



**Critic** Est. 1925

ISSUE 06

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**A WEEK IN  
THE LIFE OF**  
*a Sex Store*  
**EMPLOYEE**

Page 69

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# ARE YOU THAT SOMEONE?

## Test yourself in these situations:

What would you do if you saw someone at a party, in a bar, at a concert or in a crowd being hassled or touched by someone, and you can see they don't like what's happening?

How do you react when your gut is telling you a situation is dodgy?

Do you call out your friends if they make rape jokes, cat-call women, slut shame or victim-blame?

Would you intervene if you saw or heard something that you knew wasn't right?  
**Are you that someone?**

When we don't step up we are sending a message that this sort of behaviour is OK.

We can all do and say things to prevent sexual violence: we can step in during an incident, or we can challenge ideas and behaviours that support sexual violence – whether we know the person or not.

## WHY BYSTANDERS DON'T ACT

1. They're worried about what others think
  2. They fear retaliation
  3. They doubt themselves
  4. They think someone else will do it
- We can all be that someone - but will you?**

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a sexual assault check out the Toah-Nnest website for a full list of services around the country: <http://toah-nnest.org.nz/>

To learn more about healthy sexuality check out the website [www.familyplanning.org.nz](http://www.familyplanning.org.nz) or for more tips on bystander interventions check out:



**Are You That Someone?**  
<https://www.facebook.com/AreYouThatSome1>

## DON'T HORSE AROUND CALL IT AS YOU SEE IT

Sounds dodgy, looks dodgy?



## four steps to bystander action:

Here are our four steps to taking action and being that someone.

- 1 CHECK IN – ask the person if they're OK with what's going on
- 2 CALL IT AS YOU SEE IT – tell them what they're doing is not OK
- 3 GET INVOLVED – if you can do it safely, cause a distraction or split them up
- 4 GET HELP – grab your mates or others to join you in speaking up

If a situation is escalating and it's not safe, find someone in charge like an RA or bouncer. Call the Police on 111.

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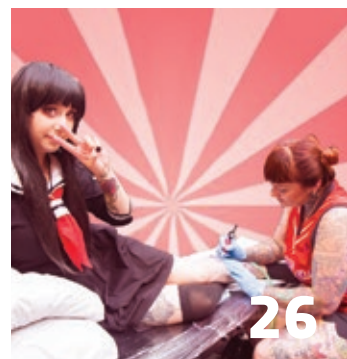
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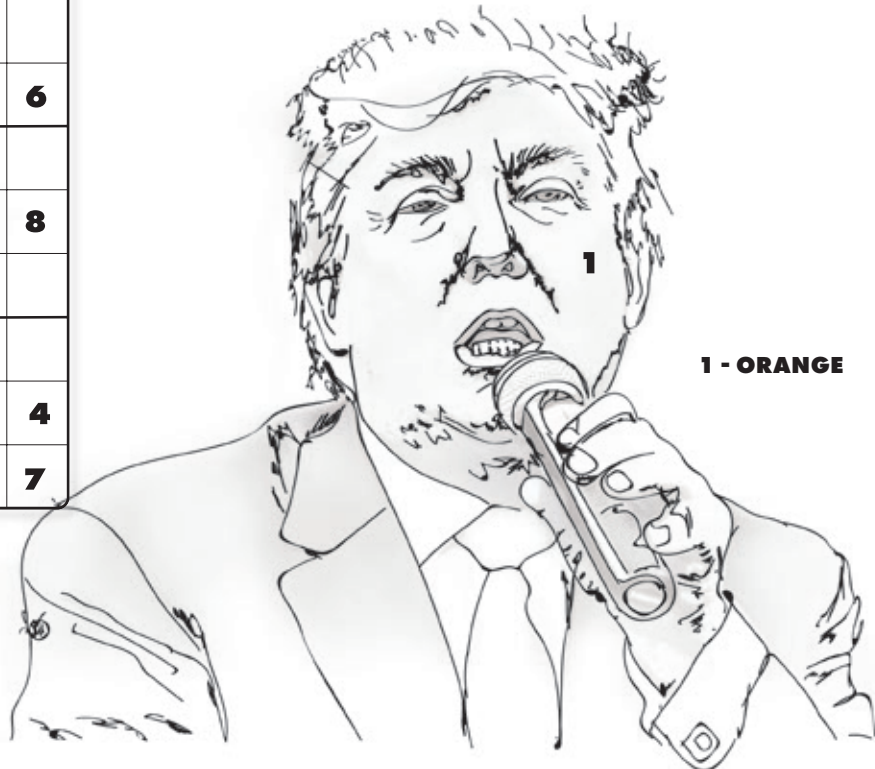
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# COLOUR-TRUMP-BY-NUMBERS:



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## ■ Editorial

# Pay Gap in Sport not Discriminatory

**L**ATELY, THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF CHAT ABOUT pay inequality when it comes to gender in sports.

The discussion kicked off when reports surfaced that the New Zealand men's cricket team had flown business class to the T20 World Cup, while their female counterparts were situated back in cattle-class.

As a result, many kicked up a huge furore with columnists putting pen to paper with cries of "unfair sexism in sport" and that the women were being treated as "second class citizens."

Don't get me wrong; I'm a huge fan of women's sports, with beach volleyball being a personal favourite, but I'd argue that inequality when it comes to gender and pay is due to disparity in revenue generated and not a case of "unfair sexism."

Men's sport is generally more popular, drawing larger crowds because of the fact that the athletes involved are usually faster and stronger than their female counterparts, which in most cases, makes for more entertaining events. That's not a chauvinistic opinion but a biological fact.

Take for example Serena and Venus Williams (two of tennis' greatest players), who in 1998 brashly claimed that they could beat any man ranked 200 or worse in the world. One former tennis player Karsten Braasch decided to take the sisters up on the offer and after a leisurely morning spent strolling the golf course, downing a few beers and sucking through a packet of cigarettes (could explain why he's never won a five-set match) he beat the sisters comfortably, 6-1 and 6-2 respectively.

When it comes down to it, men usually have the upper hand in the sporting arena, and as a result tend to pull in greater crowds and the revenue that comes with that.

There are plenty of fields in which women earn comparatively more than men. I'm yet to see anyone complaining about the absurd gender pay gap between male and female models. Gisele Bundchen, the highest paid female last year netted herself \$44 million, 2933 percent more than the highest paid male Sean O'Pry who took home \$1.5 million. But when the market for women's shopping is considerably larger than the market for men, it's understandable that more money is invested into female models rather than males. If your going off the basis that both genders should be paid equally then shouldn't some of the revenue that Bundchen generates be used to increase the pay of male models?

Perhaps media coverage of women's sport could be to blame? I've heard the argument that perhaps if women's sport had greater media coverage, attendances would rise and they would be able to achieve parity in pay with the males. Maybe that's true? But when male athletes can, on average, hit a ball further, jump higher or run faster I think it has an effect on the popularity of the event and the advertising that surrounds that.

Take for example the cricket, which sparked this whole discussion. Men's cricket isn't more popular just because its played by men, or because those who attend the game are chauvinistic males who don't believe in female sports. It's more popular because the athletes who play it can hit the ball further and bowl the ball faster than their female counterparts. It's simply more exciting in many people's eyes.

To prompt people attending more women's sport, funding needs to be poured into the grassroots level to foster and encourage enthusiasm and participation around sport. Who knows, perhaps in years to come we could see a sold out Forsyth Barr to watch a Black Fern's match.

# News in Briefs



## World Watch



### ALVDALEN, SWEDEN

A rare language that dates back to the Viking Age will be taught at a new nursery school in central Sweden. Elfdalian will be the sole language spoken to the children attending the preschool in the town of Alvdalen. At the moment, only about 2,500 people can speak the language, fewer than 60 of them children



### AUSTRALIA

An all-night sitting of Australia's Senate saw Monty Python references, a colonoscopy analogy and a pyjama-clad senator among its 28 hours of debate. The debate was focussed on changes to how members of the senate are elected, disadvantaging the 'micro' parties that have gained increasing power in the Senate



### MOSUL, IRAQ

The US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has targeted the University of Mosul in a series of airstrikes. It had designated the functioning university an "Islamic State headquarters." The Pentagon was "reviewing the incident" after reports of civilian casualties



### IRAN

Iranian President, Hassan Rouhani, appears to have signalled his support for the rights of goldfish wishing his compatriots a happy new year. Iranians traditionally mark their new-year festival with a table display that features a goldfish bowl with the fish representing life. But a photo on his Twitter account shows President Rouhani's goldfish bowl is missing its fish, which has been replaced with an orange



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**UNITED KINGDOM**

Communications manager, James Hand, who suggested christening a new multi-million pound research vessel 'Boaty McBoatface' has apologised for the "storm" it has created. The name has gained more than 28,000 votes in an online competition, trended on Twitter and has seen a number of accounts set up using the title

**BOGATA, ROMANIA**

A Romanian village has received a tourism boost thanks to a Snoop Dogg typo. The rapper posted a selfie on Instagram in which the location was listed as Bogata – a small village in Transylvania – rather than Bogota in Colombia. A tourist website called visitbogata.com quickly popped up, describing the village of 2,000 as "the best place for chillin' in Romania"

**FUKUSHIMA, JAPAN**

Farmers in Fukushima are using polyester "soil" to grow plants, in the hope of restoring consumer confidence in their produce following the 2011 nuclear disaster. While local produce has passed safety tests, consumer nervousness about radiation has hit farmers hard. Local farmers are hoping to expand production and plan to set up an agricultural corporation later this year

**WASHINGTON DC, UNITED STATES**

America's legal weed consumers and entrepreneurs breathed a cloud of relief after the Supreme Court rejected a lawsuit filed by Nebraska and Oklahoma against Colorado over the state's legalisation of marijuana. The court declined to hear the case, which claimed that Colorado's legal weed is being smuggled across state lines

## FACTS and figures

In 2006, 2.6 billion people or 40% of the world's population lived on less than  
US \$2 a day

In *Los Angeles* there are fewer people than automobiles

70% of married Irish women would consider having an affair while on a foreign holiday without their spouse or children

90% of Irish men would do the same

One in four men switch **THE LIGHT OFF** during sex

A quarter of penises are slightly **BENT** when erect

An estimated **1.17 MILLION** deaths occur each year worldwide due to road accidents

The original PlayStation controller was 10% **larger** in the US compared to Japan, to account for bigger hands in America

Every day, the average person inhales about **20,000 litres** of air

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# "Increased Vigilance" Sees Student Offences up 20 percent in 2015

*The Annual Report to the University of Otago Council showed that 2015 was another busy year for the Proctor's Office in dealing with unruly and misbehaving students.*

by Joe Higham

**A**LTHOUGH 2014 WITNESSED A NINE PERCENT drop in overall offending in comparison to 2013, that figure did increase by almost 20 percent during 2015 when compared to 2014, with 576 separate incidents occurring. The large majority of those were simply disorderly behaviour, which totaled 174, while other significant contributors to this figure were willfully breaking glass (62), unlawfully on property (42), and breach of ID regulations (27).

Despite a 10 percent drop in disorderly behaviour in 2014 compared with 2013, the university saw a 13 percent increase in 2015, with 201 separate disorderly incidents taking place, just four short of 2010's six-year high of 205. OUSA President Laura Harris told Critic that 2015 "is higher than previous years but that does correlate with the increased vigilance of students coming forward to disclose to appropriate authorities when they come across negative behaviours. Even at OUSA we hear from students who are fed up with the behaviour of a select few in their residential areas."

University of Otago proctor, Dave Miller, who will be leaving the position on April 27 after just five months in the job, agreed with Harris, saying, "last year we noticed an increasing trend in students not tolerating unacceptable behaviour in their community. Many were increasingly

vigilant and drew attention to poor behaviour. We view this as a positive trend as we work with the student community towards improving the safety and enjoyment for everyone in North Dunedin."

The report noticed a larger number of students arriving back in Dunedin earlier than in previous years, with many of those returning living in flats on Castle and Hyde Street, which, "coupled with the run of fine weather" caused a "corresponding larger number of students referred to the Proctor/Deputy Proctor" throughout the early months of the academic year. Also notable was the great organisation of the Hyde Street party, the University's coordinated response to October's gunman threat, as well as the significant amount of work to deal with the burglary of examination papers that occurred in November; that offender was "subsequently arrested and is still awaiting sentencing."

A total of 177 students paid fines resulting in \$21,380 during 2015, as well as 33 students serving a total of 658 hours of community service, and 116 compensation payments being made, resulting in \$17,837.

During last year there were 35 cases of academic misconduct, which the University of Otago defines as plagiarism, unauthorised

collaboration, multiple submissions of a single assessment, impersonation, and use of unauthorised materials as well as several other academic misdemeanors that contravene the values and accepted practices associated with academic integrity.

Of the 35 cases of academic misconduct, two were PhD students, whose theses had "been found to contain plagiarised text... both candidates were required to re-enroll and pay tuition fees as a penalty (PhD candidates revising their theses for examination do not normally pay fees)."

Moreover, thirteen of the 35 cases were within humanities, eight in sciences, and six in both commerce and the health sciences. All of the academic conduct breaches in 2015 were within level two (level one being far less serious and level three being "extremely serious").

Incidents involving fire have also fallen significantly since 2011, in which 258 incidents were dealt with. That figure has dropped each year since, and now lies at just 128, a reduction of just over 50 percent. Dave Miller said, "Students have become increasingly aware of the zero tolerance around fire starting and fuelling, which I believe has contributed to the decrease in students willing to jeopardise their study or potential futures, by engaging in that behaviour."



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# Otago Uni Dentistry Chomps into World Rankings

by Henry Napier

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO MAY NOT BE Harvard or Oxford, but Dunedin-trained dentists can rest assured that their degree is among the highest quality in the world after earning 12th place in the world university rankings.

Last week the sixth edition of QS World University Rankings by subject was released on TopUniversities.com. The list compiles every subject and ranks the quality of each university based on the expert opinion of 76,798 academics and 44,426 employers.

The University of Otago placed 27 subjects within the top universities in the world, including 13 subjects placing in the top 100 Universities. Otago ranked highly in Archaeology, Anthropology, Business & Management Studies, Dentistry, Development Studies, Earth & Marine Sciences, Education, English Language &

Literature, Geography, History, Law, Performing Arts, and Psychology.

Otago University's Bachelor of Dental Surgery ranked 12th on the list, earning an overall score of 81.3, just two points below Harvard University's dentistry score of 83.1. The top scoring dentistry programme was attributed to The University of Hong Kong.

In response Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Vernon Squire said he was "pleased" with Otago's performance, specifically the attainment of a QS five-star rating.

"Our solid performance in these rankings follows the University last month being awarded the highest possible international quality rating of five stars plus from QS Stars rating system," says Professor Squire.

The five star plus rating is awarded to universities described by QS as "an institution (that)

**The University of Otago placed 27 subjects within the top universities in the world, including 13 subjects placing in the top 100 Universities**

is not just world-class, but an elite destination to which the very best students and faculty worldwide will aspire. Its brand name will transform the résumé of anyone connected with it".

Other New Zealand tertiary institutions also achieved highly with the University of Auckland placing 38 subjects within the QS ranking, as well as being awarded the 20th place in Archaeology amongst other universities.

## University Oval to Expand Capacity

by Georgia Vosper

**T**HE DUNEDIN UNIVERSITY CRICKET OVAL IS currently in the process of being upgraded. This is to meet the 6000 person minimum capacity that has been set by New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) requirements for international venues.

On completion the oval will hold more than 6000 people, with the previous capacity being 3,500. Two weeks in, the upgrade is set to cost around \$750,000. This will involve building a 100m retaining wall on the western side of the stadium creating seating for 3000 people, as well as adding 10,000 cubic metres of soil to the existing embankments. With an addition of temporary seating the oval will be able to hold another 4000 people. It was proposed last year for lighting to be installed at the grounds, however this \$2million-plus plan was halted. Instead

a focus on expanding the capacity of the venue has been deemed more valuable.

Chief Executive of Otago Cricket Mike Coggan has said, "The main reason for the upgrade is to keep pace with Hagley Park in Christchurch" and to be a "benchmark" against them. In order for the oval to keep up to standard with other cricket grounds around New Zealand it is "imperative" the upgrade is completed. "We will certainly give NZC every reason to keep bringing International Cricket to Dunedin".

