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CONTENTS | ISSUE 03

NEWS & OPINION

06 **598 Castle St**

08 **Campus News**

10 **News**

12 **International**

14 **News In Brief**

16 **Politics**

18 **Sports**

REVIEW

38 Books

39 Music

40 Games

41 Art

42 Film

44 Technology

45 Food

FEATURES



The Path to Fashion Week

Brittany Pooley's backstage glimpse into the Otago Polytechnic iD Fashion week designers



The Secret Life of Bees

Amber Allott writes about the violence, servitude, and puking endured by the insects we depend on



No Pain, No Gain

Jean Balchin investigates some of the stranger things humans have done to themselves in the past and present in the name of beauty

COLUMNS

33 Letters

34 Cull's Column

34 The Weekly Doubt

35 David Clark

35 Sexcellent

36 Dear Ethel

36 Science Bitches

37 Matters of Debate

46 Love Is Blind



NO NEED TO STOP STUDENT PARTIES

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, POPULAR NEW ZEALAND band Six60 have been returning to Castle Street where the band was first formed.

Each year the gig has been kept secret and been announced in an impromptu fashion, leading to many students living on and around Castle Street flocking to the event in large numbers. However, the issue is that student flats in the area don't necessarily have the infrastructure or the resources to hold such events, which was clearly evident on Friday night.

It goes without saying that nobody wants to see anything like this happen again and it would seem that Friday's events have been a bit of a eye-opener for those organising such events.

This single event has brought a lot of national exposure to the issue of flat parties in Dunedin and has many calling for this sort of partying to come to an end, including the Mayor of Dunedin, Mr David Cull.

But perhaps some middle ground must be met.

Otago University has undoubtedly the greatest student culture in New Zealand. It's something that students here are proud of and it's the envy of many other campuses around the country. It's

a huge draw card for many prospective students and it's not something we want to lose.

Student living conditions in Dunedin aren't necessarily the best. For the most part, flats are cold and damp, and the climate down south really needs no explaining. But for some strange reason students keep flocking to Dunedin and in my opinion that is due largely to the culture here at Otago.

Events such as Six60 playing on Castle Street are unique to Dunedin and the student culture but should be dealt with in a different way. Perhaps being held on a cordoned off street as opposed to a confined backyard is a better start. Why not charge students for attending and use the money to staff the event, pouring more resources into security and safety?

In recent years following an incident on Hyde Street the Student Association stepped in and made the party a lot safer. Why not do the same for this sort of unique event?

Best of luck for the week,

HUGH BAIRD
critic editor

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SIX60 CONCERT RESIDENT: "WE KNEW IT WASN'T SAFE"

by HENRY NAPIER

A NEIGHBOURING RESIDENT TO THE FLAT where a balcony fell during last week's Six60 concert has said they knew there was a risk hours before the party begun. Though the day ended in tragedy, precautions were taken to prevent overloading of the balcony.

"While we were pre-drinking we saw the balcony was going up and down and we all told each other no more jumping, that was from about 2pm. [From then] we knew not to jump anymore because we could see [it wasn't safe].

"Two o'clock, 100 percent, we knew [it wasn't safe]" says the Castle Street resident who wished to remain anonymous.

Due to the acknowledged danger residents of the flat decided to restrict entry to the balconies. According to the resident, the doors and windows in many of the flats had been shut and locked in an attempt to limit people standing on the balconies.

"[The door] wasn't locked the whole night but at most times to keep people out. We were making sure that not too many people were on there. Especially random people that came we would tell to get off. It was just our close friends. This was such a cool night for us and we didn't want people we didn't know up there. As the night went on I guess more people came up. We had the door locked so more people couldn't come up because the property manager told us" she said.

However, it was clear residents of the shared property were unhappy with the how the events were portrayed in recent media reports. Another neighbouring resident who did not wish to be named said there was no jumping going on immediately prior to the balcony collapse, despite media reports to the contrary.

"No one was jumping at the time that it fell. You know in the media people are saying there

were 30 people jumping up and down, it's not true. Everybody is blaming it on the students drinking, on Six60, on the Police, but the fact is that could have happened any day."

Police have been criticised in the media for not making more of an effort to reduce the danger, however residents of the flat say that Police were aware of the potential danger and were making an active effort to reduce it.

"The cops came up to our balcony like four times. The police didn't have to be there. They helped us so much. [The Police] didn't come around till the party started going off. I was in on the balcony closest to Six60, the cops came up to our balcony at least 4 times, because we were most vulnerable to the people underneath."

When asked how many people the residents of the flat believed the balcony could hold they conceded that the landlord had warned "6 to 8", however they thought the practical weight could hold up to 20.

The Minister of Housing Nick Smith has initiated a Government inquiry into the incident saying clarity around the structural failure of the balcony needed to be established. In a recent press release Dr Smith said the investigation would examine the design and construction of the balcony.

"We need to establish whether the balcony that collapsed was up to the standards required by law under the Building Code. Structural failure of buildings are rare in New Zealand but every

**"Everybody is blaming it
on the students drinking,
on Six60, on the Police,
but the fact is that could
have happened any day."**

incident of this sort needs to be thoroughly investigated to establish whether there were failings and whether our building systems are working as they should," Dr Smith says.

"The investigation needs to look into whether the design, construction and maintenance of the balcony was up to the required standard, and to establish why it collapsed. It is possible that the balcony did meet standards but that the loading from the large number of students on it was in excess of what the Building Code requires. I am open to all possibilities but want to ensure we do everything possible to avoid these sorts of building accidents."



06

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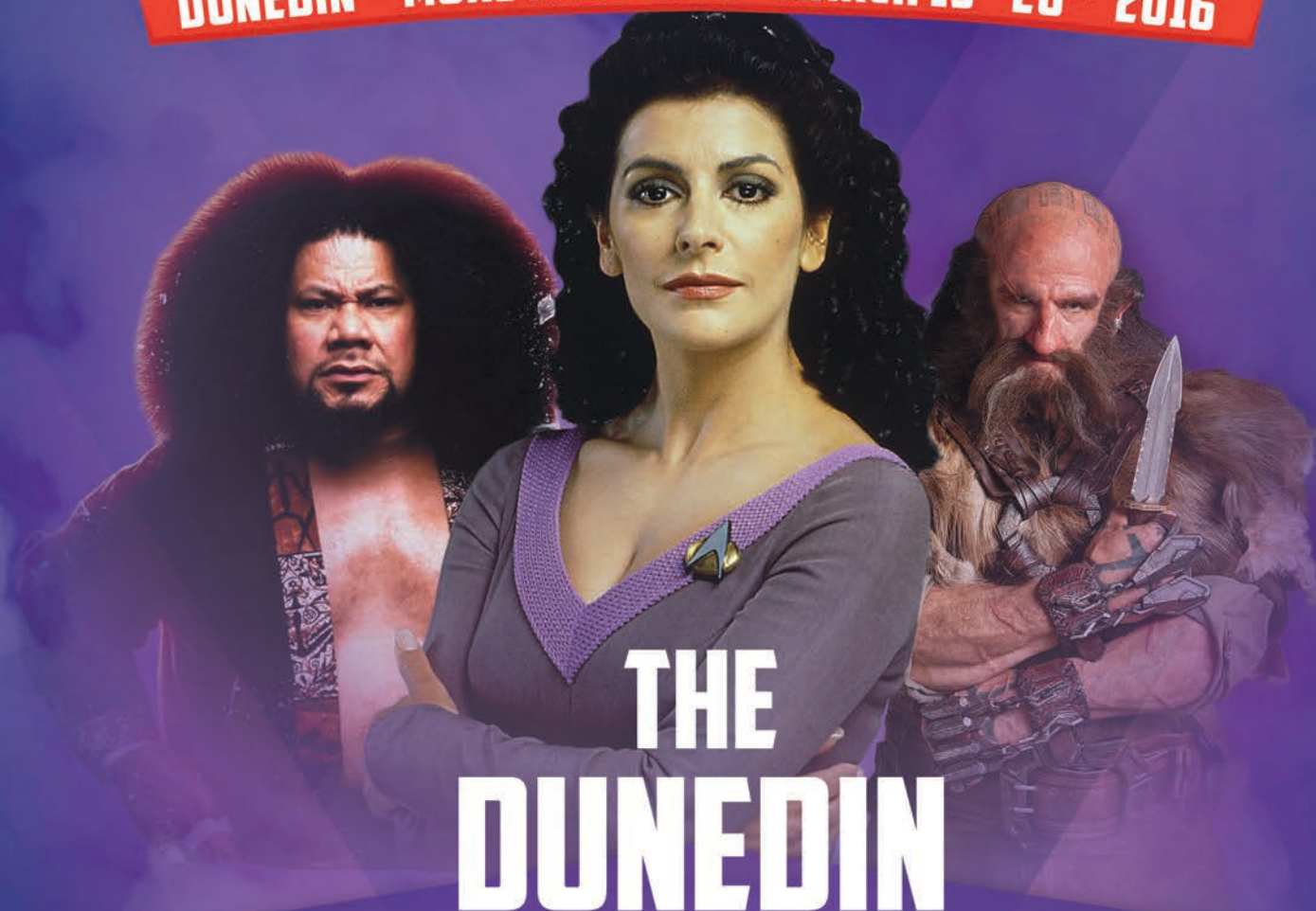


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SUPPORT FOR SUFFERERS SEES SUICIDE RATE SUBSIDE

by HENRY NAPIER

THE RATE OF SUICIDES IN THE Dunedin city area have decreased over the last five years. A report obtained from the Coronial Services unit under an Official Information Act request has shown the number of suicides dropped between 2010 and 2015.

The coroner's report shows the rate of suicides in Dunedin has decreased by nearly 50 percent annually. There was sixteen suicides in 2010 to 2011 compared to nine in the 2014 to 2015 period. The years 2011 and 2012 recorded thirteen and fourteen deaths respectively followed by a significant decrease in 2014 to seven.

A report released in October of 2015 showed that the number of suicides referred to the New Zealand Coroners was at an all-time high since the recording begun in 2007. The recent report, specifically focused on the Dunedin City area would suggest suicide rates are significantly lower compared with the rest of the country.

Despite the comparatively lower statistic in Dunedin, Labour's

Associate Spokesperson for Health David Clark says that suicide rates are still "way too high". Dr Clark pointed to Government funding of mental health as a concern for suicide rates.

"I have people regularly coming into my office drawing attention to inadequacies in the system who have experienced tragedies.

"Funding from central government for mental health has dropped as the responsibility has been devolved to the community level without funding following. I think until we see mental health and suicide become a priority we will see suicide rates that are too high" says Dr Clark.

However, Minister of Health Jonathan Coleman has contended that mental health is a priority for the Government. In a recent press release Dr Coleman said a number of initiatives have been started including one specifically targeting suicides.

"Mental health issues affect a large number of New Zealanders. Providing a quality and timely mental health service has been a

priority for this Government," says Dr Coleman.

Providing a quality and timely mental health service has been a priority for this Government

"We've put a number of initiatives in place to improve the wellbeing of New Zealanders, including Rising to the Challenge, the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project, and the Suicide Prevention Action Plan."

The manager for Student Support for the University of Otago Philippa Keaney believes the Government is "genuinely concerned about suicide in New Zealand. I think the fact that we're having more conversations probably suggests that we are being more transparent about it as an issue societally.

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IF ONLY STEVE COULD TALK



RECENTLY THE BELOVED MASCOT OF A STUDENT flat was kidnapped, held to ransom and eventually recovered after a daring night-time raid which landed a rescuer in hospital.

A third-year student, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he won Steve in a bet as a first-year and they had become close companions ever since.

"When we were in our second year we turned him into a funnel, which we hung off the front of our flat with 4m of tubing... and plumbed at the bottom."

If only Steve could talk.

Steve, who was "just one of the flatmates", was firmly settled into his new flat when things got weird.

Very weird.

"Steve had been chilling outside our house, but when we came home he had disappeared," one of the flatmates said.

Worried about Steve, they posted a missing person notice on Facebook, and received various titbits of information.

However the flatmates investigation soon escalated after an anonymous post by the alleged kidnappers.

That post showed five masked people in hoodies surrounding a clearly terrified Steve, and the message, "There is a ransom note in your letterbox".



<-Steve

That ransom note said "Steve will be returned when we get our alcohol".

Through various sources and tip-offs the flatmates determined that Steve was held against his will at a neighbouring flat.

On Monday night they cased one of the flats only to hear an alleged kidnapper say "maybe we should cut off one of the finger's and send it to them".

However Steve's flatmates immediately posted on Facebook a "finger won't do", and the kidnappers suddenly realised they were surrounded.

As the kidnappers came out onto their flat's balcony, the would-be rescuers tried to save Steve only for one to fall through a garage roof. One of the rescuers suffered a dislocated shoulder and was taken to Dunedin Hospital.

"We were totally sober after an O-Week of ridiculous consumption," a flatmate confessed.

Steve was forced to spend another night in captivity, but was returned on Tuesday.

In a weird twist to the story, the kidnappers were invited around for flat drinks on Saturday night.

SOUTH DUNEDIN WAS "SEVERELY NEGLECTED"

by JOE HIGHAM

SOUTH DUNEDIN RESIDENTS ATTENDED THE Nations Church in King Edward Street on Monday night for a meeting about the effects of a devastating flood that caused lasting damage to the community almost nine months ago.

Flooding caused damage to 1250 properties as 175mm of rainfall fell over one 24-hour period, the equivalent of two months rainfall in just one day.

The floods hit "the lowest lying area with the largest population in New Zealand," according to the first speaker at the event, Dunedin South MP, Clare Curran.

The second speaker, Bruce Hendry, a former city surveyor of 32 years for the Dunedin City

Council, who spent nine of those on the Drainage and Sewage Board, said: "In my experience, this flood should have been a nuisance but not the disaster it was."

Curran also claimed the "southern side of Dunedin has been severely neglected for many years" and that the flooding should "not have happened although we are yet to find out why it did."

In response to the accusation of 'severe neglect,' Dave Cull assured us, "that's simply not true", adding that "continually pointing the finger definitively takes away from the fact that we have a sea level rise and we deflect attention away from it at our peril."

Cull's references to sea-level rises being one of the main explanations drew Curran to mention: "We should not confuse poor decision-making, poor management and poor systems with a slow but inevitable sea-level rise,"

No explanation has been given as yet for the

reasons behind flood, although Cull said the report on whether the drainage system and mud tanks were responsible would be with us "within a month."

Cull said the "overall belief is that it was an extreme event and we believe, even if the whole system was operating optimally, there would've been flooding because it couldn't have coped after a certain point."

He said that the community is becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of an explanation, and are asking: "how long does it take?" [To disclose the reasons behind the flooding]. He said that his "answer is now: "too long.""

What is needed is "a proper chain of command to make sure the pumps are working and even turned on properly and contingency plans available if they don't work... [We also need] reassurances on the responsiveness of civil defence" according to Curran.

■ IRAN ELECTS REFORMIST MAJORITY

by JOE HIGHAM

IRANIAN REFORMISTS ARE CELEBRATING AN UNPRECEDENTED VICTORY IN LAST WEEK'S ELECTION, earning 83 of the 280 Parliamentary seats as well as making significant gains in the country's clerical body; the Assembly of Experts.

The principle reformist party, the Persuasive Coalition of Reformists, fulfilled widely anticipated changes in Iran's Parliamentary and Clerical bodies winning an unprecedented majority. The reformists earned 51 more seats than previously held, while the country's conservative

party, the Principlists Coalition lost their formerly held majority of 157 seats, winning only 64 seats.

The election, held on 26 February 2016, was expected to hold significant changes for the infamously aggressive Islamic Republic following the landmark nuclear agreement with western powers. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who is widely considered as politically moderate, has led considerable

Iran is a theoretically managed democracy with both a Supreme Leader who is the head of state and a president who is head of government. The Islamic Republic also has a democratically elected Parliament, known as the Majlis, as well as an elected clerical body called the Assembly of Experts, who will appoint the next Supreme Leader.

International relations expert Jayan Morar says the elections will have long-term implications for the Islamic Republic, specifically the states place within the international environment.

