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ISSUE 06

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**RELIGION
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MEDIA**

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**SPILLED SOUP,
SECRETS, AND
SCHADENFREUDE**

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**DECLINING
OTAGO
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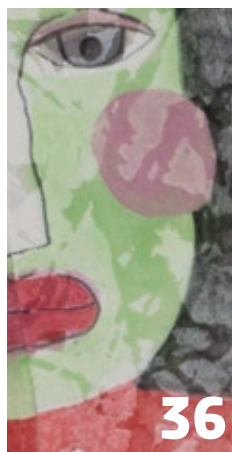


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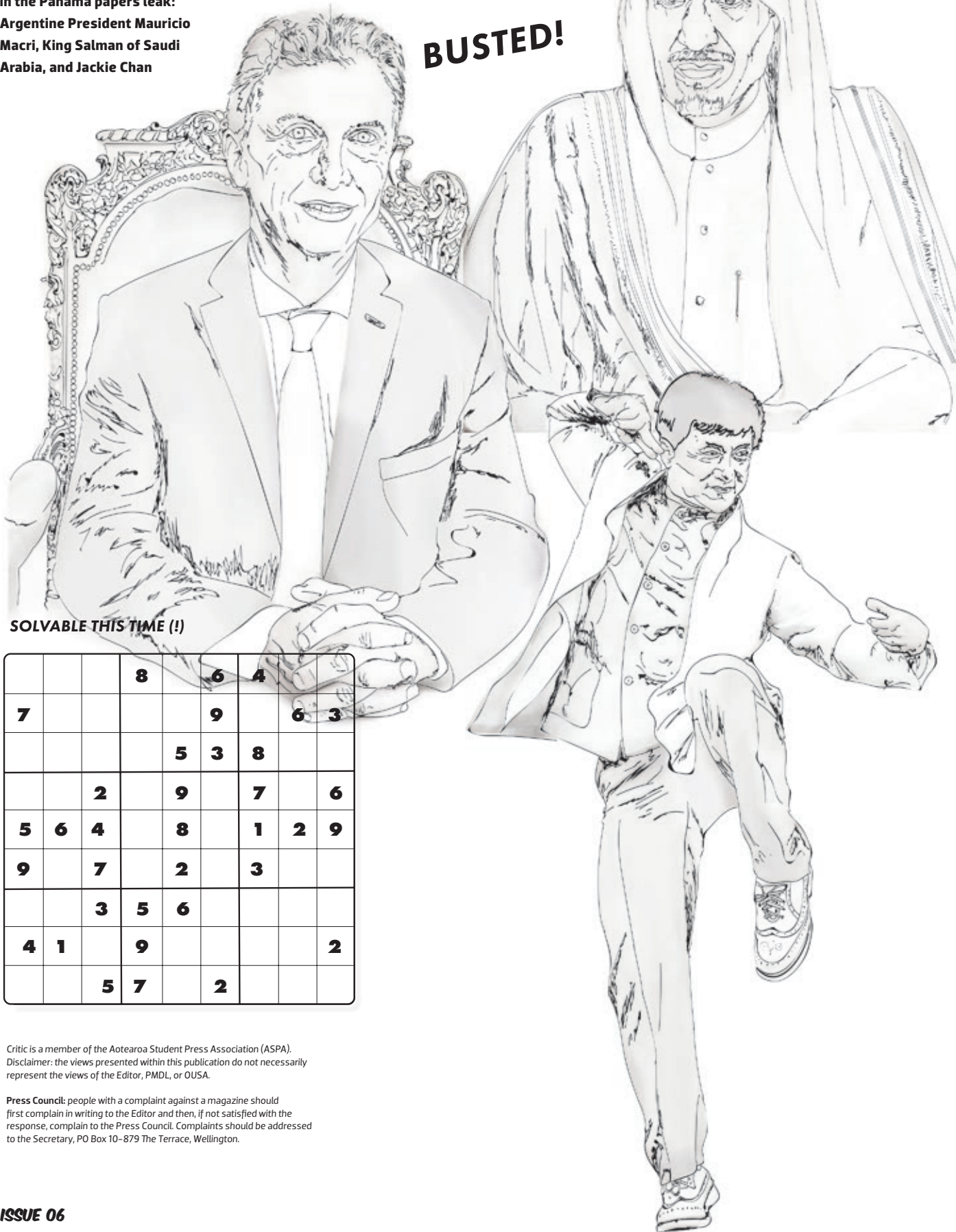
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This week's colouring in include filthy rich guys named in the Panama papers leak: Argentine President Mauricio Macri, King Salman of Saudi Arabia, and Jackie Chan

BUSTED!



SOLVABLE THIS TIME (!)

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■ Editorial

Welcoming refugees to Dunedin

HERE IN NEW ZEALAND, OUR YOUNGER GENERATIONS ARE PRIVILEGED BEYOND BELIEF.

We've never had to experience any wars or terror, found ourselves without a home or lived under any tyrannical rulers. Thankfully we live in a free and democratic nation. In just under a couple of weeks Dunedin will lead the country in welcoming refugees to our town.

As it stands at the moment, New Zealand's quota will allow 750 refugees into the country over the next three years, but given the Syrian refugee crisis is the worst since World War II, another emergency 600 have been allocated. A tiny amount compared to both Canada and Australia who will respectively take in 25 and 9.6 times more.

The main reason behind such a low intake of refugees has been attributed to the high costs involved, with the extra 600 Syrian refugees costing \$24 million. But surely when a government has the spare cash lying around to propose a change of flag, an extra few dollars could be found in the budget to accommodate more refugees.

But many will still argue that we should be taking fewer refugees, mainly due to the fear that those who come to our country will threaten our way of life. These people forget that at some

point their ancestors also stepped foot on this land for the very first time, bringing with them their own unique culture. What gives us the right to turn our back on those now seeking the safety of our country?

Those same people will look to the past and say that we are a nation who have always done things this way, insinuating that the past was a better time. But why not look to the future? Think of all the cultural differences refugees can bring to our city and to our nation, to enhance and enrich all of us. As the world in which we live in becomes more global and borders are broken down between nations, why board our self off and say we want no part in it?

There are also people who will claim that those seeking refugee status are here to bring terror to our country. Sure, there's some fucking bad people out there who seem intent to rain terror on the innocent, but to tarnish them all with the same brush and say no to the many because of this fear is unconscionable.

These are good people who have been ruined by war, left with no home and looking for a better life. Although I'm certain they will come here devastated by all they have witnessed, I'm sure that given half an opportunity in a safe land and supported by those in the local community they will thrive, bringing their own culture and spice to life.

