seat factions, represents a political discourse that wasn't really uttered publicly a decade ago. Law and Wong embody a youthful discontent mass that is seriously questioning China's rule over the financial metropolis.

Since being transferred to China in 1997, Hong Kong has been governed under the 'one country, two systems' principle and enjoys a few democratic functions and liberties that are non-existent in mainland China. Largely due to a


strong sense of a national identity separate of China's, Hong Kongers have increasingly called for more autonomy.

"I think Beijing is worried about what happened today, that we have a new voice of resistance," Law told Al Jazeera, "they are worried about that." Not only has Law and his colleagues sent a strong signal to the pro-CCP cabal, but they've also struck a blow against the so-called pan-democracy parties that have comfortably dominated Hong Kong's opposition politics.

There are problems for the new kids on the block. Twenty different parties have seats in the LegCo and there's a lack of unity among the many pro-democracy parties. It's often more complicated than identifying parties as either for Beijing's rule or against. Oppositional demands vary from a referendum on full independence to more trivial democratic protocols. The fragmentation in the pro-democracy camp is unfortunate, because cross-party cooperation will be needed to block unwanted measures the government introduces to the LegCo. But this is democracy and a new one at that; these things won't have straight lines and will be messy for a while.

The revolution that started in the streets of Hong Kong two years ago was formalised in last week's election. New voices have arisen and entered the mainstream. The Chinese Communist Party is shaking in their boots and, looking ahead, will have to tread lightly on a political landscape that has been fundamentally transformed.

By George Elliott


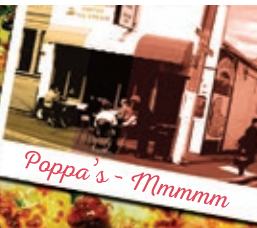


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Opinion

Warriors prove their consistency

This was supposed to be the year that the Warriors finally turned it around and made a serious push at not only the playoffs, but also at the NRL title. Yet, following the conclusion of their embarrassing 40-18 loss to Parramatta last weekend, the Warriors found themselves out of the playoffs for the fifth consecutive year.

It was the same old story this season. Despite the new faces of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Issac Luke, the Warriors got off to another shocking start, losing their first three games. Things went from bad to worse when Tuivasa-Sheck suffered a season-ending ACL injury in round seven. The team never clicked into gear on the field and were embroiled in controversy off it, frustrating their hopeful and expectant fanbase.

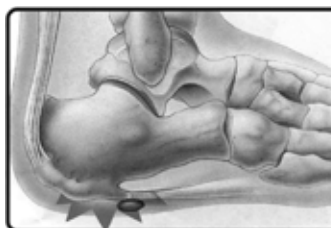
In the end, it finished much the same way as it did in the last few seasons, in utter disappointment. I think by now we have seen that Andrew McFadden is a shit coach, Manu Vatuvei, despite his years of loyal service, is done, while a bunch of half-decent teenagers could create a better defensive line than this lot did this year. But when will the narrative change?

As has become the norm, the only positive was the development of the youth players. Centre Solomone Kata and winger David Fusitua had breakthrough seasons, while promise was also shown by Albert Vete, Jazz Tevaga, and Toa Sipley. However, there is reason to believe that the Warriors struggle to continuously develop after their first couple of seasons. Take a look at Shaun Johnson and now-former Warrior Konrad Hurrell, who both exploded onto the NRL stage, but have failed to progress their game to the next level since. Even Tui Lolohea, the 2015 NRL Rookie of the Year, struggled to replicate his debut season this time around.

Whether this is a fundamental problem with the training staff and management, or simply bad luck, it is unknown. But something has to change. Johnson, arguably the most talented player in the NRL, struggled with niggling injuries all season, and consequently failed to find the form that has made him such a valuable commodity. After the season-ending loss to Parramatta, Johnson said that his team's performances were "frustrating" and he was "over it". His thoughts replicate those of the supporters, who had dreams of a possible Warriors dynasty when the young superstar broke onto the scene in 2011. Alas, it has not come to be.

Once again the upcoming offseason will raise more questions than answers for the Warriors. What moves need to be made? Should McFadden continue on as coach? Will any major changes actually make any difference? Who knows. But something has to happen to reinvigorate this franchise and the passionate league fan base in this country. For now, nothing can be done except to hope for a brighter future.

By Sean Nugent



Heel pain driving you crazy?

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Sir Gordon Tietjens calls quits on stellar career

Sir Gordon Tietjens has finally called stumps as coach of the New Zealand Sevens team, after an unprecedented 22 years behind the reins. During his time as coach, Sir Gordon led the side to four Commonwealth gold medals, two Rugby World Cup Sevens titles and 12 World Rugby Sevens Series wins.

The decision was announced by Sir Gordon at a press conference early last week, alongside NZRU chief executive Steve Tew. Steve Tew, speaking at the press conference, acknowledged Sir Gordon's impeccable record, stating, "I think it is fair to say, no one else will ever rival this record in world rugby in any form of the game... His tenure itself is quite hard to comprehend, but the results inside that period itself are huge."

Tew also credited Sir Gordon with growing not only the All Blacks brand internationally, but the New Zealand brand, explaining that "he opened up international markets that just weren't feasible for the 15 a side game."

Tietjens insisted that it was time for a changing of the guard, and for new, fresh ideas to be brought in, looking ahead to Tokyo in 2020.

Tietjens has been instrumental in the development of some of this country's most famous All Blacks, with names such as Jonah Lomu, Christian Cullen, Cory Jane and Ben Smith all coming out of the sevens production line. As it stands now, Tietjens has coached a total of 44 players in the sevens circuit who had gone on to represent New Zealand in the 15 a side format.

In the New Year's 1999, Tietjens was appointed a Member of The New Zealand Order of Merit, in the New Year Honours 2007, he was elevated to Companion of the same order, and in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2013, Tietjens was further promoted to a Knight Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit.

The hard and arduous task of selecting a coach will be next on the list as the team looks forward from Rio. Many names have been put forwards as suggestions to step in and fill the large boots of Tietjens. Among them

are Ben Ryan, former England coach and current coach of the Fijian olympic gold winning team, Eric Rush, the former superstar of Sir Gordons early teams or even Di Forbes, current member and former captain. However, Sir Gordon is still keen to be involved "in some capacity" reinforcing the fact that at all times he was simply "a phone call away."

By Hugh Baird



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Grindr

You've heard of 'gaydar', right? It's the sixth sense gay men supposedly use to detect other men's sexual orientation. I'm dubious whether it's real, but then again I thought the tastefully-nude Lady Gaga posters in my teenage bedroom would be enough to convince my parents I liked girls (it didn't), so my gay senses have always been way off. Even if gaydar is real, I think it's dying out. The rise of gay hook-up apps like Grindr have made us gays lazy. Unlike the preceding generation, we don't have to look for subtle clues in another man's posture or voice to pick out fellow homosexuals, no. We just have to open an app and are presented with dozens of like-minded men.

Text and illustration, Anthony Gordon

I have friends who've each slept with hundreds of men all thanks to the little orange button on their touchscreen. Why exactly is it that, in some pockets of the gay world, having a triple-digit amount of sexual partners has become the norm?

There are quite a few queer characters in today's movies and TV shows. Sam Smith, droning on about how some man gone done him wrong, gets played every fifteen minutes on Classic Hits. Non-straight people are represented in nearly facet of public life. Normalisation is a good thing. Queer people

will be treated better if there are more queer stories circulating in the common discourse. It's common sense.

I've noticed, however, that this otherwise positive trend has come at an unexpected cost. The true reality of many gay lives, and in particular gay relationships, has been 'straight-washed' out. Gay storylines, especially those where the target audience is really broad, basically mirror straight storylines. The gender of their love interests is the only difference. Gay characters seem to predominantly engage in in traditional



dating and be monogamous and I don't believe this reflects reality. It almost seems like the 'normality' of gay characters has to doubly reinforced; to make their inclusion acceptable to a mainstream audience their love lives need to be really straight-edge, or not even mentioned, to compensate for their liking the same gender. Think Neil Patrick Harris; everybody gushes about how "adorably normal" his husband and kids are. His family's popularity rests on how 'conventional' they are despite the parents being two men.

I can't get too upset this watering-down. During an 'adjustment period' the media will inevitably do this. They're out to make money after all. I do think it's a shame, however, because the gay relationships I've seen tend to follow a wildly different and fascinating narrative. My beliefs stem from my particular experiences. I'm gay, 22, and white, and if any of those things were different maybe I'd think different, but navigating the world of gay dating has always been very different to what I've seen on TV.

If, God forbid, I woke up straight tomorrow, I would have no clue what to do. I mean intercourse would obviously be a train-wreck (very recently I saw a lady-stripper for the first time and was shocked to discover the vagina is not on the front), but how would I even reach that access point? I feel like straight-person options to kick off these proceedings involve either being drunk together in a small, sweaty place, or waiting around impatiently for three months until one of you 'accidentally' grazes the other's arm. I could be wrong though?

The reason for my confusion is simple. Arranging a sexual encounter if you're a gay man can be very straightforward. You know how every few months the New Zealand Herald publishes a 'thinkpiece' with a grammatically dubious title like "Parents shocked! Teens 'hooking up' using app Tinder, as easy as ordering a Pizza!" and how untrue those headlines are? Literally 95 percent of Tinder use is for self-esteem boosting purposes and that's a stone-cold fact. However, if these headlines were talking about Grindr, then yeah, that is actually what it's like. In fact it'd make a great slogan; "try arranging a sexual encounter with another man TODAY! As easy as ordering a pizza!"

Most people know Grindr as the "gay Tinder". This is misleading for a few reasons. Firstly, to send or receive a message, you don't have to 'match' that person; they just need to be geographically close to you. Secondly, your profile is not connected to Facebook, which means you can be completely anonymous, and lastly, you can send and receive pictures. This mostly means pictures of dicks, but if you're interested in a guy but not ready for the world to know, this feature means you can send them, and only them, a picture

"Hooking Up' Using App Tinder, as Easy as Ordering a Pizza!"

—how untrue those head- lines are...

of your face. Basically, if you want to low-key meet up with strangers off the Internet and have sex with them, then Grindr is the perfect little electronic wingman.

With this in mind, it's understandable that there's a weird kind of contrast between the difficulty with figuring out you're not straight, on one hand, and the ease with which you can then have a non-straight sexual experience, on the other. I had a liberal upbringing and accepting family, and despite this acceptance my gayness finally came after years of denial, confusion, self-hatred and blind terror, so you can imagine the difficulties faced by kids who aren't so lucky. However, once you do concede that there are question marks hovering around your orientation, it's actually really easy to test those waters. Make a profile with a tagline like "18 y/o looking for an older man 2 show me the ropes" and a porn-starry name like Dustin or Duke, and within hours you'll have dozens of thirsty men messaging you, and you can do with that attention whatever you please.