"Realistically there probably won't be an overhaul of domestic policy. Fundamentally Iran is further right than what we consider progressive ideology in a Western democracy. However, the way in which Iran operates internationally will be where we see the real change. The nuclear deal was a considerable step forward and that was led by [Iranian President Hassan] Rouhani, traditionally we haven't seen a President in Iran have this much influence, and now that he has support from the legislative and clerical branches progressive foreign policy will be a lot approachable for the administration."

TPPA CIRCUS KICKS OFF

by JESS THOMPSON

THE FIRST OF THE TPP ROADSHOWS KICKED off today with central Auckland being the first stop on the trail. The roadshows are the government's sales tactic for the agreement, which has gathered criticism by many members of the public as well as several political parties.

Several protestors dressed as clowns raided the event to inform people of the damaging effects of the international agreement. The group was eventually escorted away by security, proclaiming, "This is a JOKE!"

On the 4th of February the ministers from twelve Pacific Rim countries, including New Zealand, signed the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement in Auckland. Whilst the agreement has been signed, it is not yet ratified into New Zealand law, giving hope to those fervently against it.

The agreement involves thirty chapters on matters of public policy, with the stated goal: "promote economic growth; support the creation and retention of jobs; enhance innovation, productivity and competitiveness; raise living



standards; reduce poverty in our countries; and promote transparency, good governance, and enhanced labor and environmental protections." It is unlikely to come into full force until around 2018.

Many people have voiced concerns over the TPPA, with some saying it limits the government's power to regulate, means a loss of sovereignty and impacts on our ability to address environmental protection among other things.

"This government's public engagement on the TPPA has been a circus parade. Even John Oliver has recognised that John Key is a gigantic clown and we came here today to show the government we're not fooled," said 'spokesfool' Braithwaite Musgrave Broccoli, according to an It's Our Future press release.

He went on to say, "this roadshow is nothing but a huge joke, part of the government's tricks and illusions about the TPPA. We had to laugh today because it's ridiculous that such a serious deal is in the hands of those clowns."

At the beginning of the Roadshow, protestors began to laugh out loud, popped balloons and blew bubbles in response to claims of the TPPA's benefits. Eventually, in the spirit of democracy, a vote was called for and the majority of listeners voted the clowns out. The government estimates the free trade deal will add at least \$2.7 billion to our economy every year until 2030 but doubts remain largely due to the secrecy the deal has been negotiated in so far.



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NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR THREATS WORRY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

by JOE HIGHAM

NORTH KOREAN SUPREME LEADER, KIM JONG-UN, HAS SAID HIS COUNTRY SHOULD BE READY to use nuclear weaponry at any time and has threatened to turn Washington D.C. into a sea of fire, a comment that is certainly not infrequent but remains worrying for traditional enemies South Korea and the United States of America.

North Korea's comments come after the U.S. and South Korea scheduled their largest military maneuver in South Korea ever, which will involve 15,000 U.S. troops, double the amount used in previous years, according to the Guardian UK.

North Korea fired an array of short-range missiles off its east coast in a show of defiance at the maneuver as well as against recently imposed international sanctions. Despite the fact the missiles were only fired only into the sea, the escalation has no doubt troubled the international community.

North Korea is commonly known as the 'Hermit Kingdom' because of its secrecy and isolation. It has been under increasingly severe sanctions because of its nuclear missile tests and aggravating behaviour since July 2006, when a United Nations Security Council resolution banned the sale of anything that could help the country's escalating missile program.

The sanctions are in the form of embargos on the importation of certain goods, prohibition on procurement of arms and also freezing of funds and economic resources North Korea can use in its search for further proliferation of nuclear weapons and other munitions.

According to international law, North Korea is technically still waging the Korean War with South Korea due to a peace treaty never being



A convoy of aide from South Korea in 1998 in Demilitarised Zone on the border of North Korea in 1998

signed despite the two countries, having ceased fighting in 1953 after an armistice agreement.

Most of North Korea's 25 million people live in destitute poverty and an Amnesty International report recently concluded that "chronic malnutrition continued to plague most people, with

North Korea is technically still waging the Korean War with South Korea

several reportedly dying of starvation." It went on to say the government has "reduced the daily food rations for households in July and August from 410g to 250g per person, well below the amount distributed during the same months in 2013 and 2014." Human rights abuses are extremely common, with many family members arrested through guilt by association and forced to live for long periods of time in labour camps with horrific living conditions and incredibly arduous workloads.

Russia has also warned North Korea over their threats of using nuclear weaponry, and warned that their confrontational position is increasingly worrying one of their last remaining allies.



The black patch in the middle between the lights is North Korea at night from satellite. The areas with infrastructure (and electricity) on either side are China (top left) and South Korea (bottom right)

■ HIGH RANKING ISLAMIC STATE COMMANDER BELIEVED DEAD

by HUGH BAIRD

ONE OF ISLAMIC STATES MOST INFAMOUS commanders may have been killed during targeted strikes by the United States in Syria.

Abu Omar al-Shishani, described by the pentagon as the groups 'Minister of War' was the target of a strike near the town of al-Shaddadi.

The strike involved wave after wave of manned and unmanned aircraft targeting Shishani, a U.S. official said in a statement recently.

Al-Shishani, whose given name is Tarkhan Batirashvili, joined the Islamic State after leaving an elite unit in the Georgian Military and is said to be a close military advisor to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Al-Shishani is believed to have once fought in military operations as a rebel in Chechnya before joining Georgia's army in 2006 but was discharged two years later for medical reasons. He was then said to have been arrested in 2010 for weapons possession, subsequently spending a year in jail, after which he left Georgia in 2012 for Istanbul and then later for Syria.

In 2014 the U.S. government placed al-Shishani on a list of global terrorists, placing a \$5 million bounty on his head for anyone who could bring forward information and making him one of the United States most wanted men.

The Pentagon believes that al-Shishani was sent to the town of al-Shaddadi to bolster Islamic State troops after they suffered a series of strikes from U.S backed forces leading to the capture of

the town by the Syrian Arab Coalition from IS militants last month.

Whilst there was optimism that al-Shishani had been killed in the strikes there was an unwillingness to declare him dead. Two U.S. officials acknowledged that al-Shishani's death was not certain and one official even limited himself to saying that al-Shishani was just a target of the strike.

There have been false reports of his death on at least three occasions. Including one in which the president of Chechen posted a picture of a dead man online that ended up not being al-Shishani.

Officials believe that al-Shishani was likely killed alongside 12 other Islamic State fighters in the strikes.

BLOODY KNIFE FOUND IN O.J SIMPSON CASE

by HUGH BAIRD

THE CASE AGAINST O.J SIMPSON IN THE MURDER of his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman in 1994 has taken another strange turn.

The discovery of a bloodied knife just last week buried on Simpson's property offers hope of new insight into the unsolved murder twenty-two years on.

The knife was found allegedly by an off-duty officer at the star athlete's mansion, and has been unlawfully kept in the custody of the former traffic cop for over 18 years. Only recently after the officer in question tried to get the knife framed was it revealed that the weapon even existed.

The knife is currently being examined for DNA and other biological evidence including hair and



fingerprints this week.

Simpson, a Heisman Trophy winning NFL star, isn't reportedly losing any sleep over the latest revelations in the case. However, he is afraid that the investigation may affect the possibility of his release in 2017 when he goes before the parole board according to his former manager Norman Pardo.

Simpson is currently in prison for the robbery of a hotel-casino in Las Vegas in 2007 but is eligible for parole in 2017. Although Simpson cannot be charged again for the murder of both Brown Simpson and Goldman, given double jeopardy after he was acquitted of the crime in 1995 he can be denied release on parole for the charges of robbery.

In 1994 O.J Simpson was arrested and charged with the bloody murders of his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. However, Simpson was acquitted of all criminal charges in 1995, in a controversial criminal trial which has become one of the most famous incidents in American history with an estimated 150 million viewers tuning in to watch the verdict.

Following the acquittal of criminal charges a lawsuit for wrongful death was taken against Simpson by the family of Ronald Goldman. In 1997 a civil jury unanimously found Simpson liable for the wrongful death of and battery of both Brown Simpson and Goldman. Simpson was subsequently ordered to pay \$33,500,000 in damages.

TO BREXIT OR NOT TO BREXIT...

by JOE HIGHAM

B RITAIN'S IN-OUT EU REFERENDUM HAS BEEN set for June 23. Being Europe's second largest economy by nominal GDP, a British vote to leave the EU could be catastrophic for the union's integrity, and could spell the collapse of the union itself.

The reason for the referendum is sustained support from parts of the incumbent Conservative Government to leaving the EU, largely due to issues of immigration from Eastern European nations as well as more recent flows of refugees from Syria and its surrounding besieged areas, which has helped herald the rise of right wing groups like UKIP, who gained 16.5 percent in 2009's EU election and 26.6 percent in 2014 (more than any other party in Britain).

David Cameron, who openly supports the United Kingdom's membership of the EU, is putting a lot on the line to appease the Eurosceptic

...a YouGov opinion poll sees the 'remain' vote in a slender lead on 40 percent in comparison to the 'leave' vote, which is marginally behind on 37 percent

Conservative backbenchers that have called so fervently for the referendum. As of March 3, a YouGov opinion poll sees the 'remain' vote in a slender lead on 40 percent in comparison to the



VAUGHAN LIEBERUM / THE UNION FLAG/CC BY 2.0

'leave' vote, which is marginally behind on 37 percent.

The results do tend to fluctuate as we get closer to the date of the vote, largely due to the public becoming more attentive to the arguments on each side and as the media uses its influence to flatter either side depending on their political standpoint. This trend is especially so when considering that as many as 20 percent of people polled were undecided and 5 percent said they simply wouldn't vote at all. Garnering these votes is crucial for the succeeding side.

FOR BREXIT

O NE OF THE KEY ARGUMENTS for leaving the union is that Britain's ability to negotiate trade deals with European countries will be aided by the fact they won't have to abide by bureaucratic EU law. In addition, the added benefits of being able to trade more extensively with countries like China, India and the U.S. also sway people to this side.

Furthermore, the immigration issue is seen by some to be the defining issue that will sway voters either way. Due to the creation of the Schengen Area, anyone holding a passport to any of the 28 EU states is able to travel freely within the other 27 countries. This is seen by many partisan to the 'leave' vote to be hugely undesirable for wealthy countries like the Britain, as

residents of countries with a less affluent population are seen to flood to Britain to seek employment, which may pay better than in their homeland. In addition, the Schengen Area makes it difficult for non-EU residents to settle in European nations, which they say restricts the flow of intellectual capital to Britain.

One of the most significant changes that came as a result of the introduction of the common EU market was the introduction of uniform laws and regulations that bind all countries. By being a member of the EU, Britain has restricted sovereignty on issues of employment, health and safety, and environmental issues amongst many other areas, and by leaving the union, Britain would regain complete sovereignty over these spheres.

AGAINST BREXIT

E U REGULATIONS BENEFIT British businesses that do business in the EU by making one standard regulatory framework across the \$18 trillion economic zone, meaning all business adhere to one set of rules. Huge regulatory negotiations would need to take place if Britain was to leave the EU, and with the outcome unknown no one can weigh up whether they would be better for British business than the current system or worse.

With 45 percent of British trade coming from the EU, staying in the EU would prevent export tariffs on goods traded to EU members and prevent a risk to the growth experienced since the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-08. Italian Minister of Economy and Finances, Pier Carlo Padoa-Schioppa has warned Britain would find it complicated to negotiate free-trade deals with Brussels from

outside the EU. He said: "Whenever you break an agreement you know what you are going to lose, you do not know what you are going to gain in the next agreement," according to the Guardian Newspaper.

Furthermore, by leaving the EU, Britain will not simply stop experiencing the amount of immigration they currently see. Countries who are not in the EU see similar levels of immigration as Britain does. Indeed, proponents of remaining within the EU say that the Schengen Area has been, on the whole, positive, despite the housing crisis that currently hangs over Britain. David Cameron would note that the deal he negotiated last month would begin to curtail the levels of economic immigration Britain sees because now a foreign family who come to work in Britain will only be able to receive child benefit payments after four years. However, it must be said, that this will only come into law as of January 1, 2020.



NEWS IN

BRIEFS

**1 Wisconsin, USA**

Wisconsin Police have twice in a week recovered a stolen load of cheese worth tens of thousands of dollars. Lt. Darren Larson said 41,000 pounds of Parmesan cheese worth \$90,000 was stolen from a distributor on its way to its intended destination of Illinois whilst earlier on that week \$70,000 worth of cheddar was recovered on its way to Milwaukee.

2 Florida, USA

Two brothers who bought Powerball lottery tickets in Florida at the same time both won. But while James Stocklas, 67, scooped the \$291 million jackpot after going in with two friends, his sibling Bob Stocklas won just \$7. However luckily for Bob, James is the generous type and has decided to bump up his brothers \$7 win.

3 Kerala, India

An entire village has worked together to save a terrified elephant that was trapped down a well. Villagers in the southern Indian state of Kerala came to the aid of the baby elephant after they heard its cries for help. Locals used a tractor to carve a make-shift slope and pulled the elephant to freedom with a rope and a village of manpower.

5 Mosul, Iraq

U.S. aircraft have begun targeting Islamic State's chemical weapons sites near Mosul in Iraq in an initial round of air strikes aimed at diminishing the militant group's ability to use mustard agent.

4 Cologne, Germany

Police in the western city of Cologne questioned the 44-year-old man on Wednesday on suspicion he bought chemicals that could be used to make explosives. After giving several reasons for his purchase, the man eventually conceded that he was going to use the chemicals to produce "narcotic substances," Cologne police said in a statement.

6 Lagos, Nigeria

At least 30 people have died after a building collapsed in the Nigerian city of Lagos. The Lagos state government said that the building collapsed after the owners had added floors despite lacking a permit from authorities. Thirteen people had been rescued from the rubble.



7 Lake Ohrid, Macedonia

A tourist allegedly from Bulgaria has been snapped killing a swan in an attempt to have a photo taken with the bird. The tourist was snapped grabbing the swan by its wing before dragging it out of the lake in order to pose photographs with the distressed bird.

8 London, UK

Beatles producer George Martin has died aged 90. Martin was responsible for signing the Beatles to record company Parlophone when others had turned them down, and produced all but one of their albums.

FACTS and figures

The word *LEGO* uses the first two letters of the Danish words Leg godt, meaning "play well"

There are approximately **half a million** pieces of space junk in orbit around Earth that measure at least half an inch wide.

Cats sleep for **70** percent of their lives

Forest fires move *uphill* faster than *downhill*

The most used letter in the English alphabet is 'e'. The least is 'q'

Louis XIV owned 413 beds

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1834 New Zealand's first ever flag was chosen

44B.C. Julius Ceaser was assassinated

1762 First St. Patricks Day parade takes place in New York City to honour St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland

2003 Coalition forces enter Iraq signalling the start of the Iraq war

1963 The infamous prison on Alcatraz Island, housing some of the United States most famous prisoners, is closed

1965 Selma-Montgomery marches take place, highlighting racial injustice in the South and contributing to the passing of the Voting Rights Act, a landmark achievement in the Civil Rights Movement

■ Critic's Top 4 POLITICIANS TO WATCH IN 2016

by JOEL MACMANUS



DAVID SEYMOUR

After a strong 2015, David Seymour has almost certainly secured his personal future as MP for Epsom. 2016 posits a far greater challenge: Saving his party. After 7 years of relatively centrist government, there should be a market for a true Libertarian party among hard right-wing voters dissatisfied with the Labour-lite style of the Key government. Rejecting a cabinet position gives Seymour room to distance himself from National, and should the government allow a conscience vote on his Euthanasia Bill, he has a chance to front a major legislative win and bring the ACT party back from the brink.



ANDREW LITTLE

After winning the Labour Leadership, Little always said he would spend the first year of his tenure focusing on rebuilding the party internally. That time is up. Now, he needs to turn his view outwards and prove that he can connect with voters. While he is unlikely to out-joke and out-selfie John Key, expect a couple of major policy proposals, a bunch of articles in Women's Weekly, and a big push to promote his story of cancer survival.