Hugh Baird

Critic editor



World Watch



Isle of Wight, United Kingdom

A museum dedicated to excrement, with examples from the animal and human kingdom, has opened on the Isle of Wight. The National Poo Museum has been created by members of the artist collective Eccleston George. Sample of faeces have been gathered from around the world as well as donations received from the Isle of Wight Zoo



Da Nang, Vietnam

A Vietnamese police force is winning plaudits after letting a woman avoid a traffic fine by writing 50 lines promising not to repeat the offence. Police imposed the unusual school-style penalty after catching the 20 year old driving down a one way street in the wrong direction. The police department said they are more concerned with raising public awareness than rigidly enforcing the rules



China

The designer of China's "Great Firewall", that is the tool of the government to control internet censorship, has been mocked after he reportedly had to bypass the censorship system that he helped create during a public event. Fang Binxing was giving a speech on internet security when he tried to access a South Korean website, but was blocked by the system. To continue with his speech he was forced to bypass the system in full view of the audience



Lower Saxony, Germany

A German football club has responded to what it says was a racist attack on two of its players by digitally altering its team photo to make all the players appear black. Deinster SV posted the image on its Facebook page alongside a message detailing what happened to the men, both Sudanese refugees. The team were shocked by the attacks and posted the photo as a show of solidarity with the two players

South Africa

The South African president, Jacob Zuma, has survived an attempt to impeach him after the African National Congress party gave him its backing. However, his long-term future is still in doubt after a string of influential figures called on him to step down. The impeachment process begun after the constitutional court ruled that he had ignored an order to repay state funds spent on a lavish upgrade of his private home

Hiroshima, Japan

The US Secretary of State, John Kerry, will become the highest-ranking American official to pay tribute to the victims of the first nuclear attack in history when he visits the peace memorial park in Hiroshima next month. About 80,000 people were killed instantly when the US dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima on the morning of 6 August 1945. More than 60,000 others died from exposure to radiation and injuries

North Korea

North Korea has officially announced it is blocking Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and South Korean websites in a bid to further control access to outside information. Very few North Koreans have internet access and if they do they are limited to a sealed-off, government-sanctioned intranet. The new restrictions will make it more difficult for visitors or the small community of foreign residents in North Korea to post real-time information about the country to the outside world

United States

Republican White House hopeful Donald Trump has said he would stop cash sent home by Mexicans based in the US, until the country pays for a border wall. Mr Trump believes, that the prospect of losing a vital source of income would force Mexico into a "one-time payment" of \$5-10 billion. Mr Trump has had his toughest week on the campaign trail to date and is expected to lose the important state of Wisconsin to Senator Ted Cruz

FACTS and figures

No matter where you are in New Zealand, you will never be more than **128KM** from the sea

The average married couple has sex **68.5** times a year

7% of religious Americans pray to god about finding a good parking spot

"askew"

If you search in Google, the content will tilt slightly to the right

55% of Americans think they are smarter than the average American

The average speed of Heinz Ketchup Squirt is **0.028mph**

A group of owls is called a *parliament*

The word pencil comes from a Latin word meaning "small penis"

Otago University faces on-going issue of declining enrollment

by Joe Higham

OTAGO UNIVERSITY SAW A 2.2 PERCENT decline in overall student enrollments in 2015, with 2016's enrollment numbers set to be announced at a University Council Meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

With humanities and commerce departments feeling the brunt of the declining numbers over the last few years, there will be particular interest in whether that trend will continue. According to the ODT, the humanities faculty alone witnessed a 14 percent decline in student numbers since 2010. In addition, commerce and humanities fell 4.7 percent and 4.6 percent respectively last year alone when compared to 2014's already disappointing numbers.

The University faces a serious issue, with enrollment declining year-on-year since 2010, with a five percent drop from 2010-2014, declining from 19,918 in 2010 to 18,830 in 2014. In comparison, The University of Auckland's total

equivalent full-time students (EFTS) has increased 4 percent year-on-year over the same period, highlighting the ground Otago University is losing to Auckland University in the race for enrollment and thus funding.

Pro-vice chancellor of the Humanities Department, Tony Ballantyne, in a comment published in the ODT in December 2014, admitted there is a "crisis" facing humanities subjects, before criticising the National Government, who he said undervalues humanities subjects. Tertiary Education Minister, Steven Joyce, responded in the same article, stating Ballantyne's comments were frivolous and the Government did indeed value humanities subjects.

An opinion piece by Otago University Vice Chancellor, Harlene Hayne, has noted the importance of quality over quantity when it comes to the student enrollment figures.

Harlene Hayne, while discussing the threat of

Massive Open Online Courses in issue 35 of the University of Otago Magazine, said that, "As the only truly residential university in New Zealand, we will continue to deploy our resources, including out human capital, to ensure that current and future generations of Otago students have the opportunity to learn directly from teachers and directly from peers."

One of the most significant consequences of the declining enrollment numbers is the financial pressure that will result from it. Fewer students mean less funding for the University. Due to this trend becoming commonplace over the last few years, all eyes will be on the University Council Meeting on Tuesday to see whether 2016's enrollment numbers have fallen once more, and what the University will do in response to the worsening situation.

OUSA Execrable

by Henry Napier

LAST MONDAY THE STUDENT executive met with members of the OUSA events team to debrief last years Craft Beer Festival and the worthiness of the festival moving forward.

The meeting began with President Laura Harris posing questions as to what the value was for OUSA running the festival, how many students would attend, and general reassurances that it was money well invested.

OUSA events manager Dan Hendra stated that it was a great opportunity for OUSA in terms of community outreach, adding that they had both a good amount of students and non-students attending.

Events co-ordinator Jerome

Cousins acknowledged that it was a good alternative to the other events that OUSA ran which tended not to impress the community. Hendra also added that it was an alternative to the high intox events that they usually worked with throughout the year.

The executive then asked about the timing of the event which usually culminated around the end of the exam period, meaning that a lot of students were not able to attend as they had left the student area for the summer, and whether or not there was room to move around the dates of the event.

Hendra responded by saying that although they had looked into this extensively there wasn't room to move the dates. He claimed that this was due to external factors, mostly around the availability of Forsyth Barr Stadium, explaining that they weren't able to use the turf until the final game of the season had been played.

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Fiesta gets feisty

by Henry Napier

ALLEY CANTINA WAS TRASHED AFTER closing early last Sunday sometime early in the morning. The local restaurant saw \$900 worth of damage done to its outside area where chairs and plants were removed or destroyed.

Mike Bamkier, the owner and operator of the long-standing restaurant, said the damage was significant.

"They took all the flags away, plants – smashed them all down, stripped them all. All our lights, they stripped our lights away [after we closed], we closed about 12[am]. It happened between 12 and 9 o'clock when I came in" said Mr Bamkier.

"It was about \$900 worth of damage, mainly plants, lighting and flags – special stuff we bring in from Mexico which is a shame."

Mr Bamkier said he intended to file a complaint with Police, however he believed little could be done given the time it happened and the location of the venue.

"We can get cameras in, but it's so dark in there and so narrow its very hard to pick up

anybody anyway. It's just one of those unfortunate things. It's just an extra ongoing cost."

The vandalism followed an incident earlier on Saturday night at Gong Wok, an Asian restaurant located on Moray place that caters to BYO groups. Critic received reports that a BYO party were aggressive towards staff and were seen throwing food as they left. However the owner of the restaurant who wished to only be named as Yen said the incident was not "major".

Mr Bamkier, who has owned the local restaurant and former the Fever Club for 20 years, said he believed vandalism from patrons was part of a current "cycle" of drinking culture. Alley Cantina formerly included Fever Club which opened late on weekends. Mr Bamkier has closed Fever Club recently due to a lack of profitability and fear of vandalism.

"The reason we've [started closing] is because of vandalism. We've done it all up and we just can't afford the damage. Unfortunately, now with all the pre-loading, people don't have much respect for the premise. The sad part is I started closing earlier because of the damage and then

it gets damaged outside. Ironically that's just the way it goes" said Mr Bamkier.

"Unfortunately there is a bit more vandalism going on [than in the past], but it seems to be after 12 o'clock. That's why I'm not opening, mainly because of the vandalism. It costs too much now. It's not just the vandalism, we get a lot of pre-loading now and people aren't spending as much when they go out. And that's why a lot of [bars] have closed now because there is no profit in it. You have to sell [alcohol] so cheap to get people in, but when they're in they are damaging so much. It's just a cycle. I've been through lots of cycles."