Otago Cricket has appointed the Hall Brothers as its contractor for the development. Mike Coggan expected the upgrades to be completed around mid May, however this would be weather dependent. The Dunedin City Council in partnership with Otago Cricket will engage in a bid process to have international matches played

**On completion the oval will hold more than 6000 people, with the previous capacity being 3,500**

at the completed oval, and he assured these would be of higher quality than in the past two years.

For Dunedin to be considered for these higher quality games, the upgrade is a necessary step to keep the oval on par with other grounds like Hagley Park. Once completed, the potential of a 6000-plus audience for an international match will be a success for Otago Cricket, bringing cricket fans to Dunedin instead of Christchurch.

# Dunedin Resident says Drift Trikers are "irresponsible"

by Henry Napier

**D**UNEDIN HAS ONCE AGAIN ascended to the world stage following the surging popularity of a downhill 'Drift Triking' video. The 2 minute 14 second clip, filmed on George King Memorial Drive, has reached over 3.5 million views on Facebook.

The video, which was originally uploaded to the Dunedin Drift Triking Facebook page following its March 13 filming, was eventually posted on the Unilad Facebook page – home to over 12 million followers. Since being re-uploaded by Unilad the controversial clip has surpassed 3.5 million views.

Drift Triking is a recently developed sport which involves the conversion of a children's tricycle to have a "stronger frame and sliding wheels", according to DriftTrikeMag.com. The website explains Drift Triking has quickly gained popularity since 2009 due to the help of Facebook.

"From about 2009 the sport is gaining on popularity and spreads viral across the globe. You Tube has a lot to do with this. Riders enjoy the controlled drifts while ridding down the hills and the freedom that comes with it. Feeling during controlled drifts is what all the trikers

are yearning for."

However, the new sport isn't all fun and games according to one Dunedin resident who is concerned the adrenaline-fuelled activity has "inherent danger" to those performing it and to the wider community.

"The problem is these guys aren't just doing this on back roads where there's no danger of being hit by a car. You often see them on streets around Dunedin and the risk of just going round a corner and having one of these guys fly into you must be pretty great," said the Dunedin resident who wished to be

referred to only as John.

"It's all well and good for [drift trikers] to say the risk is theirs but when you're flying down a hill at 40 or 50 [kilometres] or whatever, on something that low, the reality is drivers have to watch out for you and in the worst case they have to live with experience of having hit someone",

"This kind of sport, if that's what you want to call it, has inherent danger to everyone. I'd prefer to see it happen only in controlled spaces like a luge, not on our roads. I just think it's irresponsible

## Bunnings Warehouse U-Turns on Defibrillators

by Joe Higham

**D**UNEDIN'S BRANCH OF Bunnings Warehouse has backed down on plans to remove a potentially life-saving defibrillator, despite one of the staff members having died of a heart condition, the ODT reported.

Bunnings New Zealand manager Jacqui Coombes had been quoted by the ODT as saying that Bunnings as a company does not allow defibrillators in their stores nationwide because of maintenance costs, and the fact their staff have to be trained to use the devices in emergency situations. That position appears to have changed after public pressure on the issue.

The company's New Zealand's marketing manager Valerie Staley

said a review was taking place following feedback from customers and staff on the issue of removing the defibrillators.

The social club of the Dunedin Branch of the hardware chain had raised approximately \$1300 to purchase the device almost three years ago, as well as a petition to keep it in-store in case of emergency, although this was ignored and it was subsequently removed, a Bunnings staff member told the ODT.

Defibrillators are pivotal in treating someone suffering from a cardiac arrest, as it gives an electric shock to the heart, reestablishing normal contraction rhythms in the heart.

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# Stop Killing People you Fucking Twats

by Joe Higham

**A** TALIBAN SPLINTER GROUP, NAMED Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, has claimed responsibility for an Easter Sunday terrorist attack in Lahore, Pakistan's second most populous city, which took the lives of at least 72 people, many of whom were children.

Along with the dead, approximately 300 people were injured, some seriously, with many expecting the death toll to increase in the days following the incident. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif cancelled a trip to the United Kingdom after hearing of the terrorist attack.

The perpetrators declared they had targeted Christians as they were celebrating the Easter

Sunday holy day, a day in which Jesus, according to Biblical scripture, supposedly rose from the dead after being crucified on the preceding Thursday and then ascended to heaven some forty days later. The target is dubious though, as the bombing took place in a public park that is not exclusively a Christian one. The terrorist group warned they would unleash further attacks, after police arrested thousands in the days following the violence.

According to the National Minority Alliance, only three percent of Pakistan's 180 million people are of Christian faith, totalling approximately 5.4 million. Attacks on Christians by

Muslims in Pakistan are not uncommon by any means. In 2013, 15 people were killed in blasts on a Roman Catholic Church in Lahore; 75 people were killed in a 2013 attack on the All Saints Church in Peshawar; and 100 houses were burned during March 2013 in Lahore after a Christian was alleged to have made blasphemous remarks.

The Guardian Newspaper spoke to local resident Kiran Tanveer, who said: "There was a deafening noise. I immediately thought it must be a blast. I went outside to see. I saw injured people being taken and everyone running in all directions. It was a complete chaos."

NBC News spoke to Rehmat Masih, who has lived in Islamabad [Pakistan's capital] for four decades, who said: "I think being Christian in Pakistan is a crime. If we speak out, our corpses will be on the road."

## Syrian Forces Capture Vital ISIS Stronghold

by Hugh Baird

**A**FTER DAYS OF FIGHTING, SYRIAN Government forces backed by Russian airstrikes, have re-taken the ancient city of Palmyra from the Islamic State.

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights director, Rami Abdulrahman confirmed that over 400 Islamic State militants were killed, with around 180 government soldiers and allied fighters also dying in the battle.

The loss has been described by many as one of the largest setbacks for the Islamic State since they declared their caliphate in 2014 and is vital due to the geographical location of the city. Palmyra is seen as a gateway to Islamic State heartland. Syrian and Russian forces can now launch large-scale offensives on IS strongholds in Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor.

Speaking to Syrian Arab News Agency, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad stated that: "This is an important achievement and new evidence

of the effectiveness of the strategy followed by the Syrian army and its allies in the war against terrorism."

"The effectiveness of this strategy is further highlighted especially as opposed to the US-led coalition involving more than sixty countries and its lack of seriousness in fighting terrorism and the very little it has achieved since its establishment one and a half years ago," Assad added.

Syrian forces lost Palmyra after a weeklong siege from Islamic State late last May, with the fall of the historic city sparking worldwide concern as it contained some of the best preserved ruins from antiquity.

With the city under their control, Islamic State destroyed two of its great temples and a Roman triumphal archway, arguing that these ancient monuments were idolatrous. They also beheaded the city's former head of antiquities,

Khaled al-Asaad and hang his body on display afterwards.

Although the extent of the damage to Palmyra is far from clear, initial reports suggest that officials are surprised and optimistic about what they're finding. "We were expecting the worst. But the landscape in general is in good shape," said Maamoun Abdulkarim, director general of antiquities in Syria.

Since the capture of Palmyra, The Syrian Army, while backed by Russian warplanes, have continued their offensive attacking Islamic State held towns to the north-east and south-west of the city.



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# IPL Chances Reignited for Martin Gupthill?

by Willy Chapman

*Martin Gupthill is continuing to display exactly why he was the unluckiest man in world cricket to miss out on an IPL contract for 2016*

**W**ITH SOME STRONG PERFORMANCES in the latest installment of the T20 World Cup in India, Gupthill is showing why he will be sorely missed in this year's IPL tournament.

Gupthill was surprisingly snubbed by IPL bosses in February's auction, where many thought he would cash in after an explosive summer with the bat. The New Zealand batsmen had been firing at the top of the order in the shortest format of the game, smashing 377 runs at an average of 53.86 since January. The opener also displayed his consistency with scores of 30 or more in seven out of eight matches leading up to the IPL auction. Given his outstanding form Gupthill's omission came as a shock to fans and players.

Currently the third highest run scorer in T20 internationals Gupthill is widely considered one of the most prolific six hitters in the game, yet IPL bosses still couldn't find a spot for the Blackcaps opener. According to various IPL coaching staff one of the reasons Gupthill was overlooked was the uncertainty surrounding his ability to adapt in sub-continent conditions. Questions were raised about the amount of runs he scores on home soil compared to overseas. In his one and only T20 game in the Indian sub-continent Gupthill only managed a lowly 5 runs. Considering the spin friendly pitches in India, IPL bosses would have been conscious of Gupthill's notoriously poor form when facing spin.

In recent years IPL bosses have become more prudent with spending big on international players. Those like Gupthill, unproven in Indian conditions, can be viewed with trepidation. As most IPL teams already had set opening partnerships, this too counted against Gupthill. Raghu Iyer, CEO of new IPL team Rising Pune Supergiants, said there simply wasn't enough

space, and teams did not want to risk having to pay for a player to sit on the sidelines for the entire tournament.

In light of his recent performances at the T20 World Cup, Gupthill's chances of playing in the IPL may not be over. He has reignited claims he should be playing in the tournament, scoring an outstanding 80 against Pakistan during the group stages of the competition. Gupthill did not seem to be troubled by the conditions as he struck three sixes and 10 fours in his knock against a Pakistan side well suited to the sub-continent conditions. Considering his lack of game time in India, Gupthill looked at ease throughout his innings, ending up with a healthy strike rate of 166.

Former Sri Lankan international Mahela Jayawardene believes Gupthill may still have a chance of picking up an IPL contract after his performance at the T20 World Cup. Despite most teams having a settled opening pair, Jayawardene thinks the IPL franchises might change their mind after seeing how he has performed in the Indian conditions. The Sri Lankan star has been quick to praise Gupthill's ability to kick start an innings in the power-play, and provide a solid base for the Blackcaps to develop an innings.

Former Indian international Sanjay Manjrekar, has also spoken about Gupthill following his match winning 80 against Pakistan. In an interview with ESPNcricinfo, Manjrekar said that Gupthill is not just a T20 basher, but a proper player with the ability to play all around the wicket. Both Jayawardene and Manjrekar believe there is bound to be an injury leading up to the ninth installment of the IPL, and Gupthill is a quick replacement should it happen.

Gupthill is not the only player to have impressed at the T20 World Cup, with the young spin pairing



of Mitchell Santner and Ish Sodhi showing they have a bright future in the game. In foreign conditions the pair managed to rip through the Indians who pride themselves on their ability to play spin. Considering both players have minimal experience, their seven wickets in that opening game against India was staggering. Neither player was really a chance of gaining an IPL contract, but their ability to turn the ball in sub-continent conditions and take wickets will mean they will be strong contenders for next years' tournament.

# The Case of March Madness

by Sean Nugent

**I**'VE HEARD A FEW PEOPLE ASKING THE SAME question in the last couple of weeks: "What the hell is March Madness?" In simple terms it's a college basketball tournament in the United States played by the top 68 teams in the nation.

## "What the hell is March Madness?"

Yet look deeper and it's so much more than just a tournament. It finances organisations, makes or breaks careers, brings joy to some and heartbreak to others, and is quite honestly just as 'mad' as its name wants you to believe.

This was the first year that I'd ever paid attention to March Madness. I had known what it was but had never really had any motivation to sit down and watch it. This year I decided that I'd give it a go and all I can say is – wow. Upsets are so common that one would question the definition of the word, and thus it has become a phenomenon for fans to try and correctly guess the winners of all the games and the teams that will end up in the "Final Four". Forget the TAB competition during the Rugby World Cup, this is a whole different can of beans (although Japan was a fly in the punchbowl for most). Let's be honest, we all knew pretty much who was coming out of the groups at last year's World Cup except for the group of death containing Australia, England, and Wales. But in March Madness, teams the equivalent of Uruguay and Romania can beat those similar to the All Blacks. This year's biggest shock came in the first round when No.15 ranked Mid Tennessee defeated No.2 ranked Michigan State, a team that many people had as a prime favourite to bring home the title. In fact, out of the 13.02 million that participated in ESPN's Tournament Challenge, 22.3 percent, or 2.9 million people believed that Michigan State would indeed win the championship. They were the second favourites behind Kansas (25 percent) yet crashed out moments after the starting gun fired. In March Madness, the unexpected is to be expected, even if it doesn't seem plausible before tip-off.



The West Regional semi-finals and finals on March 27th and 29th at the U.S. Airways Centre, 2008

Turning to finances, I always find it funny looking at how much money America's "amateur" college sports rake in. For years there has been issues over the fact that none of the players receive any money for their play, yet plenty of others do. For example, the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletics Association) receives a whopping \$900 million for every March Madness, it's most profitable business. Most of this comes from broadcasting rights, part of a 14-year \$10.8 billion deal with CBS and Time Warner. The tournament also generates huge ad revenue, and in 2014 was second to only the NFL in postseason ad revenue. But it's not just the broadcasters and NCAA that get the cash. Teams can net around \$1.7 million just for appearing in the tournament, while making it to the Final Four can see a team receive \$8.5 million. It would then be surprising to find out that only three percent of teams generate profit. This can be attributed to the amount of money some schools pour into their basketball programs in order to have success. The salaries of coaches and scouts consumes most of their surplus funds, a sacrifice made in order to be elite.

I earlier mentioned how the tournament brings joy to some and heartbreak to others. Well how about both. Gather round kids I have

a story to share. It is one of Northern Iowa, a No.11 ranked side looking to prove themselves on the biggest stage. In their opening game versus No.6 Texas, not many gave them a chance and with the game coming down to the wire, it looked like their dream was about to end prematurely. Alas this was not so as Paul Jespersen hit a half-court game-winner that sent his Northern Iowa side into the next round. They were determined to make the most of this opportunity and as they began playing No.3 Texas A&M, it seemed that they were going to complete their second upset in the week. But then....drama. With a twelve point lead and only forty-four seconds remaining, Northern Iowa had the biggest collapse in NCAA Tournament history, allowing Texas A&M to tie the game up with a second remaining. Exhausted, Northern Iowa could not keep up with their opponents in overtime and eventually lost. In a game where they were going to get an upset victory, the tides turned and their opponents grabbed the upset. It was upset-ception. This story encapsulates March Madness and is the reason why it is so popular. It may not affect our lives in the slightest but boy is it entertaining. I urge those even slightly interested in basketball to tune in to the Championship Game later this week and possibly witness something special.

# ■ Bernie Sanders Resurrected on Easter

Jesus Metaphor Underused in Media



by Charlie O'Mannin

**O**VER EASTER BERNIE SANDERS WON BIG, pulling his flagging campaign back on track. He won Alaska, Hawaii and Washington with margins of between 40 and 60 percent, beating both polls and the most exuberant expectations. Bernie, who was dropping seriously behind in delegates, closed Hillary Clinton's delegate lead by roughly a third, putting him back on the map with a chance at the nomination.

One of the main things confusing both the media and anyone who does a quick google search are the superdelegates, who have overwhelmingly supported Hillary Clinton so far. No, Hillary does not have a 700 delegate lead, the superdelegates can and will flip their support if Bernie receives the majority of the popular vote.

■ The superdelegate system was introduced in 1968 in order to counter the Democrat worry that the voters were having too much influence over elections. Effectively they give the high ranking members of the Democratic Party the same power as 100,000 ordinary voters, a system which has been severely criticised as being undemocratic. However, since their inception the superdelegates have never once voted against the candidate with the majority of popular votes. The superdelegates know they are undemocratic and they know that the Democrat

voter base could well turn against them if they go against popular opinion. While there is a chance they could remain against Bernie even if he wins the popular vote it is extremely unlikely. If he wins then they will flip to support him, just like they flipped to support Obama in 2008, even after supporting Hillary throughout that entire primary. While superdelegates theoretically have power they cannot actually use it without pissing off a lot of people. Which makes superdelegates, unlike Super Saiyans actually less powerful than their ordinary counterparts.