MARAMA FOX

The Maori Party has always insisted that they will sign confidence and supply agreements with the government of the day, in order to "have a seat at the table". While that is an idealistic stance, their closeness with National has clearly hurt them dearly at the ballot box, losing all but one of the Maori electorates in 2014. With the massive uproar surrounding the TPP, and John Key's decision to avoid Waitangi, the Maori Party may need to seriously distance themselves from National in order to stay alive. Female co-leader Marama Fox is more tapped into the grassroots than her male counterpart, so any major moves are likely to come through her.

ZERO COMPLIANCE WITH ZERO HOURS

by TOM KITCHIN

■
16

IMAGINE IT. SITTING ROUND ON THE COUCH, waiting in anticipation for a call from your employer to see if you will get the hours you need to support you and your family. You can't properly hang out with mates, you can't spend an afternoon down at the shops, it's hard to join a sports team or go to the gym. That's all because you're on your employer's beck and call. Your life is in their hands.

That's what you call a zero-hour contract. No hours are guaranteed hours but you've got to be on call for whenever your employer needs you. This debate in Parliament isn't new, but it's appeared again due to the development of

the Employment Standards Legislation Bill.

The aim of the bill is to 'enhance protections for both employers and employees' and one of the most contentious issues has been the inclusion of these zero-hour contracts. It's been difficult for Michael Woodhouse, Workplace Relations & Safety Minister, to gather any support for the bill from outside the National Party. As it happens, National need the support of Labour to pass the bill.

Labour clearly have their concerns with the bill. Spearheaded in this instance by Workplace Relations Spokesperson Iain Lees-Galloway, Labour voted for the Second Bill to progress on

Wednesday 2nd March. But they won't vote for the bill to pass its third reading unless these come into place:

1. **Remove the ability for employers to keep employees on call with no permanent hours**
2. **Employers cannot be able to cancel shifts at the last minute**

The issue is divisive and has caused a lot of controversy. Labour argue that the government promised they would look into eliminating zero-hour contracts completely. There are some strong opinions amongst the industries where these zero-hour contracts are most common and this is the basis of National's argument. For the fast-food industry in particular, some



JUDITH COLLINS

Crusher Collins used her temporary exile from cabinet to increase her public profile with newspaper columns and constant appearances on Paul Henry. Her new position as Minister for Corrections limits her ability to make media appearances, but it gives her an opportunity to get back to her hard-hitting, no-nonsense approach on criminal offending, throwing juicy red meat to the National Party base. When Key steps down, Collins will be hoping to recapture the conservative wing of the caucus and ride it to leadership.

employers argue that they need the flexibility to make sure all shifts are filled. But this flexibility from the employer's side could make the employee's life very inflexible. Labour want to guarantee that workers will actually have some hours, and enough money to cover weekly expenses. At the time Critic went to press, both National and Labour were in the process of discussing changes to the bill before it goes to its third and final reading.

You could argue it's a case of ideology: being employer friendly vs. employee friendly, and that's where the heart of the issue might lie. Give the workers their rights or help the employers manage their businesses easier? That's the debate. Now it's time to put the conflicts aside and for parliament to solve it.

opinion

ON RELIGION, BIGOTRY, & DONALD TRUMP

by JOEL MACMANUS

BEING A CHRISTIAN CAN BE FRUSTRATING sometimes. In the least religious generation in history, it's tough not to feel a little weird. I don't really like telling people about my faith, because I don't want them to think I'm one of "those Christians". I feel the need to constantly explain myself: Yes I believe in evolution, no I don't care about pre-marital sex, gay marriage, or abortion, and yes, of course I drink, why else would I have come to Otago?

Which is why I despise it when religion mixes in with politics, especially the way Republican presidential candidates have been using it, because I know it only feeds the negative stereotypes of my faith. There are actual candidates for President of the United States this year who have stated beliefs that the earth is 4000 years old and Hurricane Sandy was caused by gay marriage. Statements like that have no place in politics, and certainly do not represent the teaching of the church that I know.

My personal theory is that within the greater demographic of the American religious right that buy into this kind of rhetoric, there are two distinct groups: Christian Conservatives, and Bigots. Christian Conservatives are true believers who have been taught a very rigid interpretation of the scripture, which leads to them taking some extremist political positions. Bigots on the other hand, are just assholes who use the Bible to justify their poisonous worldview.

Take the issue of abortion, for example. A Christian Conservative may be opposed to abortion on the basis that they believe life begins at conception, and they see the termination of a young life as a greater evil than forcing a woman to carry her unwanted child to term. A Bigot's opposition to abortion is founded on a mixture of sexism, slut-shaming, and the idea that pregnancy is a punishment for female promiscuity.

It's the same on gay marriage. A Christian Conservative may be opposed on the basis of a narrow interpretation of Leviticus. A Bigot is

opposed because they think gay people are icky.

Even back in the 1960's Christian pastors were justifying their opposition to Civil Rights by claiming that black skin was God's punishment on all the descendants of Cain for the murder of his brother Abel in the book of Genesis. It's not hard to see how an honest believer could be swayed by an influential pastor into adopting racist beliefs in the name of God.

So when you see ultra-religious candidates like Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum, and Ben Carson, who tend to do well in early voting states like Iowa with the backing of evangelic voters, you have to give both the candidates and their supporters the benefit of the doubt that they are indeed true Christian Conservatives who have founded their beliefs on scripture.

But the rise of the newly anointed son of the religious right, Mr. Donald J Trump, would suggest otherwise. This is a candidate whose first foray into the political arena was as the figurehead of the Obama birth certificate conspiracy theory, who launched his campaign by promising to round up and deport 12 million illegal immigrants, claimed that Prisoners of War weren't heroes because "they got captured", and whose biggest policy proposal thus far is an outright ban on Muslims entering the United States.

While I am far from the gatekeeper on what it means to be a Christian, it doesn't take a theological scholar to tell that these are not exactly the "Love thy neighbor" teachings of Christ.

Recent polling has shown that some 89 percent of Trump voters self-identify as Christian. Of course, plenty of Republicans are supporting Trump on the basis of his business acumen, fiscal policy, or perceived electability. But those who support him because of his social policies? Don't believe for a second they're supporting him because they're Christians, they're supporting him because they're assholes.

■ SHARAPOVA TESTS POSITIVE FOR DRUGS AFTER BIG NEW YEARS

by SEAN NUGENT

FORMER WORLD NUMBER ONE AND GLOBAL tennis icon Maria Sharapova has admitted to failing a drug test at the Australian Open in January.

The five-time Grand Slam winner tested positive for meldonium, a drug used to help the flow of blood and oxygen.

The drug had been banned by the International Tennis Federation since January 1. Sharapova had been taking it for health reasons for a number of years.

"I made a huge mistake," Sharapova said. "I know with this that I face consequences."

Her shocking announcement saw Nike, Sharapova's longtime sponsor, suspend its relationship with her while the investigation continues. She is currently midway through a

\$70 million, eight-year contract with the sports brand, signed in 2010.

"We are saddened and surprised by the news of Maria Sharapova," a Nike statement read. "We have decided to suspend our relationship with Maria while the investigation continues."

Ben Nichols, a spokesman for the World Anti-Doping Agency said that meldonium had been moved from the monitored list to the banned list "because of evidence of its use by athletes with the intention of enhancing performance."

According to the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme, Sharapova could be banned for up to four years for intentionally using a performance-enhancing drug. If found guilty, Sharapova could be nearly 33 before she returns to competitive tennis.

"I don't want to end my career this way. I really hope to be given another chance to play this game."

However, former coach Jeff Tarango does not believe that Sharapova will receive such a harsh penalty. He believes that Sharapova took the drug unintentionally, a punishment with a maximum of only two years.

"I think it immediately falls under two years but with these circumstances probably one year," he told a BBC radio station.

The last time Sharapova was on the court she lost against world number one Serena Williams in the quarter finals of the Australian Open. It was the 18th consecutive time that Williams had beaten Sharapova, who has been nursing a forearm injury since.

As the investigation continues, all eyes will be on the former champion as she deals with easily the most difficult setback of her career.

NEW ZEALAND'S GREATEST BATSMAN PASSES AWAY

by HUGH BAIRD

AFTER A PROLONGED FIGHT AGAINST lymphoma, Martin Crowe, New Zealand's greatest ever batsmen passed away last week in Auckland aged just 53.

A statement from his family headed "God Speed, Rest in Peace" said he had died peacefully, surrounded by family.

Crowe was initially diagnosed in 2012 with Lymphoma but had announced only eight months later that he was in remission from the disease, although had remained cautious of his good health given advice from doctors that the disease may very well return.

Late 2014 Crowe announced that the diseases had again returned tweeting that "his friend and tough taskmaster Lymphoma is back to teach me again." Indeed Crowe had been diagnosed with a double-hit Lymphoma and given only a five percent chance he would survive the next twelve months.

Following his death tributes have flown in from those who knew Crowe both on and off the field as well as countless members of the public who have shown their gratitude for all that Crowe contributed towards New Zealand Cricket.

"Very sad to hear of the passing of Martin Crowe this morning. An inspiration to me and so many others. One of our true greats," said fellow New Zealand Cricketer Stephen Fleming.

Crowe's cousin and Hollywood actor Russel Crowe also tweeted saying "My champion, my friend, my hero. I will love you forever."

Crowe will be remembered as one of New Zealand's greatest batsmen with one the country's best records.

After making his first-class debut for Auckland as just a teenager, Crowe then went on to represent New Zealand in 77 tests, scoring 5,444 runs at an average of 45.36 and making 17 centuries, the most by any Kiwi.

Up until Brendon McCullum's 302 against India in 2014, Crowe held the record for the highest individual by any Kiwi, falling just short of his triple century on 299 against Sri Lanka back in 1991.

Crowe also excelled at the shorter format of the game scoring 4,704 runs over his ODI career at an average of 38.55.

In 1991 he was named New Zealand Sportsman of the Year and the following year was made a Member of the Order for his services to cricket. Crowe was also inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in a ceremony early last year during a World Cup match between New Zealand and Australia.

THE CRICKETING SUMMER



by **SEAN NUGENT**

IT'S BEEN A TURBULENT SUMMER OF CRICKET FOR THE BLACKCAPS. A FAIRLY promising series in Australia was followed by a strong period over the Christmas break against firstly Sri Lanka and then Pakistan. The Chappell/Hadlee trophy was successfully defended, before Brendon McCullum bid his farewell from international cricket in sensational fashion. This was during what would be considered a learning experience for other members of the side as Australia dominated much of the test series.

Injuries certainly played a key role along the way. The initial loss of both Corey Anderson and Jimmy Neesham threw young Mitchell Santner into the lion's den in Perth, before Henry Nicholls struggled against quality pace bowling in the return series when he replaced Ross Taylor. Although not the ideal situation for either player, the experience gained from those opportunities should set them in good stead for the future.

TO SUMMARISE, HERE'S A FEW POSITIVE AND negatives from this summer's cricket:

POSITIVES:

- Played well in Australia after slow start in Brisbane
- Continued to dominate the one-day arena
- The successful bleeding of young players Kane Williamson. That is all.

NEGATIVES:

- Boulton/Southee duo never really got going
- Inconsistent top order in test matches
- Mark Craig – needs to go. Bring back Ish Sodhi.
- Having to listen to Channel 9's commentary for weeks
- No one gave David Warner any chin music

PREVIEW OF T20 WORLD CUP

It can be difficult to keep track of all the sporting events around the globe, especially at this time of year, but hasn't the T20 World Cup just snuck up on us? Yet here we are, ready to roll once more. This year's edition is being held in cricket-mad India, home of the IPL and the bookies favourite to bring the trophy home.

It's hard to judge how much this tournament really means to some nations, New Zealand included. On paper the Blackcaps squad looks solid with a mix of experience and youth, plus a couple of 'X-Factor' players such as Corey Anderson, Colin Munro, and Adam Milne. Yet how will they fare on the brown dustbowls in India? Spin is always going to be key in the subcontinent and the trio of Nathan McCullum, Ish Sodhi and Mitchell Santner aren't going to be striking fear into the hearts of the opposition.

The draw hasn't been particularly kind either. Placed in a group containing India, Australia and Pakistan, there's a strong possibility of an early exit for the Blackcaps, not that it really matters anyway.

HANDING OVER THE KEYS TO THE CASTLE

Obviously the one significant moment of this tournament will be watching Kane Williamson embrace his new role as captain.

Although he has captained the side fairly regularly over the last couple of years, this will be his first major tournament in the position, and it will be interesting to see how the transition goes following Brendon McCullum's retirement. The two could not be more different – McCullum a tornado of energy flying at breakneck speed, while Williamson is the sort of guy that you wouldn't be too surprised to see playing bowls with your grandparents. Interestingly, Williamson is the one with the better captaincy record in T20 internationals, with a winning percentage of 58 percent to McCullum's 48 percent. So should we really be worried now that arguably our most innovative captain has moved on? Probably not. The core group of players is still there and will be until at least the next World Cup. This team has been established by McCullum and surely will continue to blossom under the leadership of one of our greatest batsmen.

WHO WILL REPLACE MCCULLUM?

So with McCullum gone, who will step up and take his spot in the Blackcaps side? It looks like Williamson will continue to open with Martin Guptill in the T20 World Cup, as he did in the series against Pakistan earlier this year, with Colin Munro coming in at first drop. In test matches Henry Nicholls will probably slide to number five in order to accommodate Ross Taylor, although other alternatives could be found.

The opening spot vacated by McCullum in the one day side is very much up for grabs. Does coach Mike Hesson look to Tom Latham or does he bring in a George Worker, Brad Cachopa or Dean Brownlie? Is Jesse Ryder back in the fray? It's hard to tell but there is plenty of time for that spot to be filled and secured, as this team works towards the next World Cup in three years time.

The Path to Fashion Week: OP to iD

Brittany Pooley talks to the eight finalists from the Otago Polytechnic School of Fashion whose collections will be sent down the catwalk at iD Fashion week.

iD Fashion Week is Dunedin's own annual celebration of New Zealand fashion. It presents two major Fashion shows; the iD International Emerging Designer Awards and the iD Dunedin Fashion Show otherwise known as Railway Each year designers from all over the world are invited to put forward their designs for The iD International Emerging Designer Awards. As New Zealand's largest design competition, this year's designers were selected out of 150 applicants from 15 countries. Designers come forward from many schools including The Otago Polytechnic, giving each competitor the opportunity to showcase their work and win cash prizes and internships. Academic leader for Fashion at The Otago Polytechnic and deputy chair of iD Fashion week Margo Barton has previously stressed the importance of such shows: "Fashion has a long history of emerging fashion designers taking part in international awards such as the iD International Emerging Designer Awards, and whilst winning is of course the main aim for designers, the reality is that the most important outcome for the finalists, and for the students and staff working on the event is the international networking opportunity. It's a chance to share and learn from each other and to plan future collaborations and fashion adventures."

This year, four Otago Polytechnic students were selected; Myself (Brittany Pooley), Andrea Short, Shelby Tuinman-Bell, and Sophie Ball. The show takes place on Thursday the 17th of March and a free exhibition of the garments will be held from Friday March 18th to Saturday 19th March at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.

The second annual show is the iD Dunedin Fashion Show, presenting the top fashion labels from our nation. Each year, iD invites two major labels to feature as their special guests. This year we will have the opportunity to see New Zealand designer Kate Sylvester and New Zealand born british based designer Emilia Wickstead. Alongside these, and many other big names, stand six of the 2015 Otago Polytechnic graduates selected by an anonymous panel of designers. Myself (Brittany Pooley), Amy Dunn, Joseph Hollebbon, Kenya Quin, Sharlee Ghent and Andrea Short were all chosen based on our graduate collections during the 2015 Otago Polytechnic Collections show. iD is an opportunity that can give designers crucial national and international visibility. Local designer Charmaine Reveley is a Dunedin success story that proves the potential importance of iD on design careers. In a recent social media interview she said that her first iD experience was as a polytechnic student. "I got selected as one of the three students to represent the polytech. It was really exciting and cool." She is looking forward to "showing a collection on the runway as a whole": "it's really exciting to show the public what we do." This year's iD Dunedin Fashion Show will run over two nights, Friday the 18th and Saturday the 19th of March. The show will also feature the winner of the iD International Emerging Designer Awards.