Mr Bamkier said that students were not the sole cause of the developing "pre-loading" culture.

"Well no you can't attribute it to any one person, it's just the drinking behaviour. But it does come back to students because students are 18 and over, hence it naturally is going to be the students. You can't complain or criticise that because when I started [the drinking age] was 21," said Mr Bamkier.

Auckland Uni Facebook post leads to racial profile debate

by Tom Kitchin

THE ISSUE OF RACIAL VIOLENCE IN OUR country's biggest city is contentious, and it has been brought to light recently due to a number of attacks against people of Asian ethnicity in the city. This culminated in the publication of a post by a student on the Overheard @ University of Auckland Facebook page, which stated 'if you see a pack of young Maori/Polynesian males, be prepared to sprint,' addressing them as the perpetrators of the attacks. The post, which has since been deleted, is seen by many to be a case of racial profiling.

The post also made the comment that although it is 'not politically correct to profile', it was important to mention the issue because 'political correctness is not worth brain damage or dying for'. Still, the post brought on much negative feedback, with some post comments

stating they were 'sweeping generalisations... out of ignorance and anger'.

This post is the result of discussions around the attacks in the city, after six Asian students were seriously hurt in the last two weeks. It has brought important questions to the attention of universities all around the country. In particular, what counts as an unacceptable post on an 'Overheard' page? A recent post was made on the Overheard @ Auckland University page regarding the acceptable standard of posts and some have commented that the page has now become overly politically correct.

But of course, the issue is more complicated than just a Facebook post because there is more than one form of racial profiling prevalent here. It's only one of the concerns in an entanglement of racial issues Auckland has to tackle with. There

are at least two forms of profiling in this case alone: attackers are specifically targeting Asians and general society seem to assume that these attackers are all, or mostly of Polynesian descent. The core of the issue lies with the problems that brought on the Facebook post in the first place. On change.org, Asian students have set up a petition entitled 'A Safer New Zealand for International Students' which says 'we came to New Zealand because of its good reputation of being peaceful and friendly; our parents trust this country to provide the best education possible, both in academia and consummating our personalities.' New Zealand, we need to do our best to uphold this reputation, and not see our 'safe' country as an illusion, we should realize it's not that simple and must do our best to better it.

Arrest causes surge in student loan repayments

by Joe Higham

THE ARREST OF NGATOKOTORU PUNA, AN overseas-based borrower who defaulted on his loans, at Auckland Airport in January has caused overseas borrowers to begin making repayments on their student loans, the Government says.

According to a Government press release, overseas borrowers repaid \$29.7 million to the Government during January and February this year, compared with \$22.7 million in the same months of 2015. Additionally, communication to Inland Revenue has significantly increased, with emails up 62 percent in January and February and phone calls up 55 percent over the same period.

Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce said, "It's likely that a number of people were spurred into action. It's just a pity that it takes these sort of steps to encourage some people to meet their obligations

to taxpayers so we can continue to support future generations of students."

The Government press release further noted that the "net amount repaid by overseas borrowers for the year ending June 30, 2015, totalled \$184.7 million. Already this financial year repayments by overseas-based borrowers have reached \$133.8 million at the end of February."

Inland Revenue is currently monitoring 20 individuals for potential arrest if/when they return to New Zealand. Of 112,390 overseas-based borrowers, 70 percent are currently in default. Steven Joyce urged, "anyone with outstanding debt to contact Inland Revenue to organise a repayment plan, or if they're unable to make repayments they can apply for a hardship grant."

The Government outlined that they have been running an overseas-based borrower compliance initiative since late 2010, which "uses a range of tools to target borrowers in default",

according to the press release. Michael Woodhouse stated that, "from July this year we will have an information sharing agreement with the Australian Tax Office which will allow information on student loan borrowers living in Australia to be shared with Inland Revenue. The majority of overseas-based borrowers live in Australia and this new agreement will be a significant step forward in speeding up the repayment of the estimated \$3.25 billion borrowed by those living offshore."

The issued press release said: "The programme... is on track to reach its current target of lifting payments by overseas-based borrowers by \$100 million a year."

Health Professors rally for sugar tax -government not convinced

by Jessica Thompson

SEVERAL HEALTH EXPERTS AROUND THE country have proposed that sugary drinks such as coke, fanta and sprite be taxed to help combat New Zealand's high rate of child obesity (fourth highest in the world), diabetes and heart disease. Over 70 health academics have voiced their opinions, calling the government to be aware of the growing health issues caused by high sugar content in both food and drink. Health Minister Jonathan Coleman has opposed the idea, saying there is "still no evidence a tax would actually decrease obesity. There is no simple answer otherwise people would have tried it." Research Fellow in the Department of Human Nutrition, Dr Lisa Te Morenga, disagrees, stating in a short interview with Critic that: "evidence contrary to what the Minister of Health says suggests that the tax will have some effect. While it may be small, it will nevertheless be significant." Dr Morenga is

involved with a lot of the research around generating evidence of the bad effects of sugar. "One argument against creating the tax is that people will just shift to cheaper brands. I can see why big companies like Coke wouldn't want that. However, no bad backlash could really come of this. People don't actually need sugary drinks its not a necessity. The full cost is not reflected in the price you pay." Morenga also pointed out the government's argument that it all boils down to consumer education: "there is no evidence that the education approach works at all. The tax would be at least significant even if it is small." Professors want cabinet to introduce a 20 percent 'excise tax' on sugary drinks, saying it will generate "\$30-\$40 million that could go towards obesity prevention programmes".

Professor in Human Nutrition and Medicine at Otago University, Jim Mann, has been involved in research for 35 years. Mann works on the

World Health Organization committee that makes recommendations such as the tax issue. He states that "the evidence is sufficient enough to convince a lot of countries, including the UK. Taxing is just one of the things we need to do. Instead of just telling people not to drink and eat sugary things, the environment must be changed."

Labour leader Andrew Little also shared his thoughts, saying that the country needs "to come to grips with total sugar content" in all sorts of foods. It seems unlikely the sugar tax will be supported by the government any time soon.

Green Party calls for a charge on fresh water

by Henry Napier

OPPPOSITION PARTIES ARE CALLING FOR Government action on polluted fresh water following a report showing 61 percent of monitored water ways are 'poor' or 'very poor'. A charge for water for farmers would help solve the growing pollution in New Zealand according to Green Party MP Gareth Hughes.

Last week Mr Hughes said that the Government's arguments are "weak". They claim their true agenda is to avoid confronting the agriculture industry over growing concerns of over allocation of fresh water to farms, which is where a charge for fresh water allocation to farmers would solve the problem.

"The Government is blaming extreme events like extreme rainfall patterns and volcanic eruptions as I think it is an incredibly weak excuse to really hide their true agenda which is that they're not prepared to crack down on the source of pollution, which we know in New Zealand, a big part of it is dairy intensification," says Mr Hughes.

The dairy industry has been slow over the past year following struggling global milk prices, yet despite this Mr Hughes believes a further cost to farmers will not hurt profitability.

"So take water pricing, which is something we've been promoting for a long time now, if farmers have access to uncharged water they will use it prolifically, so a small marginal charge actually encourages more efficient use, more efficient investment with the equipment they're purchasing so [a small charge on water] can actually help them save money in the long run."

However, according to DairyNZ a charge on water would force a "fundamental" restructuring of resource allocation. Environmental Policy manager for DairyNZ Mike Scarsbrook says a price on water would not be a "viable alternative" to the current system under the Resource Management Act.