However this is all assuming Bernie gets the popular vote. Hillary does have a massive lead, which Bernie will find difficult to overcome. He could do it, especially if he can replicate his recent wins. The upcoming states are in the far more liberal West and North-East, where Bernie does far better. Hillary also can't depend on any more states in the South, where she dominated. His recent wins will give him significant momentum, presenting him as a legitimate power in the primary, as opposed to a fringe candidate. However the states coming up are mostly closed primaries which means that people who are registered as independents can't vote. Independents overwhelmingly support Bernie and without their votes he might face trouble. Bernie's recent wins also fundamentally dispel

**Superdelegates, unlike Super Saiyans [are] actually less powerful than their ordinary counterparts**

the myth that he has no support from minorities, which he has been stuck with since his losses in the South. In Hawaii only 25 percent of the population is white, making it the only state in the US where white is not the majority race. Bernie won Hawaii 70-30. Alaska also has a large indigenous population, who overwhelmingly supported Bernie. One of the things I find worrying in the rhetoric around this whole primary is the assumption that minorities all vote together. They don't. Hillary got support from the majority of black voters in the South, but she also got the majority of white voters. She got that support in the South not because of their race but because of their political leanings. When the primary turned to more liberal states, like Michigan and Hawaii, Bernie won a significant portion of the minority vote. Saying that a minority will vote only on the basis of their race is dehumanising and racist.

The Democratic primary, while still fundamentally favouring Hillary to win became a more competitive race over Easter, opening a narrow path to victory for Bernie Sanders



# What the Fuck is Going on in America?

## Your handy guide to the Presidential Primaries

by Joel MacManus

**T**HE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS THE LONGEST, MOST confusing, infuriating experiment in the history of democracy. But at the same time, it is also far and away the most entertaining. Over the course of almost 20 months, candidates go from shaking hands in the cornfields of Iowa, to packed arenas nationwide, and if all goes well, they finish their journey with the keys to the Oval Office.

As *Critic* goes to print, we will have passed the halfway point in the primary process. While the race has certainly narrowed down and gained some clarity, it's far from over. In this handy guide, we attempt to explain the absolute clusterfuck that is the Presidential race.



### Delegates

The most important part of the Primary process is that party nominees are not decided by votes, states won, or shouting matches. It all comes down to delegates, representatives from each state who convene at the party conventions in July to vote on who their nominee should be. On the Democratic side there are 4765 delegates up for grabs whereas the Republicans compete for 2472. Delegates are awarded to states based on a convoluted formula of population size, congressional districts, and the amount of people who voted for that party in the previous election, the effect of which is that for Democrats, the behemoth California carries 475 delegates, while tiny Vermont offers just 16. States may award their delegates any way they choose, usually proportionately, but some operate on a county-by-county basis, and several on the Republican side choose a winner-take-all system.

### Super-Delegates

Also known as unpledged delegates, Super-Delegates are a group of important Democratic party personnel, usually current or former elected officials who, unlike pledged delegates who must nominate the candidate their state's voters chose, can vote for the candidate of their choosing. Some in the Bernie Sanders camp feared that party elites would use the system to override the will of the voters, should he win the pledged delegate count. This has never happened before, and most Super-Delegates simply vote for the apparent winner. Even Bill Clinton,

who was a Super-Delegate in 2008, voted for Barack Obama as a show of support for the will of the voters.

### Primaries and Caucuses

Where the action happens. Over the course of 5 months, the 50 states and territories will cast their votes, using one of these two methods. A Primary is simply an election day as we know it; polling booths are open all day, and people fill out a form and leave. Caucuses however, are an entirely different animal. Rather than vote at any time, voters must coalesce at a set time at an agreed location (usually a high school gym). Advocates give impassioned speeches in support of their candidate, then they literally go and stand in groups based on whom they support, and the winner is decided by a headcount. This is usually accompanied by campaign workers running around plying attendees with cookies and coffee in an attempt to get voters to move over to their side of the room. The net result of this is unverifiable, often inaccurate reporting of results, and very low voter turnout, which tends to aid candidates who appeal to the more ideologically pure wings of the party, like Bernie Sanders and Ted Cruz.

### Open and Closed Contests

Because the parties in each state organise their own contests, there is absolutely no conformity in the way things are run. Some states require you to be a registered party member, others allow same-day registration, some include

independents, while some allow anyone to vote, regardless of party loyalty, which has tended to benefit anti-establishment candidates Trump and Sanders. In 2008, Republican operatives exploited these rules in what was known as Operation Chaos, by encouraging conservative voters to switch party affiliations and vote in the Democratic primary for Hillary Clinton, who they saw as a weaker candidate than Barack Obama.

### Contested Conventions

Normally, by the time the party conventions roll around there is a clear winner, and the actual nomination process is mostly formality. A contested convention, where no single candidate has a clear majority, has not happened in the past 60 years. But there's never been a candidate like Donald Trump. If no candidate has the 1237 delegates required to win nomination, delegates will vote over and over again until one arises. The third ballot will free most delegates from voting the way their state voted, and will be able to vote any way they choose. Both Ted Cruz and John Kasich will be hoping to win over party insiders and steal the nomination from Trump this way, although it has also been speculated that a consensus candidate such as Mitt Romney or Paul Ryan could emerge victorious.

# Clark V. Woodhouse

on Minimum wage



David Clark

**R**IGHT-WING GOVERNMENTS ALWAYS scare-monger and say that raising the minimum wage causes job losses. History tells us otherwise.

In fact, I hazard that there will be a Nobel Prize up for grabs for the economist that can demonstrate the real-world nature of the relationship between minimum wages and unemployment.

The minimum wage doesn't drive New Zealand's economy. Far more influential in our economy's overall success is the development of intellectual property, proximity to markets, a distortional taxation regime, availability of capital and exchange rates.

But the minimum wage matters very much to those receiving it. Students know better than

most that a more generous minimum wage would help make ends meet.

It matters a lot when people are able to earn a decent income from work. It makes the difference between being able to save for a rainy day and having to fall back on Government support.

Low wages carry hidden costs. About one in four kiwi kids grows up in poverty. Low wages contribute to kids having a lack of weatherproof clothing, appropriate footwear, healthy housing and food. This in turn leads to preventable illness. Trips to the doctor are avoided for cost reasons, and can result in a lifetime of avoidable health costs, mostly borne by the taxpayer. Children raised in poverty are less likely to succeed in education and more likely to appear in the criminal justice system. Unrealised potential carries personal costs, but it makes society poorer too.

Unfortunately I expect the Government will continue with minimum wage increases as small as they think they can get away with. It fits the pattern. When National was last in Government in the 1990s they only increased the minimum wage by 70 cents over nine years. Unemployment bounced between seven and 11 percent. Helen Clark's Labour Government then raised the

minimum wage by \$5 over a similar period of time, meanwhile unemployment dropped to the lowest in the Western World.

In 2012, I introduced a bill to Parliament that would increase the minimum wage to \$15. At that time, the minimum wage was a bit over \$13 in New Zealand. The National Government voted the Bill down. In Australia at that time, where minimum wages are set by sector, the absolute minimum wage was equivalent to over \$19 New Zealand.

With higher wages, the average Australian only has to work four days a week to earn what the average Kiwi does. Truth is: higher minimum wages mean employers can't get wealthy off low wages. They have to be smarter. If employers and their businesses want to succeed, they have to provide higher value goods and services. Businesses with low-value offerings don't survive, and their failure ensures the people that work there are freed up to work in successful businesses. A virtuous circle is created.

The OECD says that the imbalance between rich and poor is holding New Zealand's economy back. Steady and consistent rises in the minimum wage are one proven mechanism to ensure that things don't swing further out of balance.

## Michael Woodhouse

**E**ARLIER THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT announced a 50 cent increase to the minimum wage, taking the minimum wage to \$15.25 per hour from 1 April this year.

\$15.25 per hour represents a 3.4 percent increase and will directly benefit approximately 152,700 workers. It will increase wages throughout the economy by \$75 million per year.

Living on the minimum wage can't be easy and of course there are commentators who say we should be pushing the minimum wage up even more. The advice I received was that this would come at the expense of jobs – especially those part time jobs that many students have. There would be fewer of them around, because business would not be able to absorb the minimum wage increase. And as a result, jobs would

be lost and part time jobs would be harder to find.

That's where the balancing act comes in. The Government has always taken a steady approach to increasing the minimum wage to ensure the right balance is struck between protecting our lowest paid workers and ensuring jobs are not lost. Since coming to office we have increased the minimum wage by 27 percent at a time when inflation increased just 10 percent. So I think we've got that balance right but the last thing we want is for people to lose their jobs as a result of a minimum wage increase that can't be absorbed by business.

For students like you, a 50 cent per hour increase at a time of almost zero inflation means you are effectively getting the whole lot in your back pocket. That extra money will go a long



way for students on very tight budgets. That's an extra coffee a week to help you through those long study sessions, or more money towards the power bill during a cold Dunedin winter.

# OPEN CASTING CALL

**Are you the next face  
of the University's  
marketing campaign?**

.....

We are recruiting University of Otago students for leading and supporting roles in our new national advertising campaign.

If you're after a stepping stone to Hollywood or just love getting in front of the camera, then get in touch!

Register your interest before Friday 8 April  
by emailing:  
[connor.kilkelly@otago.ac.nz](mailto:connor.kilkelly@otago.ac.nz)



**The University is retiring its trusted and much loved brand campaign, Take Your Place in the World. Take Your Place in the World ran for eight years, so it's highly likely that if you're reading this article, you are familiar with the song from the television ads and could probably sing it on cue if called for. But all good things must come to and end, so the University is moving towards a new campaign idea.**

From July 2016, the University will have a completely new advertising campaign that will run nation-wide, appealing to prospective undergraduate students, and showing them that Otago is the best place to study and, therefore, the only choice!

Even though the University is moving in a new direction, there is one thing that isn't changing: we're staying true to using real students to promote the University, its fantastic lifestyle, incredible student culture and unbeatable academic ability.

And that's because our students are the best advocates for Otago, and we wouldn't want anyone else representing us. Auditions for students to be part of this new campaign will be held on campus in the next few weeks.

We're after three main characters who will play first-year students telling our unique Otago story. There's no requirement for formal acting experience or proven dramatic ability, however you will need to be comfortable enough in front of a camera to deliver scripted dialogue in character. Alongside our main characters, we'll be looking for a lot of extras, some of who will end up on television, whilst others might end up with a smaller, but still impressive social media cameo. And yes, we did say nation-wide. The final cast will feature around the country on television commercials, on buses, on social media, cinema... you name it.

So regardless of your reason for wanting to take part, do be aware, you'll probably become a wee bit famous as a result.

If you think this amazing experience is for you, register your interest by sending an email to Connor Kilkelly, Marketing Assistant within the Marketing Services team - [connor.kilkelly@otago.ac.nz](mailto:connor.kilkelly@otago.ac.nz)

When you email Connor, tell him a bit about yourself. No need for an essay, just your name, what you study and what year you're currently in. Connor will then come back to you with all the details... what, when, where, etc.

So there is it folks; if you're keen, shoot us an email and we'll get you in front of the camera!

**Register your interest for an audition:  
[connor.kilkelly@otago.ac.nz](mailto:connor.kilkelly@otago.ac.nz)**

**Registrations close: 5pm, Friday 8 April**





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# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A SEX STORE EMPLOYEE

by Chelle Fitzgerald

**“WOW, THAT IS SO COOL!  
WHAT’S IT LIKE? ARE ALL  
THE CUSTOMERS  
HELLA KINKY?”**

This is the most common response I hear when people find out what I do for a living. To be fair, it's a natural reaction, as so many people have never set foot inside an adult store. Many people assume sex stores are medieval candlelit dungeons, or shiny black BDSM caves blasting Berlin techno music 24/7.

Disappointingly (or thankfully) for the wide-eyed newcomer, our stores are just regular retail stores, with the same bright overhead lights, tidy displays and clean merchandising that you would find in any other store. The same can be said of the majority of our customers, who tend to forgo the latex cat suits, chastity belts and gimp masks when they do their shopping – because, a. they are just regular people, and b. fuck trying to get everyday shit done in all that constricting garb.

However, after being in this job for a while it becomes easy to forget that things I consider to be unremarkable are often considered scandalous and taboo to another person. Perspective shifts really quickly in this industry, and your definition of what you find shocking will continually expand to include all kinds of fucked-up shit that you had never even heard of a year ago.

With all that in mind, here lies a glimpse into this amazing industry from behind the counter!

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## MONDAY

After opening the store, I set about doing the usual cleaning. My usual Monday customers trickle in and out of the store at regular intervals – mainly lone, unkempt older men (better known as “dirty old men”) chomping at the bit to peruse our very limited DVD section. The first guy is a regular who comes in every Monday morning without exception, and never fails to ask me whether we have any specials on transsexual and

strap-on porn. As “Strap-On Steve” shambles out with shattered dreams once again, Crackhead Carl sprints in to pick up his daily supply of herbal Viagra (does he do anything except fuck? I can't imagine him going grocery shopping or watching the footy nursing a 24/7 boner). Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives – welcome to another Monday. Variations of these two characters interrupt my consciousness all day, but it's no big deal because they don't linger for long, so I don't have to expend any real interactive effort all day.

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## TUESDAY

Tuesday is prime hangover day and I relish in the knowledge that I won't see a soul until at least 11.30am, which is often a woman buying her first toy. I'm going to hazard a guess that they pick a Tuesday morning lunch break slot so as to not be recognised coming and going from this house of ill-repute. True to form, the first customer is a nervous lady in her thirties, shaking with fright at the thought of what kind of seedy jizz-stained old bastard may be awaiting her custom. She relaxes as she sees me, a young(ish) female with subtle makeup, decidedly tame clothing and a respectful demeanour. “Oh thank god, I was hoping there would be a woman working,” she gasps while patting her heart. Laughing, she buys a typical entry-level toy – a basic clit stimulator, which I'm sure will liven up her marriage something chronic.

After she leaves, two young guys walk in – one in regular clothes, one dressed as a cat. These two are regulars, and the kitty always wears cat ears, a collar, paws and a tail when they come in. They always buy a lot of anal toys and today is no exception. Once the cat came in on his own, out of costume. I recognized him without all the cat trimmings and it was kinda jarring seeing him in regular clothes. Even lacking

the feline ensemble, he did appear to me to almost saunter silkily through the aisles and I could have sworn he gently rubbed his face against a couple of corners lazily, leaving his kitty scent around his favourite sections. I guess some people are just born as cats trapped in human bodies, y'know?

Later that day, I decide to go through the DVDs and re-organise them, and am delighted to come across the title "South Side Hos 3". I put it aside to buy and sneak it under my flatmate's pillow later that night, because SOUTH SIDE HOS, that's why.

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## WEDNESDAY

The store has only been open about ten minutes when a woman arrives, and I become somewhat miffed when I greet her and she doesn't respond. However, I understand the reason for the silence when she wordlessly hands me an envelope containing cash, an itemised list of what she is to buy, and a note from her Master. The note asks me to sell her the requested items and to call him if there are any issues, ignoring the sub completely. I look over at her again, and upon realising that our eyes would never meet, I turn mine instead to the list now clutched in my hand. Luckily for the diligent sub, we have everything on the list, however I do have to call the Master and check that a couple of colour substitutions will be okay. He seems like a pleasant guy and doesn't sound like the Voldemort-esque figure that mainstream society likes to associate with his role. After chatting for a few minutes, he requests that she be sent home with two copies of the receipt because she is "hopeless with losing things and she needs to be re-trained with a firmer hand". I consider sending her home with just one, knowing that he probably wants to use that as a reason for punishment. I get the feeling she wouldn't mind this at all either. However, without knowing what their relationship is like I decide not to mess with them, even if I am possibly denying her some much-anticipated disciplinary action. I wonder how they got on that afternoon as I absent-mindedly start cracking the whips loudly in the store to fill some time.

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## THURSDAY

Around lunchtime, an older couple in conservative clothing wander into my midst, where they pounce on the faux-latex outfits. They rack up over \$300 adding to what is probably

an overflowing fetish wardrobe at home, and throw in another couple of hundred dollars worth of toys. His eyes light up with eager anticipation and a slight look of desperation as she selects a metal buttplug with a bejewelled end, sternly telling him that it would be a special treat for him if he behaves this week. They seem really loving towards each other while still maintaining their chosen power-play roles. It's a pleasant dynamic to witness.

That afternoon a gaggle of young women aged enter the store, looking for penis straws. On the way to the straws they get sidetracked for about 45 minutes, laughing and screaming at every single toy they come across. As they snicker at an 11 inch dong, one of them obnoxiously screeches "oh my god, do people actually use these?!!" I saunter over and fix her with a cool stare, replying "actually, I have that toy and it's one of my favourites. If there wasn't huge demand for everything in this store, we wouldn't have this stuff on the shelves at all." This is my standard line for when people are being narrow-minded about various toys we sell or minority fetishes we work hard to cater for. I believe I am doing them a massive favour by showing them a different perspective, encouraging them to think about the words that come out of their mouth in certain contexts and hopefully helping them see why they should broaden their definition of "normal", lest they want to come across as a judgmental dickhead all their lives. I understand covering discomfort with laughter, but it can make other customers feel anxious about what may already be a nerve-racking personal experience.