To give you an insight into this year's show and the concepts behind some of the collections, we've supplied profiles of the emerging and railway designers' collections.

Name: Brittany Pooley
 Hometown: Christchurch
 Show: iD Dunedin Fashion Show, iD International Emerging Designer Awards
 Collection: "The Next Day"

My 2015 Artisanal Collection "The Next Day" is an artefact collection composed of five contemporary tailored coat designs styled with linen, wool and silk garments. I draw primarily from the album cover for David Bowie's "Heroes" and its amendment for The Next Day, as well as Albert Camus's absurdism. I fortify the presence of the Absurd within Bowie and his work by showing how Camus's philosophy can be compatible with the ways in which we police our own behaviour and form our identities. The Absurd is a key theme in David Bowie's 2013 album *The Next Day* that comes across as Bowie attempts to depict the absurdist nature to persist ever forward. Two conceptual goals of this collection are the portrayal of existential crises shown primarily through distressed textiles, and to pay homage to Bowie's album covers as cultural artefacts featured through a series of portraiture on the back of the coats.



Name: Sophie Ball
 Hometown: Wanaka
 Show: iD International Emerging Designer Awards
 Collection: Welcome to Sophie's World

Inspired by the silly notion that Wanaka is hiding it's own mythical creatures, Welcome to Sophie's World is a textile driven collection that brings to life the inner world and imagination of a designer looking to escape the mundane reality of life and share a bit of silliness and quirk with the world.



Fashioned after the Lochness Monster and The Abominable Snowman, the stars of the collection are Locky and Snowy, they make their debut throughout the collection in digitally printed fabrics, screen prints and quilted pieces that they are each individually free motion quilted.

What do you think will make you stand out as a designer competing in the iD International Designer Awards?

I think I stand out because of my textiles and prints. I draw characters that are weird hybrids of animals and fruit, I don't even understand what my brain thinks, it just happens! I think I am so bad at drawing what I want and what my hand draws never quite align but I just go with it. I love what I do and I have so much fun and I laugh at how silly my designs are and I really hope that comes through in my prints. I think they are very unique and have a childlike quality that isn't seen in a lot of fashion for women. I also design for a younger target market in mind so my collections are often very youthful and commercial; I have designed casual Activewear and comfortable pieces with a lot of personality and quirk. I channel my love of cartoons and am influenced by Kpop music, Japanese anime, and food. I have a huge imagination and I hope that sets me apart. I feel that on an international level

Name: Amy Dunn
 Hometown: Dunedin
 Show: iD Dunedin Fashion Show
 Collection: Amy Dunn A/W 2016.

Based in Dunedin, Amy Dunn believes that a designer garment should be an investment. With emphasis on a minimalist yet innovative approach, her designs possess qualities that allow for experimentation, ensuring versatility. Dunn aims to appeal to an intergenerational market, inspired by the wardrobe swapping relationship between a Mother and Daughter. Garments are timeless and easy to wear, with a focus on fluid natural fibres and subtle geometric prints. The Graduate 2015 Winter collection was developed through the exploration of Buddhism and Perspective Art. These themes were composed into key words such as purity, fragility, fluidity, versatility and minimalism. This season's print emerged from an interest in perspective and motion. A circular motif sits delicately screen-printed on multiple layers of fabric, which overlap through sheer silks when hanging from the body.

Why do you think iD is of such massive importance to the New Zealand fashion industry?

iD is an amazing platform that is able to expose local and up and coming designers work to not only the rest of New Zealand but also internationally. It shows off Dunedin's very distinctive fashion aesthetic and as a designer I feel honoured to be a part of this.



Name: Sharlee Ghent
Hometown: Whanganui
Show: iD Dunedin Fashion Show
Collection: The Pathos of Being

"Mono no aware" is a Japanese design concept, which roughly translates as "the pathos of things". This feeling of empathy is expressed throughout my collection through hard and soft fabrications, a personal and meaningful representation of refined sensitivity and the sorrowful and transient nature of beauty. Experimental design and to fashion disorder on existing silhouettes was my purpose. To create garments through a bricolage process with the placement of unique fabrications means each piece is individual and can never be replicated exactly. This collection is both delicate and tough; brooding yet tender and seeking to convey a metaphorical illusion of mortality.

What is your philosophy as a designer and why do you feel this is important to New Zealand Fashion?

As a designer I gravitate towards a melancholic moody aesthetic, with a touch of romanticism. I seek to invoke a feeling of casual chic by combining complex and simple design. This is achieved by making bold and subtle fashion statements simultaneously. The majority of my design work is fabric focused; with the materials I use dictating my design direction. I feel my philosophy is important to New Zealand because it is a unique and innovative contribution to the fashion industry.



Name: Joseph Hollebon
Hometown: Christchurch
Show: iD Dunedin Fashion Show
Collection: Joseph Hollebon S/S 16

Joseph Hollebon's collection suggests simplicity, freshness as well as understated sophistication. Finding inspiration through the Japanese perspective wabi-sabi, it is the embodiment of a desire to create garments less confined by perfection. The aesthetic, steeped in minimalism, is wearable yet demonstrates an exceptional eye for detail. Hidden closures are substituted for the ornate while ties are bandaged around the body falling down past the knee. Garments are neither distinctly masculine nor feminine and would rather be defined by their softly squared, loose silhouettes that reject the notion of rigidity. The collection appreciates that it is just a stage within a much larger process, trusting that everything is in its right place, for now. Accepting the imperfect and incomplete, every garment embodies a part of a natural cycle of growth undertaken by the designer.

What are your plans following your graduation and how do you feel showing at iD will help you toward these goals?

I have just started Honours at Otago Polytechnic and intend on writing about/exploring ergonomic, functional and aesthetic possibilities of construction based upon unconventional approximations of the human body. iD will expose me as a designer and give me insight behind the scenes of the fashion industry.



Name: Kenya Quin
Hometown: Dunedin
Show: iD Dunedin Fashion Show
Collection: In the Making

In the Making is a visual representation of mental illness in the creative industry combined with an expressive textile manipulation of embroidery showing the idea of craft therapy, a healing creative outlet. The silhouettes are a combination of loose and fitted garments that portray conflicting ideas of feeling overwhelmed and constricted and feeling relaxed and unrestrained. The minimal silhouettes are influenced by my own personal take on traditional Chinese garments and more modern styles of Chinese work wear, following a muted colour pallet. The collection has raw edges that unravel to express the theme of an unravelling mind and represent an unfinished state of creating. The embroidery that is present within the collection is messy, unplanned and unravelling showing the endless cycle of disappointment, recognition and satisfaction that the creative process follows.

How would you describe your aesthetic and what reaction do you hope to get at the iD Railway show?

The aesthetic I follow is timeless, clean and minimal with Eastern influences inspired from my Chinese heritage. Silhouette and the human form influence my design process, using layers to reveal and conceal the body in different ways, focusing on how people choose to wear garments and how the clothing affects the way they feel. I hope that when people view my collection at the iD Railway show they feel a sense of calm and enjoy what they see, I wanted my collection to help people see the beauty of imperfection.



Name: Andrea Short
Hometown: Dunedin
Show: iD Dunedin Fashion Show,
iD International Emerging Designer
Awards
Collection: Remnants of Retrospection

Andrea's collection Remnants of Retrospection tells the story of innocence and the passage of time, how delicate we can become when exposed to outside forces. The fragile fabric represents our ever-changing directions in life. Some things will fall away but what remains of the structure, whispers memories of time, damage, and the strength that it takes to pull things back together? This collection is about letting go of perfection and embracing the process that goes along with being a creative soul. She explains "Your experiences make you who you are; the intention for this collection is to tell my personal story and to begin conversations in order to make meaningful outcomes for others."

Who have been your biggest supporters throughout the development of your collection/selection for Railway and Emerging?

My biggest supporters while developing my collection have definitely been my friends and family, I wouldn't have pushed myself so far without their kind words and reassurance.



Name: Shelby Tuinman-Bell
Hometown: Queenstown
Show: iD International Emerging
Designer Awards
Collection: Half-Sleep

Based around the idea of dreams, Shelby's graduate collection Half-Sleep unites the surrealism of dreams and reality together with inspiration from bedding and sleepwear. Their focus was to bring these ideas together to create a collection to intrigue, both avant-garde and ready to wear pieces that would exude luxury and comfort.

What do you hope to gain by showing your work at the 2016 iD Emerging Designer awards?

I hope to gain connections with the other finalists but having my work shown to a larger fashion audience might also help me to make connections with industry professionals. Getting selected for the Emerging Designer awards has also given me the confidence to apply for other opportunities and to continue to push myself with my design in the future.



THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

AMBER ALLOTT



The leader of the group got to her position of power by violently murdering her sisters. She was born in a cell and fed nothing but jelly by thousands of identical nurses. The bodies of her dead children are picked up and tossed outside the institution they were born in. When she is too old to work her once-loyal charges will assassinate her. When a couple have sex the male's penis is torn in half and left inside the abdomen of his lover. Workers spend their short lives finding miniscule amounts of food in thousands of tiny pieces for the group. They regurgitate the food into each other's mouths in a vomit chain. These creatures are not characters in a horror film, but animals we and many other animals depend on to survive. They suffer so that we can live.

THE ANIMALS ARE, OF COURSE, BEES. Tiny, weird, violent, strange, social, and powerful bees. Almost all of the crops we grow require insects for pollination. Bees contribute to thousands of ecosystems around the world, as pollinators and as a food source for birds and other insects.

Even as a small child, I had a special fondness for bees. Some of my earliest memories of them include my dismayed mothers' attempts to stop me from petting particularly fluffy bumble bees, and eating intact honeycomb out of a wooden box with a spoon; the rich dark honey oozing out of the waxy cells like liquid candy.

Inside the hive, the most common species of bee in New Zealand, *apis mellifera*, or the Western Honey Bee, live fascinating and sometimes horrific lives. So let's take a look at what it would be like to live in a beehive, from the kind-of cute, to the pretty cool, to the downright disgusting.

Worker bees live for only 63 days long, and the first 21 of them are spent eating and sleeping. The queen bee lays her eggs in wax cells and chooses whether or not to fertilise the egg. Fertilised eggs become female workers, while un-fertilised eggs develop into drones. After hatching, they are fed royal jelly for a number of days during their larval cycle. Eventually they are sealed into a cell. During this time, they will enter a pupal stage, and develop into their more recognizable, insectoid form,

FIG. 1 Nurses secrete royal jelly from a gland in their mouthparts.



before eventually breaking out as fully-developed bees.

For the following 21 days, the naive adults will be assigned a job to do inside the hive. Nurse bees take care of the larvae and the queen. Queen bees have a special retinue of nurses that follow her around, constantly grooming her. Nurses secrete royal jelly from a gland in their mouthparts, which is fed directly to either the larvae or to the adult queens.

General maintenance bees keep the hive tidy and dispose of the bodies of dead bees and failed larvae by tossing them outside. Other bees secrete beeswax from glands in their abdomens, and use it to build and seal cells. After a beekeeper goes into a hive, bees spend an entire day sealing all of the gaps with propolis, a sealant made from tree sap and resins, while the hive is getting set back up. Our desire for honey steals a significant fraction of 63 days a bee is alive for.

Honey is made by bees who spend all day fanning their wings to humidity levels and



FIG. 2 Bees have very powerful little mandibles, and are able to rip each other's limbs off.

prevent the honey from fermenting when sealed for storage. This also controls the temperature of the hive. When it gets hot they line up, with their little butts pointing away from the hive, and beat their wings to create air currents that cool the hive and reduce humidity.

Guard bees are the hive's tiny security guards. They will position themselves around entrances to the hive, analysing the pheromones of all the bees that attempt to enter, rather like checking their ID. If the guards recognise them as a part of the hive,

composition, making it suitable for long-term storage. When the foragers return to the hive, they will regurgitate it into the mouths of runner bees, who will transport it to other runner bees, until eventually, it reaches the honey production line. A whole lot of puking in each other's mouths is involved in making honey.

Pollen is carried on the hairy nodes of a bee's back legs. Bees hop flower to flower, with little yellow balls of pollen on their legs to be transported back to the hive. More pollen will get caught on the bee's fur in a



FIG. 3: Workers guard the queen out of necessity, not love.

they will be let in, and if not, they will be beaten up and removed from the colony. Bees will only sting each other as a last resort. Usually, they will bite and dismember each other. They have very powerful little mandibles, and are able to rip each other's limbs off.

Young bees start out doing the simplest jobs before moving on to something more complex. For the last third of their lives, bees will leave the safety of their hives to forage for nectar to make honey, and pollen. The pollen is used as a protein source for nurses; combined with honey, some tasty glandular secretions, and fermented to make "bee bread." The nectar, a sweet substance produced by flowers specifically to attract insects, is sucked up the bees' tubular tongues and stored in the crop (an extra stomach). While in the crop, the nectar will mix with enzymes that alter its chemical

coat of fine yellow dust. When that bee enters another flower, the pollen rubs off and fertilizes it. Bees will keep foraging until they work themselves to death, or more commonly, when killed by a strong wind, a hungry spider, or annihilation by another natural force.

Workers guard the queen out of necessity, not love. A queen bee will lay eggs constantly for the first two years of her life. When her egg production starts to drop off, when she gets too old, weak, or sick to continue, a new queen must be created. Several new queens are reared for the job. Queens begin their lives as regular female larvae. Baby queens are fed copious amounts of royal jelly by the nurses, which they will eat for their entire lives, instead of being weaned onto pollen and honey. Once grown, the fully developed virgin queens will burst free from their cell, and travel

throughout the hive, emitting a loud vibratory sound known as piping. This mysterious behaviour could be either to attract worker bees or to challenge the other virgin queens to fight. When one new queen finds another, they fight to the death. Queen bees' stingers lack the characteristic barbs of worker bees, meaning they are capable of stinging over and over again. A virgin queen will kill all of her rivals, even those still developing in their cells. Once a replacement queen becomes chosen, the guard bees will turn on their old matriarch. They do this by forming a tight ball around her and sting her to death.

Once one of the contenders for queen has eliminated its rivals in this buggy version of the Hunger Games, she needs to be fertilised in order to start producing worker bee eggs. She flies out of her hive in what is known as a mating flight. Her pheromones will attract swarms of drones from nearby colonies, and they will chase after her, attempting to mate. The drones have thick, stocky bodies, but despite this, are fast and powerful in flight. Their eyes are almost twice the size of a worker or queen's eyes, in order to see her in the air. When a successful drone catches up to her, he will approach her from above, latching



FIG. 4: The drone's eyes are almost twice the size of a worker or queen's eyes.

onto her with all six legs.

The mating process only lasts for a couple of seconds, and male ejaculation is incredibly forceful: powerful enough to create an audible popping sound. The stinger-less drone will then die, having left half of his penis and abdominal tissue inside of the queen. She will go on to mate several more times, collecting enough sperm to last her the rest of her career as queen, before returning to her hive.

Towards the end of the fertile seasons, the queen will lay eggs at ever-decreasing rates. The colony will get smaller and

smaller, and pack themselves together to form a cluster in either the middle of their hive, or the top box. The queen will be positioned in the centre, and the colder it is, the tighter the worker bees will snuggle in around her. The workers will rotate, so that nobody has to stay on the outside for too long and risk freezing to death. Over this period, they will un-cap and eat the honey they'd spent the rest of year preparing. Even with such a small number of bees left in the colony, depending on how long and harsh the winter months are, they will consume between fifteen and fifty kilos of the stuff. The energy the honey provides will not only allow them to produce sufficient body heat to not only keep the queen warm, but to incubate the eggs in her abdomen, thus ensuring the future of their hive.

That's about where the cuteness ends. Sometimes a larger colony will attack a smaller one in an all-out war, wiping them out in order to steal their honey and bring it back to the hive. There is also Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a mysterious ailment in which an entire hive of worker bees abandon their home and their queen, leaving behind all eggs and larvae, and perhaps a few nurses, for unknown reasons. CCD is believed to be associated with

A virgin queen will kill all of her rivals, even those still developing in their cells.