Why is it so easy? My theory is that gay men tend to be much more promiscuous than any other demographic thanks to the lingering legacy of old-school gender roles. Today's active gays, myself included, were kids at a time where, more strongly than today, it was reinforced through TV shows and movies that despite the sexual-revolution being forty years ago, guilt-free sex was still the dominion of the man. Before I had any idea I was gay, I'd been exposed again and again to the idea that a man having lots of sex was cool

and normal, but a women having lots of sex was shameful and abnormal.

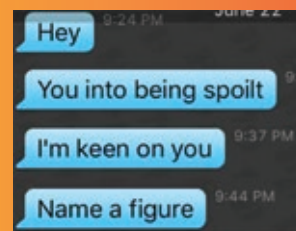
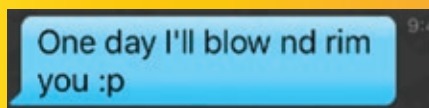
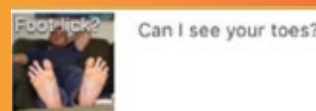
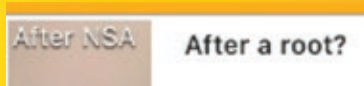
By the first time I was at Farmers with mum and, for some reason, I couldn't pull my eyes away from men's bulges on underwear packets (ask any gay man, this will have been their first inkling). Thanks to my being raised in profoundly sexist world, my brain has been wired to have a more sexually-liberated future in a way my female friends weren't. This mind-set means that men, in general, are going to have a lot less problems with no-strings-attached sex, and so it is logical to see how the sexual politics of same-sex relationships have evolved out of this to be very different from the sexual-politics of heterosexual relationships. This, combined with the fact apps like Grindr make it stupidly easy to arrange a hook-up, means that alarming amounts of gay sex is probably happening all around you, all the time. Great stuff!

Grindr could be perfect, but just like communism or free-refills at Burger King, it doesn't always work out so wonderfully because a few people ruin it for everyone else. Every online dating profile contains one or two little fibs; listing your annual salary as two hundred thousand a year isn't convincing when I can see from your third picture you drive a 1996 Corolla. It's cool though, because I've lied on my profile too (I've written that I'm "outdoorsy" and "active"

more than once) so it works out to be an even playing field. Grindr takes it to a whole new level though; from little embellishments to straight-up lies. If there is a reason for a dude to lie about their age, job, their bloody favourite colour if it serves the purpose of getting you to come over and sleep with them, then they probably will. The hope is that once you make the effort to travel there and then find out they're much closer to pension-eligibility than they let on, it'll be too awkward for you to back out now. You tell yourself it could be worse and you have sex with them anyway, breathing a heavy sigh of relief when their "monster cock" turns out to have misplaced three of its promised inches over the duration of your Uber ride there.

As well as being great for seeking out no-strings-attached 'fun', Grindr is also heavily used to meet new people and make friends, arrange nice, normal dates, or just to gauge a sense of what the gay community is like. Understandably, for someone after more than just sex, opening the app and being immediately presented with the third picture of a spread asshole from funtimesindunedin56 this week can get annoying. The brilliance of not having to match somebody to initiate a conversation is that it opens you up to connecting with people you wouldn't otherwise think you're attracted to. Inevitably, however, it also means you people can, and will, send you insane messages.

Here's some screenshots from my inbox:



Believe it or not, none of these message are particularly crazy and uncommon; it's just that the crudeness—levels on Grindr are constantly dialled all the way up to eleven. Imagine some high-schooler coming to terms with their sexuality and tentatively downloading Grindr, only to immediately be confronted with overwhelming evidence that yes, just like their drunk great-aunt loudly proclaimed at Christmas dinner, the gays are indeed a group of filthy, disturbed perverts. Actually, everybody is a pervert and the Internet just lets us be perverts more easily, but that's beside the point. That poor kid would go scrambling back into the closet faster than you can say "Britney Spears is the greatest entertainer of the last 50 years".

For some reason heaps of gays I've met think it's impossible for them to be a bigot. Since they're part of one marginalised group (and, let's be real, it's not that hard being a wealthy, white, reasonable attractive gay man), they feel like it gives them a free pass to be nasty people, quite often under the auspices of being 'sassy' or 'real'. Racism, misogyny and yes, homophobia, are plagues on the gay community, and in no place is this more visible than on Grindr.

This is bullshit on so many levels. These dudes would defend themselves on the basis of "it's not racist/close-minded, it's just a preference". Everyone has preferences, yes, but if you're not into someone just don't reply! I don't even need to explain why putting "not into xyz" on your profile, a place where 'xyz' guys will definitely see it, is incredibly shitty. Your momentary inconvenience at having to look at a non-white guy's profile, for example, is not something worth ruining another guy's day over.

The whole "I'm straight-acting, not interested in fems" thing is especially saddening to me, and not just because it's the only kind of discrimination that kind of affects me. The people who kick-started the gay rights movement were drag queens, camp, overtly queer people from all sorts of backgrounds. It seems like today's gays, armed with apps like Grindr, have repaid those people's sacrifices by pushing their kind to the fringes of the supposedly inclusive community they created. According to Grindr, it's super hot to be as "straight acting", as not-gay-seeming, as possible. Dudes like this will make a big deal about how they have straight-male friends, and like sports and cars and "aren't like most gay guys". It's fine to put on your Grindr profile that you're more masculine, sure, but it's nothing but internalised homophobia to name certain "straight" qualities as desirable, to the exclusion of anything else. The only silver lining about these dude's profiles is that they're an instant asshole-identifier. You know not to reply when they message you "hey bro".

Being a participant in the "gay lifestyle" has always been a wild and entertaining, if not always blissful ride, and as I've said, it's kind of sad to see these crazy stories watered-down in

Chilled easy going guy :-)

Have face pic like 2 see who I'm talking 2. St8 acting, into motorsport & cars. Not into Asians or Indians

READ PROFILE JESUS!!!!

CAUCASIAN ONLY! Not racist just prefer it, please respect under 30's and read my profile before actually talking to me!

Just like communism or free-refills at Burger King, it doesn't always work out so wonderfully because a few people ruin it for everyone else

mainstream representations. Of course it is only my (very wise and sage) opinions that have informed this piece. However, I like to think, as bad as Grindr can sometimes be, it has brought people together under the united front of collective having the same weird experiences. I mean, thanks to Grindr, any gay dude can have a smartphone full screenshots of weird conversations and un-asked for dick pics ripe for laughing about with your friends and family (possibly not the latter), and if that can't bring us all together, I don't know what can.



The Tales of a Clothed Stilettos Worker

Katie Thain

Towards the end of last year, facing the rapidly approaching Studylink allowance cut-off date, I came to the realisation that I needed a job, and fast. One night after a few too many drinks, and a game of truth or dare that went too far, I found myself waking up the next morning with not only a hangover but also a job on the bar at one of the finest establishments Dunedin's nightlife has to offer: Stilettos. Having never set foot in a strip club before my first night on the job I was unsure how to prepare myself for this experience, but when I arrived the women were friendly which made it easy to settle in.

Although my stint at Stilettos was short-lived it was a fun and easy-going gig, and beyond that it was really quite a fascinating opportunity for people watching; the character profiles of certain patrons whom I served while working on the bar have provided me with enough material to write a pilot episode for a late-night television comedy; instead I have settled with an article for *Critic*. Here are some of the most outstanding ones, and should you decide to visit such an establishment, please do take note.

■
25

The Blatant Students

The Blatant Students are mostly 18-20 year olds who are clearly very excited about the prospect of being inside a strip club. They have scraped together \$20 of their weekly student allowance to pay the door charge, and because of this they make the mistake of thinking that they are entitled behave as they please. They usually come in groups of 5-10 and sit as close to the stage as possible. It is common knowledge that strip club etiquette requires tipping. If you aren't tipping, you shouldn't be there – if this is you then you're better off just going to a normal bar and watching town-goer women who frolic about wearing next-to-nothing for free. The blatant students come in grinning and gleeful. They order one drink; "what's cheap here? Oh yup I'll get a cruiser then" and then after having to be strongly prompted, will begrudgingly agree to buy some tipping money too. The amount of times I have had to tell The Blatant Student that "no, you cannot have that in ones" is ridiculous. Don't be one of the Blatant Students. It's embarrassing and uncomfortable for everyone involved.

The Couple

Going by my careful observations, statistically, boyfriend-and-girlfriend visits to a strip club end in a fight 99.9 percent of the time. The visit starts off fine; clearly their relationship is rock-solid, and she is a 'real chill girl' ("I'm not a regular girlfriend, I'm a cool girlfriend"). Fast-forward to after a few more rounds, and Chill-Girl is having a meltdown because Faithful Boyfriend has, god forbid, tipped one of the dancers, and as a result Chill-Girl is now leaning over the bar and through angry tears is demanding that I tell her if I think that the dancers are hotter than her. Unfortunately the bouncer views this as harassment, so she is quickly removed, followed by a very uncomfortable and apologetic Faithful Boyfriend, who clearly would rather hang around here than go home and deal with the aftermath of what was meant to be a fun night out. Moral of the story: If you're heading to the strip club, go with the lads! Go with the girls! Perhaps even go on your own! But for the greater good of everyone involved, do not go with your significant other. It is a recipe for disaster.

The Awkward Guy

The Awkward Guy is one of the most commonly profiled characters of all the Stilettos patrons. He almost looks innocent, like finding himself in a strip club and stumbling across all these women dancing naked was some sort of accident, entirely unintentional. You're not fooling anyone, Awkward Guy, I think to myself as he approaches the bar. "Could I also get some of that... you know...ah... funny money?" he asks, obviously wanting to request some tipping money in addition to the drink he just ordered. Clearly I know what he is referring to, however I feign a look of puzzlement for a few moments and after letting the discomfort build and watching him become more and more flustered I say, "Oh, are you referring to the in-house currency? Yes of course. How would you like that? In twos or fives?" This isn't the place for euphemisms, Awkward Guy. We are both adults in a strip club, just ask for the damn tipping dollars.

The "When's-It-Your-Turn" Guy

Personally, I just think that the "whens it your turn guy" is plain selfish. There are many women out on the floor that he has the privilege of choosing from, yet he tries his luck on the only one that isn't available to de-robe. "When's it your turn" Guy has a leery grin and uneven stubble, and most of his time in the club is spent sliming over the bar knocking back drinks in order to be able to keep paying for more excuses to talk to me. Don't be the "When's It Your Turn" Guy. It's creepy and rude.