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## FRIDAY

A gentleman that I had sold a steel cock ring to the previous week strolls into the store. I ask him how the cock ring had gone and he launches into how he had left it on too long and was then unable to get it off, so had to go into A&E to have it cut off. Aghast, I gently scold him for leaving it on so long ("it's metal! It doesn't stretch! I told you no longer than 10

**YOU STILL HAVE A HUGE  
CAPACITY TO FEEL  
EXCITEMENT, WONDER,  
AND HAPPINESS OVER  
FUCKING A SYNTHETIC  
VAGINA SUBSTITUTE WELL  
INTO YOUR 90S**





minutes!") I expect him to ask for a refund, but he insists with cheer that altogether it had been a great experience, and could he please have another the same (as the first one was destroyed by those pesky nurses in the hospital). I send him away with the new cock ring and a bunch of silicone based

## **IF THE BULLETS ARE USED RECTALLY THEY'LL GET SUCKED UP THERE AND HAVE BE REMOVED AT THE HOSPITAL**

lube ("just in case"), shaking my head in wonder at the cavalier attitude he has towards the threat of painful dick mutilation.

My final customer that day is a sweet, frail little old man in his nineties. I show him a Fleshlight (fake vagina masturbating aid) and watch him grin in delight and poke his fingers into the tester, like a child prodding at a new pet puppy. He cannot contain his excitement about getting this toy, and the happiness is infectious. I give him a "senior's discount" and he breaks out into a little jig-style dance at this happy news. It just goes to show that you still have a huge capacity to feel excitement, wonder, and happiness over fucking a synthetic vagina substitute well into your 90s, and this is probably one of the most beautiful conclusions I have ever come to.

## **SATURDAY**

A young guy comes in, looking rather bewildered at being there, like a deer caught wanking in headlights by his mum. He makes a beeline to the small bullet section and is poring over the various bullets in silence when I approach him to see if he needs help. He wants "the smallest bullet". Ahhh, I get it. It's for his butt of course - this is a common thing with the lads and I'm pretty good at identifying the culprits. I show him a few, and then ask point-blank, "Is it for yourself or for a female?" He goes red and stammers, "ahh, for a female". Sensing blatant embarrassment, I reply gently, "no worries, we always ask guys that question because if the bullets are used rectally they'll get sucked up there and have be removed at the hospital. The ones designed for anal have bases to prevent that happening." Sheepish, he asks me if I could show him those ones instead. It never ceases to amaze me how embarrassed men get about basic anal play. Guys, you have an entire g-spot up there that your weird homophobia is straight-up cockblocking you from exploring. Just get involved and treat yo'self, precious boys.

After he leaves with his wee beginner buttplug, another young dude arrives and makes tracks to the DVD section.

After a bit of deliberating, he brings his choices up to the counter. I groan inwardly at the awkwardness of it all - his selections are "BBW Gold" (classic chubby-chaser fare) and "Cum On My Tattoo # 2 and #3". Just so you know, I'm fat as fuck and heavily tattooed - this guy is literally going home to jack off over the porno equivalent of me. I pray that he won't notice the tattooed elephant in the room (me) and make it weird. He makes it weird. The transaction begins easily enough, but as I hand him his receipt he murmurs that he thinks I am beautiful and asks whether he can take me out. "Sorry mate, I'm a flaming homo, no men for me" I reply cheerfully. "But thank you for the expression of interest!" The only tactful way out of those situations is to give a breezy, "no worries" style of response and try not to make the dude feel weird about asking out (and being rejected by) their living fetish at her place of employment. For the record, we never date customers - this is to ensure the comfort and safety of all our staff, because if someone has poor judgment and agrees to go out with a creep, then that signals to the creep that all the staff are game for unwanted flirting/advances - so we don't do it as a blanket rule.

## **SUNDAY**

Relaxed couples mosey in while they digest their delicious brunches and lunches from the cafes nearby. They appear content and loved up as they enjoy a slow browse through the store, holding hands and murmuring to each other about the toys. I try not to cramp their style. If it looks like "couple time", often a hard state for people to achieve in their busy lives, I ain't gonna fuck with the vibe!

I close up and happily drive home, knowing what I do is one of the more special and positive jobs of this society. Helping people connect with themselves and their partners on a respectful and safe sexual level leads to strengthened relationships, increased confidence and better self-esteem. We are encouraging people to feel good about themselves and their desires every day, and this can only be a favourable influence on the world!

Not all heroes wear capes ■





# intercontinental drift

Norman H. Maclean

History has shown how the relocation of displaced people and refugees has altered the world for the better. Norman Maclean explains how mass exoduses have spread knowledge, culture, technology, and wisdom from ancient civilisations to the present day.

“They change their sky  
but not their soul who  
cross the ocean.”

When Roman poet, Horace penned these words over two millennia ago, he could scarcely have envisaged the chaos unfolding in our time as hundreds of thousands clamour for salvation in the West, carrying with them both faith and culture. Yet the drift of migrants to the heart of Horace's empire had begun long before and was the reason why citizens of the Eastern provinces were as common a sight in the Forum Romanum as bewhiskered Celts and flaxen-haired Germanics.

It has become mandatory to bewail the implications of today's vast movement of refugees from the near East into Europe, the Americas and beyond. Our concern is entirely justified, but we should not for a moment imagine that the relocation of entire peoples is unprecedented. While your grand-parents gape in horror and vow that things will never be the same again, it might be worth reminding them that although they are quite right, the changes that are inevitable will almost certainly alter the world for the better.

A little optimism is perhaps required to offset the prevailing sense of deep unease that permeates virtually all forms of media.

Those swarming thousands making their way from Turkey to Greece and onward past the barriers and check-points and the misery of the camps are largely people fired by determination to seek a better life, rather than any desire to impose their personal beliefs on an increasingly secular West as some apparently fear. Furthermore, it is evident that plenty of them are well educated, resourceful and determined to make their way in whatever society finally accepts them which is precisely why Angela Merkel has sensibly opted to welcome close on a million into Germany where an aging work force and a declining birth rate pose major problems for the near future of that state.

How vastly different this invasion is from historical examples. In the year 846, genuine fanaticism saw a wave of Muslim invaders penetrate as far as Rome where they gleefully looted St. Peter's basilica, inspiring Pope Leo to order the construction of defensive walls. The huge stone barrier of the Leonine wall surrounding the Vatican still evokes awe among the crowds queuing to click cameras at the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Of course the armies of the prophet who stormed across the Tiber were simply behaving with all the rapaciousness and militancy displayed by Christian hosts from the time the empire had begun to brandish crosses in the form of swords and ruthless dominance of the

east emanated by imperial command from Constantinople. That city was a replacement Rome, transplanted to the point where a small Greek settlement, Byzantium perched on the eastern edge of Europe, looked across to Asia. Constantine who founded the new capital knew what he was doing: the location gave him easy access to the great trade routes running to Egypt and as far as India. It gave control over the fabulous wealth of the Greek east, long annexed by Rome yet always intellectually, spiritually and culturally so much more dynamic and in some respects autonomous.

The culture of Constantinople remained Greek until the city eventually fell to the Muslim armies of Ottoman sultan, Mehmed ii after a siege of 54 days in 1453. That, of course, was the end of the world for the Christians of the East. The unthinkable had happened with the greatest city on earth becoming a final colossal gem in the Muslim crown. From Baghdad and far beyond, to all of North Africa and now the borders of Europe, the Prophet held sway. No matter that Rome had survived and an attempted assault on Vienna back in 1529 had been repulsed: Allah was now revered in Jerusalem in a quite amicable accommodation with local Christians, while Constantinople's vast Hagia Sophia was converted from Christendom's greatest shrine to a glorious mosque.

All of which rather diminishes, in terms of global alarm, the spectacle of thousands scrambling for a better life in the West while the Jeremiahs of our day lament this unthinkable mass movement of foreign peoples.

Inevitably the West was to retaliate. From 1096 to 1270, a succession of European armies invaded the Muslim east, bent on reclaiming Christian holy places. Those cross-bearing hordes were the largely illiterate ruffian descendants of the assorted tribes who had gradually brought the Roman Empire to its knees. When short of meat, they were not averse to barbecuing Muslim children on spits. Butchering their way through the Levant, they made the word crusade synonymous with barbarism and

Those swarming thousands making their way from Turkey to Greece and onward past the barriers and check-points and the misery of the camps are largely people fired by determination to seek a better life, rather than any desire to impose their personal beliefs on an increasingly secular West as some apparently fear.



left a legacy that still festered when George W. Bush—evidently lacking any knowledge of history—used that very term when talking of the need to invade Iraq. The rest, as they say, is history: the chaotic consequences of that misguided decision are still very much with us.

It behoves us to recall that out of the chaos that reigned for so many centuries, emerged cultural and intellectual advantages that were largely responsible for shaping the modern world. When Constantinople fell, the refugees who fled westward often ended up in Venice since ships tended to make their way to that great seaport in preference to most others. Trunks full of manuscripts and every kind of codex came with the escapees. Many of the precious documents were the works of Greek thinkers and it was access to these that largely fired the Italian Renaissance. Prior to this – think here of architectural and sculptural splendours from the geniuses of Donatello, Brunelleschi and Michelangelo—such places as Rome had long been rural backwaters. Where the Caesars had once sat in power there were malarial swamps in the late medieval period and a squalid slum of perhaps 25,000 persons, a minute fraction of the once teeming population in the distant days when millions of gallons of pure water gushed from aqueducts to feed public fountains and flush civic latrines. The mighty Forum Romanum in the late 1400's was still known as the Campo Vacchino—the Cow Field—where unwashed and lice-ridden peasants tended their herds among the broken columns of temples and basilicas.

Which is why when Irish monks penetrated northern Italy on their missionary journeys in the 8th century, locals were astounded to be told something of their ancestors who once dominated the entire Mediterranean. Most had not the faintest idea what Rome had once been. The very ruins of the Colosseum, home at that time to hundreds of squatters who built their shacks and hovels in its crumbling arches, was deemed by most to be the ruins of a giant's castle or some extraordinary relic of fairy rule in a past unknown.

We may hardly expect to find some radical 15th century-style intellectual boost as a result of this century's exodus from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but we can certainly assume some melding of cultures out of which new vitality may emerge to invigorate an increasingly self-satisfied, hedonistic and often bored West.

Such vast tides of itinerant peoples had crossed back and forth over Europe in the preceding centuries that identification of any one race with a single country had become near impossible.

In their tens of thousands, Vandals, Sueves, and Alans had broken through Roman ranks and crossed the frozen river Rhone in the first decade of the 5th century and spread throughout Gaul, pillaging and sacking as they went until the achievements of the Caesars had been reduced to the ruins photographed by tourists today. These wandering armies only stopped when they reached the barrier of the Pyrenees so from there, they poured east and west into neighbouring provinces. Within a mere century, successive waves of German barbarians, many of them more or less Christianised, had irrevocably altered the map of Western Europe. That continent had slumped intellectually and spiritually into a state that enabled future generations to belittle it by speaking of the Dark Ages. A scathing term it may be, but despite

contemporary efforts to rehabilitate this era, certain facts are undeniable.

All the great continental libraries had vanished by this time: even memory of them had been erased from the minds of those who lived in the emerging feudal societies of medieval Europe. Rome possessed twenty-eight libraries in the days of Constantine. One writer of the fourth century, Ammianus Marcellinus averred that, "bibliothecis sepulcrorum ritu in perpetuum clausis"—the libraries like tombs were closed forever. Even allowing for a degree of hyperbole, it is evident that learning was all but extinguished except in the monasteries.

Yet in sharp contrast was the embrace of learning that so characterised the Muslim world in the centuries that followed Mohammed's extraordinary lifetime.

By the time Muslim hordes had swept their way through all of the near-East, the whole of north Africa and into Spain, they had laid claim to the remnants of classical civilisation not totally eliminated by the savagery of the early Church that had presided over the burning of libraries, the closing of centres of learning and the destruction of all that might be deemed pagan. Muslim scholars had appropriated much that laid the foundations for their own ascendancy as the great academic faith with advanced knowledge of everything from astronomy, medicine and algebra to chemistry, botany and geography.

By 900 C.E. Cordoba in Spain had become, after Baghdad, the second city of the world, a luminous, teeming metropolis of 100,000. It was an extraordinary polyglot of three continents in which paved streets were lit by oil-burning lamps. It boasted three hundred baths since Moorish engineers had built extensive hydraulic systems that poured pure water from the mountains into the city and also watered vast horticultural regions. Emphasis on art and learning put Cordoba high above the rest of Europe, which only a century before could offer precisely two universities while Spain alone had seventeen. Cordoba's central library established





between 961 and 976 was the pride of the caliphate, possessing more than 400,000 books.

Caliphate! That term evokes a shudder in our time and not without very real cause. Yet, how strangely human society adjusts to vast movements of people; the dissemination of knowledge; the blending of cultures. We may hardly expect to find some radical 15th century-style intellectual boost as a result of this century's exodus from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but we can certainly assume some melding of cultures out of which new vitality may emerge to invigorate an increasingly self-satisfied, hedonistic and often bored West.

It is a commonplace that destruction and decay are essential for new growth. It applies throughout the natural world and it appears to apply equally in human societies. How completely devastating it must have been to pick an existence out of the ruins of Berlin a mere seventy years ago with an entire country brought to its knees; its glorious cities shattered; a massive death toll and a broken spirit expected to also accommodate national guilt. Had anyone suggested then that the leading nation of Europe at the end of the 20th century would be Germany there might have been wry and dismissive laughter. Apart from the repatriation of displaced hordes, no real influx of alien residents subsequently occurred: rather, by the early 1960's the Wall cut a once proud country in two, actually reducing the population and symbolising a permanent enmity between the West and the Soviet Union.

This writer was one of millions who gaped in disbelief as television showed that same barrier coming down overnight: vast numbers streaming across what had been No Man's Land, incredulous tears and wild exclamations of joy marking a kind of return to unification. It was like a science-fiction scenario—few if any sci-fi writers had ever postulated such a happening. Mass movement of people, bent on a better existence was again occurring. It repeatedly shapes and reshapes society; eliminates much that was corrupt; creates a variety of new problems (just

ask any Berliner) yet signals an urge to regeneration and a reinvigoration of the human spirit.

But, oh God! What can the world be coming to when desperate people paddle across the Aegean in search of something better than the hellhole that is Syria?

The neo-Nazis of Europe are militantly opposed which is entirely predictable: somewhere in their tiny minds lurks the nonsense once cheerfully promulgated by Goebbels and his fellow fanatics. Bitter anti-Semitism was the order of the day then, but undesirables came in many forms including such evident deviants as Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, trade unionists, gypsies, the mentally and physically handicapped and coloured peoples, all of whom could usefully be categorised as degenerate and fit only for elimination. Mass media today makes a Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda somewhat redundant, which is why we have witnessed mobs marching again under banners that demand the removal of refugees. Goebbels' successors bear the same erroneous notion that in the 1930's mythologised and motivated those torch-lit processions in Nuremberg: the Germanic people were of pure stock, untainted by any dangerous alien blood-lines and could probably trace their origins back to Atlantis if a massive mental convulsion was attempted and reason thrown out along with all contaminating thought such as had been purveyed by anti-social intellectuals.

New Zealand has grandly offered to accept a few hundred displaced people. The Prime Minister's hand was forced by the weight of public opinion. Still, there are individuals and organisations demanding an increase in the quota since one fact is glaring obvious: quite apart from humane concern that stirs a desire to help, this country is in grave danger of foundering financially if it remains as ludicrously under populated as it is at present. Germany's dilemma is our problem too: we have a rapidly aging population, a diminishing work-force and

a pressing need for skilled, motivated, multi-talented immigrants who can provide for the future of this nation as well as for themselves. Our population of four and a quarter million inhabit a land roughly equivalent to Italy where 44 million somehow manage to live largely productive lives, despite their own variety of social and economic challenges. If by some bizarre fluke we were to number eight million—not a serious proposition—there is no reason why that should make more than a relatively small dent on the landscape.