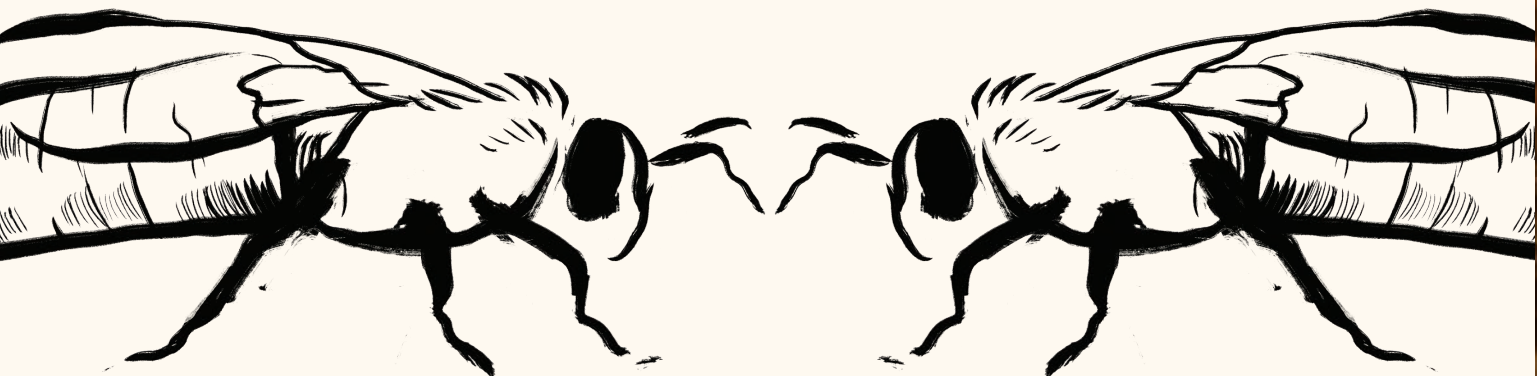


FIG. 5: The drones have thick, stocky bodies, but despite this, are fast and powerful in flight



infestations of the varroa mite, a parasite that sucks the fluid from larvae, giving rise to diseases such as deformed wing virus.

Varroa research is one of the many things the University of Otago Zoology Department beehives are used for, along with behavioural work, and a lot of pheromone work in the past, according to beekeeper and Animal Technician Kim Garrett, consultant for this feature. "I've kept bees of my own for 35 years. The biology of them – they're just amazing creatures, the strategies that they come up with to help with different situations." When asked if there have ever been any mishaps or misadventures whilst maintaining the university's five current hives, Garrett states that during the swarming season, swarms

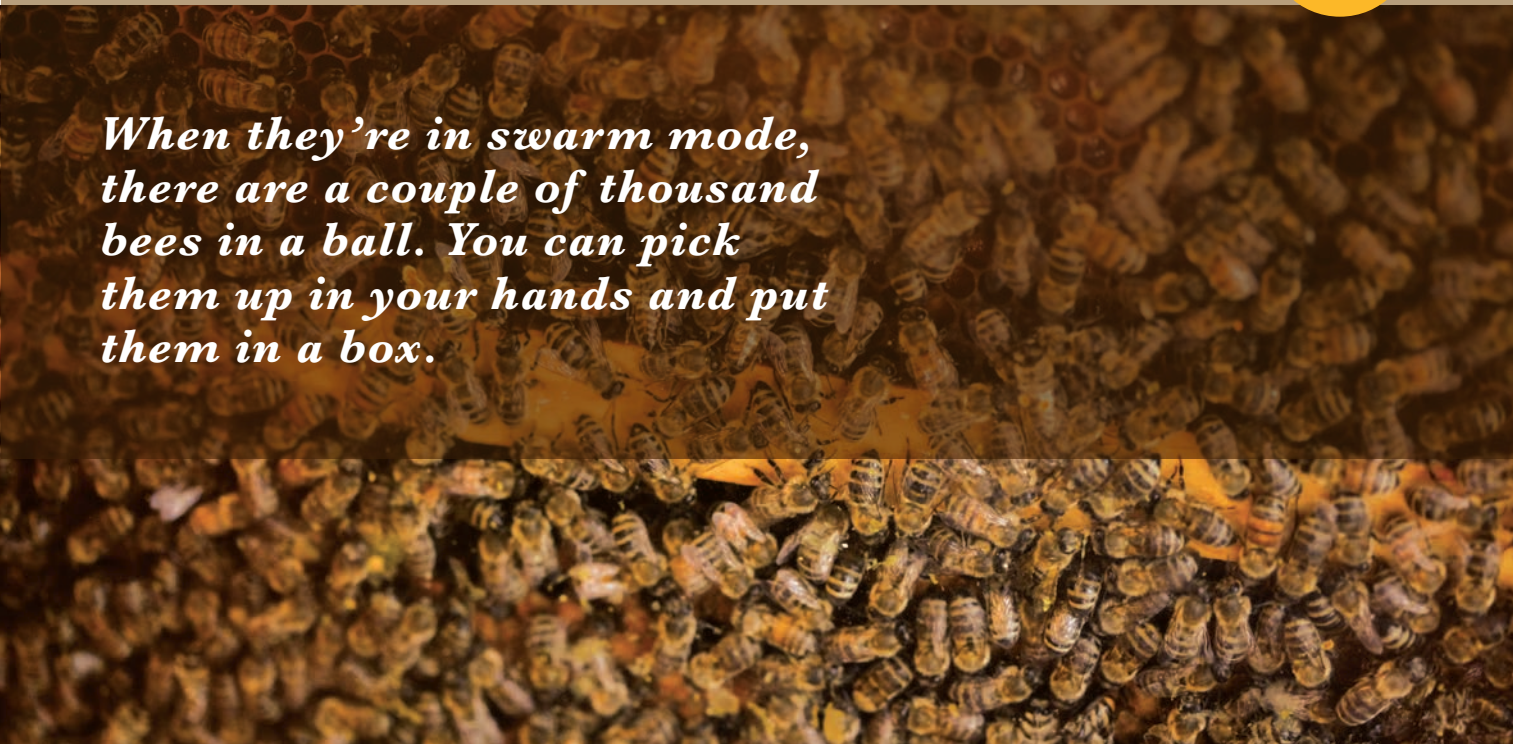
of bees which are usually kept on the roof of the Benham building, decide to move on.

"They often don't go very far in the first 24 hours. There's been a couple of times when they'd be in one of the shrubs down in the car park out of the front building here, so I go down and scoop them up. When they're in swarm mode, there are a couple of thousand bees in a ball. You can pick them up in your hands and put them in a box. I get situations where the swarm is kind of loose, and I'll just be sweeping them up and putting them in a box, and you'll have a thousand bees land on your back. You can feel the weight of them, one tiny guy multiplied by a thousand, and the heat they generate."

Western Honey Bees are incredible creatures. Their grisly existence means we can survive. If you want to witness the puking, infanticide, matricide, genocide, slavery, and mutilation that make the world go round, you can get involved with bees at the University. Although the Zoology department doesn't take on voluntary beekeepers, Garrett suggests that if you want to get involved with the university beehives, to work with the bees, or do some laboratory research, visit Professor Alison Mercer. Dunedin also has its very own beekeeping club, which will be happy to provide information to all interested in these incredible little animals, who do so much for us ■



When they're in swarm mode, there are a couple of thousand bees in a ball. You can pick them up in your hands and put them in a box.



No pain, no gain

by Jean Balchin

It wasn't until I felt the sharp sting of lemon juice trickling down into my eye made me realise I had made a terrible mistake. Inelegantly slumped over the bathroom sink, I squinted through my tears at the weebegone girl in the mirror and vowed never to bleach my freckles again. Although only twelve years old, I had joined the elusive quest for beauty – a desire that has plagued humanity for millennia – ever since the first caveperson spied their prickly visage in a calm pool. From cramping corsets to the slitting and silicon-enhancing of breasts, there have been millions who would avert the inevitable threat of old age and physical deterioration – the "hideous winter", to quote Shakespeare. Socially constructed concepts of superficial beauty have lead do horrible things to themselves for as long as society has existed.



Physical beauty is often equated with youth. It's no wonder then that the search for a fountain of youth occurs frequently within a variety of cultural narratives. According to the Greek historian Herodotus, there existed a fountain in the land of the Macrobian, which imparted super-human life spans to those who drank from it. Alexander the Great was transfixed with the idea of a fountain of youth, travelling over a mythical land called the Land of Darkness to reach it. As the fingers of European colonialism began to grasp the globe, the New World of the Americas was touted as prime location for the fountain of eternal youth. It was the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon whose name became inextricably linked with the legend of this fountain. In 1513, Ponce de Leon led the first European expeditions into Florida, a land of many natural springs. Despite being there in an official capacity to find lost gold and claim land for Spain, Ponce de Leon often set off hunting for the Fountain—he never succeeded in finding it. Given the impracticality of mustering search parties for the mythical fountain of youth, humankind has turned to many weird, wacky and downright dangerous procedures. Fortified with a number of hearty gin and tonics, I decided to examine the quackery of ancient beauty practices.

Despite living in the Age of 'Enlightenment', there was nothing Elizabethan aristocrats loved more than smearing a mixture of white lead, calcium carbonate and hydroxide all over their faces. White skin was favoured as it denoted wealth and power, as opposed to the tan acquired from hours of arduous labour in the sun. This powder was also handy in covering unsightly blemishes caused by syphilis, which ran rampant throughout the kingdom. Although this powder helped men and women achieve the ghostly pallor of a week-old corpse, it also caused a number of

awful, excruciating side effects, from skin inflammation to baldness. In addition to these toxic facemasks, a certain cadaverous hue could be acquired by controlled bleeding wherein one drained the ruddy glow of life from the body, drop by drop. Lead sulphate was also used to remove their freckles — thank goodness my twelve-year-old self didn't have access to such a poisonous substance.

You thought lead powder was bad? Try eating rat poison. One out-dated beauty practice was the ingestion of arsenic to "produce a blooming complexion, a brilliant eye, and an appearance of embonpoint (sexy fleshiness)." This practice originated in south-east Austria, where during the 19th century, travellers and scientists reported the local consumption of 'ratsbane' with their coffee. Arsenic eating began with the consumption of a single grain at a time, until one built up a slight tolerance. Dependency soon followed, and the consequences of withdrawal included indigestion, anxiety, loss of appetite, spasmodic pain, vomiting and constipation. Arsenic also causes goitres (enlargement of the thyroid gland on the neck) — not exactly the blooming, brilliant swelling one might have hoped for.

Physicians and chemists soon caught whiff of this 'beauty regime' and in 1901, the British Medical Journal claimed that: "It is a matter of common knowledge that arsenic and its salts exhibited for a time in small doses establish a tolerance, and the arsenic eaters of the Austrian Tyrol are classical proofs of the fact." These 'scientific' claims lent validity to the use of arsenic in medicines and cosmetics. The most popular of these compounds was Fowler's Solution, a preparation used since 1786 for its properties as a tonic and stimulant. With the publication of works such as *The Chemistry of Common Life* by James Johnson, romantic accounts of the beautifying effects of arsenic soon had women flocking in the thousands to chemists and department

It's all vitality and sparkles until someone's throat swells up to bullfrog proportions

stores. Many new products flooded the market, from Dr Campbell's Arsenic Complexion Wafers to Sulphide of Arsenicum ("the sure way to a better complexion"). External application of arsenic constricted capillaries in the face, enabling one to achieve the anaemic pallor so favoured by the Elizabethans. Arsenic eating continued into the 20th century, until investigators realised that it probably wasn't the best idea. It's all vitality and sparkles until someone's throat swells up to bullfrog proportions.

Quite apart from arsenic and the odd dusting of lead powder, another whitening method employed by humans in the past was urine — specifically, Portuguese urine. In Ancient Rome, Portuguese urine was considered superior to the local piss, and was used by both men and women to whiten teeth. All things considered, this beauty hack isn't that harmful — the ammonia in urine is actually a rather good disinfection. Indeed, urine was an important ingredient in mouthwash until at least the eighteenth century. Worried your Listerine might give you oral cancer? Why not pee in a cup and swill that around in your mouth?



In keeping with this long tradition of using poisons for beautifying purposes, back in the day women would use drops prepared from the belladonna plant to dilate their pupils. Belladonna (Italian for beautiful lady) acts as a muscarinic antagonist, blocking receptors in the eye muscles that constrict pupil size. In addition to seductively dilated pupils, recipients of belladonna sometimes had trouble focusing their eyes, suffered visual distortion, increased heart rate —and in cases of prolonged use, blindness. Hey, at least you'd still be pretty— even if you couldn't see for yourself.

You'd have thought we would have learned from the death and decay of lead face powder —but no, in the 1930s, a popular beauty trend included products made with Radium. I'm no Albert Einstein, but it doesn't take a genius to figure out that slathering your face with radioactive elements is not the best idea. Tho-Radia — containing thorium chloride and radium bromide — was marketed with the name Curie. Dr Alfred Curie was of no relation to Marie and Pierre Curie who devoted their

lives to pioneering radioactive research — Alfred was not going to miss out on a chance to capitalise on their name. Tho-Radia claimed to "Stimulate cellular vitality, activate circulation, firm skin, eliminate fats, stop enlarged pores forming, prevent and cure boils, pimples, redness, pigmentation, protect from the elements, stop ageing and get rid of

You wouldn't catch me powdering my face with lead, or nibbling on arsenic. And as for gargling urine? Please.

wrinkles, conserve the freshness and brightness of the complexion." Pity it also caused anaemia, bone fractures and necrosis of the jaw.

Moving on from terrifying skin lightening methods, I decided to investigate fad diets of yesteryear. One particularly horrifying beauty regime I happened to come across was the "tapeworm diet" wherein one swallowed a pill containing 'sanitized' tapeworm larvae. The resident worms would secrete proteins into the intestinal tract, rendering the digestion of food much less efficient. Popular in England during the nineteenth century, this diet was arguably effective —that is, if you didn't mind harbouring a 20-foot long pet parasite in your gut.

Societal pressure to conform to a certain look occurs within all cultures over the globe. Undeniably, humans tend to be visual creatures — don't ever underestimate the value of a good first impression. One particularly grisly practice in recent history is the Chinese custom of foot binding. This ritual began in a girl's life at around the age of 4, where all her toes (save the big ones) were broken and bent under the foot. The mutilated feet were then bound tightly to prevent them from growing to normal size. These 'lotus feet' were considered highly erotic —indeed, a Qing Dynasty sex manual lists 48 different ways of playing with women's bound feet. Foot binding was a popular means of displaying status as they indicated the woman in question did not need their feet to work. This limited mobility also severely restricted a woman's ability to take part in politics, social life or indeed anything outside the domestic sphere. Moreover, saprobic microorganisms and various other creepy crawlies would colonise the unwashable folds of the feet, causing them to stink. Try that for a foot fetish!

When I was a moody fifteen-year-old, I desperately wanted a lip piercing. However I wasn't prepared to take this practice to the next level —by stretching out my lip with a plate or plug. The process of stretching a lip through piercing is maintained by various groups around the Amazon River in South America and Africa. Given that the weight of



large ornaments (called labrets) can be incredibly painful, young people usually only wear them during ceremonies, leaving the stretched lip to hang down around the neck during everyday life. If stringy lips aren't your thing, how about stretched necks? Subcultures in Africa and Asia consider long

For as long as there have been reflective surfaces, humans have had to contend with the ugly side of beauty.

necks so erotic that women wear multiple brass rings around the neck to stretch it out. While these coils can be removed, the neck muscles will have atrophied and will no longer be capable of supporting the head, causing the woman to asphyxiate.

While researching these beauty practices of yesteryear, I found myself growing increasingly smug. You wouldn't catch me powdering my face with lead, or nibbling on arsenic. And as for gargling urine? Please. I then caught a glimpse of myself in my bedroom mirror. Unnaturally red hair, eyebrows plucked to near —extinction and a thick layer of God-knows— what disguising my freckles. Who was I kidding? When it comes to being beautiful at any cost, values haven't changed

much. From stem cell research to bird poop facials, antiaging is still an increasingly lucrative field of medicine. That's not to mention the chemical peels that literally burn layers of skin off one's face, flappable butt implants or the appetite suppressants that cause heart attacks. At the risk of carping on, let me inform you of a certain pedicure technique where beauty seekers dunk their feet in a tub of voracious nibbling tiny fish. Sure, you might catch some disease from the person next to you, but hey, at least you'll have lovely soft feet!