The “Would-You-Be-Interested-In-Doing-Private-Dances-For-Me-At-My-House” Guy

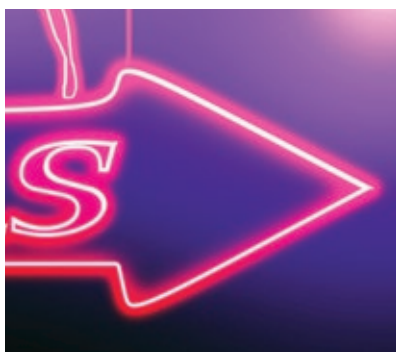
The “I-Don’t-Usually-Come-To-Places-Like-This” Guy

The Awful Misogynistic Nightmare Guy

1. I am not a dancer
2. Absolutely not
3. This reads far more like a court case in the making than a request for a home lap-dance

I'm not sure how this is meant to be of interest to anyone. Who are you trying to convince here? Even if that is true, there's no need to mention it in a way that suggests you've got some kind of a grip on a moral high ground, or maybe you're just the type to constantly preach your self-righteousness. No one here cares about the status of how often you visit a revue bar; so long as you buy drinks, tip the dancers and behave yourself, you're all the same to us.

This guy is the worst kind of person regardless of whether he is encountered in or outside of the club. He comfortably refers to women as "bitches" and can definitely identify with the term "Meninist". It is unclear what went wrong in Awful Misogynistic Nightmare Guy's life for him to end up like this, and he probably shouldn't be allowed out in on a Saturday night un-chaperoned, let alone be allowed into a strip club. It only takes one crude remark for this guy to be removed hastily by the bouncer, a very much deserved kicking to the curb. Unfortunately, Awful Misogynistic Nightmare Guy is a reasonably common example of how many men behave towards women who work in establishments such as Stilettos. Working at a strip club is a choice, and women who choose to do it do so on their own terms; on top of that, they probably make more in a night than your shitty part-time minimum-wage café job pays in a fortnight.



So we've learned that strip clubs are fun. They're exciting. They're full of scantily clad women, and men awkwardly shuffling to the bathroom after getting a private lap dance. But they also attract a lot of really negative stigma and assumptions. Don't be derivative of Awful Misogynistic Nightmare Guy. Regardless of whether you intend to visit a strip club or not, no one has a perfectly clean record, therefore no one deserves to be positioning themselves on a metaphorical throne of moral superiority; if you're critical about the idea of strippers, just keep that to yourself.

These women may be strippers, but given that a lot of them are students, it is not unheard of that they could go on to become doctors, CEOs, lawyers and world-class surgeons (Google it. There are reputable articles written about ex sex-workers who are high profile, corporate professionals now). Some people might consider it "wrong" but what's also wrong is your child slave-labor produced Nikes, your factory farmed pork, and the emissions that your car produces while it's burning fuels that fund wars.



swipe right, strap on, sneak out

jackson payne

■
28

It was on the front page. It was a story about this new app – meant you could meet people from the comfort of your couch without a single spray of cologne. My girlfriend had just finished reading it. She said: "Would you use it? Ya know, if you were single?" Sensing a minefield I scoffed. "Ha, um, nah, not really my style eh. Internet dating? Pff." As soon as she left the room I picked up the paper and read. It sounded like a steady diet of chocolate and wine. It sounded

great. A month later I was single. I downloaded it. That was three years ago. Since then I've been in a few short-lived relationships; I've had soul-destroying interactions with people whom I'll never meet and others who I hope not to meet again; but mostly I've had a lot of fun. There are a number of stories I could tell. Like the time my Tinder date went on Tinder while we were on our date. I walked out. In Austin I went on a date with a couple. Another time my date

and I tried to find a toilet in which to have some fun, only for me to walk in on a woman taking a poo. However, there is one story that takes the cake.

She was very specific about when she could meet. Only between the hours of 11 and 1. Not suitable hours for a date but I was in New York City and had learned quickly that the same rules do not apply there. She cancelled on me at the very last minute on the Tuesday – something that is not just a regular occurrence in the Tinder world but an expectation. I was nonplussed. The next day I received a message from her. "The reason I'm being so specific about when we have to meet up is that I'm a dominatrix and I'm in town with a client. I hope that doesn't put you off." I said: "Quite the opposite."

I was in America so I met her in the lobby of her Hotel Bar. She had long blonde hair that covered half her face, thinly masking her nervous eyes. She spluttered that it was her first Tinder date. She was in town with her one and only client, a wealthy doctor from Oakland for whom she had been working about five years. He paid her, in American terms, what was considered a good salary. All she had to do is fuck him in the ass with a dildo every now and then. We sat and talked and drank and she put my drinks on the doctor's tab at the hotel. I said: "Are you sure?" She waved me away as though I was silly. I was silly. After a short time she invited me up to their bedroom. The bedroom she was sharing with the doctor, whose name I was never told.

"Won't he be back soon?" I asked.

"He's at a medical conference a few hours away from here. He always messages me when he's on the way back, so don't worry."

She was gentle and fun and not at all what one would expect after hearing the title "dominatrix". Halfway through she asked me if I would like her to use her strap-on. I declined. We had been a while and I was getting nervous. She assured me it was okay, but we began to wrap things up nonetheless and jumped into the shower. As I was pulling on my shoes she said he was on the way. He had just messaged. She called room service to change the sheets and bring up new towels and then I followed her out of the room. I looked up as a tall, grey man moved toward us down the hallway. With both hands she shoved me in the chest and I stumbled back through the door and into the room. "Stay there," she

whispered with fury, shortly before the door closed with a thud that elevated the knot in my throat. I looked around for an exit. There wasn't one. I wondered if I could hide in the bathroom or in the closet or under the bed. That seemed stupid. And I'd known from watching enough movies that never really worked out. I smiled. This was simultaneously the most hilarious and potentially disturbing experience of my life. It was so cliché that I thought I was the subject of an elaborate reality TV joke.

What was going to happen? What were the rules between dominatrix and submissive? I knew he was her only client but did this make it exclusive? After a few minutes the door handle rattled and I closed my eyes, bracing myself for the worst – an angry doctor. It opened and she stood there holding a laptop bag. "I told him to go down to the bar and order me a drink," she said. "I'm the Dom so he has to do what I say." I breathed a heavy sigh of relief.

At the time I had extremely long hair and a slender frame. I told her to say I was a girlfriend of hers with whom she'd not seen in awhile. She liked the idea, told me to wait a little while and then leave. We thanked each other, hugged, and then she left me standing there, the bed in disarray, towels everywhere, the room with that familiar tang. I waited a few minutes, took off my jacket, tied up my hair and walked down the same corridor I had seen the doctor in. The lift opened in the lobby bar. I was careful not to look. I kept my eyes to the ground, walked out of the hotel and into the street. I hailed a cab and went back to my friend's house with whom I was staying.

Shortly after returning home to Melbourne I met someone through Tinder. We ended up in a long term relationship. We broke up about a year and a half ago. Since then I've been back on the app twice. Most recently a month ago. I've been stood up, cancelled on, I've counselled a woman who'd just stopped taking her depression medication, I've made a friend, and been called a weasel after using the same opening line on her as I did her housemate. Whoops. As I sit and write this, I'm messaging back and forth with one of my very good friends, seeking her advice on this article. I met her on Tinder three years ago.

What I've learned about Tinder is to be open to everything, then anything will happen.

LETTER OF THE WEEK:



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

An open letter to the animal facility protesters,

As an animal conscious researcher, some things from the protests that I wanted to address.

All animal research is overseen and approved by ethics boards. Talk to them and they will explain that the reason we euthanize our animals after research is that we are required to by law, with the idea that modified laboratory animals cannot be released into the wild and no one is willing to adopt 13,000 mice per year. They would explain that animal research is only conducted when deemed necessary and that we follow the tenets of the three Rs: reduce, replace, refine (Wikipedia it for more info). Being an animal rights activist doesn't even preclude you from being pro-animal research, just as it wouldn't preclude you from being non-vegetarian. This letter is simply a plea to keep the debate in the real world, because it's a valuable debate to have.

We cannot simulate medical research and animals are still incredibly valuable and useful in all aspects of biology. If simulating medical studies could replace animal research, then why would the University spend millions of dollars a year running animal research and tens of millions of dollars to build a new research facility? Imagine the computer they could be running for these costs. It's not that we lack the funding or are behind the times, animal research is simply the only way to discover fundamentals of biology and the complex interactions within it. Physics is a simple discipline, yet even physicists need to conduct experiments. Chemistry is more complex than physics and you wouldn't suggest they simulate all their data, and then biology is a complex mess of physics and chemistry together. We simulate what we can, but in the grand scheme of things, that's not much. If

we could we would. We don't enjoy using animals, and data from simulations is much clearer cut and cheaper, but in the end biology is still too complex and mysterious to work as a theoretical discipline. Any computer simulation we make comes with assumptions and simplifications so we can write it within our lifetime and get a computer to finish running it. We are still a long way from being able to model an organism or even a cell in any complete way.

Tied to this, medical research always starts with animals. Saying that animals are poor models for medicine is not getting the point, because that's where almost every piece of medical knowledge generated in the last 100 years has come from. Medical research works by finding something basic in a distant and more ethical organism (not a good definition but I think we can all agree that we care about monkeys more than we care about mice), and then building that up through more related organisms and eventually humans. Saying medical research isn't immediately applicable from animals, and thus is worthless, is a misunderstanding of medical research.

Secondly, medical students in Otago don't use animals. Once you are in medical school you are using patients and cadavers that have been bequeathed to the medical school. Perhaps in health science courses, animal tissue is used, but health science isn't just medical students, they are general biology classes. Americans also have to take general biology classes before going into medical school and they too will deal with animal tissue at that point. The point is that the biology departments and medical school at Otago is no more or less advanced than other places, at least in terms of animal use.

Yours sincerely,
One of many careful researchers

NOTE 2.0 FROM THE CAMPUS COP:

On the 5th September issue, I posted an article about students on roofs and commented that "shit happens".

Upon reflection, and along with some healthy discussion with our Proctor Dave Scott, I have come to the conclusion that this phrase may be out of context.

"Shit happens" is a common expression that portrays life as being full of unpredictable events; that bad things happen to good people for no particular reason. This can be true but only to a point.

It is more correct to say that bad things happen to people for a reason and that is, they make poor choices.

We all have free will. You choose who to have a relationship with. You choose who you flat with, what you eat and how you spend your time.

You choose to binge drink, throw bottles, light fires or climb on roofs.

Life is full of choice and we live with the consequences of those choices.

So to avoid the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, make smart choices.

Live long and prosper.