"The basis of the Resource Management Act is that we're looking to more sustainable management of our resources. As a country we have

a whole range of natural resources – soil, water, etc. – that the RMA sets out to manage the use and development of those resources in a way that provides for current generations use of the resources but also for future generations. So I put my faith in the Resource Management Act as it is currently set out to do that sustainable resource management and I don't see charging, which would require a fundamental shift in the way we manage our resources, as a viable alternative," says Mr Scarsbrook.

Mr Scarsbrook said that while there is a long way to go in improving water standards, the Government's National Policy Statement, that outlines the goals for fresh water standards, is a good first step.

"In terms of the regulations the [Government] has put in place I think the general sense is that the [National Policy Statement] was a good first step but there are significant gaps in it that need to be fixed and I know there is a lot of work going on to reduce some of those gaps. Certainly our view here from DairyNZ is that the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management is a really good first step," according to Mr Scarsbrook.

Recently opposition parties have called for the Government to take action over water pollution, with the Labour Party saying "New Zealanders should be able to swim in their local rivers".

Labour Party leader Andrew Little has accused the Government's national standard of water being merely 'wadeable' as "appalling". However, Mr Scarsbrook says that while this standard may be low, it does not restrict communities from pushing for higher standards of water quality.

"[National Policy Statement] they refer to sites that are below the national line because of natural features. The classic example is the Ashburton river where there's a breeding colony of seabirds upstream from state highway one, so downstream of that water way there is high

levels of E.coli, which is way higher than swimmable water quality standards. So of course there is no point trying to achieve water quality there because to do that you have to get rid of those native birds which is clearly not the right outcome.

"So there are real challenges to having swimmability everywhere. I think we need to have a conversation as a country about what does swimmability mean; does it mean everywhere at all flows, all times of the year, or does it mean we want to make sure that the first step is everywhere people want to swim or would like to swim or have swam in the past and want to restore them," says Mr Scarsbrook.

Minister for the Environment Dr Nick Smith could not be reached for comment, however last week he responded to question over water pollution in Parliament saying the government had invested record amounts in restoring the quality of fresh water in New Zealand.

EU begins deporting refugees, despite plans labeled "illegal"

by Joe Higham

ON APRIL 4, THE GREEK POLICE, along with the EU border agency Frontex, began the process of deporting almost all migrants and refugees from Greece to Turkey, thus removing them from the European Union.

The practicability of removing all migrants and refugees from Greece en masse has been questioned, as well as the lacking Greek infrastructure that may not be able to cope with the removal of thousands of refugees. Moreover, Greece has called for a twenty-fold increase in the number of asylum officials, as resources are stretched to breaking point as European leaders attempt to deal with the consequences of

the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II.

Greece's leftist-led government's migration spokesman, Giorgos Kyritsis, told the Observer, "We are expecting violence. People in despair tend to be violent. The whole philosophy of the deal is to deter human trafficking [into Europe] from the Turkish coast, but it is going to be difficult and we are trying to use a soft approach. These are people have fled war. They are not criminals."

Kyritsis' statements come as Peter Sutherland, the UN secretary general's special representative for international migration and development, has revealed that the EU's

plans to send refugees who are fleeing the on-going civil war in Syria back to Turkey without considering their asylum requests could be illegal, as it would break international law.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, Sutherland outlined that, "First of all, collective deportations without having regard to the individual rights of those who claim to be refugees are illegal", before adding, "Secondly, their rights have to be absolutely protected where they are deported to, in other words Turkey. There has to be adequate assurances they can't be sent back from Turkey to Syria, for example if they are Syrian

refugees, or Afghanistan or wherever."

Violence has continued among the migrant and refugee communities in Greece following the implementation of the divisive plan. A group of people on the Greek island of Chios ripped down a razor wire fence that was detaining them and escaped beyond the island.

Zuma survives impeachment after abuse of state funds

by Joe Higham

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT, JACOB ZUMA, has survived an attempt by opposition members of parliament to impeach him, after he made numerous additions to his private residence in Nkandla, KwaZulu-Natal.

The vote was launched after South Africa's constitutional court ruled that he had ignored an order to repay funds spent on extravagant renovations to his already substantial private residence, and thus officially breaching the South African Constitution.

After raucous debate in the lower house, the vote results determined Zuma would remain incumbent in his position, despite 143 votes out of a total of 376 backing impeachment. He survived simply due to the assistance of the African National Congress party who backed his presidency.

Despite facing allegations of rape and corruption prior to becoming president in 2009,

this impeachment vote was arguably the closest Zuma has come to being toppled.

Zuma has apologised on state television for his actions, although the public were not particularly sympathetic to his apology, and numerous members of his own party, and in some cases former political allies, have publically slammed him for his behaviour, and have called for him to immediately tender his resignation. According to the New York Times, "in a sign of widening discontent, an umbrella group of leaders, from churches, unions, academia, and other said they would begin a campaign to press Mr. Zuma to step down."

The constitutional court unanimously decided that Zuma had "enriched himself by allowing millions of dollars worth of improvements to be made to his private country residence at Nkandla", according to a report in the New Statesman. Some news agencies have reported

the additions to his residence cost approximately US \$16 million.

In the wake of the impeachment vote, Zuma sought refuge in Melmoth, a rural town north of Durban, where he found thousands of supporters, some of whom wore t-shirts with his face on them, and chanted his name until he returned to his luxurious residence. During the appearance, Zuma said, "As your shepherd, let me lead you."

In addition, Zuma's nephew, Khulubuse Zuma, a controversial business tycoon, was named in the Panama Papers leak last week in connection to two companies registered offshore. The reason for the existence of the companies was reportedly to house oil-rich blocks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which were gifted through a Presidential decree.

The Panama Papers leak: the secret lives of the filthy rich

by Sally Wilkins

TOUTED AS THE BIGGEST CONFIDENTIAL document leak in history, the release of "the Panama Papers" has rocked the world's financial elite and strengthened calls for clampdowns and greater transparency on the tax haven system.

The leak comprises 2.6 terrabytes of data containing 11.5 million documents dating back to 1977 and sheds light on 214,000 of the most secretive offshore companies.

The almost year-long investigation began when an anonymous source leaked the documents to German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung, which shared the information via the International Consortium of Journalists to over 107 media outlets.

At the centre of the scandal lies Mossack Fonseca, a Panamanian law firm whose clients include 12 national leaders, 143 politicians and their associates, and sport and movie stars Lionel Messi and Jackie Chan.

Mossack Fonseca is the fourth largest offshore law firm in the world specializing in creating offshore or shell companies for wealthy elites in tax havens to afford them anonymity and significantly reduced or nonexistent tax levies.

On one end of the spectrum, the use of tax havens and offshore trusts to protect wealth is not strictly illegal. On the other, system abuse can facilitate tax evasion, kleptocracy and the concealment of criminal paper trails.

Mossack Fonseca has denied all wrongdoing and claims it has operated beyond reproach for 40 years, citing thorough due diligence checks. Yet, the documents show Mossack Fonseca continued to transact with Rami Makhlouf, Bashar al-Assad's top financier and a key intelligence player in the early stages of the Syrian civil war, four months after Washington, the EU and Switzerland blacklisted Makhlouf in 2011.

Leaders are scrambling to deny or justify their involvement in the scandal. Questions have been

raised about the potential involvement of Russian president Vladimir Putin and a \$2bn loan trail benefitting his close associates. The Kremlin has denounced the claims as "Putinphobia" ahead of impending elections.

In Iceland, the fallout has been more dramatic. Faced with a no confidence vote and street protests after his wife was named for concealing a multi-million pound undeclared claim on the country's collapsed banks, Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson has stepped down, despite denying any wrongdoing.