Botox is a substance injected under the skin to smooth out wrinkles, while sometimes leaving the recipient incapable of registering emotion. You may look younger, but your face could resemble a waxwork figure from Madam Tussads. This in itself is not necessarily a bad thing, but pumping oneself full of botulinum toxin can also cause nausea, respiratory infections, forehead and eyelid drooping and flu-like symptoms. Almost on par with the lead face powder and arsenic body butter is bee venom cream — advertised as the 'safer' version of botox. The venom is harvested via a process wherein a slight electric current is run through a pane of glass, causing bees on the glass to sting. Manufacturers of the cream claim that it induces a reaction in the skin that causes the body to believe it has been stung, increasing blood flow and collagen to the area. Obviously, anyone even slightly allergic to beestings

should stay far away —anaphylactic shock is not sexy. Just thinking about the careful slicing and insertion of collagen, the sucking of fat out of the body and the stretching of skin makes me wince slightly. As with any kind of surgery, complications with liposuction can occur —including blood clotting, fluid loss, and infections.

After researching all these perfectly horrendous beauty practices, I was left feeling rather bewildered and confused. Humanity has long been plagued by a desire to prolong life and youth —or at least, the appearance of it. Be it due to fear of death or the desire to look a certain way, this quest for eternal youth and beauty has (frequently and undeniably often hilariously) backfired over the ages. For as long as there have been reflective surfaces, humans have had to contend with the ugly side of beauty. After researching for this article, I began to question my own beauty decisions and in a fit of spontaneous self-righteousness, I threw my eyelash curler out the window. However, I'm soon heading to the bathroom to dye my hair a brilliant, obnoxious red. Even if the hair dye should drip into my eye, I'll grin and bear it. You know what they say —no pain, no gain.

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University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a
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LIGHTING THE WAY TO DESTRUCTION

Dear Critic,

Living in a Uni flat, my rent encompasses my power costs, which is great. But the Uni being the money sucking vampire that they are, they try to get us to save power as much as possible so that they can keep more of our rent. In fact, they have several lists around the flat as to how to save power. Don't get me wrong, I'm 100% for saving power, and more importantly, the environment. I mean, what's the point in having unnecessary lights on? None, it does you no good. So of course I do my best, like every student out there does, to use as little unnecessary power as possible. Why am I writing to you about this? I'm writing to ask the university why if they're so keen on us saving power, do I always see most of the St Davids and Science building complex lit up at 12/1 at night when I walk home from work? I want to think my money is being used to enrich my education, not light up unnecessary rooms and play adds of the proctors TV at 1 am. So I plead to the Uni to please stop adding to the destruction of our environment and try to do their best to save power by doing the simple things like turning off the lights and TV. Do you need a list of power saving suggestions? Because I have several in my flat.

Sincerely,
The deluminator

GLASS BETWEEN THE TOES

As a resident in the campus area near Leith and Frederick st we are concerned about the worsening problem of broken bottles, litter etc. Bins are short on Frederick st in fact there are fewer than any other street. After 0 week the glass problem was horrendous never mind the plastic booze containers. and other stuff, paper, poos, and litres of urine. Litter is a HUGE problem and a minority choose to just drop it in the gutters etc.

Every weekend I sweep up the glass and remove and recycle what I can. How about a tidy kiwi campaign. I was taught this in my home but many arent. Papatuanuku wants us to look after the planet this is the only one we got. Keep up the good work and have an awesome year Critic is the highlight of my week.

Regards,
Denise

Note from Editor: Last week we made a mistake in our article "Free Tertiary Education Could be a Reality." In the piece we incorrectly identified the Tertiary Education Commission as being a significant backer of Labour's policy. However, it is in fact the Tertiary Education Union and not the Commission that is a strong backer of the policy. Critic apologises to anyone who was affected by the mistake.

A FILM AND NOT A MAN

Issue 02 of Critic featured a review of Danny Boyle's latest film, Steve Jobs. It was largely dismissive of the film, ultimately awarding it a C+. While I agree with Critic that "we don't need another film about Steve Jobs", I suggest that what we have always needed is a "good film about Steve Jobs", and while Jobs (2013) fell well short of the mark, the latest addition to Aaron Sorkin's techno-capitalist-biopic canon is not only the Steve Jobs movie we have always needed, it is also a brilliant film.

Critic's main aversion to the film appears to be with its subversion of the established biopic formula, which is essentially two and half hours of linear grind filled with predictable successes and failures, labouring under a wider rags-to-riches paradigm. It's a tired formula, and one which has become oversaturated in recent years. Steve Jobs offers an alternative. Three scenes. Three Dickensian scenes in which a brilliant and troubled man is confronted by the important people in his life while

in different stages of his personal and professional development. Aaron Sorkin has taken Steve Jobs in a compelling and fresh direction and has written a film which is less about the rise of a corporation and more about a deeply flawed man coming to terms with his human imperfection. It's a film defined by its superb performances, and Michael Fassbender does a staggering job leading the talented cast which powers Sorkin's backstage drama. I agree with Critic that the depiction of real people and events in cinema is inherently problematic, especially when what is depicted is still so fresh in the public consciousness, yet it would be a mistake to dismiss Steve Jobs on this ground alone. Irrespective of the real life controversies Danny Boyle has delivered an outstanding film which is as technically slick as it is narratively compelling. I thoroughly recommend viewing.

Signed,
Alternate Review

CULL'S COLUMN

Things to do outside of 'studentville'

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, AS PART OF A fundraising event for a local charity, I abseiled from the gantry at Forsyth Barr Stadium. It was an exhilarating, albeit scary, experience.

It occurred to me that while the abseil was in one sense a unique opportunity, people who live in Dunedin are actually spoiled for choice when it comes to recreation, getting outdoors and experiencing new things.

There are some fantastic attractions and facilities in and around the campus area. The world-class Toitū Otago Settlers Museum, Otago Museum, Botanic Garden and Public Art Gallery just to name a few.

As a student, however, it can become easy to confine yourself to just the campus area. I urge

you to step beyond and discover all of what makes Dunedin one of the world's great small cities.

Dunedin is a biker's playground. The summer climate is perfect for mountain biking with mild temperatures, a late setting sun and trails which can be found in every direction. Our growing network of dedicated cycle lanes and shared paths provide flat riding and beautiful scenery for commuters and recreational riders alike. Or check out the 150km Otago Central Rail Trail which begins within the city's boundary at Middlemarch.

There are numerous scenic walks in and around the city. Short tracks criss-cross the Otago Peninsula, the Town Belt and hill suburbs, while further afield there are half-day hikes along Dunedin's dramatic skyline and tracks near the Taieri River and Silverstream. Take in the history on the Huriawa Pa Walk to a fortified Maori Pa along the spectacular Huriawa Peninsula at Karitane.

Why not head to Orokonui Ecosanctuary or Otago Peninsula for the wildlife.

Being a coastal city, Dunedin has many beaches scattered along its coastline. For surfers, there are great beach breaks close the city centre, fun point breaks on the north coast and numerous hidden reef breaks. Or you can kayak and windsurf on the harbour.

Close to the city centre you can experience sea fishing and fly fishing and there are numerous dams and lagoons where you can catch trout, salmon and other varieties of fish. In fact Dunedin is the only city other than Vancouver in the world where you can catch a salmon from a wharf in close proximity to the CBD. On Otago Peninsula, head to the Papanui Inlet to collect cockles.

For more ideas on what to do in Dunedin, visit www.dunedinnz.com.



Dave Cull
Mayor of Dunedin



FLUORIDE CONSPIRACIES

by WEE DOUBT

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, water fluoridation is one of the "ten great public health achievements" of the 20th century. Fluoride reduces the rate of demineralisation caused by bacteria from sugar on the surface of the teeth. In order to be effective, fluoride needs to be in your saliva constantly, so putting it in people's drinking water (when it does not occur naturally) doses our mouths with trace amounts of fluoride at regular intervals. Water fluoridation is estimated to reduce the occurrence of cavities by 18–40 percent in children and adults, regardless of other variables such

as diet or getting fluoride from other sources.

Some people view fluoridation as unethical, seeing it as medical treatment given without consent. Others take objection further – a website on "The Fluoride Conspiracy" claims "the reason for the fluoridation of our water is to control our minds, keeping us docile," to "snatch our souls", "destroy our individuality and turn us into compliant sheep, obedient to the whims of a faceless, anonymous bureaucracy." The site claims fluoride was used by Nazi soldiers in concentration camps to "put prisoners into a "mentally submissive state." As though starvation, incarceration, forced labour, the threat

of death, and emotional trauma had nothing to do with it.

Perhaps these conspiracy theorists take it as evidence when they see that the people who don't believe them are still drinking tap water. If they weren't so "mentally submissive" they would realise the water is controlling their minds.

Over-exposure to fluoride can cause dental fluorosis: the staining and pitting of children's teeth. Adults who ingest excessive amounts of fluoride over their lifetime may develop a high risk of bone fractures. Remember, though, that everything is toxic in a high enough dose. Pure water itself can be toxic to humans if we drink enough of it. Most cases of fluoride

poisoning are from water supplies with natural fluoride levels well above recommended levels.

Medical professionals adhere to the Hippocratic oath, meaning they must aim preserve and improve the health of their patients. The New Zealand Dental Association supports fluoridation in water, even though fewer cavities in the New Zealander's teeth means less work for dentists. The home page on their website has links to studies supporting fluoridation, and the statement "Community Water Fluoridation is an effective, safe and affordable way to prevent and reduce tooth decay for everyone."



DAVID CLARK

Dunedin is an outlier

FEW PEOPLE WOULD BE surprised to learn that the Dunedin North electorate has more students per capita than any other electorate in New Zealand. The vitality of the tertiary education sector plays a vital role in the city's prosperity. But how many people know that it also has the most people employed in the health and social services sector?

The extraordinary bearing of health funding on Dunedin's economic wellbeing comes as a direct

result of hosting a teaching hospital critical to the prospects of its University and Polytechnic, and which also services the healthcare of a population spread over a geographic area the size of Belgium.

Last year, independent economic analysis revealed that the current Government has underfunded health in New Zealand to the tune of \$1.7 billion. That underfunding plays out in many ways, but locally it has undoubtedly contributed to stretched staffing, deferred hospital

maintenance and with it, the loss of accreditation in Dunedin hospital for medical student training.

Dunedin is the last major metropolitan centre in New Zealand to have its hospital upgraded. Although the current Government acknowledges it is Dunedin's turn, it seems in no hurry to get on with the upgrade. In the meantime, medical students are training in operating theatres designed 60 years ago, assuming they are specialising in an area that retains accreditation.

Dunedin's future wealth is dependent in no small way upon a hospital rebuild. Biotech companies and others draw upon the expertise available in a top-notch teaching hospital. The rebuild should be beyond party politics, yet the constant stalling reeks of a Government determined to push

financial commitments and responsibility to a future regime. To encourage their efforts along, I have launched a petition to urge the Government to begin construction on Dunedin Hospital before the next election. Whether you are a health science student, or someone who just cares about Dunedin's future, I encourage you to drop into my Albany Street office to sign it.

Dunedin is a city that is affected more than others by the colour of the Government it elects. This is because it is an outlier in so many respects. Labour believes in the opportunities presented by having a well-educated population that can access high quality public healthcare. Labour believes in the opportunities a city of education like Dunedin represents.



Dear Sexcellent

I had sex with a couple of different people during o week, and now I've got some red, itchy bumps around my genitals. Is this an STD???

Please help,
Itchy and anxious

Dear Itchy and anxious,

First off, stay calm! In my experience, at least 90 percent of those pesky red lumps around your lady garden or man forest are ingrown hairs. You all know the panic I'm talking about; those panic-inducing ingrown hairs of death that always appear at precisely the wrong times.

But, and I cannot stress this enough: get your cute lil' tush to family planning or student health ASAP. Either way, the nurses are lovely, non-judgemental, super helpful, and will stock you up with enough condoms - if you have the type of sex that requires condoms - that you could use to build a small raft in the event of a judgement day flood (yay for alternative uses!)

If it does turn out to be some sort of STI (medical professionals have moved towards using the term Sexually Transmitted Infections, rather than the other Sexually Transmitted Diseases),

then fear not! Most sexually active adults will experience some sort of STI at some point in their lives, and these days, most are easily treatable. The stigma surrounding STIs is a factor that contributes to the shame and silence around discussion of them, which means people don't get the help and reassurance they need. We need to make an effort to open up the conversation. STIs don't make you dirty, unclean, or broken; and the more we talk about it, the more everyone will be able to be educated and informed!

While herpes, and some other STIs and conditions that can make your genitals a little funky for a while aren't completely protected against by wearing condoms, they lower the risk of transmission, and it is always better to wear a condom, or a dental dam, just to avoid passing on as much as you possibly can! (And yes, this

is my answer to a lot of the issues that plague daily life. Sleeping with a new partner? Wear a condom! Giving someone a blowjob in the 10 Bar bathrooms? Wear a condom! 4 a.m. and your assignment is due tomorrow at 9? Wear a condom!)

But seriously, there are so many things that red, itchy bumps on genitals could be. There are all types of uber pleasant rashes, skin conditions, and sexually transmitted infections that could be plaguing you, but there's no way to be sure until you go to a doctor. They've seen it all (and worse) before, so there's no need to be ashamed to pop in.

Love,

S



Dear Ethel,

I just moved to Dunedin to begin my first year of study. I grew up in a small rural town and I didn't meet another LGBT person. I have been questioning for a while now and have been excited about the possibility of coming to Dunedin and finally being able to meet other

like-minded people. Then I came across an opinion piece in the ODT which was extremely homophobic and transphobic. What kind of place have I moved too? Are there any safe places for me to explore my sexuality/gender identity?

-Worried first-year

Thanks for your letter 'Worried first-year',

I can understand how reading that opinion piece would make you question whether there are any safe places in Dunedin to explore and question your identity. While there are, unfortunately, people living in Dunedin who hold some pretty negative attitudes towards people with diverse sex, sexuality and gender identities, there are some pretty awesome people too! Sally Shaw, a lecturer at the School of Physical Education, wrote an opinion piece in response stating that..

"Fortunately, in 2016, we've got increasing numbers of people who embrace the increase of discussions, festivals, and debates on the vagaries, the messiness, and the incredible and wonderful differences of sexuality and gender identity."

Finding out about and coming to terms with the incredible and wonderful differences of gender and sexual identity is sometimes a challenging and confusing experience. It can be daunting to be confronted with labels such as gay, lesbian, bi, trans, 'queer'. Therefore, it's important that as a society we provide inclusive and safe spaces, where people recognise that sexual orientation and gender identity are not fixed but are part of what makes us the unique individuals that we are at any given time.

And there are plenty of opportunities for you to meet and chat with like-minded people here at the University of Otago. The OUSA Student Support Centre has a Queer Support service,

where you can meet with the coordinator or one of their trained peer supporters'. You can also come along to the SPACE talking group for queer and questioning students'. You can contact Hahna at Queer Support by emailing: q.support@ousa.org.nz.

The campus also has the student run group, UniQ. The regular UniQ events are a great place to meet other queer and questioning students on campus. UniQ organises everything from a weekly coffee group to film nights to their XO parties. Check out **UniQ Otago** on Facebook or email: OtagoUniQ@gmail.com

-Ethel



WITH THE ADVENT OF modern genetics, humans are slowly learning more and more about the hardwiring of our own brains. Each discovery tells us a little more about the way our genetics determine how our bodies will react to environmental stimuli. That is, how our genetics may pre-determine various aspects of our lives.

Scientists have even discovered a gene responsible for homosexuality. A team from the University of California believed to have discovered chemical modifications of DNA that may be connected to homosexuality in men. The claims remain contentious and have been hotly debated. Meanwhile, other breakthroughs in the field of

genetics are much more set in stone.