Regards Constable John Woodhouse

SERIOUS JOURNALISTIC MALPRACTICE

Dear *Critic*,

The scarf on this week's cover couldn't wrap around the clocktower like that. Just saying

Sincerely,

-Someone who knows about physics

Dear Physicist,

Thank-you for your letter regarding a giant illustrated scarf around a real building. Go fuck yourself,

Kindly,

Teched

THIS WEEK'S POETRY ENTRY

The Editor,

I don't know if it is relevant or even topical, but in a letter to one of his friends Charles Bukowski said in one paragraph (1984) "and the moderns borrow from the past and extend the error. Some claim that poetry is not for the many but for the few. So are most of the world governments. So are riches and the so called class ladies. So are the specially built toilets." - from Charles Bukowski on Writing." (2015)

Cheers,
Des Boyes

WE'VE MISSED YOUR LETTERS SUE

The Editor,
Critic,

Dear Sir,

Modern technology, amazing. On a person still, or moving in a fixed pattern, a cyber artist trained in advanced surveillance, possibly as part of the cannabis eradication scheme, can teach electronic stimulation of the gonads, impose a ghost penis into that person when they are alone and make it look like sex. Also, if your legs feel weird and invisible mosquitos bite you, and when you go out, your back suddenly hurts on the way, the secret legs only pornography site has you amongst its over 500 slaves, and if you protest your private body functions will be included with wide ranging defamation. If this is so funny, think how the new wide paths offer no impediment to a video scrutiny, and the advance of brain scanners to public places. How do you folks feel about letting the right to privacy slip away unnoticed? I deliver this letter through the invasive electrical storm by the *Critic* office.

Yours faithfully,
Susan Heap

OH THE HUMANITY!

Sir/Madam,

Perhaps the last two Ministers of Finance and Deputy Prime Ministers of NZ, (1999-2016) for the last seventeen years, are the best argument for keeping the humanities departments intact at Otago University. Because, the same Sir Michael Cullen and the Right Honourable Bill English are its past graduates. Michael Cullen was also a history lecturer as well as doing his doctorate here. They did not simply enrol in marketing management 101 to get where they are. Instead, they aspired to learn culture and tradition and have attempted to follow in it.

It is that culture at Otago University humanities departments from which we have all benefited.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony Skegg
B.A Otago

A HELL OF A WARNING...

the illuminati are ALL going to be dead soon...

...who could be afraid of a bunch of morons who have to PAY for sex with prostitutes and child sex slaves !!!

... who could be afraid of a bunch of morons who eat each other's shit !!!

... who could be afraid of a bunch of idiots that eat human babies !!!

-Anon.

>If you know anything related to the illuminati, please contact us post haste: critic@critic.co.nz

MY BIG FAT INDIAN WEDDING!

Meet Naina Khanna. She's your everyday, happy-go-lucky strong independent sweetheart with an attitude that you just can't mess with. Of course, any story about an Indian boy wouldn't be complete without cricket and Naina's perfect world couldn't be any more complete without Virat, her mischievous, handsome younger brother. Everything seemed in line for the Khanna family until one day....

Bring some tissues and maybe some pants and we promise that this will be one hell of an emotional rollercoaster ride, that will make you laugh till you cry and cry till you laugh as we help Naina and Virat discover the depths of their inseparable sibling bond while finding their roots.

But what else lurks in the shadows? What secrets are revealed? Who will Naina choose?

Here's your invitation to the biggest wedding of the year, The Indian Students Association Presents the spiciest, baddest cultural show in our 10 year history "My Big Fat Indian Wedding" can you handle the heat?

>16-17 September
7:30pm (Doors open at 7pm)
Teachers College Auditorium

HOT TIP:

The commerce building parking lot is the best spawn spot for pokemon

-Anonymous

A reader informed us: Wasabi in the Uni food court will not give you wasabi, even if you ask.

NONE SO BLIND

by Isa Alchemist

I'm not good with glasses. I keep taking them off and putting them on, covering them in sticky finger marks, and shoving them onto my head where they drop onto the floor. One of my friends pointed out, politely, that they were very dirty. I was surprised. When I'm wearing them, it feels like something's wrong.

That's why I was very excited to get Contact Lenses. Each lens is supposed to last for about six weeks. I have two different lenses, for right and left eyes. They are little, colourless bits of nothing. Even with 20/20 vision they are not easy to see. So typically this is what happens: I open up the new packet of fiddly little plastic that has a lens in it. My glasses fall on the floor. I am now certifiably blind. I know there is a little round bit of vision in a small bit of plastic in front of me. I stab around until my finger feels the wet patch of lens solution. I think I have put it on the end of my finger and poke my eye. Sometimes it goes in! A triumph of odds! Mostly, it doesn't. I call out for my partner. He sometimes finds it, a little crusty and worse for wear, on the floor or the table. The dog licked it up one morning.

And the reverse happens at night. I have two little cases, marked faintly with L and R. The first lens (in my right eye, as I am left handed) comes out not too bad - I lick my finger, stick it around my eye and there it is, shiny and magical, on the end of my finger. The next one I can't see as well, but I am confident I have put it in the case marked L.

In the morning I discover either that both lenses are in the same case. (I have a 50 percent chance of getting the right lens in the left eye). Or one is missing. If it's found, it's crispy.

The lenses I have are called "disposable". They didn't mean it daily apparently. They are meant to last a month. So I'm getting the hang of it now. I prefer them to glasses. And I've mostly stopped putting on my make up and eating chips before I put my lenses in. Both of which gave me literally eye-watering pain. Wearing them in the shower is useful. I don't wash my hair with shower cleanser any more.

There are numerous bottles of lens solution dotted around my desk and the kitchen table. Within reach of a blind person (me). I did use tap

water, but then I read that there is a naturally occurring amoeba that occurs in tap water, and which can cause blindness (or in my case enhanced blindness). Remarkably, I have had no eye infections (that I was aware of) Which is good, because the antibiotic drops apparently eat the lens material. The lens cases are quite cheap, about \$1.50. If I've had to reinstall the lens during the day and think I may have confused right with left, I put it in a lens case and open a new pair. I have lots of lens cases around my desk. Poke-it-in go.

I'm going back to my optometrist soon. It will be a year. He's a man of few words: "You have astigmatism. Your long vision wouldn't pass a driver's test. Your eyes are dry." They don't include active listening in the Optometrist training. But he's the keeper of the lenses, so he's my hero.

I read a tip recently. If you turn out the light and shine a torch around the room, the light will reflect off the lens. I'm going to try it, as soon as I find my glasses.



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



Sarah-Jane McGill

Graduate of the Otago Pharmacy School



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PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS SHOULD BE LEGALISED

+Affirmative

—Negative

by Blue Steel

What time is more appropriate to talk about drugs and sport than the Olympics?

There's an easy joke to be made about Russia right here, but I'm better than that. Anyway, is it a bad thing to have nine foot tall steroid-sacks that can hurl a shot put farther than most of us can see? The answer is not necessarily; the problems of fairness and good sportsmanship already exist in the current system because of inconsistent sporting rules.

The first question we have to ask ourselves is "why do we enjoy sport?" It's not because we like the warm-fuzzies of fair competition in the noble-minded pursuit of the greatest athlete. This isn't ancient Greece and the Olympics no longer solely consist of oiled up men wrestling each other. We enjoy it because it is a spectacle. Each event or game is a demonstration of awesome human ability. We don't watch the 100 metre sprints because we believe that anyone could win, we watch it because Usain Bolt is terrifyingly fast.

PEDs can improve that spectacle phenomenally. It's important to note that we do already do things to improve the demonstration of skill. Athletes aren't ordinary Joe Bloggs off the street; they supplement natural talent (often also at a huge risk/cost to themselves) with intensive training, dietary regimes and specialist coaching. Likewise, performance enhancing drugs enhance existing skills – you still need to learn technique, and practice to improve that technique. PEDs make you better able to learn and do well at that particular sport. The better you are able to do, the more of a spectacle the sport is.

PEDs also level the playing field between richer and poorer nations. It costs millions to build training facilities and purchase Olympic class equipment for your athletes. Those same athletes have to be able to afford to devote their lives to coaching and training, rather than working a job to support themselves. Comparatively, steroids are relatively cheap. They don't mean you don't have to train, but you can afford to train with less. This isn't important because we want a fairer world, it's important because currently the developed world can rest on their laurels. Performance enhancing drugs mean a better class of athlete globally and so a better competition overall.

by The Karate Kid

PEDs don't improve the spectacle of sport. The reason why people love watching Usain race is that he defies expectations and abilities, not only of viewers but also of competitors, most of whom have doped in the past. It's all relative and let's be real here, when everybody on the track runs five seconds faster the competition has in no way been enhanced. The analogies to diet and training overlook one of the most fundamental reasons that PEDs are so widely opposed; they can be detrimental to athletes' health – especially in the long-term. The inevitable popularisation of PEDs that would stem from legislation would place an unprecedented level of pressure on athletes to take dangerous risks with usage to try and gain a competitive edge. Legalising PEDs will only bring out their ugly side at a devastating cost.

Even if we agree that the additional thrill of raising the average a bit would be good for entertainment purposes, it's not all about the spectators. Athletes are real people who pursue sport, at least initially, for the social and health benefits at a grassroots level. Legalising PEDs would have the potential to harm amateur and development level sport because it says to people starting sport "if you want to be truly competitive you have to dope"... something that could easily disillusion and dissuade people from pursuing sport further.

Another issue is choice. Athletes and their coaches deserve the right to abstain from doping but realistically, the probable proliferation of PEDs puts coercive pressure on athletes to opt in in order to be competitive in their field—even if it's something they fundamentally oppose. Furthermore, developing countries don't actually win here. The financial advantage that some countries exploit at high-level sport, if anything, would be amplified by the legalisation of PEDs. Richer nations will arguably be able to develop better PEDs and fund them more widely than poorer nations. Further, re-allocating funding to PEDs and away from facilities, coaching, and equipment for athletes in the developing world will likely result in no net performance gain when it comes at the cost of refining skills. Unless we assume that every athlete in developing nations is at the absolute peak of their game then PEDs are a proposal developing nations should abhor.

PEDs negatively affect sport as an institution and don't improve the spectacle... so why bother using them?



VALUING HUMANITIES

by David Clark

As the local MP—and three times over a proud Otago humanities graduate, I am grateful for the opportunity to add my voice to the growing chorus of voices frustrated at the increasingly marginal place of humanities in our universities.

A threatened cut of up to 20 humanities roles at the University could be avoided if Labour's three years' free post-secondary education policy was introduced. Other faculties would benefit too.

Though debate about the changing nature of universities and of wider society is not the exclusive purview of humanities academics, voices from the humanities feature prominently in social and political critique. These voices are healthy to a functioning democracy and must not be lost.