The technology exists to provide solutions to all problems of pollution, food production, waste disposal, the provision of water and power, opportunities to create meaningful work and enjoy creative pursuits. Entire cities could exist in such places as Westport, Hokitika, Hicks Bay, and a dozen other places where limited employment and development now exist. There is no longer any excuse to pump filth into the sea or the air or into land—fills: with vision and enterprise and a massive injection of population, superbly designed urban centres could rise to take full advantage of what is available to local residents.

We would, of course, have to be prepared to accept the best of those who applied—not merely plutocrats believing they can purchase whatever takes their fancy but self-reliant, skilled, vigorous, mostly young men and women who by every indication would practically sell their souls to have the kind of chance we could so easily offer. This is the land that by its very name proclaims what advertisers would deem the strongest sounds of persuasion. What other place on the planet can offer NEW and ZEAL? Where else is there a society so completely blessed by nature yet able to offer the comforts and conveniences taken for granted in any civilised place?

**Hammer on Wellington's doors now: our future depends on it.**

A man with a beard and blonde hair is dressed as Thor. He wears a red cape, a black t-shirt, and a silver and blue chest plate. He is holding the hammer Mjolnir in his right hand. The background is purple with a pattern of light purple circles and white starburst graphics.

# COS *it's all about the* PLAY

BY VICTORIA RANSOM & SAMUEL RILLSTONE

**T**he smell of makeup, face paint and coloured hairspray fills the air. Masses of people are all flocking to one place for a day of excitement, laughter and all out craziness. For those of you thinking these are the sights and smells of the annual Hyde Street party, you are sadly mistaken. We are, in fact, referring to those of the annual Armageddon Expo which graced the Edgar Centre last weekend.

The two of us donned our makeup and face paint to morph from simple humans, Samuel and Victoria, into the Joker and Harley Quinn, Batman villains from the upcoming film *Suicide Squad*. As soon as our final touches were made, all traces of our human identities were gone. We were no longer two ordinary students...we were now The Clown Prince and Princess of Gotham. With baseball bat in hand and green hair spray lavishly applied, we set off to rip Bat-brains a new one.

For two days, nerds like us from all over Otago gathered at the Edgar Centre to celebrate all things anime, science fiction, and comic books. Stalls, special guests and competitions are all part of the fun at Armageddon Expo. The stalls are filled to the brim of all manner of geekery. There are replica swords and other weaponry, hats, plush toys, board games, t-shirts,





and posters. This year Armageddon even had a local tattoo studio set up shop giving out tattoos to those wanting to immortalise their love for certain characters. Samuel bought a replica of Thor's hammer for only \$70. It's made of hard plastic and metal, and is big enough to cave in a (fictional) enemy's skull.

But the thing that stood out to us was the number of attendees who cosplayed. I remember the first time I heard the term "cosplay". It was in 2012, where I attended Dunedin's first Armageddon. It started as an Anime expo, confined to the small corridor in the Castle lecture theatre complex on campus. Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch all had the privilege of hosting an actual Armageddon expo. After popular demand from us nerds in Otago, it was announced that in 2012 Dunedin would get its

own full-fledged comic book, sci-fi and anime convention.

Back then I was told Armageddon was New Zealand's smaller version of the American Comic-Con so I was eager to attend. A group of my friends and I had decided that we would all dress as some form of comic book or anime character. I decided on Harley Quinn from The Batman Animated Series. For Dunedin's inaugural Armageddon we made our way in costume to the Edgar Centre. The line to the entrance was short, and there were no more than twenty stalls. Some people complained that it was nowhere near as good as the ones in Auckland and Wellington, but I was just as excited to be there.

There were other people in costume, we saw a Wolverine and Ash from Pokémon, for example, but not many. Everyone wanted their picture

taken with us. We posed as our characters, and were praised for our fantastic cosplays. I remember thinking, "cosplay? What the heck is a cosplay?"

All over the world, cosplay has become increasingly popular in the last decade. Cosplaying is when everyday folks dress up as a character from a comic book, a video game, a film or TV series, and sometimes take on their character's personality along with the costume. The word "cosplay" is an amalgamation of "cos" from costume, and "play" from role-play.

As we left the event, I heard more moans from disappointed fans that Dunedin's attempt at Armageddon was a total rip off. I thought that because of the complaints, this would be the first and last Armageddon we got. I was wrong!



In 2013, it was announced that Armageddon would return to Dunedin again, so my friends and I started making our costumes. This time when we arrived at the venue, the line went right around the corner. We waited for about twenty minutes before getting inside. I entered the centre dressed as Babydoll, from the Zack Snyder film Sucker Punch, I couldn't believe my eyes – the majority of people in line were in cosplay. I knew that this was going to be an epic Armageddon. The venue was bigger, there were double the stalls, and we had celebrity guests, including the Sixth Dr from Dr Who, Colin Baker. What made me the happiest though, were all the costumes. There were hundreds of them, from anime to comics, to films and TV series, and even video games.

Part of the appeal of cosplaying is to be part of the cosplay community. Everyone is friendly and welcoming, asking to have photos with you and having banter between our chosen characters. This year we saw a Deadpool having a twerk off with a female Hades from Disney's Hercules, a moment witnesses will cherish forever. Strangers aren't strangers at Armageddon, they're like a second family. They're non-judgemental and always welcoming. You leave each Armageddon with new friends and crazy memories. "In ordinary life, I'm just a regular person." Says local cosplayer Lucas Diao. "But as soon as I put on the costume, people started to recognise me. It's cool to see people's faces light up when they see your character and ask you for photos!". Part of the cosplay fun is physically embodying your

character beyond just the costume, bringing it to life. Walking through the arena floor becomes exciting, immersive, and unpredictable.

What is it about cosplay that gets ordinary people to dress up in crazy costumes? "Getting to be someone you're not," was Laura Rodgers' response. "I'm a very shy person and when you're Harley or other people you get to be very outgoing! You get to be different." Shannon said "I feel it's a way to get closer to the characters you love."

The quality of the cosplay improves each year. For months, cosplayers slave away with their sewing machines and glue guns to create a costume that does their favourite character justice. Homemade costumes can be entered in the Cosplay Parade featured at the Expo, with the winners from each region facing off against



“ This year we saw a Deadpool having a twerk off with a female Hades from Disney’s Hercules, a moment witnesses will cherish forever ”



one another for the ultimate prize of \$500.

So how do cosplayers get into it? "I've always loved dressing up." Says Shannon McCabe, who cosplayed as Rey from Star Wars: The Force Awakens. "My mum makes costumes for theatre. Even as a kid she was always dressing me and my brother up." For others, the attraction to cosplay comes from wanting to join in the fun. "I had no idea it was a thing until I saw others doing it!" says Laura Rodgers, also dressed as Harley Quinn from the upcoming Suicide Squad. "I thought 'that's cool, that's fun. I want to do that!'"

Warren Goodwin's love of cosplay started in childhood. "I have been making things since I was a child and I was mainly into art" said Warren, who attended Armageddon this year as Rey from Star Wars. "At 11 years old I started to make costumes like C-3PO (Star Wars) and the Tinman

(Wizard of Oz)." Warren has become a well-known cosplayer in the Dunedin cosplay community. His costume of Rocket Raccoon from Guardians of the Galaxy was so remarkable it attracted praise from the film's creators. Warren has used his passion of cosplay to help create happiness for others. "[Cosplay] has become more of a passion and a lifestyle for me to make people happy and have an impact on people's lives. Just recently I made an encouragement video dressed in my Rocket Raccoon cosplay to a boy with cancer in the U.S." The video went on to inspire his mother to create a Child Cancer Awareness page on Facebook.

Warren also attended the Kids Fair in Auckland dressed as Rocket. "A mother, learning that I too have autism, took my hands and said that seeing how I am able to manage gave her hope for her

son. Cosplay has become far more than just an annual fun event."

Cosplay helps create happiness in those who see their favourite characters brought to life. "I love having people recognise and appreciate what you're wearing." Said Riley Goodman, a local cosplayer who's been cosplaying for three years.

If this has encouraged you to start cosplaying, check out the "New Zealand Cosplay group" on Facebook! It's a friendly and safe place to post cosplays, ask questions and learn how to make costumes!

And be sure to attend next year's Armageddon. It's a weekend guaranteed to bring out your inner nerd.

9 APRIL

## Holi on the Lawn

Dunedin's Indian Students' Association will be celebrating Holi this upcoming Sunday, between 11am-3pm on the Union Lawn. Holi is known worldwide as the festival of colour. Many believe that it is the most vibrant of all festivals celebrated across the globe and is filled with fun and enthusiasm of another level. It is a colourful time with everyone doing their best to be the first to put all the colours of the rainbow on all others. Water guns are loaded, dance moves to the Bollywood beats are brought out and photos are captured! All in all it is an event that is forever remembered. It is a great opportunity to meet new people and make long lasting friends. If you need a little more colour in your life then Holi is the event for you! Entry is absolutely free so rope in your flatmates, siblings, family, significant other and pet roosters to come to this event. Epic spot prizes are also up for grabs! The cooler month of April is upon us! Winter is approaching and Kmart is running out of hot water bottles. So is it not the perfect opportunity

**WHEN:** Sunday 10 April, 11am-3pm

**WHERE:** Union Lawn, opposite the Union Food Court

**TICKETS:** Free!

10 APRIL

## Suba Aluth Awurudhak Wewa!

### Puthuandu vazthukal!

to escape? Where to, you ask? To the intrepid tropics of course! We, the Sri Lankan Students' Association, would like extend our warmest invitation to all Dunedinites for our annual Sinhala Tamil New Year Festival!

As a prelude to the evening we will be holding the ancient lighting of the lamp ceremony; a metaphor for luck, prosperity and wisdom as we enter the new celestial year. Then the excitement begins! Various games for the children (and adults), face painting, musical performances, traditional dances, many prizes and even a raffle are just a few of the events planned. All this will be followed by a tantalising feast comprised of New Year staples such as coconut milk rice, sambols, and sweet treats galore. To end the night with a bang, SLSA has organized a firework display that will paint the night sky across the farthest reaches of Dunedin.

So join us in this most spectacular display of colour, food, and festivities and we assure you a night to remember!

## Happy Sri Lankan New Year!

**WHEN:** Saturday 9 April, 5-10:30pm

**WHERE:** Sargood Centre (on the Logan Park Sports Grounds)

**TICKETS:** Free!





SATURDAY 9 APRIL  
7.30 pm Dunedin Town Hall

# DSO

Dunedin Symphony Orchestra 50  
years

In association with:

Otago Daily Times

# ODE *to* JOY

GALA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

**TECWYN EVANS** *Conductor*

**MADELEINE PIERARD** *Soprano*

**CLAIRE BARTON** *Mezzo-Soprano*

**JONATHAN ABERNETHY** *Tenor*

**JONATHAN LEMALU** *Bass*

**CITY CHOIR DUNEDIN**

**PROGRAMME:**

Tecwyn Evans: *Fires of Light*  
A selection of operatic  
arias and duets

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 9,  
The Choral*

Tickets now on sale through Ticketmaster, Regent Theatre and Forsyth Barr Stadium. Ph 03 477 8597 or 0800 111 999. Tickets from \$36 and Students \$15. Service fee will apply. [www.ticketmaster.co.nz](http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz)

COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!

FREE PRE-CONCERT TALK by Dr Graeme Downes 6.40pm – 7.00pm, Town Hall

SATURDAY 9 APRIL

## Dunedin Symphony Orchestra

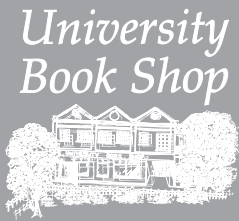
2016 is a momentous year for the orchestra – we are celebrating 50 years, a new name, a new concertmaster and moving to a new home in June.

Our 2016 Series milestone year starts with Beethoven's iconic Symphony No. 9. Appropriately, some of Otago's outstanding musical talent will feature: Tecwyn Evans, Claire Barton and Jonathan Lemalu. Also on stage will be City Choir Dunedin which has been a constant factor in the orchestra's history. Our soprano, Madeleine Pierard, and baritone Jonathan Abernethy, are sought-after soloists, both in New Zealand, Australia and the UK.

As with the other two 2016 International Series concerts, this concert starts with one of the fanfares commissioned for the orchestra's 30th anniversary in 1996.



# Freedom to Offend?



**LETTER OF THE WEEK**  
The letter of the week wins a  
**\$30 BOOK VOUCHER**  
from the University Book Shop

Dear Eliana Gray, author of last issue's Letter of the Week

Your letter last issue about Hyde Street costumes and the culture on campus has raised some points on freedom of expression that I find concerning.

First, people do have the right to wear offensive costumes. It's a bad idea and you shouldn't do it, but it still falls under freedom of expression. You state that the "prevailing culture" in Otago University "supports behavior like this", but there is a distinct difference between supporting a particular expression, and supporting the right to an expression, and I believe that for the most part, the culture on campus falls into the latter. I also have a problem with your use of the word

"oppressive" to describe a costume, as "oppressive" is a strong word that carries a great deal of weight.

Your framing of the issue as "backlash against efforts to make Hyde Street a safer event" is disingenuous, since offensive costumes do not pose a threat to safety.

As I said in the beginning, just because you have the right to wear an offensive costume doesn't mean you should do it; it's still a bad idea, but the point of freedom of speech and expression is to protect all ideas, including bad ones. No reasonable person is under the

impression that it means freedom from consequences; if one wears blackface to Hyde Street, and others infer that they're a racist, that's a natural consequence of free expression, as it should be.

I do believe that you are coming from a place of good intentions, but denying the right to wear bad costumes is not the way to go. Freedom of expression is the foundation on which a free society is built, and once we decide that one form of expression is worthy of punishment, there's no telling where it ends. We've seen it before in other civilisations, and it's not a path that either I, or probably most students, want to go down.

Sincerely, Rebekah Fox

In response to the letter last week that won letter of the week (and the only letter published), i disagree with you.

We have yet to even touch on the topic of why something is offensive or whether we should even be advocating against such offensive things. Context is important, and in the context of Hyde st, almost anything goes. Hyde st is a pissup and a pisstake by its very nature.

You simply stated that offensive things should be discouraged without giving any context whatsoever. I would encourage a

dialogue about what is and isn't offensive and what context permits what level of offense given before OUSA jumps into releasing a statement suggesting you should or shouldn't dress as certain things.

The post from OUSA painted pretty much all costumes everything with a broad brush with little nuance. With the statement released by OUSA regarding cross-dressing then the Selwyn ballet and probably many other events are to be discouraged due to being offensive or culturally appropriating in nature.

Cheers,  
A person of mild colour

## Response to Christ

I appreciated the *Critic's* recent interest in Christian Science, and Lucy Hunter's desire to share a perspective of the faith that is balanced and fair. As a Christian Science practitioner and teacher in New Zealand, I was interviewed for that purpose. Still, I feel the story needs more context in order to convey what this faith really means to those who have taken hold of it and love it.

It is difficult to characterize the faith practice of another, especially when that practice includes daily devotion -- prayer, study, implementation -- as well as a lifetime of spiritual growth.

Christian Science is not about denying the existence of the world around us, though it is about looking at the world from a different perspective -- a spiritual perspective -- in order to meet the needs of humanity. As Albert Einstein is said to have remarked, "we cannot solve our





# Fluoride Smouride

Dear Critic.

Concerning "Fluoride Conspiracies" in "The Weekly Doubt".

I'm not here to make an argument about the alleged risks or benefits of water fluoridation, and certainly not about fluoridation's role in any conspiracy.

That being said, I find it is dishonest to associate fluoridation sceptics with conspiracy theorists.

You'll find that the number of countries where fluoridation is widespread is very small. Apparently, "Only 11 countries in the world have more than 50% of their population drinking fluoridated water: Australia (80%), Brunei (95%); Chile (70%), Guyana (62%), Hong Kong (100%), the Irish Republic (73%), Israel (70%), Malaysia (75%), New Zealand (62%), Singapore (100%),

and the United States (64%)." (From [fluoridealert.org/content/bfs-2012](http://fluoridealert.org/content/bfs-2012), quoting statistics from the British Fluoridation Society.)

Yet there is no epidemic of dental decay in the countries which do not fluoridate extensively. Most of Europe does not fluoridate at all, and many countries, (such as Israel, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Denmark) have after instituting it, later abolished it. Apparently 98% of Europe has it not merely unused, but banned, though some countries allow fluoridation of salt.