Recent discoveries have shed light on the way genetics may influence the way human bodies react to smoking cannabis. A group of UK scientists have identified a gene which may reveal how likely cannabis users are to develop psychotic symptoms. The study identified that the gene 'AKT1', which is been previously linked to psychotic symptoms such as paranoia and visual distortions, may indicate the



"If you want a good smoke, try one of these"

Not so for those who have the 'AKT1' gene, according to new study.

person experiencing them is losing contact with reality. The study found that participants with a variation of the gene were more likely to experience psychotic symptoms during cannabis use.

While depression and anxiety are relatively common mental illnesses, psychosis is comparatively rare. It affects just 1 percent of cannabis users. Scientists have suspected a genetic pre-disposition to psychosis. In the past they have speculated that smoking cannabis

may induce psychosis. Other findings have found that frequent and early use of cannabis is a component cause of psychosis.

These findings tell us that smoking weed won't cause psychosis on its own, but interact with other risk factors such as family history of psychosis. The evidence suggests that if you were heading towards psychosis, cannabis can help to draw out symptoms earlier than they would normally appear by an average of 2.7 years.

MATTERS OF DEBATE

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

"ONE SHOULD NOT EAT THE APPLE (FUCK YOU EVE)"

AFFIRMATIVE

by **BY OLD MAJOR**

WHEN EVE ATE THE APPLE WE GOT KICKED OUT OF THE GARDEN OF Eden which was a literal paradise. Or maybe not so literal. A lot of people think that the Bible is written metaphorically. Just like blue curtains in a book or movie mean that a character is really sad – or some shit like that; the Bible uses stories to illustrate other ideas. So the story of Eve eating the apple can be interpreted as illustrating humans' embracing of knowledge, and our subsequent loss of innocence and descent into sin. In short, the choice to eat the apple represents a choice between remaining in a state of animal like innocence or being knowledgeable, self-conscious beings who have the capacity to do evil.

Eve's decision to eat the apple was a bad one. In choosing to eat the apple Eve chose knowledge for all of us. So we're stuck being thinking beings now. But if we could go back in time to bitch-slap Eve and tell her to stay the fuck away from the apple tree then we should.

As thinking animals we can construct principles of right and wrong, and then act on those same principles. And often we screw this up big time... like how men thought for hundreds of years that women were inferior and shouldn't have rights, or how white people thought black people shouldn't be treated equally, and why today we still fight over stupid things like religion (google what's happening to the Yazidi people). So essentially, when Eve chose to eat the apple, she chose for us to have the capacity to do a shit ton of evil stuff... because knowledge is power and power is the root of all evil, and she chose knowledge.

What's the alternative you might ask? Well Eve could have kept away from the tree and had some fun times with Adam, doing whatever the old-times equivalent to "netflix and chill" was all day long: maybe "name some animals and chill." We could essentially be living the life of bonobos had Eve not eaten the apple.

And God? Well, if he exists, he'd still like us if Eve hadn't eaten the apple. In hindsight he probably must think it was a bit of a mistake giving humans the choice to be knowledgeable beings. It's bit like when you take your dog to the pet shop so they can 'choose' a toy and then instead your dog pees on the floor, and you walk out quickly pretending that nothing bad had happened and being a bit annoyed at your dog but still loving them anyway.

To conclude: we could have been living the life of bonobos Fuck you Eve.

NEGATIVE

by **SQUEALER THE PIG**

BEING OMNIPOTENT AND OMNISCIENT, GOD DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES. When God fashioned Adam and Eve, as well as granting them freedom of will, he placed within them the Yetzer Hara, the Wayward Inclination, or, as Alan Watts describes it: 'the element of irreducible rascality'. You need a pinch of salt to make a good stew.

God then placed us in the Garden of Eden and said: "do not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, or else!". When you lived at home and your parents said to you "no drugs! no alcohol! don't smoke! and for God's sake don't even think about having sex!", what did you immediately resolve to get mixed up in? God is cleverer than other parents, being omniscient and all—he knew very well that by forbidding us to eat the fruit, we would be irretrievably committed to eating it, and that we would have a lot of fun doing so.

"But" you might say, "there is so much violence and poverty in the world. Surely it would be better if we had listened to God and stayed in the Garden?".

Well, life in the Garden, insofar as it was an ideal existence, was dreadfully boring. After a very short while, peace and pleasure without interruption become so much a part of the background of daily goings-on that they fade in virtual non-existence (or at least meaninglessness). If you've ever lived on Castle Street, you'll know what I mean when I say that it's only when the neighbours go to bed that you notice how loud the music was. In other words, there is no Noise without Silence.

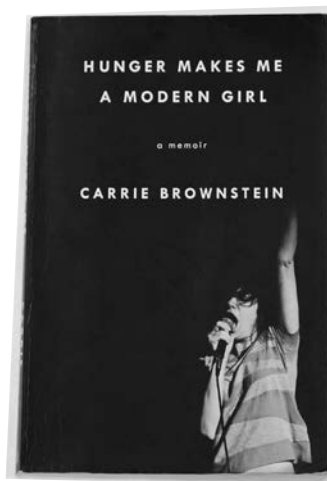
God knew this too—you can't have on without off; to have one you must have the other. Against the ever looming threat of violence and destruction, peace and creativity are seen to be all the more valuable. Our hedonistic adventures are intensified and our aesthetic experiences immeasurably elevated by virtue of their stark contrasting against all that is bad and ugly.

We could, of course, use our free will to avoid the bad, but I doubt we will ever succeed. Further, I doubt that if we did for any length of time we would be satisfied. Nevertheless, the game of 'good must win' in the meantime is a real lark and I should hate for it to end anytime soon.



HUNGER MAKES ME A MODERN GIRL

Author: **CARRIE BROWNSTEIN**



by **LUCY HUNTER**

I ONLY WANTED ONE THING ON TOUR: to slam my hand in a door and break my fingers. Then I would go home." The opening line of Sleater-Kinney guitarist and singer Carrie Brownstein's autobiography smashes you into the tedium and discomfort involved in touring in a cramped car with a band, outside of the glory of the 40 minutes you get to be on stage each night, adored by a crowd of fans.

Sleater-Kinney are very famous in the alternative music scene, but not so huge in mainstream music. The band didn't have enough money for tour buses, roadies, or fancy

hotels. They loaded their own gear and drove themselves around in a car. The autobiography is different to many by famous musicians, whose lives often become so pampered and decadent that they seem completely separate from ordinary people. They start out with a struggle for recognition but quickly proceed to "And then this wonderful thing happened, and then I met this famous person, and this famous person, and then this wonderful thing happened and I am soooo rich..."

The narrative starts with Carrie's childhood, where she portrays

herself as a natural performer and show-off, always dancing and singing in front of her parents' home video camera. Her parents are loving but troubled, with her father in denial of his homosexuality and her mother struggling with a terrible eating disorder. Carrie learns early to rely on friends for her emotional needs rather than burdening her distracted parents with them. She finds solace in music.

Feminism is not often explicitly referenced in the book, but is always present as a way of life. Though she makes no big deal about her band having all-female members, Brownstein includes excerpts of music reviews on her band to demonstrate the sexism in the music industry that persists to this day. Journalists often approach female musicians differently to males, focusing on their appearance and lifestyle more than their music and the music-making process. Their music is also often described differently to music by men, and "female musician" can

be treated as a genre or niche category rather than what it actually is – music by musicians. For example, Brownstein has given the excerpt "Never does Sleater-Kinney sound forced, angry or sweet – the three words one most associates with all-women rock bands, and the three words that tend to hold women's music back from the kind of raw believability that characterizes more macho rock." That was from *Metroactive* in 1999.

As a female musician I related to Carrie Brownstein so much it felt like I was reading the memoirs of a friend. Her experience with song writing, how her music makes her feel, and her relationship with her band mates made me feel understood and validated in my love and frustrations within the music industry. The only difference, of course, is that she is rich and famous.



SLEATER-KINNEY LIVE AT THE POWERSTATION

by **MILLICENT LOVELOCK**

When Sleater-Kinney made their way onto the stage and launched into the opening riff of "Price Tag" (the opening track off the 2015 album *No Cities to Love*) my breath was caught, part way between a scream and a strangled sob. I found myself crumpling, my bottom lip trembling and my face cave in on itself. Carrie Brownstein's velvet toned, overdriven guitar was piercing my heart, driven in there by powerhouse drummer Janet Weiss. I knew that if I let go for just a second I would be reduced to a shuddering, weeping mess.

One year out of their ten year hiatus, Sleater-Kinney are impossibly tight, and between them they cover everything you could possibly want from a band. Brownstein is unreal, the very embodiment of human magnetism. She struts and sneers, hair in her eyes, fists somehow flying at the same time as she rips on the guitar. She is devastating, one moment she is all cold ego and liquid, tonally bottomless riffs, and the next her face is all smile and you're drawn out of yourself and let in for just a second. Weiss matches Brownstein in stoic confidence, driving the band with heavy, pulsing beats, tossing her head and rolling her eyes as she slides out of brusque and efficient drum fills. Corin Tucker plays the mediator. While her voice is soaring and transcendently powerful, she has an air of vulnerability and she plays into this strength. There is palpable tension as she pushes herself right to the very edge during every song.

They are the kind of band that would be equally incredible in a stadium as they are in a small venue. Although Auckland's Powerstation didn't sell out for the show it was suitably packed with dedicated fans, young women, middle aged music critics, and crusty old punks. The show



was perfectly curated, with Wellington band Mermaids playing a slick and captivating opening set. Everything moved swiftly, Sleater-Kinney were on the stage by nine-thirty and they played for almost an hour and a half, making it well worth the while for fans who've spent a decade without the riot grrrl champions. Their set list included new and old songs, and in spite of jetlag the band delivered everything at full throttle from start to finish.

Sleater-Kinney are one of the most important bands in my life. When I listened to their first album I was overcome when I realised that I wasn't alone in my approach to writing and playing music. When I read Brownstein's memoirs I couldn't read another book for months afterwards because the connection was too great. On Monday night I felt like I had been split right

open as I watched my idols play my favourite songs. In this situation I am certainly not an objective, neutral concert goer, but that doesn't matter because Sleater-Kinney's performance was almost excruciatingly moving, and not a single person in the audience could have asked for anything more.



DEAD OF WINTER

Board Game | Designed by
Jonathan Gilmour and Isaac Vega,
Published by Plaid Hat Games

Rating: A+



by CAMPBELL CALVERLEY

THE THEME IS THE MOST OVERLOOKED ASPECT of any board game. When all of the game's events, actions and individual components come together as parts of a cohesive whole, your response to the game as a player is similar to that of the characters you are playing as. Theming is hard to attain and maintain, and it is what sets a lot of modern board games ahead of the standard get-from-A-to-B format. Snakes and Ladders has no theming at all. Dead of Winter, by contrast, has theming like Harry Potter has helpful moral lessons: you don't necessarily notice them, but they are a core part of what makes it an enjoyable experience.

Dead of Winter is a zombie apocalypse survival game, which you would not expect to work in the board game genre. Each player controls a number of survivors, all of whom must work together to keep a safe compound free of zombies, maintain a healthy team morale, and ensure that supplies from six locations outside the compound are retrieved. Each game has one main objective; this can range from killing enough zombies to find a cure for the infection to emptying a location of all its supplies. You are forced to travel outside the compound, searching around for enough food to feed everyone. On top of this, everyone has their own private objectives. These cannot be shown to anyone else until the very end of the game. They may be honourable, such as needing to have a certain number of items in your hand by the time the game ends, or they may be betrayal cards that urge you to secretly work against all of your teammates. This adds a subtle layer of mistrust to the game; your lack of knowledge about your teammates feeds into your paranoia, and builds tension throughout the game.

The gameplay of Dead of Winter is essentially a series of spanners being thrown into the proverbial works. Aside from your main objective, you have a new crisis every round that must be

Snakes and Ladders has no theming at all. Dead of Winter, by contrast, has theming like Harry Potter has helpful moral lessons

resolved in order to avoid losing morale. Every turn, players are given crossroads cards, which are morale-testing objectives that are triggered if certain criteria are fulfilled. Every single time you move or fight zombies, you must roll an exposure dice which risks giving your survivor a wound, frostbite, or a zombie bite, the latter of which will instantly kill them and then spread to other survivors.

While many board games have the same level of difficulty throughout their duration, Dead of Winter tightens and tightens as it progresses. The more survivors you find out in the cold, the more food you have to find to feed them all. The more survivors are at a location, the more zombies will be attracted to those survivors. Every time a survivor dies, your team morale goes down. If your morale reaches zero, you lose. If you run out of rounds before you complete the main objective, you lose. If you can't feed everyone, you will eventually lose. The closer your morale is to zero, the more heavily you are reminded of the fact that one bad exposure roll could kill everyone at a location.

One could perhaps criticise Dead of Winter for not being scary, which one might expect of anything zombie-apocalypse-related media. However, in a boardgame a scary atmosphere is borderline impossible to attain. Dead of Winter has no inherent pretensions of being scary,

occasionally throwing in such joke events as racing mobility carts to raise morale, or choosing which ridiculous location to find a severed head in. Instead, Dead of Winter has an almost palpable tension that grows as the game goes on. The more your morale sinks, and the more the rounds tick on, the need to complete your objective grows in inverse proportion to your ability to feed everyone and stem the flow of zombies.

There is so much replay value in Dead of Winter, and not just because of how much content the game has. It's rare to find a board game that is so broadly entertaining, so accessible to new players, and yet such a genuine challenge every time one plays it.

JEFFREY HARRIS RENAISSANCE DAYS

Dunedin Public Art Gallery

28TH NOV 2015 - 28TH MAR 2016

Free entry

detail from **Family Group**, 1975–2012, oil on board (left)

detail from **Jeremy**, 2013–2015, oil on board



by **MONIQUE HODGKINSON**

IF YOU'RE INTO THE EERIE, THE CREEPY AND THE vaguely disturbing, the Dunedin Public Art Gallery's latest exhibition may be right up your artistic alley. Jeffrey Harris: Renaissance Days ticks all of those boxes, while providing a vibrant snapshot into the work of one of New Zealand's major contemporary artists. Think a collision between glossy magazine collage, manikins pinched from Hallensteins down the road, and your Nan's old photo album from the 80's. Completed over the course of several years, this exhibition provides a vivid snapshot into the Dunedin-based artist's work.

Renaissance Days does not overwhelm the visitor with a huge number of works; rather, a small number of pieces are given space to impress upon viewers their intense colours, strong

forms, and uniqueness. Each painting is like a small world of its own, rich in tiny details that come together to form striking and powerful scenes. Unusual girls stand before intricate farms and fields composed of minute brushstrokes, gazing vacantly out at the viewer, lost in their patchwork worlds. In Harris's crucifixion works, biblical stories as old as time are anchored in a bright New Zealand-esque landscape, challenging and distorting our understandings of religion, time and place.

But perhaps the real stand out here is Family Group (1975 – 2012). My personal favourite for its creepy, entrancing, and varied subjects, this large work focuses on a family group of thirteen doll-like people in varying drab shades of blues, greens and yellows. Not one of the family

members seem to meet your gaze, but the feeling of being watched will send prickles up your spine. The vacant stares of the children focus on something beyond (or right behind) us, dull yet piercing at the same time. Each member of this eerie group seem like their faces have been carved from wood, or papier-mâché into uncanny representations of real humans. This painting both entices you to come closer, to stay longer, to look further – and to leave the gallery at a panicked run and not stop until you reach the street. Or the other side of the Octagon. Or Dunedin, depending on how spooked you are by the uncanny and the strange. Either way, for the love of art or the lols, Renaissance Days is a viewing experience not to be missed.

41



ROOM

Directed by Lenny Abrahamson

Rating: A-

by LISA BLAKIE

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL written by Emma Donoghue, *Room* was in the running for four Oscar categories this year. Brie Larson gives an incredible performance as Joy, a young woman who is kidnapped when she is 17 years old, and taken prisoner by a disturbed predator only known to the viewers as 'Old Nick'. The events that follow are told from the space of her inescapable prison, known as 'room'.