At a time of rapid change in society, it is imperative that the role of the university as critic and conscience of society is not jeopardised. The current Government has imposed a governance model on university councils that cabinet itself won't tolerate in its own decision-making processes. From the top they have underfunded, bullied, and imposed corporate structures upon universities across the country. These imposed cultural changes have played a part in creating an environment where some academics think twice before entering public debate.

Things are heading in the wrong direction. The number of people attending tertiary study has fallen by nearly 20 percent in less than a decade, and is forecast to fall further in coming years. In part this is because education has become unaffordable for many. According to the Student Loan Annual Report: Student debt is at \$15 billion, up 55 percent under the current Government. It is sadly no surprise that home ownership among people aged 20–40 has fallen from over 50 percent before student loans were introduced to just 25 percent today.

■ Labour's three years' free programme is affordable because it would be phased in over successive terms – one free year at a time. And it is not just students that would benefit. Using the economic modelling released by the University in August, Dunedin stands to gain to the tune of \$233 million if the university grew by 15 percent—the expected response to our policy. According to the modelling, that amount of growth at the University would likely create more than 2000 more jobs across the city.

I believe in the value of a diverse and rich humanities education. And I implore those making decisions to look to the future where the adaptability, creativity, resilience and critical thinking of humanities graduates is likely to be more needed than ever.



LEMON SCRUMPY & SYNC (PUMPY)

by Fred Flintstoned & Beerney Rubble

Some are calling it the Pumpsy revolution of 2k16 as Scrumpy and Syncs are flying off the shelves simultaneously. Boasting a combination of great taste, easy drinkability and next level froth factor it's no wonder Pumpsy is taking over the vomit stained streets of Dunedin.

The origins of Pumpsy arise from mistakenly adding Pulse to a cup of Scrumpy in an epic game of Rage Cage. Unfortunately it took a blow when Pulse was discontinued. However, not to fear as a hero arose to take its place. The humble Sync was deemed a suitable champion for it too contained the save level of alcohol while providing the necessary caffeine and guarana that allow a Scrumpy to be pumped up.

Before starting a night on Pumpsy one must be prepared to light up the dance floor and cut shapes like there is no tomorrow, as this is the only guaranteed side effect of such a drink. It's been deemed fondly by its most passionate fans as "the alcohol equivalent of shelving a pinger followed by smashing five Jager bombs in a row." Not only that, but you must be prepared for people to be throwing themselves at you as your killer dance moves present what a superior specimen you are.

The Pumpsy range comes in three flavours depending on which Scrumpy you choose to mix your Syncs with. A personal favourite is lemon, a drink which normally on its own is quite fowl suddenly becomes a bubbly delight I've grown to affectionately call L&Pumpsy, due to its likeness to L&P. At only 13.7 standard drinks for \$19.99 it's not the cheapest drink on the shelf, but the caffeine and sugar should be taken into account when making decisions for a big night out.

Its convenient size means that you can either opt to continuously add Sync to your Scrumpy as you drink, or you can pour the whole lot into a 2.25L coke bottle, which makes for a fantastically convenient container for a game of Possum.

Tasting notes: *Sticky sweet, acidic as fuck*

Dollars per standard: *\$1.46*

Froth Level: *420/69*



REGO(FRUS)TRATION

Dear Ethel,

My car just failed its warrant of fitness and I can't afford the \$220 it's going to cost to get it repaired. I need my car because I'm living in Brockville and the buses are terrible and super expensive. Any ideas?

-Wheelin', not dealin'

Dear Wheelin', not Dealin'

Cars are very useful but they can be a financial drain! The good news is that there is some help available. Get yourself onto the OUSA webpage and fill out an application for the OUSA Hardship Fund (you'll find that under the 'Support' tab). This fund is available to all students and, if it's approved, you will get a one-off payment of \$250.

Don't forget about the OUSA foodbank either—drop into 5 Ethel Benjamin Place and pick up a food pack. That will at least save you a few dollars that you can put towards your car repairs.

While car repairs do not generally fall under the category of 'Emergency', it is worth knowing that there is a University Emergency Fund available for one-off financial assistance in certain circumstances. If you want to know more about the Emergency Fund, please come and have a chat to an advocate at OUSA Student Support. They'll be able to advise whether the fund might be available to you and will prepare an application for you if it's appropriate.

You might also want to consider getting yourself some budget advice from the good folks at Dunedin Budgeting Service, based in Community House, Moray Place. It is a really useful thing to do, and if you are in severe financial hardship, Budgeting Service can connect you with other financial resources that aren't available elsewhere. They can also help you apply for the electricity fund, a Dunedin City Council grant that provides one-off assistance with an electricity bill. Every little bit counts!

There may be other ways that we can assist as well, so it's probably best if you drop in and have a chat to one of the friendly advocates at OUSA Student Support.

Best of luck with getting your car back on the road!

Whole lotta love,

-Ethel xox



A TOUCHY SUB-JECT

Dear Sexcellent,

I'm a straight dude, but I think I'm into being submissive when it comes to sex, not that I've ever tried in real life. What should I do? How can I talk to my girlfriend about this without her thinking I'm weird?

-From Submissive Sam

Dear Submissive Sam

First of all, your sexual orientation isn't determined by the kind of sex you're into. Why are you worried about your girlfriend thinking you are weird? If you think it makes you "less of a man," don't worry. There are plenty of men who are submissive. Unfortunately there is a common narrative that women are inherently submissive and subservient, and that men are should be dominant and alpha, otherwise something is wrong. The truth is that men and women aren't inherently dominant or submissive.

I would suggest you explore your sexual desires in a safe and comfortable environment. This could mean looking through some pornography or trying out some scenarios with a partner. Just make sure you're doing what makes you feel good safely. Having a sexual partner you are comfortable talking to about your sexual desires is fantastic. Being able to be open and honest with your partner will almost always lead to a better and more gratifying sexual experience.

The best way to talk to your girlfriend about it is to just do it. I can't say what her reaction will be, but it's definitely something you should discuss. At the moment, for all you know she could be super into it - you might have been dating a secret dom all along. She might be keen to roleplay with you, or just to take on a slightly more dominant role in the bedroom. On the other hand, she might not be into being a dominant sexual partner at all and she could be a little uncomfortable with your newfound desires. When you have a moment, just bring it up and see how she reacts.

I also just want to clarify, being a submissive is a role within a BDSM relationship. Being submissive during sex doesn't mean that you have to do anything you don't want to do. Good BDSM relationships rely on consent, and revolve around what the submissive is comfortable with. The sub decides the boundaries and parameters, and the sub decides when it's too much and needs to stop.

For more detailed information about consent and BDSM, check out this website: <http://www.keepingitkinky.net/bdsm/kink-basics/consent/safe-sane-consensual/>

Good luck, be safe and have fun,

-S A

tinderesting stories

Got a Tinder notification on my phone ... realised I don't have Tinder and was holding my girlfriends phone.

I chatted a girl up that had a nice dresser in one of her pics. I needed a dresser for my new house. She ended up selling it to me for \$10. That was a good hookup.

- Friend of a friend's boyfriend thought he would be sly and try out tinder for a little side action.
- Girlfriend's friend sees his pics on there and tells the GF.
- GF creates account with fake pictures and sets up a date with cheating BF.
- Boyfriend walks into restaurant bar to meet his date to find his actual GF.
- Shits a brick.

On the bus once I saw myself come up on a girl's tinder... She swiped left. I was heartbroken.

I accidentally superliked a guy I knows tinder... He's actually engaged.. Beyond awkward.

I once went on a tinder date and managed to get back to her house... When she went to 'freshen up' I accidentally spewed on the carpet.. I left before she got back.

Got a tinderesting story yourself?

Email it through at critic@critic.co.nz



SELF-POLLUTION (MASTURBATION)

Part Two*

Young men and women living in shared accommodation at Otago University must exercise constant vigilance for signs of the most terrible vice of self pollution. Alerting authorities to the evil indulgences of a friend may save his future and his life.

The following article on self-abuse should be in the hands of every young person as it would be the means of saving many bright intellects from becoming stupid or imbeciles, or lunatics or from filling premature graves and be worth to them more than Aster's millions.

How to detect and prevent secret vice: examination of the linen is usually conclusive evidence in the case of boys; the genital organs, too, receive an undue share of attention. The patient should be constantly watched during the day until he falls asleep at night, and be required to arise directly when he wakes in the morning. In confirmed cases the night-dress should be so arranged that the hands cannot touch the genital organs.

In the city of Chicago in one school, an investigation proved that over sixty children under thirteen years of age were habitually practising the degrading health and life destroying habit, while among the older ones the habit was even worse, though not so easily detected.

In a country school in Black Hawk Co., Iowa, one bad boy secretly taught all the rest until the entire school practised this private vice during the noon hour when the teacher was away.

In case of a so, perhaps the better way will be for the services of the family physician to be engaged. He can portray to the misguided young man the horrors and evils of the habit in their bearing, and his caution and advice will have weight.

Under no circumstances should nurses ever be permitted unnecessarily to handle or expose the genital organs. Children should be taught in the very earliest periods that it is immodest and even wrong to handle the parts. The regular daily use of the sponge bath conduces greatly to the cure or prevention of self-abuse. The too free use of meat, highly-seasoned dishes, coffee, wine, late suppers, etc., strongly tend to excite animal propensities, which directly predisposes to vice.

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



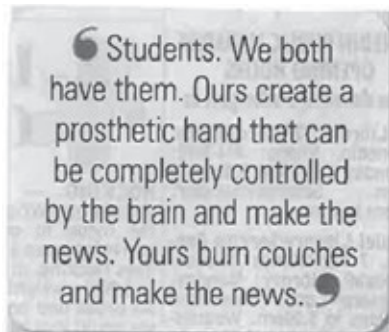
Leadership not just about power, graduates told

Also about money, cocaine and prostitutes.

In 'thing that hasn't done anything for 15 years continuing to do nothing' news

AFTER 15 years lying dormant, the only empty commercial section in the Esplanade block at St Clair will remain vacant for the time being.

Some Hamiltonian is misinformed about the way in which universities are ranked against each other.



Apparently the 'news' decides such rankings. This is what happens when you get educated at Waikato.

And finally in what is becoming the weekly
Vague Title Segment:

Many questions unanswered

Including what this title might be about.

WHEN CANVAS IS WORTH 100 MILLION DOLLARS

Think about Mark Rothko's White Center. Painted in the 1950s, it's part of the abstract expressionist movement. For those who can't get your head around abstract art, brace yourselves. White Center sold at auction for \$72.84 million US in 2007 to the Qatari Royal Family, at the time setting a world record for a post-war piece of work. Now think about that, \$72.84 million. You could buy a mansion, a yacht, and a private jet and still have money to spare to run all three. Instead it was used to buy this painting, some pigment in the shape of rectangles on canvas.