As for the ethical concern: Damn right, it's unethical. Water fluoridation is paid for by rates, so if you live in a fluoridated area and you personally wish to drink non-fluoridated water, you have to pay for both the cost of fluoridation

and the cost of avoiding it. If people desire fluoridated water, perhaps they should pay for bottled fluoridated water personally, rather than expecting everybody in the region to pay for their personal choice through their rates.

All up, it's nonsense to imply that scepticism of public water fluoridation should be associated with conspiracy theorists, just because it's normal here (and in the USA – the great arbiter of what is "normal" in the world!), when that would make most of the world conspiracy theorists, and when it genuinely is an unethical practice. Sure there may be benefits, but that doesn't make public fluoridation ethical, nor does it make its sceptics conspiracy theorists.

Yours,  
Mr. Blackbird.

## A response:

Thank you for your informative letter! I have been writing my snarky little column for over a year and this is the first response I've had, so I'm chuffed.

I don't know much about

fluoridation sceptics. I was trying to write my column in response to the brain washing conspiracies because I found them wacky and funny. I did try to make that distinction, evidently without success.

In response to your argument, I am still inclined to trust the New Zealand Dental Association's statement that fluoridated water is beneficial to public health.

Keep doubting,  
Love from , Wee Doubt

# ian Science Feature

problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

To us, Jesus epitomized this lesson. He looked deeper, and saw farther than the constraints of materialism. He didn't manage people's pain and suffering; he wholly restored them, not only physically, but morally and spiritually. He didn't tell the hungry thousands who came to hear him to go away; he fed them —with a handful of fish and a couple of loaves of bread— and a spiritually expansive sense of substance. He wasn't afraid when he found himself on a ship in the middle of a storm; he said "peace, be still," and all was still.

Many people explain away Jesus' works as miracles, yet he expected his followers to do even "greater works" than he did! Isn't it reasonable, then, to consider that Jesus was illustrating a spiritual law or Principle underpinning

the universe? This is the conviction Mary Baker Eddy articulated as the "science" of Christianity. When Christian Scientists pray, they don't plead with God to help them, but pray to understand God's unconditional love for all of creation —not "a God who is presumed on occasion to set aside laws of nature," as the Christian Science scholar Robert Peel put it, but "a God who is infinite Love acting through immutable spiritual law" (Spiritual Healing in a Scientific Age, Harper & Row, 1987).

Christian Science is about living a life more consecrated to God and to serving humanity —the pillars of Christianity. It's not a healthcare system, but its natural outcomes are healing and regeneration. Sometimes this type of deeply transformative practice takes patience, perseverance, and courage; but doesn't the hardest climb often lead to the greatest view? Church is

a place to support each other along our journey, and people around the world are finding inspiration and renewal in this community.

Practising Christian Science does not require an accumulation of knowledge, but a continually fresh commitment to expanding one's concept of God, self, substance, reality,— as living Love. I love that its practice enables me to keep growing, to keep looking forward, and to feel a divine impulsion from within to guide my prayers and my decisions. In this way, Christian Science has infinitely blessed my life. I have a strong marriage because of it and raised a healthy, happy family. Christian Science has made religion practical, even scientific —not for the past, or the future, but for all of us, today!

Anne Melville  
Christian Science Media Representative for NZ

CONVERSATIONAL INTERCOURSE  
WITH INTELLECTUALS

# Cats, Comedy, & the Law

**—LAW LECTURER MARCELO RODRIQUEZ FERRERE****By Eileen Kennedy**

"If you're laughing, you're listening," says Marcelo, who aims to make lectures as enjoyable as possible. If students are engaged, it helps to get through "the underlying message, which is usually an astonishingly and crushingly boring one."

Marcelo grew up in the Wellington area with four brothers and lots of cats. However, "from an ethical perspective I don't have any pets any longer," Marcelo adds, who is now an expert in animals and their relationship with the law.

Marcelo was a student at Otago himself. His five years spent at Otago were "a fantastic time" and "some of the happier times of my life." "It feels like it all went by in an absolute blur... Dunedin doesn't seem to change that much, so [his experience] was probably very similar to the experiences of many students now."

He originally decided to study law because of an interest in politics and arguing. "I wasn't too sure of what I was expecting, but I loved it from day one." He also completed a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy, politics, and economics.

Marcelo came to lecturing through "serendipity... I was studying in Toronto, and the faculty needed some teaching staff." He soon landed a permanent teaching position at the University of Toronto. "Much like LAWS 101, once I started doing it I realised it was definitely the career for me."

He returned to Otago as a lecturer in 2012. "I knew if I went back to Dunedin, it would be an easy fit for me and in a place that I enjoyed a

great deal." He formed some strong connections as a student, and "very much liked the faculty and its approach to law."

Upon joining the faculty, Marcelo developed the paper LAWS 432, Animals and the Law. Marcelo says law schools look at legal relationships in areas like contracts, torts, and government. However, "more often than not, law schools don't necessarily look at the relationship that we have with animals from a legal perspective."

It is important that lawyers do look at this relationship. "Lots of people have lots of different relationships of varying qualities with animals... The law governs basically all relationships that we have... and has an impact on animals." Marcelo developed the paper "to teach others about that relationship and potentially question it as well."

How does New Zealand measure up in animal welfare legislation? "On paper, [New Zealand] is easily the most progressive jurisdiction in the world, with regards to our animal welfare legislation." The World Animal Protections index, which ranks countries on animal welfare legislation, gives New Zealand "an A ranking alongside only a few other countries." However, the legislation "says a lot, but doesn't do a lot... It is very poorly enforced. It has a whole heap of loopholes that are intentional."

On a personal level, Marcelo no longer owns any pets. "I have an issue with the concept of animals as being property... The legal

requirements for the ownership of a car are far more routinely enforced and far stricter than what is required for an animal... Animals are sentient beings with the ability to have thoughts, feelings, and feel pain." However, he clarifies he does not see all pet owners as unethical.

As an Otago graduate, Marcelo has valuable advice for current students. "I see people, for example, in Health Science working themselves absolutely ragged" and "the other spectrum as well, people who don't... enjoy the pursuit of learning." University is "defined by creating and enjoying a lot of social relationships brought together by the common pursuit of learning... Don't take them for granted because they will come to an end all too quickly."



**Critic's column offers a few discussion points for when trying to blow smoke up your lecturer's ass.**

**Got a lecturer you want to know about, write us at: [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz)**



## Hung like a field mouse

Hi S,

I want to make my dick bigger to impress my girlfriend and make sex better for both of us. Can it really be done? And if so, how? I'll give anything a go at this point.

—Chris



DEAR ETHEL

## Cheers Volunteers!

Dear Ethel

I want to do a shout out to the Are You OK'er who looked after me at Hyde Street. He was amazing! I was pretty out of it but he was so cheerful and nothing seemed to bother him. Maybe I'll volunteer to do that one day, but not next year cos I want to do Hyde again! Thanks whoever you were. Wouldn't half mind meeting you when I'm sober!

x

Hey Chris,

Like many men before you, you are probably about to be somewhat disappointed. There is one medically-proven device called the Andro that can possibly give you up to 4cm of length permanently, but it does involve wearing a weird splint thingy for hours a day, for months at a time. It's a hell of a lot of work and discomfort, so it's not for the half-hearted, so give it a go

if you think you've got what it takes! The other (and far more common) option is using a penis pump, which doesn't actually make your junk bigger indefinitely, it just enlarges the blood cells in the penis, meaning that more blood can get in there when you're sporting a chub, which makes it a bit bigger during erection. Using a penis pump has to be done regularly to maintain the benefits as well, much like lifting weights. The penis pumps available are air pumps and water pumps. With an air pump your mileage may vary, but with a water pump, you are more likely to see results. This is due to the fact that water pumps employ hydraulic technology, giving an even pressure around the penis – whereas with air, the pressure is uneven. This is the reason why water pumps are far more

expensive than air pumps, so don't just go for the cheapest air pump – with sex toys, you usually get what you pay for.

If using a penis pump is not your bag, you can always give your girl some internal vaginal plumping cream which will make her feel tighter during sex. This is only a temporary measure and needs to be applied each time. Experimenting with different positions during sex is also a winning option, as certain positions (like her on top) will definitely maximise friction for a smaller tool, while others (such as doggy style and missionary) will be a hell of an effort.

Life does not end without a nine inchers though, so rejoice! And get really good with your tongue!

Best of luck

— S x x

Hey,

It's great to hear you've got happy Hyde Street memories! We agree with you; we're pretty stoked with our Are You OK vollies. They do such a fabulous job of looking out for people. Quite a few become volunteers because they want to share the love since Are You OK helped them in their first year (or second, or third!). It's a great way to get some hands-on experience that looks great on your CV, plus we provide opportunities for Are You OK vollies to get leadership training, first aid training and other useful stuff.

Which reminds me, this week is National Volunteer Week. If you're not up for Are You OK just yet, there are heaps of other volunteer opportunities around – some of them longer term commitments and some just one-off or short term. Whether you're into fossils, penguins, art, small people (aka kids), sustainability, or whatever, you're bound to find something that spins your dial. Check out the Volunteer Fair in The Link on Wednesday and tap into some of the workshops and events. Or, think about joining Are You OK for re-Ori or Orientation.

It's a great (and different) way to experience gigs! You can sign up for loads of OUSA volunteer opportunities at [www.ousa.org.nz/events/volunteer/](http://www.ousa.org.nz/events/volunteer/)

Thanks for the feedback – who knows, maybe you and the mystery Are You OK vollie will be Critic's next Blind Date! As always, you can contact us at [help@ousa.org.nz](mailto:help@ousa.org.nz) if you want to talk some more.

Whole lotta love

xxx Ethel



# 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*



DONALD TRUMP RUNNING FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY NOMINATION IS A **POSITIVE THING** FOR U.S. POLITICS.

## +AFFIRMATIVE by BY OLD MAJOR

Let's face it; US politics is screwed. The entire system of Government in the US is an ill-functioning bureaucratic monster. Currently, Republicans and Democrats agree on pretty much nothing to the point that in 2013 Congress forced a government shutdown by not approving the budget put forward by President Obama. This meant that people employed by the Government didn't get paid while the Republican Party, egged on by Ted Cruz, had a wee hissy fit. That same Ted Cruz is now currently second, behind Donald Trump, in the number of delegates he has in the Republican Party primary. Cruz doesn't care about the people. If he did, he wouldn't have forced the shutdown, which cost hundreds of thousands of Americans their weekly incomes.

Since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, during which time America's car and manufacturing industry went to shit, real wages haven't increased. So while everyday goods, like food, power and clothes, have increased in price, wages have stagnated, meaning that the average worker can now buy less with their wages than they could before the GFC.

Trump recognises this. In the midst of all his incoherent speeches, he constantly pivots to talk about the economy as it relates to America's working class. He talks about the free trade deals that have opened America's economy to foreign competition and thus rendered the domestic auto industry less feasible. He talks about the loss of manufacturing jobs to countries that exploit their work force and have poor labour protection laws, which means that they can undercut the US worker. He talks about the hopelessness and alienation felt by blue collar, white Americans, who feel that there is no longer a place for them in US politics.

The fact that Donald Trump is able to give voice to these issues, and draw attention to the plight of the working poor is enough of a reason to say that Donald Trump is a force for good in US politics. Because, let's face it, he's never going win the general election. What his campaign does do though, is draw attention those people in the US who don't have a voice, and it creates a prerogative for the next President to address these issues.

## -NEGATIVE by SQUEALER THE PIG

Donald Trump espouses the politics of racist, bigoted hatred. Even if he has voiced support for certain positive policies – he at times has come out in favour of some form of universal healthcare, has been in favour of abortion rights in the past, and he speaks of helping the economic situation of the working class – he is so wildly inconsistent that it is impossible to get any idea of what he actually stands for. He doesn't have any sound policies that could even achieve any of his oft-changing end goals. What he has not been inconsistent, or infrequent in doing, however, is perpetuating the discourse of hatred.

Any positive benefit that might be gained from having a political candidate talk about the lack of jobs in small-town America, and the lack of opportunities that kids from poor, traditionally blue collar backgrounds face, is vastly outweighed by the active harm that Donald Trump does. When people stand up and say that it's ok to blame another group of people (in Trump's case Mexican, Muslim and Chinese people) for your problems then you start to say that it's ok to retaliate against them.

You start to create an "us-them" narrative, where the "us" needs to be protected from the "them". When you create, and enflame, divisionary views in a pluralistic society you start to break down the rule of law, and general social good will.

When Trump tells his supporters that all Muslim people are terrorists, he is in effect telling his supporters that all Muslim people want to kill Americans. This rhetoric immediately denies the fact that you can be both Muslim and American. It widens the division between those people who form the "us" and those who form the "them". It dehumanises the people who are not "us" and makes it easier to violate their rights.

This has already had spill-over effects. There have been violent clashes at Trump rallies between his supporters and protestors. He has also indirectly threatened to send his supporters to Bernie's rallies. Trump is a danger to US politics. He is inflammatory and legitimising racist and bigoted views.





## THE WEEKLY DOUBT

# Chemtrails

By Eileen Kennedy

If you want to poison the entire population of a city, what could be a better method than to spray everyone from a plane? Quite a few things, actually, but I'll get to that in a minute.

A "contrail" is a condensation trail left when a plane flies through the air. According to conspiracy theorists, regular contrails disappear quickly, as you would expect from what is essentially steam. "Chemtrails," apparently, look like contrails, but linger in the air for far longer than they should.

Chemtrail conspiracy theorists speculate that the purpose of the claimed chemical release may be psychological manipulation, human population control, weather modification, biological or chemical warfare, or that the trails cause respiratory illnesses and other health problems.

According to the website [geoengineeringwatch.org](http://geoengineeringwatch.org), people who don't believe in chemtrails are "either intellectually challenged to the extreme, or they are paid shills in the employ of the various organs of government propaganda." I can't prove I'm not either of these.

I sympathise with people who believe this idea. The trails left by planes are massive, you can see them for ages after the plane has

gone, and they look creepy as all hell. Treating the government with suspicion is always healthy. However, there is no reason why a chemtrail would behave differently to a contrail. The time a contrail lingers is dependent on what the upper-level winds are doing, not the contrail's chemical composition.

Anything released at 10,000 metres would be blown kilometres away from where you see it, with virtually no chance of settling straight down onto the people below. If it did drop to the ground, it would be so diluted it would have no measurable amount of the chemical by the time it lands. That's why crop-dusting planes have to fly about 10 metres off the ground

to try to ensure most of their dust hits the right crops. Science writer Kyle Hill calculated that to poison the population of the US with chemtrails, the government would need to schedule four million 747 flights flying as low as crop-dusters each week – 18 times more flights than currently fly in the US per day.

If the government wanted to poison us they'd do it in a more efficient way, for example, by putting it in the water. There is, of course, a world crisis as the result of pollution which plane emissions contribute a huge amount to. If you want to get fired up about what's coming out of a plane, you should do it over global warming, not chemtrails.



## SCIENCE BITCHES

# Fresher Flu Season

By Sarah Rosemary

Raging parties, copious amounts of booze, benders and no mum and dad there to tell you what to do... Now you are in an 8am lecture, head throbbing as you join the dawn chorus that is hundreds of your classmates coughing every 10 seconds... welcome to the fresher flu.

Every year, 90 percent of the first year student population experiences the 'fresher flu' as they eagerly enter their first year of University. If you look back on the last few weeks, various viral and psychological clues point to the flu. Consider this, you have moved in with 20,000 new students from

different parts of the country. Each person brings in different germs and viruses. Combined with prison-like hall living you've got a people scale petri dish.

It's safe to say at this point, first year immune systems are still settling into the Scarfie lifestyle. The various stresses that accompany this newfound lifestyle start to take their toll. And soon enough, the flu strikes. While the fresher flu sucks, there are a few simple steps you can take to both dodge and treat it.

Firstly, do your best to take a break from alcohol and drink more water. The fluid pumps out toxins and replaces the fluid lost through coughing and sneezing. It's also advisable to get an early night – you

can party harder when you sleep better. Next, stay clean! Keep your mouth and hands to yourself while you are sick and lovingly apply soap and hand sanitiser regularly.

Try to eat well. If you're in a hall, hit the salad bar. It's a good way to dodge the 'fresher five', another fresher epidemic you may encounter towards the end of the year. If you're in a flat, try and do the same. Vege boys is never too far away.

So hack away proudly. Your flu is more often than not the result of getting too loose. So keep and eye on all aspects of your health and you'll be sweet.