New Zealand has also found itself caught up in the controversy for minimal safeguards over tax-free overseas trusts. Prime Minister John Key denies New Zealand is the "Fort Knox" of asset protection, citing transparency, treaty participation and an OECD "clear bill of health".

"No doubt" U.S drone strikes killed civilians

by Liam Brown

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA confirmed suspicions last week that there has "no doubt" been civilian casualties of U.S. drone strikes.

Speaking from a news conference at the nuclear security summit in Washington, Obama acknowledged the shortcomings of using drones to carry out strikes against terrorists. "There's no doubt that civilians were killed that shouldn't have been. In situations of war, you know, we have to take responsibility when we're not acting appropriately."

Drone warfare has become an increasing prevalent part of America's strategy in dealing with ISIS in recent years. The Obama administration has incessantly expanded the drone program over two presidential terms, continuing the work George Bush began in United States' post-9/11 wars. Recent strikes against Islamic state training camps in Libya and Somalia have

killed upwards of 200 extremists. Another drone strike, in Yemen in February, killed dozens.

The recognition of the killing of innocent civilians comes not long after amendments to make U.S. drone policy significantly more transparent, accountable and on-par with national security policies. However, many feel that this is simply too little, too late. The U.S. came under heavy criticism last October when an AC-130 gunship mistakenly fired at an Afghanistan hospital despite there being "vigorous criteria" in place for gathering intelligence as well as "triple-checking" of data.

Obama did not specify the degree to which innocent people had been effected by U.S. drone strikes. However, he did state that with new guidelines in place, these attacks would not be undertaken near civilian-occupied areas. The U.S. president said that they are solely targeting camps that are clearly "involved in and directing

plots that could do the United States harm or are supporting ISIL activities or al-Qaida activities."

"In the past, there was legitimate criticism that the legal architecture around the use of drone strikes wasn't as precise as it should have been," Obama added.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have not always been weapons. Initially, the Pentagon and the CIA utilised drones by positioning them in key locations to gather aerial intelligence during the Gulf War. It was only in 2001 when America began to weaponise their drones in order to eliminate high-value figures in al-Qaeda and other terrorist organisations.

At least a dozen countries are now occupied by US drones, and nine other countries have established lethal drone programs of their own.

Following the Karadzic verdict, it's time for a tribunal on Syria

By George Elliott

MORE THAN TWO DECADES AFTER THE deadly siege of Sarajevo and the massacre of some 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica, a United Nations tribunal in The Hague has convicted former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The judges handed the 70-year-old "Butcher of Bosnia" a 40-year sentence.

Good things take time and the 'arc of justice' is obviously a very long one. Considering the utter mess and bloody confusion that is war, it's no surprise that this certain path to justice has taken this long. It is a promising start for a young and revolutionary idea; the concept of international criminal justice that, with the power of transparent, legitimate, properly-funded institutions, can reach across national borders with universal jurisdiction to hold individuals

accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Today, there is an unprecedented number of conflicts where there is considerable evidence of mass crimes. The most infamous of them, Syria has been the site of some of the most brutal and bloody atrocities we've seen in the 21st Century. If we've learned anything from the ICTY it's that the road to justice is a long and bumpy one. As a global community, those with a voice and the power to propel change and justice, need to immediately start putting the right mechanisms in place to investigate and prosecute mass crimes in Syria, where the war just entered its sixth year.

A UN-mandated criminal tribunal today would have tools at its disposal the ICTY didn't. Advances in the communication technologies has made the job of monitors, investigators and experts easier and more effective. In Syria,

hundreds of ragtag NGOs have been documenting the atrocities committed by the regime, militias, extremists and foreign forces. Those brave souls on the ground, some dying to bear witness to wartime crimes, need the political and material support of the UN.

A few hurdles are standing in the way. A UN Security Council that is divided by geopolitical interests, to name one problem. It is up to the rest of the member states, like New Zealand, which regularly touts itself as an involved global citizen, to push for new international criminal tribunals for today's wars.

The international community needs to act rapidly to bring to trial those committing horrendous human rights violations, if only to honour Syria's dead, like Sarajevo's. A globalised world must deploy globalised justice.

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Universal Basic Income: Labour attempts blatant PR stunt, fucks it up

By Joel MacManus

A COUPLE WEEKS AGO THE LABOUR PARTY'S 'Future of Work Commission' published a discussion paper on the possibility of instituting a Universal Basic Income. This interesting concept is popular among certain economic theorists involves paying every citizen aged 18 or older \$11,000 a year.

It's an idea which, in theory, could have a significant impact in reducing inequality, allow for smoother transitioning between jobs, protect those who cannot work, and cut bureaucracy out of the welfare system. But at this point, that's all it is – a theory. A Universal Basic Income has never been successfully implemented anywhere; the closest we have gotten so far is a small test experiment currently being planned in Finland, and Labour's paper didn't exactly give us any new information – it reads more like a 12 page describe and discuss essay than a serious economic analysis.

But Labour knows this of course. They have no intention of rolling this out as a serious policy before the next election. It's unnecessarily risky, untested, and by their own admission they simply to not have the resources to run a proper analysis on major economic overhauls like this as an opposition party.

So if they were never going to go through with the policy, why would they announce it? The real reason appears to be that Labour is testing out an attack line ahead of the next election that National is a "do-nothing government", while they are the party of "new ideas", something both Grant Robertson and Andrew Little pushed

when speaking to CRITIC. And it's fine for them to claim that, but ideas have to be backed up with action. When Labour launched their three years free tuition policy they didn't just talk about it, they planned it as a legitimate policy with a verifiable method of funding it. They didn't do that here. This was a cheap PR stunt to try and push their "new ideas" narrative without the risk of actually going through with those ideas. To go around telling people that they're considering a pie-in-the-sky plan to give everyone \$11,000 a year when they know full well it's never going to happen is just deceptive.

But that's not the worst of it. It would be one thing to claim you want to do something you have no intention of following up on, that's just politics, where promises get broken every day. The real issue is simply that floating the idea of a UBI was a fucking terrible idea in the first place. They basically wrote National's attack lines for them. Robertson had to know that the second they released that paper, John Key had his spin doctors crafting a response for when the media inevitably asked him about it (he ended up going with 'barking mad').

Labour left themselves wide open to easy criticism from all angles: costs would be too high, it would shrink the workforce, reduce production, it's not means-tested and so some seniors and people with a number of dependents would actually end up making less. Right wing commentators could barely contain their glee over how easily they were able to attack Labour

as half-baked spendthrifts. The Taxpayer's Union claimed that a UBI would require increasing taxes to 56 percent. Now, all of that could be true or none of it could be, it doesn't matter, because Labour doesn't actually have a real plan in place so it is impossible for them to respond to these attacks.

That's why you don't just announce policies willy-nilly. You study them, come up with feasible methods of funding them, and ways to cover all scenarios, so that when you get attacked on it you can point to your plan and correct the record. It's politics 101, and Labour seems to have failed.

In a boxing metaphor, Labour hopped in the ring, walked up to their opponent, then turned around and announced to their trainer they were thinking about trying a right hook, all the while taking repeated unguarded blows to the head.

Labour has committed plenty of unforced errors in the past few years – Internal fighting, leaks to the media, David Cunliffe generally saying stupid things. But this wasn't an accident or a gaffe. This was intentional. They sat down and worked out a strategy. And it blew up in their faces.