It's no secret that the art world seems to value so highly what seems to have no practical purpose. Now to be clear, just because a painting may be the most expensive painting sold at auction does not mean it is the best painting in the world. The price at auction results from a competition between two people who desire to own the painting. Now the question is: why? What pushes these multi-millionaires to hand over insane figures for ownership of a single painting?

Take White Center. What pulled the Qatari royal family to the painting was likely not the painting itself or even who painted it, a common factor when determining painting value. What mattered to the royal family was the painting's provenance or who used to own the painting. White Center's previous owner? The mega-rich Rockefellers.

Of course there are some billionaires that simply want to show off that they have the wealth to be able to afford "expensive artists" like Picasso or Warhol. In economics this is called signalling: indirectly telling people something. However, this may not be the case in many auction purchases. Often buyers prefer to remain anonymous and many of the most expensive paintings are never seen again. If the mega rich aim only to show their wealth through the art they purchase, why would they choose to remain very private? We can conclude that these intensely private individuals are so rich that they simply don't care enough to prove it to the public but rather keep the flaunting within their own super-rich community. Perhaps they simply buy the expensive paintings because they are already surrounded by exorbitant luxuries, why stop with the art they acquire?

This leads to an unsettling truth. Many great paintings are kept away in the private sitting rooms of the wealthiest in the world. Here, paintings are private goods, bought and sold like some iPad on ebay, only to be used by the buyer. However, art can function like a public good, a good that many can enjoy simultaneously if the work of art was exhibited in a museum. On the whole, more people benefit from the work of art should it live in a museum as opposed to the hallway of an affluent businessman who may not even really appreciate the piece. Some buyers lend out paintings in their collection to galleries, but only if they feel like it. Isn't it rather unfair that our access of some great works of art depends on the impulses of the multi-millionaires of the world? Welcome to capitalism my friend.

by Danielle Pintacasi

BEN HUR (2016)

Rating: C+

Director: Timur Bekmambetov



Review: Max Olson

Set in ancient Roman-occupied Jerusalem, Ben Hur is a remake of the 1959 film directed by William Wyler, which famously grabbed a record 11 Academy Awards at the time. Unfortunately, I cannot see many awards lurking in the near future for the 2016 version, although I will admit that the film's grand finale was entertaining.

Ben Hur tells the story of Judah Ben-Hur, a Jerusalem prince and trader falsely accused of treason by his adopted brother Messala, a high-ranking Roman officer. He and his family are severely punished for the alleged crime and Judah sets out on a quest for revenge against Messala and the Roman Empire.

Ben-Hur challenges Messala in the Roman bloodsport of chariot racing (obviously), where Messala is the undefeated champion. With the help of Sheik Ilderam (Morgan Freeman), Judah trains for his final showdown with Messala in the Roman circus.

The film follows the plot of your standard action movie; 'someone is wronged and then they come back to face their adversary'. And as many Hollywood action movies do, Ben Hur lacked any real substance or narrative complexities. Despite the climatic finish being violently enthralling, I felt overall it was rather mundane for what I was expecting. The addition of Morgan Freeman was a highlight simply because I like to listen to his voice but as far as developing characters, even he could not bring a whole lot to the party.

If you are in the market for a movie that sparks little thought but provides a quick fix of blood and gore, then Ben Hur will most likely fulfil your desires. However if I am to be perfectly honest, with a little more effort, you could easily find something a few stars better.

CRAZY EX-GIRLFRIEND (TV SERIES)

Rating: A

Creators: Rachel Bloom, Aline Brosh McKenna



Review: Laura Starling

Rebecca Bunch (Rachel Bloom) is a successful, career focused, big bucks lawyer —who is unsatisfied and unhappy with her New York life. During a panic attack over a promotion, she bumps into total heartthrob Josh Chan (Vincent Rodriguez III) her summer camp boyfriend from when she was 16. He tells her he's moving back to his hometown, West Covina, after finding he didn't like it in the Big Apple. This encounter results in Rebecca impulsively moving to West Covina to find happiness again – she's totally not relocating for her ex, that would just be craaaazy.

This is a musical TV show. Rachel Bloom was a Youtube star famous for her parody pop songs. She was approached by Aline Brosh McKenna, writer for The Devil Wears Prada, and the pair worked together to produce pretty much the best TV show of last year.

The cast is refreshingly diverse and there's decent representation of multiple ethnicities and sexualities. It has been lauded for making the main love interest a Filipino male when most would only cast white men in such a role.

The songs are the main star and really pull it all together. There's around two in every episode, and it shows the level of talent involved in not only the cast, who can all sing and dance, but also the writers, composers and choreographers. The songs are hilarious and on point. No other show would have a song dedicated to the problems experienced by those with "heavy boobies" which are described as being "dense like dying stars", or feature a pop parody about bisexuality including these tasty lines: "It's not a phase / I'm not confused / Not indecisive / I don't have the "gotta choose" blues / I don't care if you wear high heels or a tie / You might just catch my eye."

It's incredibly clever, funny, entertaining and has won a bunch of awards. Season two is set to start up on October 12 so you've got plenty of time to catch up.



WAR DOGS

Rating: A-
Director: Todd Phillips

by Lindsay D'Alessandro

Based on the 2011 Rolling Stone article, "The Stoner Arms Dealers: How Two American Kids Became Big-Time Weapons Traders," *War Dogs* tells the true story of two twenty-something childhood friends from Miami Beach who made millions during the Iraq War bidding on US military contracts.

Jonah Hill plays Efraim Diveroli, a fast-talking, money-crazed entrepreneur with a family tree full of arms dealers. Diveroli recruits David Packouz (Miles Teller), a struggling massage therapist with a baby on the way, to help him in his quest to become the world's biggest arms dealer. Under the Bush administration's small-business initiative, a certain percentage of the Pentagon's defense contracts have to go to small-business owners, such as Packouz and Diveroli. The pair, bidding on contracts under the name AEY Inc, act as middlemen between the Pentagon and the shady world of international arms dealers.

The fact that the film is based on true events makes Teller and Hill's antics all the more outrageous. During the movie, the pair drive a shipment of Italian Beretta pistols through Iraq's Triangle of Death to avoid flight permits, and repackage Chinese bullets to ship off to the Afghan army. Directed by Todd Phillips, whose previous work includes the *Hangover* Trilogy, the film uses one-liners and lighthearted banter to highlight the truly shocking loopholes within the US Defense Department.

Hill and Teller both deliver excellent performances. Hill exemplifies the recklessness, tenacity, and gluttony of a young con getting his first taste of success. Teller acts as his more rational, although often askew, moral compass. Bradley Cooper arrives halfway through the film to act as catalyst, turning the duo's success story into a darker tale of deceit and greed. While the story and the acting are both riveting, the predictable plot line, particularly Teller's battle between love and money, leaves the film feeling a bit cliché.



OUR KIND OF TRAITOR

Rating: B
Director: Susanna White

Review: Nita Sullivan

Our Kind of Traitor is the latest in spy-thriller-novel conversions by British author John Le Carre, and delivers generously in suspense, espionage, and drama. While the film is no doubt a good watch, it falters in equalling the critically acclaimed British miniseries *The Night Manager* adapted by the same author.

The movie follows lead couple Perry and Gail (Ewen McGregor and Naomi Harris) they manage to entangle themselves with the enigmatic and dangerous Dima (played the superb Stellan Skarsgard), a man high up in the Russian Mafia, during their holiday in Morocco. The two men bond and Dima convinces Perry to turn over sensitive information to MI6, and the stakes increase as the film's plot develops from there. In simple terms, we have two British civilians who find themselves involved at the heart of the Russian Mafia, and as chaos ensues, larger questions arise over honour, loyalty and corruption.

Despite boasting a high quality cast, and with the use of Le Carre's now famed literary espionage material, the film lacks punch. McGregor and Harris do fine jobs as the couple who find themselves in well over their heads, but could be accused of hogging screen time from the two genuine stars of the movie. Skarsgard is great as Dima, and before long you're rooting for a guy who (probably) has murdered a number of people in cold blood. Alongside him, Damian Lewis plays Hector Meredith (the cynical British secret service operative) who is an equally enthralling and complex character. The drawback here is that we don't see these two enough, and the overall effect is that *Our Kind of Traitor* winds up feeling a very patchy and a little flat.

As a fan of *The Night Manager* and Le Carre's writing in general, I had extremely high hopes for this latest instalment. Perhaps without those lofty expectations, I would have analysed less and enjoyed this

WHY DO WE NEED...WECHAT?

TL; DR—WeChat is an app that outperforms its Western rivals, not because of the lack of but in spite of the lack of local competition.



By Anthony Marris

WeChat is the Chinese multi-platform social networking app produced by Tencent which is dominating inside the Great Firewall. Available on both Android and iPhone, it makes common social media sharing apps like Messenger, Snapchat, WhatsApp and Instagram look like glorified telegraph keys.

What can WeChat do? Basically everything that all the individual apps on your smartphone can do. The Economist (6-08-16, p.50) points out that alongside the usual functions one would expect like text messaging, voice to voice communication, and video conferencing, WeChat allows users to pay bills and deposit money, to book and pay for taxis, and even make hospital appointments. According to the unnamed Economist reporter, "WeChat has flourished for simple, commercial reasons: it solves problems for its users, and delights them with new and unexpected offerings."

WeChat owes its initial success to the high cost of SMS messaging in China, and the popularity of Tencent's instant messaging service QQ. Watching a developing market, Tencent were able to create a version of QQ for the smartphone, which became known as WeChat (also called WeiXin). However, their continual success is that in they continue to provide novel features that their rivals do not.

In January 2014, WeChat were able to integrate tradition and technology with the gifting of the red envelopes. Red envelopes (usually containing money) are given out for Chinese New Year and other holidays for good luck. WeChat took it one step further and allowed the money to be credited to the individual bank accounts. They also made it possible for a sum of money to be divided into random amounts between the recipients, even adding in things like limiting it to the first 20 people who opened the envelope.

It is possible to argue that the only reason WeChat is

dominating the social networking market in China is due to the lack of competition, but it is more complex than that. While it is true rivals like Messenger and Instagram are not available inside China, they also lack the abilities that WeChat offers and makes it so well liked. Sociologists Che Hui Lien and Yang Cao (2014) researched whether word of mouth played a major part in the app's success. Lien and Cao's findings suggest that WeChats success is in part Pygmalion. As more users talk about the benefits of the app, regardless of whether they use it for entertainment, socialising, or information seeking, then more users will download it, which in turn influences Tencents actions to keep providing support and offering more services.