# MADE IN THE A.M. —ONE DIRECTION



**I'll be honest  
and say that this  
album made me  
weep more than  
any heartfelt,  
low-fi, seminal  
indie whatever**

**By MILLICENT LOVELOCK**

*In 2015, in the aftermath of loss, scandal and uncertainty, British boybanders One Direction came out with their fifth studio album, **Made in the A.M.** The start of 2015 saw Zayn Malik leave the group, claiming creative differences, and the announcement of an indefinite hiatus for the remaining four members. It was a hard year, but in spite of it all One Direction released some solid work.*

■

38

Although not as sonically cohesive as 2012's critically acclaimed *Take Me Home*, *Made in the A.M.* offers a satisfying blend of Robbie Williams inspired pop anthems, and dinky, Lennon and McCartney-esque ballads. The album opens with a solid run, fully immersing us in a slick pop wonderland with "Hey Angel," and pushing the pedal to the metal with hit single "Drag Me Down," and delightfully-queer-for-a-hetero-love-song banger, "Perfect". The first quarter of the album pulls no punches, reminding the listener that One Direction have absolutely still

got what it takes. They can so effectively lambast you with a perfectly constructed pop song that you might just miss everything else that's going on. If you're paying attention, you'll notice that the vocals in the first verse of "Perfect" are so close they're almost feeding back. They slice through the soft, pulsing instrumental bed, they're cutting and they want you to listen, to believe.

One Direction work with some of the most talented songwriters and producers in the world and you'd better believe there is nothing accidental about the way those vocals sound, there is no moment in a One Direction song or album that hasn't been thought through. The way the album goes from this moment forward really hammers that home. There is no doubt in my mind that One Direction could have churned out twelve more slamming hits and called the whole thing off, but instead they go for the heart with tracks like "If I Could Fly", "Long Way Down", and title track "Made in the A.M".

One Direction are always drawing listeners in, that's the whole point of what they do. They set up songs that are universally applicable and poignant, allowing listeners to feel as though

they are being spoken to directly, no matter who they are. This is what makes the group so powerful and so significant. Normally, the process is so controlled, in the hands of the songwriters and the promotion team, but in 2015 things got out of control and people were let in on a side of One Direction that they weren't supposed to see. Suddenly, the group were vulnerable and *Made in the A.M.* absolutely embraces this. "If I Could Fly" sees each member of the group gasping, "right now I'm completely defenceless" and it is so easy to believe them, and so genuinely heart wrenching when, at the close of the album, they confess "we're just spinning round in our glasses and talking out of our asses like we're all gonna make it".

I'll be honest and say that this album made me weep more than any heartfelt, low-fi, seminal indie whatever. I wept because this album is One Direction reaching out to their fans, cheering them on through the dark end of the One Direction era with heavenly pop hits, and offering solidarity and a reassuring hand right until the end, even in the face of intense uncertainty and vulnerability.

# ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

**Author:** ANTHONY DOERR

**Rating:** A+

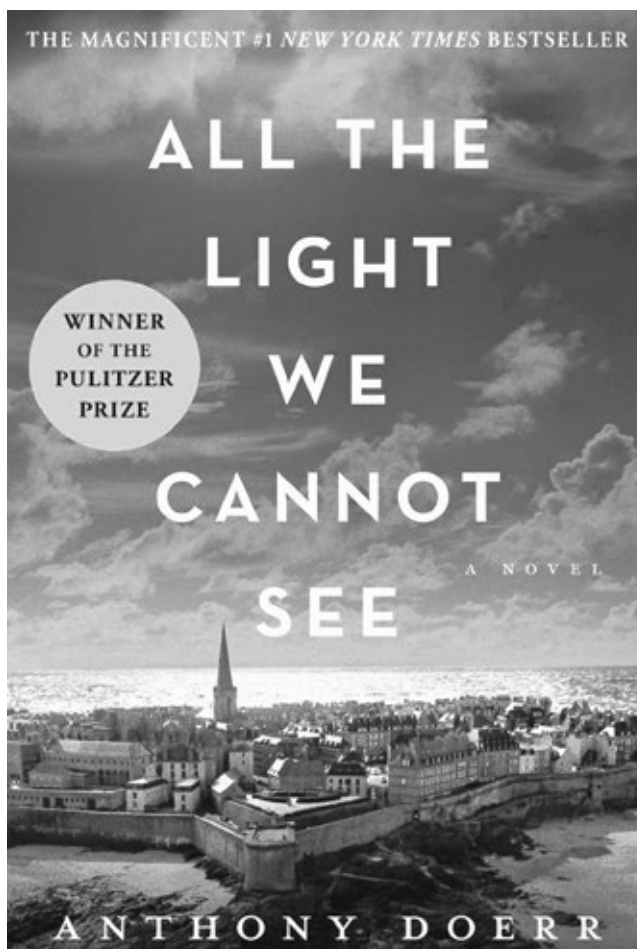
**By** HAYLEIGH CLARKSON

Anthony Doerr's *All The Light We Cannot See* is the most stunning novel I have ever read. It is a beautiful tale of Marie-Laure, a young blind girl living in Paris, and Werner, a young orphan boy living in Germany on the cusp of the Second World War. Doerr intricately weaves the plot of these two lives seamlessly over eighty years,

**...purely magnificent, deeply moving and will linger in your mind for days. If you are going to read one novel this year, make it this one**

beginning in 1934 and ending in 2014, pulling the reader into the cruelty and kindness that war brings.

Doerr sets the novel out in small two to three page chapters changing between Marie-Laure and Werner. He also flicks back and forth between the 1944 event where the town they are both living in is heavily bombed, and 1934 where both characters are innocent children displaced by obligations of survival because of the war. Marie-Laure is a mesmerizing character. She fills the pages with an innocence and bravery that I have never seen before. Her father takes her to live with his brother in a seaside town of Saint-Malo. Together with her uncle, Marie-Laure helps transmit personal messages and secret codes over their radio they've kept illegally. Doerr is able to leave the reader as blind as Marie-Laure by using only senses of touch, smell and sound to describe the destruction and beauty of the world around her. So much is missing from a lack of sight yet it creates a feeling of anxiousness that fills a void underneath all her chapters. She will draw out maternal instincts you never knew you had and make you feel fear and suspense all at once.



By leaving the reader with a visual blockage in their mind, it is a refreshing burst of light to move into the chapters of Werner, a snowy-haired young boy who is a mastermind with building and fixing radios. Werner's task is to hunt down people all over the French countryside using their radios and kill them. But even during the most brutal of tasks, he still emits a kindness and a sense of desperation of having to choose what is right by war and what is right by his own morals. He is a relatable character trying to do good by the memory of his younger sister.

Doerr incorporates a touch of magic through the novel by creating a myth about the Sea of Flames – a blue diamond with a fiery red center.

Marie-Laure's father is a locksmith at the Museum of Natural History and is given the diamond to look after during the war. He hides it in the miniature neighborhood he constructs for Marie-Laure so that she can find her way around the township. It is a small glimmer of light that weaves in and out of the barbarity of the war and gives the characters and readers hope of a higher power controlling the world. This novel will open your eyes to the inhumanity that war brings on a personal level for those who are the most vulnerable. It is purely magnificent, deeply moving and will linger in your mind for days. If you are going to read one novel this year, make it this one.



# WHY DO WE NEED...Drones? (Part 1 -Military)



by **ANTHONY MARRIS**

Circling 30,000 feet above a desolate village in Afghanistan (or Yemen, Somalia or Pakistan) is the latest chariot of fire, harbinger of death and destruction ready to launch Hellfire upon the plain. With politically disarming names like Shadow, Global Hawk and Rainbow, they can lurk for at least 30 hours on site as symbols of democracy and liberty (sic).

To bastardize Fred Daggs aka John Clarke's Gumboot Song, "If it weren't for UAV's, where would IR classes be? Still talking about MAD and bogus WMD's." Unmanned aerial vehicles (commonly referred as drones) are arguably the scariest thing on the battle field. That honour previously belonged to the sniper, an unseen foe that with a high degree of skill could end your life. While the sniper could extinguish you from up to 2400 metres away, they were still in the same vicinity as you. Now death by UAV can come from a button pressed in a shipping container in Nevada, 11,830 kilometres away.

UAVs are not tiny little textbook sized things but fully formed aircraft equipped with both infrared and normal cameras and those shiny things called missiles. Let's not forget them. The people living underneath them certainly do not. A joint Stanford-NYU study explored the impact of UAV strikes in Pakistan. They cited The Bureau of Investigative Journalism who claimed that between June 2004 and September 2012, 20-25

percent of the total deaths from UAV strikes were civilians. I personally believe that statistic is low, as it would not take much effort to classify the deaths of military aged men (18-64) as combatants, despite them not being armed.

Those living under the threat of attack from UAV have been known to suffer from anxiety, hyper startled reactions, anger, loss of appetite, and PTSD. Many civilians interviewed commented that when they are sitting in a group they worried that an attack could be imminent. One is quoted in saying, "Even though you cannot see them [UAV's], you can hear them, you know they are there." Another said "...[that] when the drone is moving, people cannot sleep properly, or cant rest properly. They are always scared of the drones." And we get upset if there is no wifi.

So why do we need UAVs? There is the freedom from unnecessary loss of (friendly) life. Citizens do not like seeing their dead on the evening news, so politicians are reluctant to commit troops, despite the fact that is what they signed up for. There is a level of expectation that you will end up seeing action. UAVs provide a chance to fight wars by proxy, to limit the boots on the ground to the barest minimum and still fulfil the task.

Cost is also a factor in deciding to deploy UAVs. An article published by The Conversation website claims that the cost per hour of a Reaper UAV is

\$3250 USD, compared to the latest fighter plane, the F35 JSF which costs \$16,5000 USD per hour. Not to mention the cost against those soldiers deployed. The article goes further and cited additional costs such as traumatic brain injuries, the advances in medical science for loss of limbs, and the unseen trauma of mental health injuries. Less people means less social problems, and is cheaper in the long run.

But there is still a cost. From the civilians living under the threat that their next meal could be their last, to those UAV operators who commute to work, kill for eight hours a day, and then go home and see their work on the evening news. There is no down time, no chance to decompress. UAVs have changed the flavour of war, but the taste is still bitter.

*TL;DR – UAVs lead to loss prevention of military lives, but in turn has caused entire civilian populations to live in fear.*





# SUPERHOT

PC | *Developed and Published by  
Superhot Team*  
**Rating: B**

by **CAMPBELL CALVERLEY**

Superhot has got style. If you were to take the minimalistic washed-out aesthetic of *Mirror's Edge*, turn all of the enemies into red glass, and add a pinch of the time manipulation from *Braid*, then you would get something resembling Superhot. It is less than three hours long, but as an action game it is fantastic.

Superhot consists of a series of levels in which your only goal is to kill everyone. The developers' aim when making Superhot was to recreate the feeling of such ridiculous bullet-time action movies as *The Matrix* or *Wanted*, and they accomplish this by having a central game mechanic of slow-mo time manipulation. Time only ever progresses when you are moving; if you walk, look around, snatch a weapon, or attack an enemy, time will roll a few milliseconds forward. This makes Superhot half first-person shooter and half puzzle game, with the player constantly trying to figure out in which is the best direction to move another half inch before the bullet rain starts. There is something intensely satisfying about dodging individual bullets, cutting an enemy in half with a katana, hurling it at another like a javelin, punching a third in the face, grabbing their shotgun before it hits the ground and then blasting their head to pieces at point blank range before the victorious words "SUPER. HOT." flash onto the screen. This is Superhot's primary appeal, and it is stunning.

While the gameplay alone makes Superhot worthy of your attention, its narrative structure is interesting if not satisfying. You play as a person sitting at an old DOS-based computer,



playing a game called *superhot.exe*. Har har har, how very meta. Occasionally, you are booted out of the slow-motion fun to chat about the game with an in-game friend, whose identity you never discover, and *superhot.exe* eventually appears to start working against you in an attempt to steal your identity. The story is essentially abstract, but it contains some genuinely clever moments: in one, the game taunts you by showing you your in-game self while refusing to let you quit, and in another, you must quit the game and restart it in order to anger the program into letting you progress.

The absolute weakest point of the game is not the story or the gameplay in isolation, but where the two try to intersect. It's been a long time since I played a game in which the plot and gameplay were so flimsily sewn together. The chat conversations are conspiratorial, glitch-filled and genuinely unnerving at places, and the fear that a computer program might steal your consciousness is an idea that could be worked into a very good story. The gameplay, however, has absolutely nothing to do with the story at all. They are utterly disconnected from each other. As it stands, the plot just gets in the way of the action, and offsets the game's otherwise fantastic style.

What is more of a joke is Superhot's attempt to market itself. The game assigns to the player the task of recommending it to friends with the phrase "It's the most innovative shooter I've played in years". Superhot is clever, but it's too much of a one-off idea. I don't think much can be done with its gameplay apart from look cool at face value. Yes, the self-promotion ties into the story, but as I said before, the story has nothing to do with the gameplay, the best thing about the game. Also, the current price of Superhot is around \$35-50. That is an exorbitant price for a game that you will likely finish in a single session. I would be doing the publishers' job for them by essentially lying to my friends. I wouldn't have a problem with this form of promotion if the game were better; by the same token, if the game were better, it wouldn't need to tell its players to promote it in order to sell well. This strikes me as lazy marketing.

Is Superhot worth playing? Absolutely. Is it worth buying right now, at full price? Good god, no. Superhot has enough going for it just on its merit of being a unique and fun puzzle-shooter. If you know someone who has it, try it out; this is a game that knows exactly how cool it is, and it will make you feel like a badass.



**Superhot has got style ... take the minimalistic washed-out aesthetic of *Mirror's Edge*, turn all of the enemies into red glass...**



## REMUERA EXHIBIT -WHITE NIGHT

by **SUSAN NUNN**

Three recent graduates from the Dunedin School of Art were invited to exhibit at the Auckland Art Festival as part of the White Night Remuera Exhibit, on Saturday 12th March 2016.

Daniel Bloxham's *Commodity, Slaughter, Keystone, Extinction, Decimation* (2015) is a large scale series of charcoal and chalk works on stretched raw hemp and cotton canvas that engage with the position of the non-human animal in our anthropocentric society. Daniel's work depicts brutalised animals in a realistic manner to enlighten the viewer to common practices that involve the suffering and commodification of other non-human species.

He has used the gallery's safe, informative space as a way of making upsetting content normally hidden from day-to-day life visible.

Stephanie Cossen's work *Wolf Boy and Parade* (2015) tackles similar issues using humour and melancholy. The quirky sculptural works in the project, made with hand-stitched materials, have the appearance of stuffed toys. This makes the work easily accessible to the viewer without seeming like propaganda.

Stephanie believes modern life has made us drift away from an intuitive animal/human connection. *Wolf Boy and Parade* depicts humans putting on animals' skin and becoming the animal, in a return to our natural roots. Her

project is intended to be a vehicle to begin a discussion about the animals' need for visibility within society.

The third project is my own. *Pie* (2015) highlights the gravity of wasting good food. Oversized soft-sculptured fruits and vegetables are piled, squashed, and compacted into a confined space to demonstrate the amount of avoidable food waste sent to landfills. The works are tactile, playful, and interact with the audience.

My work is inspired by the oversized soft sculptures of Claes Oldenburg and other works associated with the 1960's Pop Art movement, where the contradictions of the prosaic object expanded to monumental scale and the firm

objects became soft sculptures. I used this idea to make a point about food waste through using humour to gently nudge the spectator into contemplating a serious issue.

**Festival details are on the website:**

[www.aucklandfestival.co.nz/events/white-night-2016-at-auckland-wide/](http://www.aucklandfestival.co.nz/events/white-night-2016-at-auckland-wide/)

left: **Stephanie Cossen** beside sculptural *Wolf Boy and Parade* (2015)

centre: **Daniel Bloxham** in front of *Commodity, Slaughter, Keystone, Extinction, Decimation* (2015)

right: **detail of Bloxham's work**

below right: **Susan Nunn, Pie** (2015)



**3.33.12**  
MARGARITA ROBERTSON

Generously supported by **Deloitte.**



# HERB NERD

*Welcome to Herbs101, I thought it might be helpful for those new to cooking or just not familiar with this uplifting ingredient to have a basic guide for what to do with them. Here are a few of my faves.*



**BASIL**



**CORIANDER**



by **KIRSTEN GARCIA**

## **BASIL**

This is the herb that sparked my curiosity for all herbs, the little leaves that flavour things. I get dried basil and chuck it in almost everything: eggs, bread, pasta, pizza.... It's quite sweet and mild so it's always been complementary and never overpowering in a dish.