From schoolyard to Eden Park

by Sean Nugent

IT WAS JUST ANOTHER LUNCH BREAK AT MT EDEN Normal Primary School in mid-2005. There were around seven or eight of us that would play some kind of sport all year round during lunchtime. Generally we would play cricket in the summer and rugby in the winter. At the time we had an abundance of quality cricketers in the senior school. It seemed likely that one would eventually go the whole hog and end up going pro. Well, that never happened, but there was one guy in our inner circle that did go on to make a name for himself. He wasn't a cricketer, though he did play with us on the hardcourts at school, and while he wasn't bad, he really came into his own on the rugby field. He came from a Samoan background and from what I'd heard his parents were rugby players in their day. Boy, did it show. They had produced an absolute machine – tall, solid, and freakishly athletic. His name was Akira Ioane.

Ioane was just another kid (apart from his size). He always had a smile on his face and was a bit of a joker. Like the rest of us he had a competitive spirit and enjoyed scrapping around with a ball on the field. When it came to playing lunch time rugby we would generally play four or five versus three. Akira would team up with two other equally solid islanders Davis and Tim, and together they would play against the rest of us – who in the most part were scrawny suburban kids. There was no way in hell we could win by just trying to run it straight, we had to get extremely tactical. Obviously with a numbers advantage quick



passing became important, and along with the odd cheeky grubber, that was our primary gameplan. Defence was a whole different story, most of the time it took two of us to take one of them down. I can't really remember what the results were but for the most part I think the games were competitive.

On this particular day we were having a real battle. We were probably around twenty minutes into the game and as I recall it was pretty close. Davis had the ball for the opposing side and kicked the ball deep into our territory. Playing

on the wing I noticed that I was the closest to the ball and began to turn to run back to it. As I did so I saw a member of the other team begin to chase. Shit, it was Akira. Thankfully I reached the ball first saving any kind of humiliation but as I picked it up I was crunched to the ground by Akira. This pissed me off. There was nothing wrong with tackling but I felt like he had intentionally smashed me when it wasn't exactly necessary. Hell, I was a skinny white kid weighing a measly 25kg, a light breeze blew me over. I let Akira know how I felt through a few expletives (although how 'explicit' they were is

unknown considering we were nine years old). It must be said that I had a very short temper during my youth and events such as these often pushed me over the edge. Unfortunately for me Akira had the exact same problem.

The term 'instant regret' comes to mind at this point. Akira glared at me and ripped off his necklace. Knowing that possible death awaited if I hung around, I turned and walked away muttering to myself. Only when I took a quick glance back did I see him running at me. That was all the motivation I needed to get the hell out of there. I'd never run so fast in my life. Around the school I went until I thought I'd lost him. Relieved, I began to make my way back down to the field – only to walk right back into him getting a drink of water. I raced down to the field praying that this mayhem would end. Thankfully a group of lads from the year above held Akira back and calmed him down. When the bell finally sounded it ended probably the most hectic lunchtime of my life.

Of course being kids this incident didn't dent our relationship in any way. We continued to battle it out on the field and the hardcourts until we finished primary school at the end of 2006. This was when we parted ways. He went to Auckland Normal Intermediate along with most of our friend group, while I and a couple of others went off to St Kents. A year later my parents decided to leave Auckland for Wanaka, where I would spend the rest of my school years. Since I never

ended up attending Auckland Grammar I lost track of Akira and his progress for a while. I had noticed that he was in the First XV but it wasn't until he was named in the side for the Wellington Sevens a couple of years ago that I really began taking an interest in his career again. Watching him tear it up in his maiden tournament turned back the clock and you just had to sympathise with the opposing defenders. He's been rampant ever since and I wouldn't be surprised if he was in the All Blacks squad at the end of the year. It feels strange watching both Akira and his younger brother Reiko playing professional rugby while I sit here in Dunners procrastinating but all credit to them for making the most of their talent. I'm sure a lot of hard work has gone into getting them to where they are today and I hope that they both have long and legendary careers. Keep repping the Eden name boys and best of luck for the rest of the season.

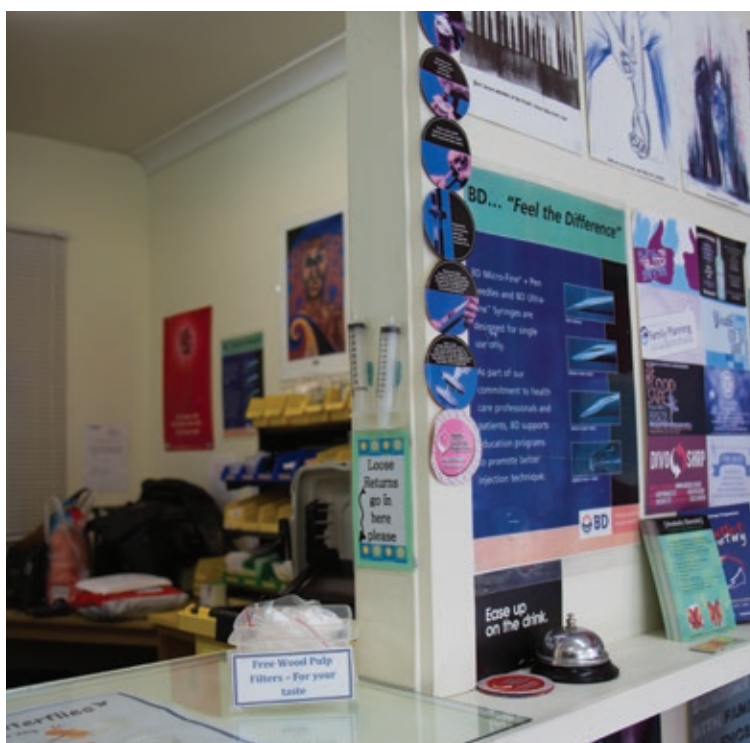


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HARM REDUCTION

NEEDLES, BLOOD, HEP C, AND STIGMA

Lucy Hunter looks behind the doors of the Dunedin needle exchange

Needle exchange programmes were created to reduce harm and to educate people on taking drugs in the safest way possible. I spoke to Manager Barbara Smith and one of her colleagues Dene Barnes from the Dunedin Intravenous Organisation (DIVO), Dunedin's needle exchange programme, about the importance of their work and the stigma that still surrounds intravenous (IV) drug use and Hepatitis C.

Before there were needle exchanges, people would inject drugs in very dangerous ways. Dene said in the '80s people would break into vet clinics to get new needles and syringes. Sharing and reusing needles was normal. He'd heard an urban legend about a bar in Dunedin that had a syringe on top of the toilet cistern. Patrons would pick it up, sharpen the needle on a matchbox, rinse it off under the tap, inject themselves and leave it for the next person.

DIVO provides a free one-for-one exchange system for 30ml syringes and needles to encourage people to always use clean new equipment, and to bring used ones back to the centre to be disposed of safely.

Peer Service Model

In 1987 the NZ Labour Government authorised New Zealand's first needle exchange programme in Dunedin. The exchange was set up by drug users and it works under a peer service model, which means some of the people operating the exchange are people who have personal experience with injecting drugs. Barbara and Dene stressed how important this is. Clients need to know the person giving them supplies won't judge them. New Zealand is the only place in the world with the peer service model.

Barbara, who herself has never used IV drugs, has learned a lot from her staff that she may not have learned if the exchange didn't use the peer support system. "I've always referred to the staff here if something crops up that I don't understand. They fill me in and educate me." An example of something she has learned from her staff is what to do if someone comes in with questions about making up a mix for a hit.