Joy is the protagonist, however the story is told mostly from the point of view of Joy's five year old son Jack. The dialogue between Joy and Jack is a delight, but it is Jack's

imagination and perspective that really captures his thoughts, feelings, at times confusion, and general outlook on life within 'room'. The narrative follows the mundane and heart-breaking circumstance of their life trapped in room.

Joy's desperation and deep depression is made especially tragic by contrasting it with her unconditional love for Jack. She is irreversibly damaged by the trauma of her situation, but still obsesses over providing everything for Jack, even getting unnecessarily frustrated at herself over something as simple as burning a grilled cheese sandwich. Her desperation



eventually overwhelms her and she is faced with an extreme decision for the benefit of both herself and for Jack, even though it means almost imminent danger for both of them. Going any further here would obviously get further into spoiler territory.

Each shot is meticulously crafted to give the audience a very specific viewpoint from Jack, while this is sometimes interrupted for reactionary shots from other characters, it does not break the flow of

perspective. I suspect that certain parts of the film, as is usually the case with adapted screenplays, perhaps did not translate as well onto the screen as they are articulated in the novel. Here, my criticism lies mostly in relation to characterisation of Joy's family.

Despite this, *Room* is a unique and truly memorable film and absolutely deserves all the praise it is getting.

HAPPY GILMORE

Directed by Dennis Dugan

Rating: C

by JESSICA THOMPSON

AFTER REVIEWING A fantastic film last week, my standards had been set fairly high. So when my boyfriend told me with glee this movie was "crack up" I nestled down with an early Easter egg and considered this "sports comedy" as I consider French snails, cave diving and vajazzle-ing: you don't know if you've never tried it.

Unfortunately this whacky flick turned out to be a big fat bowl of salad: tasteless, stringy, and an effort to force down. Unlike salad, this did not feel very healthy to watch. Adam Sandler plays the role he plays in every other Adam Sandler film, with the name change of Happy Gilmore, a rejected hockey player putting his powerful slap shot to use in a golf tour. Gilmore's

aim is to win about \$270,000 to save his Grandmother who has failed to pay her taxes and risks losing her house.

I admit there were some sweet sides to the plot, such as the Grandmother and the love interest, but these were overshadowed by basic one liners and underwhelming slapstick. Some gags did tickle me at times, but no amount of wooden hands or Ben Stiller



cameos could save this dry script (not that Ben Stiller could ever save a script). It was halfway through the film when my boyfriend admitted to me he last watched this when he was in year 7. Enough said. At times, Sandler's sensitive side charmed me, and I suppose that's how he got any traction within the film and comedy industry.

All in all, a basic plot, a lovable oaf and a storyline that plays out

as long as a game of real golf. Would recommend for a hangover day when the gang is having a yarn and you want something on in the background to laugh weakly at now and then.



BROOKLYN

Directed by John Crowley

Rating: B+

by **JOHN CROWLEY**

WALKING INTO THIS particular cinema screening, I carried with me a genuine lack of preconceptions and expectations around *Brooklyn*, a period drama centred around the experiences of a

twenty-something Irish girl Eilis Lacey. And while the movie was largely enjoyable and engaging (oftentimes tearjerking), it ultimately failed to present anything new or remarkable, amongst a sea of blockbusting awards-season creations (think the *Revenant*, *Spotlight*, *Room*).

Don't get me wrong, it was a very well put together piece of cinema, the attention to detail of not only 1950's *Brooklyn*, but also

Enniscorthy, County Wexford in southeast Ireland where Eilis begins her journey, is fantastic. The characterisation of both Eilis and her supporting cast comprehensively draws you in from minute one. On top of that, the script and dialogue is both humorous and emotional, without being long winded, and the understatedness of Eilis herself makes it an even more relatable story.

The really enjoyable sequences of the film take place in Eilis' boarding house, where the pseudo-Matriarch Mrs. Keough (a very funny Julie Walters), battles to maintain order amongst the six young boarder girls. They constantly chatter, gossip and giggle through tea, cleverly embedding further layers to the setting and period, and reinforcing ideas like attending the 'Saturday dance' as somewhat of a rite of passage.

Tying the body of the film together is the love story between Eilish and her charming suitor, Tony. Their developing romance is bizarrely fascinating in it's ordinariness, as the two go on a series of rather sweet yet pedestrian dates, with Tony picking Eilis up and walking her home every night after school. The audience falls as much in love with Tony as Eilish does, which makes the film's ultimate climax somewhat strange, as Eilish finds herself having to make a fairly pivotal life decision around love, life and ambition.

Despite this largely positive review of *Brooklyn*, as I mentioned above, it left a fairly passive and uninspired impression on me upon leaving the cinema. If nothing else, the film is at its heart a fatastically dramatic love story, and that definitely ticks the box for a relaxing weekend watch



SPOTLIGHT

Directed by Tom McCarthy

Rating: A

by **TOM MCCARTHY**

WHEN REVIEWING A FILM with an Academy Award nomination for Best Picture there is a certain level of pressure to give it a positive review. After all, you can't really give an Oscar winning filming a

bad review, right? And yet the highest praise that can be given to the captivating, often moving and quietly devastating *Spotlight* is that the film gets it right. The film traces the story of the *Spotlight* team, the Boston Globes'

special investigation wing, in their attempts to uncover the sexual abuse scandal involving Catholic priests in the Boston Archdiocese. The team really should be considered heroes - throughout the early 2000s, the paper published nearly 600 articles exposing the extent of sexual abuse in Boston alone, and encouraged survivors of abuse at the hands of the Catholic Church to come forward from all over the world, breaking the decades-long silence.

Spotlight tells the story magnificently. While it would be easy to lean toward sensationalizing the scandal, director Tom McCarthy maintains an objective distance, highlighting the skill, persistence and dedication of *Spotlight* journalists Michael Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo), Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams), Matt Carroll (Brian d'Arcy James), and editor Walter "Robby" Robinson (Michael

Keating). The cast work together with distinction - while there is no lead personality, the rich diversity of the ensemble cast keep the focus of the film flowing.

The film ultimately deals with the challenges of exposing a story no one wants to hear. While interviews with survivors of sexual abuse provide truly heart-wrenching moments during the film, the attention paid to the collective failings of both the Catholic Church and the wider community is chillingly disturbing. Yet the film doesn't rely upon such natural emotional responses for its success, but rather portrays a team of journalists working together at their best. That's what the film is all about - the power of journalism. In the words of Mark Ruffalo; "this is where we fight tyranny." Watch this film now.



WHY DO WE NEED...tinder?

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

by ANTHONY MARRIS

TINDER IS A MATCHING (DATING) SERVICE WHICH UTILISES geolocating software and your Facebook profile to help make lasting connections. And by lasting connections, I mean as long as they "last".

Public opinion on Tinder is varied. A straw poll I conducted had mixed results. Some loved it, some thought it was weird. Others claimed that they "did not use it much, [and] only used it to chat". My only foray into Tinder (using my brother's account) was to field test what I considered the perfect pick-up line. The results were less than satisfactory, the project abandoned.

Tinder claim they have 9 billion matches. But, like life, nothing is perfect. A quick peruse of Youtube reveals hours of people discussing bad Tinder dates. To their credit, Tinder has a page offering basic security advice. Arguably the information provided is common sense, such as tell someone where you are going, who you are meeting, meet in public, and keep your financial information to yourself.

To start on the journey of potential match making, the process is pretty simple. You download the app, logon to Tinder using your Facebook account, wait while the app cross matches your first name and age, and borrows photos from Facebook to let people know what you look like. Fill in your preferences (age range, gender, proximity to you) and then you start matching with people. Swipe right if you like them, swipe left if you don't. If you match up with a person, then you can engage in such witty conversations like "DTF", or "You wanna screw?"

44

What potential downfalls could there be? The minimum age to join is freakin' 13 (check their terms of service). While Facebook verification does aid in limiting underage contact, it is not unheard of people to falsify their details or create a second account to avoid prying (parental) eyes.

Is it true Tinder is causing rates of STIs to rise? The most recent and comprehensive study (2014) was done by the Centre for Disease Control in the US. Their findings showed a 15.1%



increase in syphilis nationally, but they could not link the rise in STIs to use of Tinder. There is only one study that links a dating app to an increase in STIs. This study was ad hoc, and it linked Grindr (an app aimed at gay men) to a rise in syphilis in Christchurch during 2012.

My biggest concern is stalking. There was a flaw in the app's security where geolocating data could be obtained but when Tinder were notified of this issue, they patched it. You go on a Tinder date, it doesn't go well, and you go your separate ways. But the other party decides they can make you change your mind. Famous stalkers masquerading as romantics include Noah (Notebook) and Edward (Twilight). Because if they are "hot" they are perceived as being romantic, not creepy – or so the myth is.

The amount of potential information revealed in casual conversation could be staggering. Aside from the usual (favourite books, movies, name of pet), the photos you use can also reveal more than you thought. That picture of you in your leaver's hoodie. Well it doesn't take much to figure out the school, then trace you through Facebook. But of course no one stalks people on Facebook...no, never.

There is no real evidence that shows apps like Tinder are any better or worse than being picked up in a bar. You might go home with the person, contract an STI (or not), be stalked (or not), be friends for life, or be the mistake that is mentioned in hushed tones. Oh, and as for my so called perfect pick-up line...If you could go anywhere back in time, knowing that any actions you did would not change the present, where would you go and why?

TL;DR – Tinder streamlines the dating process. Use it or don't. But practice safe sex.

EGGPLANT PIZZA

SERVES SIX

Tis the season for all of my favourite veggies - I was thoroughly impressed by the size of the eggplants I got for this recipe

by **KIRSTEN GARCIA**

GOT TWO FOR \$6 AND I REMEMBER IN WINTER last year that one small eggplant would cost the same price. Get in on this, guys.

I'm sure we can all agree that pizza is life. I have my go-to favourite toppings like chicken, camembert and cranberry but I'm always looking to mix it up. For this recipe we're changing up the base rather than the toppings. The eggplant make these cute gourmet-looking pizza disks and carry the toppings really well. Plus it's an easy way to get more veggies in to your meal and make this comfort food healthier (gluten-free too).

Of course, you can load your pizza with whatever you like. I'd probably add olives to this recipe if I make it again. My secret weapon ingredient with homemade pizzas is the herbs. Don't skip the oregano cause that's what will make the pizzas' smell like Domino's.



INGREDIENTS

2 eggplants

Salt

Toppings: (I'll let you decide the quantities)

Tomato paste

Cherry tomatoes, sliced

Baby spinach

Mushrooms, sliced

Dried Oregano and Sweet Basil

Shredded cheese

METHOD

Preheat oven at 180C.

1. Slice eggplant into circles (1cm thick).
2. Lightly salt eggplant circles, wrap them a clean, dry tea towel (might need more than one towel) for 15 mins to absorb excess water. You could prepare the toppings while you wait.
3. Squeeze out any extra water in the eggplants by pressing them on the towel. Then place the eggplant circles on a singular layer on a baking sheet and tray, bake in oven for 20 min.
4. Take out of oven and place desired toppings.
 - For this recipe I spread some tomato paste on the eggplant first then placed the cheese, tomatoes, mushrooms and spinach. Then added a sprinkle of extra cheese and the herbs.
5. Change oven setting to grill and grill eggplants with toppings for an extra 10-15 minutes till cheese is melted and the toppings are cooked through.

When ready to serve, add a swirl of mayo, aioli, or bbq sauce if desired.

45

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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.

HIS:

I think I am still drunk, and by think, I mean I am. I was so nervous to meet the the lass I was shaking more than michael j fox during a minute of silence. After a self diagnosis of soberness I decided to self medicate and inhaled a cheeky few diesels to loosen up with the breathers beforehand.

She rocked up ten minutes late and was not a bad nudge. She sat down and abruptly informed me that she'd drinking since three in the afternoon. Shit, she came in throwing some heat. We started yarning and she insisted I was too sober for her (I wasn't) but after she kept insisting I decided to backspace a few hundred Rum n' Cokes. I can only imagine she would later realise her mistake in attacking my sobriety. We decided to head to Mac's and this is where I fade to black...

Where am I? What the fuck happened last night? I looked to my side and noticed a woman who was not my date... Who is this wench beside me? I turn my head to the side and tried to examine my haul, I must find out who she is... Holy shit, She was more out of my league than Stephen Hawking in a triathlon and when I tried to speak I sounded like Sean Penn in 'I am sam'. I could barely see, dazed and confused I still had more diesel in my system than a Guantanamo Bay guest. I prodded her, and she woke up informing me she found me in Suburbia jumping around more than Charlie Sheen at a rave.

She decided to seduce me and took me home to mine to play 'Mitchell Pierce's dog'. I was the dog. Naturally I gave my new bae a ride home, because as you will all have come to reaslise, I am a gentleman.

Sorry to my date, i bet she regrets it. Big ups to Dog with Two Tails, awesome time.

HERS:

Being the butt of all the flat jokes meant that come 6pm Thursday night I was told to go change, scull one too many drinks and go meet my potential future husband.

Rocking up ten minutes late and taking two tries to introduce myself, I soon realised I was far too steamed to make good life decisions, and the night was off to a good start. He was a good looking guy, although his Scandinavian looks contradicted my go to dark and brooding type.

The chat flowed for a while as we ticked off what we studied, mutual friends, travel etc. I even dropped a dirty joke, although he didn't quite understand. Either he was drunker than me or was taking the piss, as he kept proclaiming I was too sober.

Things started getting all too serious when a cabaret show begun, thankfully old mate saw my look of desperation and we made an unsubtle run for the door between acts. Although, our show went on for a wee bit longer when we headed to the next bar for another few drinks.

Being your classic white girl wasted I thought shots were a good idea. This only led to me being far more interested in the twins at the table behind us. My memory fails me from this point, but I do recall leaving together, being stopped by his girl mates outside and them giving me the "he doesn't have a big dick but he can kind of use it" chat which was the extra push I needed to encourage me to end the night there.

Cheers for an interestingly good night *Critic* and thanks for the great food and drink from Dog with Two Tails! 10/10 would recommend.



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President's Column

I want to start this first by acknowledging the disaster that was the balcony collapse two Friday nights ago. There is no question that the student community has been hurt deeply by this tragic accident, and our thoughts have been with the students affected both at the time, and in the aftermath. Speaking of, here I will reiterate the support and advocacy available to you all at the Student Support Centre on Ethel Benjamin Place.

Once again students made headlines all over New Zealand. The reporting was initially tinged with compassion, despite some journalists using pretty shocking judgement as they hounded students, families, friends and flatmates for comment. However, it wasn't long before (as we are becoming so accustomed) the tone turned sour and blame spun in the inevitable direction of student "behaviour".

This was despite the heroic actions of students on the night. Despite the fact no one was jumping. Despite the fact this was not a student-organised party. I could go on...

As you will have read, the most injured student was from the University of Otago, and was tragically situated under the balcony as it fell. One might think no one could criticise this young women for simply being in the wrong place, at the wrong time. Alas, articles posted about the incident became forums where some of the public expressed thoughts otherwise- and it was chilling.

"...do something stupid get rewarded", "Maybe a lesson has finally been learned... and that will teach them.", "Why would [sic] u stand under it", "You can't fix stupid"- a person even questioned whether natural selection was at play. Did they think they students wouldn't read these comments? Or did they just not care?

I recognise I am preaching to the converted here, and I suppose through venting these frustrations my hope is that those of you who read this will be compelled to defend each other and stand up for yourselves. Because if you don't, who else will. I often use the sign off "Take care of yourselves and

each other." but I really do mean it. Solidarity is key here. Targeting Otago students is by no means a new phenomenon, in many ways we inherited these negative stereotypes, but they certainly don't have to be our burdens.

It's not about sniping or antagonising, but you can and should intervene when you see unbalanced, or blatantly wrong views. The more we fight it and prove ourselves to be the mindful, articulate, reasonable human beings we are, the easier it will be for us to be part of this community in a genuine and constructive way.

A givealittle page was set up for the student mentioned above which will help with the long road to recovery she has ahead, as well as enabling her family to be there alongside her. This is the page if you are in a position to donate and would like to do so: givealittle.co.nz/cause/baileysroadtorecovery

Take care.

Laura Harris

Laura Harris

president@ousa.org.nz

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