We had a basil plant called Beyonce in my flat last year but it didn't survive for very long; apparently Dunedin's climate is not ideal for them.

You can buy fresh basil from any grocer, and in the Farmer's market there's a guy who grows them via hydroponics. You can use the leaves in addition to any tomato based pasta or soup. Tomatoes and basil go together like best buddies. Or you make your own pesto by blitzing fresh basil, Parmesan, pine nuts, oil and clove of garlic in a food processor. I love putting this through pasta or a potato salad. You can also do a chicken bake with it, which I might feature in a later issue of Critic.

## **CORIANDER/CILANTRO**

I consider coriander an Asian herb. It makes a tasty garnish especially in stir-fries and curries, but it also features in Mexican food. It is better fresh than cooked IMO: just chop up the leaves and add it immediately before serving.

**P.S** I've recently discovered the community garden run by the Polytech called the "Living Campus". It's literally free food for anyone to grab. My flattie and I went to check it out and a lot of it was harvested but we managed to score a bunch of parsley and rosemary. No need to set up your own herb garden.

## **THYME**

So apparently thyme was brought over by the first settlers for its healing antibacterial properties – something you could probably assume it has from its earthy flavour. It also makes great roasts! Rub thyme all over your next roast and tell me it doesn't make a difference.

My French boss considers this the most basic herb in French cooking. She told me one thing about (fresh) thyme is you do have to cook it to release its flavour and aroma.

## **OREGANO**

This one partners well with basil, and its aroma really shines through on pizza (hence why I dub it the Domino's herb.)

## **MINT**

We bought a mint plant at the flat to mix with drinks. So apart from making nice minty water and Pimms, I think mint is really nice in fresh salads. I find whole leaves a bit too raw tasting, so I cut it in shreds.

## **MJ**

Jokes. You people don't need me to tell you about that.



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# 10 CLOVERFIELD LANE

Directed by Dan Trachtenberg

Rating: A-

by JESSICA THOMPSON

In the film world, 10 Cloverfield Lane is essentially 'The House at the End of the Street meets War of the Worlds'. And really, you know a film is doing its job when you forget to eat your Kit-Kat... or alternatively feel too sick to eat your Kit-Kat.

Directed by Dan Trachtenberg (in his directional debut), 10 Cloverfield Lane follows the movements of Michelle (played Mary Elizabeth Winstead) as she leaves her house in New Orleans after an argument with fiancé Ben, to drive through the spooky empty roads of 'rural' Louisiana. While acting as the sequel in the Cloverfield movie franchise, I don't believe one has

to have seen the first film to follow this one, (though I have), as I don't remember much of the first film and this one's idea is basic enough.

It difficult to not give too much away, but I feel the trailer does that anyhow (do NOT watch the trailer until after the film) so I'm gonna let rip. Michelle has a car crash. She then wakes up in a concrete room, captive to Howard (played by the brilliant John Goodman) and is told the world has basically ended due to an invasion of the chemical kind. Goodman does an impressive job of switching from a messed up, potential criminal to hard done by ex-father who has 'seen many things'. The fact that I wanted to

run from him at one point then give him a big bear hug the next is a complex feeling I think you need to experience for yourself.

The actors worked well together and each scene is cut finely. At one point I made the silly mistake of relaxing because I believed I was about to get bored - I was on the cusp of disliking the film - but a few jump scares, plot twists and frightening dinner conversations slapped me out of it. My palms were sweating the entire time and I'm pretty sure I bruised my flat mate's arm grabbing it too often. Winstead portrays a super cool heroine who

you don't stop rooting for. I counted over twenty times that, were I in her position, I would have given up and died, but her persistence and resourcefulness carries the film to its peculiar end. There were some issues I had with storyline, particularly in regards to Howard's background. I cannot decide if it was laziness or artistic license on the director's part, but no matter.

This film was surprisingly funny, sensitive and sweet at times and on the whole downright stressful to watch. Would recommend if you want a sore butt from sitting on the edge of your seat for 103 minutes.



## A BIGGER SPLASH

Directed by Luca Guadagnino

Rating: B-

by ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT

Imagine if Spring Breakers was directed by Woody Allen. This movie is a bit like that, but sadly isn't as interesting as the description makes it sound.

Tilda Swinton plays Marianne Lane, a Bowie-esque rock star who is vacationing on an idyllic Italian

island, with her boyfriend Paul (Matthias Schoenaerts). The couple is visited by their old friend Harry Hawkes (Ralph Fiennes), a boisterous record producer, and his 22-year-old daughter Penelope (Dakota Johnson). Harry is still enjoying a hedonistic rock 'n' roll

lifestyle and seems keen to draw Lane back into it, while Lane is happily settling into middle age and enjoying monogamy. During the movie, each of the four leads becomes romantically entangled with all of the others (I'm exaggerating but not by much), and much fornication ensues.

The movie boasts a very committed performance from Ralph Fiennes. As we've already seen from The Grand Budapest Hotel, Fiennes is a versatile actor who is branching far out from his usual Oxbridge-type roles. In particular, his character has a manic dancing scene that is one of the most memorable sections of the movie. Tilda Swinton is obviously a great actor - her character is recovering from a throat operation and rarely speaks, and she manages to communicate a lot without words. Johnson has an engaging screen presence, though her two-note bratty-and-seductive character

doesn't really give her much to work with. And Schoenaerts doesn't really have any character to work with at all.

The movie features a very large amount of sex and nudity - the first sex scene takes place about fifteen seconds in, and it's all go from there, while often seeming kind of gratuitous and unnecessary. Sure, the movie is marketed as an erotic thriller, but given that the thriller aspect only really comes into play right at the end, what we're left with occasionally feels more like glorified porn. We do eventually get some character development, social commentary and moments of drama, and the plot becomes interesting (if a bit jumbled) near the end. But for the bulk of the movie, those things all seem secondary or absent. (Which, again, invites the comparison to porn). However, the movie does get points for good acting.







# AN

*Directed by: Naomi Kawase*

**Rating: B+**

**by JESS ALSOP**

Ever had doriyaki before? I haven't, but from what I now know, they are little pancakes filled with sweet bean paste (called an). In *An*, doriyaki shop manager Sentaro (Masatoshi Nagase) hires Tokue (Kirin Kiki), a little old lady who makes the best an he's ever tasted.

The detail with which the process of making an is delightful – Tokue may be a sweet little old lady, but there is nothing she takes more seriously than her beans. Tokue is is content to just stay in the back of the shop making an, she so happy to have a job, but when her manager asks her to help serve customers her excitement is euphoric. Her new lease on life

contrasts wonderfully with the brooding Sentaro, and their relationship drives the film. This may seem cliché, but a stellar performance by Kirin Kiki keeps it from being cloying.

Director Naomi Kawase uses this dynamic to artfully draw in her audience and then eases into the terrible history of leprosy in Japan. To me, leprosy was something that only happened in the bible or the occasional episode of *House*, so I was very surprised to learn that until as recently as 1996, Japanese people who had suffered from leprosy lived in quarantine. *An* avoids getting political though – it focuses on the freedom those people may



experience now rather than their years of isolation.

Usually I'll have my guard up when watching any film with an adorable old lady (9/10 times it's going to make me cry), so I almost felt tricked by how easily I came to care about the characters.

This isn't a ground-breaking film by any means, but it is still very

sweet and enjoyable. *An* is subtle and poignant but without any pretention, and thankfully avoids being preachy. It may be slow paced, but it will still have you googling leprosy in Japan (or how to make doriyaki) hours after watching.

## WINSTON'S BIRTHDAY

*Play written by Paul Baker*

**Rating: A**

**by TOM LORD**

Going to anything at the Fortune Theatre is always exciting – there's just something about walking in through the doors of the delightfully Gothic church and into the theatre that secretes anticipation. Indeed, the beautifully constructed set of *Winston's Birthday*, complete with a 9' portrait of the man himself dominating the view centre stage, set the standards high for the evening – even if you do have to awkwardly stand on your seat to allow others to pass you.

It was while I was sitting there reading my programme and eagerly awaiting the start of the show (sometimes leaping unceremoniously out of my seat to allow others

to squeeze past me) that I started to realise how little I actually know about Winston Churchill. He'd said something about fighting on the beaches and that was pretty much it, right? Aside his wartime leadership and oratory, however, it turns out there was a bit more to him, and particularly on the dysfunctional family relations front.

*Winston's Birthday* is a historical comedy revolving around an imagined luncheon for Churchill's 88th birthday, and is written by Oamaru playwright and ex-Waitaki Boys High School rector Dr Paul Baker. While the wartime hero is now frail and vulnerable, Geoffrey Heath does a magnificent job of portraying Sir Winston as an ageing man, who is as sharp-tongued and quick-witted as ever. Also in attendance are two of his five children Randolph and Sarah (Roy Snow and Hilary Halba respectively) who

desperately seek their father's love and approval, alongside long-suffering wife Lady Clementine Churchill (Yvonne Martin), and the fictional character of young historian Dr Stephen Jenkins (Jonathan Martin).

Ultimately the play reveals the secrets, resentments and betrayals that plague the Churchill family, with Dr Jenkins providing the catalyst for the family attempting to work through these issues. The cast works together well, feeding off each other and getting increasingly hysterical as more and more brandy is consumed throughout the show. The script is well written, truly hilarious and filled with some excellent one-liners. If you've never been to the Fortune Theatre before, *Winston's Birthday* is an excellent starting point – there is also two-for-one on Wednesday with a Radio One card.





*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

His

I've always been a big fan of the Critic blind date, and after numerous attempts of trying to get the call up, it happened. Finally, smelling like an industrial accident at a lynx factory and looking like I should be a part of the worlds shittiest boy band, I set off.

After arriving fashionably early and flicking through the drinks menu countless times, my date walked in and was looking incredible. When the initial awkward conversation passed, the chat then flowed smoothly, and when she spilled that she was half Japanese half kiwi, it's safe to say I was hooked. With the waiter giving us the inside knowledge that it was best to order wine by the bottle, we found the perfect merlot to satisfy our liquid needs.

With the chat continuing to flow, she told me how she had joined the tramping club. With the arrival of the food, as well as the second bottle of wine, I for one was getting a tad tipsy. This lead to me unfortunately spilling a glass of red over her, and with a plethora of "Ooh sorry, sorry, I'm really sorry" occurring, she just laughed it off. We then proceeded to finish off with a couple tequila shots. Dangerous.

Anyway we hooked up a few times outside, and although things were getting pretty heated, we decided to part ways. No doubt we will be crossing paths very soon, and hopefully more than just a cheeky pash will ensue.

Cheers Critic and Dog With Two Tails for the great night. 10/10 would do again.

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

Hers

After one too many a lonely night in dunedin, it was the allure of finding a potential candidate to make the inevitable freezing nights more bearable that lead me to Dog with Two tails five minutes late on a Thursday evening.

Admittedly, I was fairly critical of the whole situation, having endured my fair share of dead-end dates in the past few months, I was half expecting to be paired with one of them. Well Critic, I'm sorry I ever doubted you, because sitting at our table was the kinda guy that you silently flirt with on public transport and then regret not introducing yourself for a solid three years following. The conversation flowed effortlessly (possibly as a result of my nervous rambling) but he was relaxed and we got on so well that it took about 20 minutes before we paused long enough to look at the menu and pick out a drink.

A bottle or two of red wine down and I was starting to feel that liquid confidence kicking in and my date was becoming increasingly attractive. It was all a pleasant hazy blur, good music, good food (turns out elephant fish isn't as horrific as it sounds - highly recommend), and flowing conversation and wine.

But they say all good things have to come to an end. For us, this was probably when my date tipped a full glass of wine into my lap and onto my shirt. I honestly don't blame him, in fact I'm almost relieved that I was on the receiving side because God knows I'm usually always the clumsy one. That being said, nothing sobers you up more than the knowledge that your new favourite shirt is most definitely ruined and you're soaked to the core and feeling the cold as red wine evaporates off 60 percent of your body.

Determined to forget about the wine incident, we continued to chat and even shared a sneaky kiss at the table before heading out onto the street. I would've been keen to keep the night going but after hearing the far from subtle 'come back to mine' one too many times I found myself in (my) bed, alone the next morning with a pile of red-wine-soaked clothes at the foot of my bed as a memory of the previous nights antics.

Thank you Critic and Dog with Two Tails. While the single life continues, all in all I had a memorable night and can finally cross this one off the bucket list.



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## President's Column

While at the Hyde Street party a few weeks back, I was approached by several enthusiastic party-goers throughout the day asking how they could get involved with, or volunteer for, OUSA. In hope that your enthusiasm hasn't worn off alongside your hangover, I would like to take this time to highlight ways to get involved.

Many of our volunteer opportunities are condensed at the busiest times of the year for us, such as Orientation and Re-Orientation. Our events simply could not exist without the volunteers, we really value the students who give their energy to volunteer for us time and again.

In addition to our events, OUSA has a diverse range of other volunteering opportunities. Critic are regu-

larly on the lookout for bright sparks with a knack for writing, and Radio One are often keen to hear from students who have things to say or who want to help behind the scenes at the station. You can also lend a hand for Executive campaigns, join a committee or help out with our marketing as a 'Social Engineer'.

Signing up to be part of any or all of these is really easy, just go to Volunteering on our website, fill out your details, check the boxes of the things that interest you and wait to hear back from us.

The university also has their own volunteer programme called Unicrew where you will find further opportunities to be altruistic around campus and in the community. You can find out more about them here: [bit.ly/unicrew](http://bit.ly/unicrew).

National student volunteer week is coming up – it starts on the 11th of April. The week is dedicated not only to celebrating student volunteers, but also looking at how volunteering contributes to our communities. Highlights of the week include the Volunteer Fair on Wednesday the 13th in the Link, and Relay for Life on Friday the 15th. Check out the OUSA Facebook page for updates on what else is happening on campus.

But wait, there's more! We have referendum coming up from May 16th– 19th. Referendums are an instrumental way we keep in touch with you and make sure what we do is representative of what you want. It is also a great way to gauge the student opinion on different topical issues. You can submit a question too – so if you have a burning question or a great idea – submit it and have it put to the student body.

So try your hand at getting involved, and make sure you exercise your rights during the referendum to make your voice count.

Take care,

**Laura Harris**

president@ousa.org.nz

## Radio One 91FM presents the OUSA Battle of the Bands 2016

In its 28th year, this annual showdown between emerging bands is not only an awesome opportunity for competing bands to cut their teeth in the industry, but your chance to see some incredible local talent. **Entries are open until the 29th of April** for bands wanting to compete in this hotly contested comp. **Heats take place every Friday in May at Re:Fuel, with the final held Saturday 28th.**

>> More details online soon at [ousa.org.nz/battle-of-the-bands/](http://ousa.org.nz/battle-of-the-bands/)



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\$9 for 1-hour pool table hire\*

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Any two breakfasts for the price of one Monday - Friday, 7am - 11.30am

### BEAUTÉ SKIN BAR & BEAUTY CLINIC

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

### BENDON

Free wash bag with purchase over \$50\*

### CRUSTY CORNER

\$5 BLTs, Monday - Friday

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20% off regular-price games\*

### FILADELFIOS GARDENS

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

### FRIDGE FREEZER ICEBOX

15% discount off the regular retail price

### GOVERNOR'S CAFE

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

### HALLENSTEIN BROTHERS

20% off full price product in-store

### HELL PIZZA

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

### LONE STAR

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

### MEGA ZONE

Buy two games of mini golf or laser tag and get a third free

### OMBRELLOS KITCHEN & BAR

\$15 Ombrellos Big Breakfast / Big Vege\*

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10% off all phone, tablets & computer repairs

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Buy any petita size pita and get upgraded to a regular

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Lunch size pizza & 600ml Coke range for \$10 - or - any waffle and coffee for \$10

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### ROB ROY DAIRY

Free upgrade to a waffle cone every Monday & Tuesday

### SHARING SHED

\$5 off all tertiary-student hair cuts

### SUBWAY

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

### TASSE CAFÉ

High Tea for one for \$24\*

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\$7 house beer, wine and spirits from 8pm-11pm on Thursdays, \$15 roast of the day on Sundays

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