Single Use Needles

The exchange looks like a small GP clinic. Every bit of wall space is covered with educational posters about vein health, tips on injecting, Hepatitis C, and other things associated with IV use. But more than anything, the posters emphasise the importance of never reusing needles, syringes, and other equipment.

Needles should never be reused, even by the same person, even if they just accidentally stuck it in the wrong way and are having another go. Barbara pointed out a poster on the wall with four images of magnified needle tips. The first was a new needle, and it had a smooth surface and sharp point. The next had been used just once, but already had shards and flakes on the surface of the metal. The third had been used twice, and was looking worse still. The fourth image was a needle that had been used five times. Its surface was jagged and the tip of the needle had bent right over on itself. "You can imagine," says Barbara, "the damage that would do."

Medical Stigma

DIVO has a GP who comes in once a week to offer free medical consultation with people who don't have the resources to go to the doctor, or who are worried or embarrassed to show a doctor what state they are in. Many IV drug users have experienced mistreatment in mainstream health care. People who have or have had opiate habits can be denied pain relief in hospitals. Dene said there could be two people in similar condition next to each other in a ward, one a user and one "straight." The user may be used to taking 60mgs of morphine a day. The straight person will be given 10mgs of morphine; the user will be given paracetamol.

Dene and Barbara told me how many users will hold off from getting medical attention for as long as possible. "Nobody plans ahead for six months time when their addiction will be out of control," Barbara said. Someone who has been in good health could suddenly find their body is weaker or they feel a lot worse than normal. "They just don't go for help," says Barbara. "We see some desperate things in here."

Barbara speaks to both medical and nursing students to educate them on the public health aspects and harm

reduction programmes with the exchanges. She focuses on the stigma and judgement of IV drug users: "If they don't take anything else on board, if they go away thinking about their behaviour if they have a client of ours go in there, I have achieved something."

Dangers of Injecting

"We see some horrible arms and other areas of anatomy here," says Barbara, "with abscesses from infections, cellulitis, that kind of thing. Basically it's overuse of a vein to start with, reusing dirty needles, sharing gear, and not filtering."

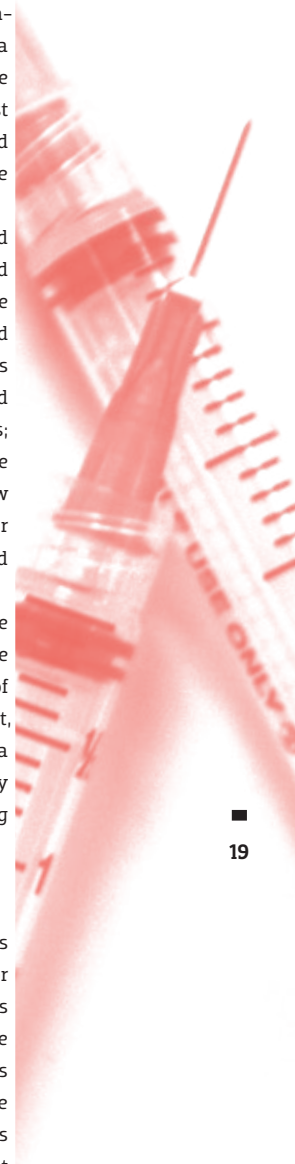
Dene explains how scar tissue builds up with long-term IV use. "If you're not rotating your injection site veins can collapse or block." The needle exchange encourages people to use wheel filters, which get rid of a lot of the impurities and bacteria in the drugs. They have free pamphlets on "Veintenance" showing the safest places to inject, injection site rotation, tourniquet and filter use, and how to insert the needle and put the shot away.

Most of the drugs taken intravenously in New Zealand are pharmaceuticals. While heroin can be put into cold water and shaken up in a syringe, opiates in pill form are trickier to inject. The chalk and binding agents in crushed pills needs to be dissolved in other chemicals. There is risk with injecting anything, but substances which need to be heated prior to injecting are especially dangerous; they can cool in the vein and solidify, causing a blockage which can lead to all sorts of health problems. Dene knew a woman who had Temazepam turn back to resin in her arm. She ended up with an open, suppurating wound covering the entire underside of her forearm.

Different substances present different problems. Some drugs, such as codeine, cause burns. If people enquire how to use drugs the staff have never seen or heard of and ask how to inject it, they'll tell them not to inject it, and to take it orally if they're going to take it. Barbara said another problem is proper preparation can be tricky and take patience, which is difficult if a person is hanging out for a fix.

Steroids

The needle exchange is seeing more and more clients needing equipment to inject anabolic steroids, used for muscle gain and performance enhancement in athletics and sports. About a quarter of the exchange's clients are steroid users. Barbara said they often see themselves as being different to the exchange's "real" clients, those using opiates and other drugs, and don't see themselves as doing something illegal. "It's happening less now but for a while we seemed to have people coming through



the door and if one of "our clients," as they perceive it, was at the counter you could actually see a look of disgust." She sometimes cautions them for the way they look or act toward other clients at the exchange. They're breaking the law just the same as the "junkies." Steroid users are exposed to the same risk of catching Hepatitis C as any other IV user.

Dene explained how steroids need to be injected into muscle, not veins. They require a different technique and larger needles. "If you hit a vein in intramuscular injecting you can get internal bleeding, cause abscesses." The needles needed for intramuscular injections are very long and thick. DIVO have pamphlets on techniques for injecting steroids that they have tried to make available at Dunedin gyms. The gyms refuse, claiming, "No one uses steroids." Dene says it's like the idea that there are no drugs in prison. "Ideally, there would be a needle exchange in prison. But because there are no drugs in prison, there are no exchanges. The needle exchange knows that isn't true." I spoke to someone who works at a complex with a gym where they have a sharps disposal box. His workmates have complained that it could "attract junkies," unaware that their muscle-bound patrons are the ones using the resource.

Addiction

"One of the negatives of addiction is you need to keep upping your dose to feel it or get the stone or whatever," Dene told me. I asked why people would choose to inject the drugs when they can be taken orally. Dene said, "You get a rush. It's instantaneous. The rush factor. Especially with morphine. When you inject it you feel it going around your body. It's a good feeling." He described a rush going from the feet up to the head. Ingested opiates will have the same effects, but can take hours to kick in. And, Dene said, people get addicted to the needles. He knows people who have gone clean but continue to inject themselves with water. Barbara had seen somebody recently who was desperate to give up because of "diabolical veins," but who was struggling with the "fixation with the needle."

DIVO have a good working relationship with the Community Alcohol and Drugs Service (CADS). CADS run the methadone programme, which gives addicts a measured amount of methadone every day to keep them functioning (not going into withdrawal) without getting them high. "Theoretically," says Barbara, "the needle exchange and CADS shouldn't mix. In the real world, our clients are their clients." Though they are supposed to drink the methadone, many people choose to inject it, and so come to the needle exchange. In some places CADS will try to stop the needle exchange from giving

users supplies to do this, but the Dunedin branch understand the need to reduce harm before anything else.

Barbara sees similarities between problems with addiction to legal and illegal drugs. "At the end of the day, what's the difference between alcohol and drugs? Except one's legal and one's not. The legal one can cause just as much harm to an individual, and cause as much stress and grief in the world as someone who chooses to use drugs."

Hepatitis C

New Zealand and Australia were the first countries in the world to set up needle exchanges. Their early appearance may be largely responsible for the low rates of HIV and AIDS in both countries. Unfortunately Hepatitis C, which was not discovered until 1989, is still a huge problem here. One in 100 New Zealanders have the virus. It can be asymptomatic for a long time so many people don't know they have it. Symptoms can be as vague as feeling lethargic and having a low appetite, and people can live with the disease for decades before being diagnosed. After many years, Hep C often leads to liver disease and occasionally cirrhosis. In some cases, those with cirrhosis will develop complications such as liver failure, liver cancer, or oesophageal and gastric varices.