Lien and Cao note one of the strongest aspects of WeChat is the field of the consumer review. In general, people trust the opinions of friends and family. Like other messaging apps, opinions about products can be shared on WeChat, but WeChat differs slightly from their Western counterparts. If a certified official account makes false claims, then WeChat shuts down their account. If Twitter/Facebook/Instagram etc did the same thing every time a company is caught lying, we would have a very different digital marketing landscape.

WeChat is the app that can change the world. It is leading the way towards the cashless economy, connecting people and companies, and allowing its users to do almost anything from transferring money to booking hospital appointments. Current rivals like Facebook are looking at WeChat with earnest, but I believe a replica will never reach the domination that WeChat has. At the same time, while only available in China, I also believe that should WeChat operate beyond the Great Firewall, its fate will be sealed like the Rhinoceros Beetle against a cohort of Meat Ants (Monster Bug Wars).

ABZÛ

PS4 | Developed by Giant Squid,
Published by 505 Games

Rating: B+



Review: Lisa Blakie

Giant Squid is an indie game studio founded by Matt Nava, the art director who also worked on the critically-acclaimed *Journey* and *Flower*, both of which rank among my favourite games. Giant Squid's first game *Abzû* was announced back in 2014 at Sony's E3 press conference, and boy was I HYPED when I saw the initial trailer. A spiritual successor to *Journey*? But UNDERWATER? Sign me the heck up.

So, given that it's not created by thatgamecompany, how does *Abzû* stack up? The same themes and feel from *Journey* and *Flower* are prevalent, but it still missed the mark a bit for me, in terms of creating the same lasting emotional connection that I experienced with the others.

I really loved *Abzû*. My friends watched me as I played, which probably influenced my overall love for it. Having us all react the same way to the same actions—and them telling me where to explore—made it feel like more of an adventure. If I were to play it alone I may have not enjoyed it as much, or become impatient and disinterested after a while. Its pacing is similar to that of *Journey*, but it lacks a clearly outlined goal. I understand it wants to encourage exploration, but some parts felt empty without any clear motivation for the actions I was doing.

The story is supposed to be vague enough to encourage exploration and uncover the mysteries of why you are placed in this world and what for, but I think that because it is a familiar environment—the ocean—it didn't evoke the same sense of wonder that *Journey* or *Flower* did for me. Those games were set in totally unknown environments: *Journey* in a more fantastical old civilization in the desert, and *Flower* in a totally eerie and almost dystopian environment. The ocean is mysterious and unexplored, but because we have such readily available access to documentaries and images of it, it's almost over-saturated for me. This is possibly the reason that a lot of it felt familiar and didn't evoke the same sense of wonder.

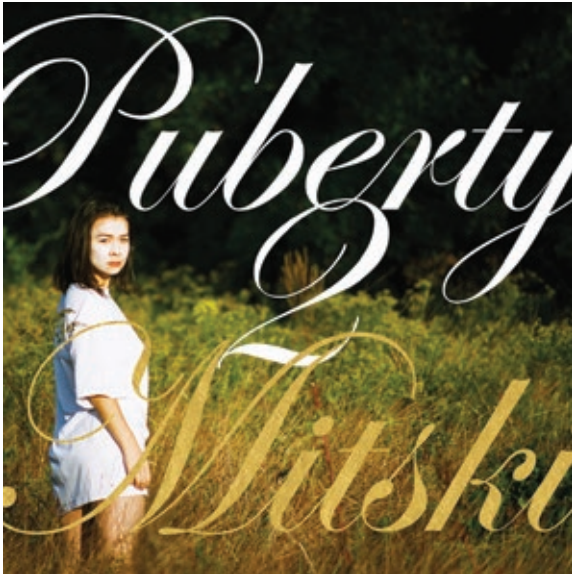
Despite this, the art style is absolutely gorgeous and breath-taking. Exploration was a large part of the game, but I found myself just sitting in awe of the beauty of it each time I discovered a new area. There is a meditation feature where you simply look and observe the ocean life, taking in all of the beauty that has been meticulously put together for the player. It's really inspiring to see how the developers really wanted this to be a huge part of the game, for the player to just sit back and enjoy it for a few minutes before moving onto the next part.

Also, THIS GAME MADE ME LOVE SHARKS!!!! SHARKS ARE OUR FRIENDS AND THEY ARE COOL! They are misunderstood or made into villains in kids' movies; it's super lame and they need to be celebrated. Connection to the ocean and to nature is a huge theme in *Abzû*, for example, in the meditation feature and its emphasis on exploration. You never have access to land in *Abzû* until the ending—just small outcrops breaching the water and uncovered by kelp. Underwater levels in games (such as *Zelda*, *Mario*, *Crash Bandicoot*, etc.) have always been my least favourite, but the swimming capabilities in *Abzû* feel natural and controlled. They're well-executed to the point that, when you do eventually have access to land and the ability to walk, it feels unnatural and odd.

Exploration and non-violent gameplay are something I really value in games. It's really refreshing to see more of these indie franchises getting support and praise, and to see enough hype generated around *Abzû* for people to be excited for two years. With it only taking around two to three hours to complete, it might be best to wait until *Abzû* comes up on sale if you are unsure of whether or not to play it.

PUBERTY 2

—MITSKI



Review: Millicent Lovelock

I have been sitting on US artist Mitski's latest offering for a while now, not because I didn't think it would be good, but because I knew it would be too good for any mood that wasn't the right mood.

Mitski's songs have a particular tendency to tunnel through you and take up residence right where you're hurting the most, she's aching and agony with a cool, dripping voice and throbbing bass guitar. "Puberty 2", her most recent album (out 2016, Dead Oceans) promises by title to be an excruciating and laboursome emotional journey, made all the more painful by the fact that this isn't your first rodeo; you know all about getting your first period, sprouting your first pube, and developing your first nasty, tear-jerking crush.

Of course, "Puberty 2" is not literally about hormonal changes and growing pains, but it does hurt. The opening track is ominously titled "Happy". It's a carnivalesque, sweetly melodic sojourn. "Happy" comes to visit, and he brings "cookies on the way", but when he leaves, Mitski softly mourns, all that remains are "cookie wrappers and empty cups of tea" she has to clean.

Where Mitski's last album, "Bury Me at Makeout Creek" is flowing vocal parts and creeping instrumentation, "Puberty 2" is jagged and raw, nothing spared. "I Bet on Losing Dogs" is perhaps the most melancholy track of 2016, I can't listen to it without a wistful splintering sensation radiating from the pit of my stomach. It's a slow crooner, the kind of

murmured pop song one expects from Mitski. She sings, "I bet on losing dogs/ I know they're losing/ and I pay for my place/ by the ring/ where I'll be looking in their eyes when they're down". It's devastating, dogs running, dogs losing, girls loving, girls losing. The chorus is metaphor, but the verses are plain spoken, almost embarrassingly honest. I feel my fists clench when Mitski utters those heartsick words, "tell your baby that I'm your baby".

While this album is in good measure heartbreak, it is also a furious examination of self-actualisation, of introspection, and of unending frustration with the world outside of the self. "My Body's Made of Crushed Little Stars" portrays a tortured relationship to art, the kind that pushes you to continue all the while crushing you with self-doubt, debilitating expectation, ambition, and disappointment.

Mitski near screams over wailing guitars, "I better ace that interview/ I better ace that interview/ I should tell them that I'm not afraid to die/ I better ace that interview". She is so aware of every pressure point, every personal torment, and every well-placed distorted chord and chiming vocal run. Mitski's album is the perfect blend of lyricism and complimentary composition. She is a formidable songwriter and performer, and "Puberty 2" demonstrates with flare that the artist doesn't have to be fully formed, fully realised, there is always the chance they will be remade, and even then, even in transition, there is still room for power.

THE NATURE OF JADE

Author: Deb Caletti



Review: Monique Hodgkinson

Although technically classified as a YA novel, *The Nature of Jade* is one of those rare books which holds something inspiring and beautiful for readers of all ages. This book has been one of my firm favourites for years now, because of its captivating and accessible writing style, unexpected and bittersweet plot, relatable characters and an overall fantastic message for readers.

The Nature of Jade follows teenager Jade De Luna as she navigates her final year at high school whilst managing her panic disorder and anxiety. She finds great calmness in watching the elephants at the nearby zoo, and keeps a live elephant webcam open on her computer screen at night. This is how she first sees Sebastian, a boy in a red jacket carrying a baby, and is also where the story really begins. I won't give away too much plot-wise, because the graceful twists and turns of this novel form the most serendipitous, and at times tragic, surprises.

Deb Caletti perfectly captures the tentative end-of-high-school stage of life where years of habit and routine begin to fall away in the face of the looming unknown. Jade must negotiate the increasingly rocky relationships between both friends and family, as the people around

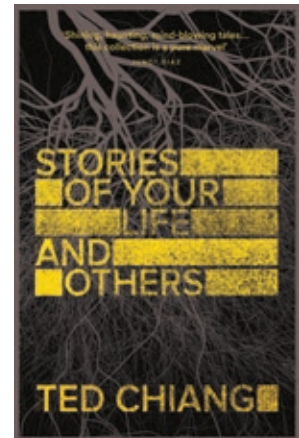
her begin to grow apart in unexpected ways. In addition to this, Caletti navigates the rocky terrain of anxiety and panic disorders with an insightful, adept and subtle hand. What is key about this text is that Jade's conditions are not romanticised and certainly not glamourised—her experiences at this pivotal point in life poignantly highlight the realities of these mental illnesses.

The second major issue which this novel brings to light is that of the treatment of elephants, both in zoo environments and in the wild. More than just a romantic drama, this book contains fascinating insights into the behaviour of elephants and their social methods of interaction. The cruelty still suffered by elephants in countries where they are exploited for tourism and ivory is highlighted by Caletti, but perhaps more intricately so is the long-lasting effects of this cruelty, even when the elephants are removed from the situations. That these animals are highly intelligent and compassionate beings with strong individual personalities is a key aspect of the novel which imbues it with a powerful humanity.

For raising awareness of these issues and presenting them in such an understandable light, I applaud Caletti. This is the type of novel I wish I had read sooner, only to have been able to read it more times over and over again.

THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

Author: Ted Chiang



Review: Jack Blair

Ted Chiang examines, through the eyes of Louise Banks (a linguist tasked with decoding the language of an alien species known as the Heptapods), how understanding language means more than simply understanding a conveyed message. As *The Story of Your Life* progresses, and Louise applies a theory of physics to her understanding of the Heptapod's language, it impacts the way in which she thinks and by the last page you realise that the same theory has been utilised in the construction of the story that you've just read. I can only hope that the film version fills me with half the sense of wonder that this short story managed.

3 X 4

—LISA REIHANA

Milford Gallery, Dowling St
26 August-20 September



Review: Carolijn Guytonbeck

Take the opportunity to view some work from one of New Zealand's current 'it' artists, Lisa Reihana. Milford Gallery are showing a range of her magnificent staged photographic portraiture work.

Distinct themes of mythology and colonisation run through the Māori descended Reihana's oeuvre. Her contemporary style fuses with technical skill to produce her spellbinding images. The size of these works (around 1500mm square), adds to their mesmerising effect.

This exhibition has three works from 2007: 'Diva', 'Urban Warrior' and 'Ranginui'. The earlier 2001 'Kurangaituku' is a particularly well imagined portrayal of this fantastical and fearsome bird-woman from Māori mythology. These are some of the last of this range of work available for private sale.

Reihana's 'Ngā hau e wha' series, 2009, expressively depict the four winds. The immaculate make-up, gorgeous costuming, and jewellery

add to the strength of character of these poised feminine renditions of the individual winds.

However, it is the puzzling 2010 'Pelt' series that are especially captivating. I'm told some men are uncomfortable viewing these enigmatic naked women. They are definitely unearthly, ethereally existing in an icy purity of space yet casting shadows that tell us they are corporeal beings. They carry a sense of supernatural eroticism and are imaginary beings with their additional feathers. Almost as imaginary are their names, 'Aquila', 'Sabin', 'Pilosusa' and 'Camarillo' only two of which I could find some derivative for. I wonder if Reihana was playing with what is known as the Kinnara from Hindu mythology who are half-bird creatures from the mountains who watch over humans. But there could be many takes on 'Pelt'.

Reihana is particularly of the moment as she is to represent New Zealand at the Venice Biennale in 2017 with her 'Pursuit of Venus

[infected]', 2015. Her first, somewhat smaller and shorter version of this, can currently be seen at the Hocken Library. 'Pursuit of Venus' patently comes from Cook's voyage to observe the rare transit of Venus with the covert imperial mission of fantasy to find Incognita – the unknown southern land. Our Hocken 'Pursuit' is pre-colonialism whereas 'Infected' is post discovery.

Lisa Reihana's portraiture works are beautiful images to be enjoyed and contemplated. You may not be able to afford to buy one, but you can appreciate them while this exhibition is on and view some of New Zealand's very contemporary photographic based art.

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



RIDICULOUSUBLINE

NICKAUSTIN . JANEDODD . SCOTTEADY . RACHELH.ALLAN

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

BOBOTIE & YELLOW RICE

by Kirsten Garcia

My first taste of Bobotie and Yellow Rice was at a charity dinner with all African cuisine. This is a South African dish. My flatmate from Zambia also made it for dinner once. Both times I've had it, it was nothing but delicious and memorable, so I had a crack at making it myself.

If you find yourself eating a lot of mince and toast, Bobotie is for you. Consider it an interesting twist on minced meat with a fruity, spicy tang from the chutney, spices and sultanas. It is baked with a creamy egg layer on top. The vibrant, sweet yellow rice pairs well with it.

I don't know how many of you are ok with sultanas in mince or rice but trust me: it's good. Don't hate it until you ate it. Serves 3-4

Bobotie

2 slices of bread
2 onions, diced
25g/2 tablespoons of butter
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1kg of beef mince
1 ½ tablespoons of curry powder
1 tsp of mixed herbs
3 cloves
1 teaspoon of mixed spice
2 tablespoons of chutney
3 tablespoons of sultanas
6 bay leaves
Salt and pepper
300ml of cream
2 eggs

Yellow Rice

1 ¾ cups of basmati rice
50g/4 tablespoons of butter
1 tablespoon of sugar
Pinch of ground cinnamon
Pinch of ground cardamom
1 teaspoon ground turmeric
5 tablespoons of sultanas
1 teaspoon of salt
3 cups of water

Method

Preheat oven on bake to 180C. Soak bread in cold water.

Heat a large pot on medium-high heat. Fry onions in butter until they become soft, then add garlic and beef. Break apart the mince to cook the mixture thoroughly.

Add curry powder, herbs, spices, 2 bay leaves, chutney, and sultanas. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 10 mins.

Meanwhile, squeeze water from the bread, then break it into the meat mixture.

When the mince is browned and no longer pink, place mixture into a large oven proof dish. Press meat down and make sure the top is all level.

In a separate bowl, beat eggs then add the cream and beat again to mix, season with salt and pepper. Pour the eggs and cream over the meat mixture to create an even top layer.

Place remaining bay leaves on top of the mixture then bake for 30 mins. Take out of the oven when the egg top is set and golden.

To make the rice, place all ingredients in a large pan to boil. When the butter has melted, stir and reduce to a simmer. When rice has absorbed the water (add more water as required if it is still uncooked/crunchy) take it off the heat and put a lid on it, for it to sit in its own steam for 5 mins. Fluff the rice prior to serving.





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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 But be warned—if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a Critic writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

hers

PETUNIA

Had to do one before the end of uni so I picked my balls up off the ground and jiggered up a wee blind date. Was really praying that a complete stranger showed up, but because there's about half a degree of separation in Dunedin, I wasn't surprised that I quickly identified this youngin' as a mates old tinder slam piece. Mint. No offense bro but not huge on sloppy seconds lol, stitch up! But hey, this country was built on stitch ups.

Aside from this, the actual date wasn't too bad! That's if I ignore the fact that I deleted half a bottle of Seagers beforehand and stopped being served drinks halfway through. I think I also recall being forced to order a bowl of fries at about halftime, Bone Appléteeth! Nah the date was probably actually really shit. I can't imagine that listening to atrocious slurred chat for about three hours would be much fun, sorry love!

I ruled out the sleepover option early doors, however she was definitely on a mission for a dust. Evident in the fact that she obviously got sick of babysitting me and found prince charming later in the night, hope he was the boy of your dreams!

Chur Critic for a fun night, not chur to DWTT, wasn't even that hooned ay.

his

VERNON

Having signed up for the blind date a while ago, admittedly more than once, I finally got my opportunity. I arrived at the bar to meet a nice looking chap. The usual small talk ensued and it became very apparent that he was more than sufficiently intoxicated. It must have totalled to around six times that he asked "what are you doing over the break?" Top chat.

After working out what he studied, I also had a fair idea that he was definitely good friends with someone I had previously been sleeping with. This topic was soon breached and he said that he knew exactly who I was the second I walked in. Despite, this not putting me on great stead for the date, we still had a pretty fun night.

As events proceeded, including him getting cut off from the bar and me finishing the tab with a decent amount of absinthe... I think I may have given him a wee pash alongside another guy that I made friends with that night (in front of my date). This friend really must have ruined my dates night, as he also nicknamed him and was effectively cat calling him, which seems very unusual on reflection. However, a pash was as far as things were going for either of these lucky guys.

The real guy that stole my heart, was a man that probably tripled my age and was a swing dance expert. I first started to dance with my date, but was more interested in the teacher. We must have danced some seriously good moves for a solid hour and I'm pretty sure this is when my date left. Sorry to the readers for the lack of post date scandal.

P.S. To my date, if you still didn't catch on, I went home over the break (I suppose that's acceptably forgettable). Also, my flat mate that you study with thinks you're hot ;)



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President's Column

A WAR CRIMES PROSECUTOR, ANGELINA JOLIE, OR THE BALLET

There are many benefits to living in the city of Dunedin. Being a city of literature, a university town and consequential hub of knowledge, many inspiring, cultural and entertaining events are brought conveniently to our doorstep. It is important that, between study, extracurricular commitments and socialising, we make the most of these.

One such opportunity is an audience with the awe-inspiring Rabia Suddique, which the Otago Medical Research Foundation has secured for Dunedin. Her story is nothing short of astounding. As a former war crimes and terrorism prosecutor, inter-

national humanitarian and retired British Army Officer, she has fought through a history of abuse, sexism, war and a horrifying hostage ordeal to become a survivor. She has shaped these experiences and traumas to teach, inspire and lead others and will be here in Dunedin on October 12th at 7:30pm, where you too will be able to benefit from the insights and stories of a highly lauded thought-leader. If that's piqued your interest, make sure you watch her TED Talk which ends with a standing ovation, and Angelina Jolie is tipped to play her in an upcoming movie about her ordeal. I sincerely urge you to come along to be inspired - it will be a truly unique experience.

Make sure you venture out and enjoy the events

and activities happening beyond the confines of campus. Watch a play at the Fortune Theatre, or head to the ballet at the Regent. Keep an eye out for events at the Town Hall, or gigs at Forsyth Barr Stadium - for example, the OUSA-run Dunedin Craft Beer & Food Festival is happening at the close of the exam period, so get your tickets and celebrate the end of the year with us.

You can find tickets to Rabia's visit and the festival at Ticketmaster, tickets are both just \$25 for students (+booking fee).

Take care,

Laura Harris

Laura Harris

president@ousa.org.nz

CANDIDATE FORUMS!

12, 13 & 14 SEPTEMBER AT 1PM IN THE MAIN COMMON ROOM

FREE POPPA'S PIZZA AT THE PRESIDENTIAL FORUM ON THE 14TH!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT **ELECTIONS.OUSA.ORG.NZ**

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\$4 FOR 4 GAMES*
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* This competition is open to all 2016 Otago University, Polytech, and Language students

SKEPTA

FIRST CLASS

SEPT 21

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\$9 for 1-hour pool table hire*

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\$45 brazilians, \$20 brow shape, \$45 spray tans + 10% off any full price service or product

BENDON

Free wash bag with purchase over \$50*

CRUSTY CORNER

\$5 BLTs, Monday - Friday

ESCAPE

20% off regular-price games*

FILADELFIOS GARDENS

1x medium pizza, 1x fries, and 2x pints of Fillies Draught or fizzy for \$40, Sun-Thurs

FRIDGE FREEZER ICEBOX

15% discount off the regular retail price

GOVERNOR'S CAFE

\$6 for a slice, scone, or muffin and a medium coffee

HALLNSTEIN BROTHERS

20% off full price product in-store

HELL PIZZA

Spend \$20 or more and receive either free wedges, dessert pizza, or a 1.5L drink

LONE STAR

10% discount + Book your 21st with us in 2016 and get \$6 tap beers, house wines and house spirits*

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\$15 Ombrellos Big Breakfast / Big Vege*

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Free garlic bread with any regular or large pizza*

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\$5 off all tertiary-student hair cuts

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Buy any six-inch meal deal & upgrade to a footlong meal deal for free*

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*terms and conditions apply, see r1.co.nz/onecard/ for details