"If you are wondering if you've been exposed to it, you have to think, have I ever been exposed to anybody else's blood?" says Allison Beck from the Hepatitis C Resource Centre in Otago. Hep C is spread through blood-to-blood contact. You can catch Hepatitis C off all sorts of things. As well as needles and syringes you can catch it off toothbrushes, razors, the notes and straws people snort drugs through. Tattoos, piercings, rough sex, fighting, even getting your legs waxed at a beauty parlour – anything with the tiniest chance of having come into contact with blood is a risk. You don't know who could have Hep C. The virus can live outside of the body for six weeks, even in dried blood. "You've got to do a really thorough clean. You can't just spray some Dettol and think it's fine."

Allison told me about the social attitudes surrounding the disease in New Zealand. She told me people think 'junkies' when they think of Hep C. "The stigma at the needle exchange, that's our stigma too." The stigma can stop some people seeking treatment "because they don't want to tell their parents or their employer the reason they're sick and their hair is falling out."

Treatment

The current government funded treatment for Hep C is a 24–48 week course of the drugs pegylated interferon and ribavirin, and dependent on genotype, a third drug called

boceprevir. It is a form of chemotherapy. Allison said they're "particularly nasty drugs," with horrendous side effects and only a 20–50 percent chance of curing the illness. But a new treatment (daclastovir, subfostovir and ribavirin) has been developed which can achieve remarkable results in 12 weeks of treatment for 98 percent of people that have Hep C, and Pharmac in NZ won't fund it. If people want it, they have to pay around \$100,000. The Hep C centre facilitates access to an Australian a "buyer's club" to help people get access to the medication from China or India via Australia, who have made it available to all Australian citizens. Through this channel the medication costs \$2000–\$4000 – far cheaper, but still a lot of money for many people with the disease.

Allison's friend Chris Heazelwood is in the middle of a course of the new medication he got through the buyer's club. On the morning of publishing this article Chris wrote a Facebook status:

"I wanted to say that my course of meds is booting the door in on my viral load...from the very first day I started taking these pills I felt amazing and that hasn't stopped. Which really just tells me how very sick I was; constantly nauseous legs like concrete..mind like a sieve..mood swings psychopathic...real mental confusion....now I am clear headed energetic focused calm even relaxed.....so once again huge shout out to everybody who helped and continues to help...thank you so much....and if you are unfortunate enough to have this disease go sort it out...you will be truly amazed what good health feels like..xxc"

For friendly, non-threatening advice on IV drug use:

DIVO Needle Exchange Dunedin:

Address: 405 Princes Street, Dunedin, 9016

Phone: 03-479 2300

Opening hours: 9am–6pm Monday to Wednesday,

9am–7pm Thursday and Friday

10am–4pm Saturday

ED/vending machine for after hours access

For advice and support for Hepatitis C sufferers:

Address: Commerce Building, Level 2, 2 Dowling St, Dunedin 9016

Email: otago@hepcnz.org

Phone: (03) 477 0407

Hours: 9am to 4pm Mon–Fri

Allison has lost many friends to Hep C, one only a few weeks before I interviewed her. Dying from liver failure is slow and gruesome. When I asked her why the government won't fund the new medication, Allison said she believes it had to do with the stigma around the disease. "I get the feeling it's easier just to let them die."

Worse still, the current government has failed to renew the Hep C Centre's funding for another year, so sufferers may lose the little support they have in Dunedin. It only costs the government around \$45,000 a year, including Allison's salary, to keep the Centre open. Since the announcement Allison has been getting dozens of phone calls with people saying "Hey, now we have the buyer's club we need you to help facilitate getting the meds. If you close, what do we do?"

Support

Both DIVO and the Hep C Centre provide emotional support for people who may not have other places to talk openly without judgement. The Hep C centre can help people get aid from WINZ or Housing NZ during their gruelling treatment. DIVO can get people into detox programmes and help them get proper medical treatment if they need it. Dene told me "We don't judge people – that's a really important thing. We listen to them when they choose to talk to us."



*Joe Higham discusses the exceptional
treatment religion gets in the media, and
how it turns us into hypocrites.*

A SPECIAL PASS FOR GOD



IT WAS 1988 AND SALMAN RUSHDIE, A British-Indian author, was sat in a secure, undisclosed safe house somewhere in the British Isles, under overwhelming police protection. He was only able to safely leave the house when he was moved to a new property, after British intelligence detected someone had information on the location of his residence. This took place dozens of times over the nine years he was in hiding. Even if he defied security, risking his life for freedom, airlines wouldn't even let him fly because he posed a risk to the life of their staff and passengers. Hundreds of millions of people across the globe wanted his head. The reason for such anger: he had written a book.

The media has long allowed religion to preach and spread the message of their deity since the beginning of modern printing. The proliferation of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg throughout Germany in the 15th century is just one example of this. It allowed the early ideas of Protestantism to gain a foothold in the region and present an opposition to the religious monopoly Catholicism had created for itself at the end of the Middle Ages within continental Europe. With the rise of globalisation over the 20th century, the media's reach is not simply confined to the country of publication. Indeed, with the amount of news we gather from snippets posted on social media today, we might not fully understand issues before giving our support to events or issues on social media.

The relationship between Abrahamic religion and the modern media has often been a precarious one, a careful treading of the boundaries between presenting an opinion and an incitement of hate. Christopher Hitchens once noted that "almost every historical battle for free expression, from Socrates to Galileo, has begun as a struggle over what is and what is not "blasphemy." The reason for this is "aniconism": the forbidden practice of the representation of parts of religion, typically deities. Infamously, the Islamic community have taken

representations most seriously and their reactions have been the most intimidating of any religious movement. This vitriol can be understood to some extent when the representation and the following anger takes place within countries that have laws prohibiting a wide-ranging freedom of expression, such as Islamic law in Iran, Saudi Arabia, or Pakistan for example. When this rage spills across borders and presents itself in countries with long established freedoms of speech and expression, a dangerous situation arises.

An example of this took place in September 2005, when the Danish newspaper, *Jyllands-Posten*, caused widespread global controversy by posting a dozen cartoons featuring illustrations of the Prophet Muhammed; one even featured the Prophet wearing a bomb shaped turban. Although Denmark has freedom of speech and expression enshrined in their law, and actually became the first nation to do so in 1770, the consequences of the cartoons were severe. Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Libya recalled their ambassadors from Denmark, protests were widespread and resulted in over 200 deaths, despite an apology from the newspaper soon after, and there were widespread boycotts of Danish products across many countries. Fogh Rasmussen, the Danish Prime Minister, said the uproar caused was Denmark's worst international relations incident since the Second World War. It is worth emphasising once more that all of these deaths, riots and international crises were simply due to the publication of cartoons in Denmark.

Many of you will side with the pious on their right to be offended, and it would be both extremely ironic and totally farcical if I was to say that you cannot feel that way considering the subject of this article. I wonder whether there would be any difference to your reaction if a similar uproar took place as a result of a depiction of the Prophet Muhammed that was not that of a cartoon or image, but in writing instead? Well, in 1988, Salman Rushdie, a critically acclaimed

British-Indian novelist wrote the *Satanic Verses*, a fictionalised novel inspired partly by the life of the Prophet Muhammed himself, which was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize. The title refers to verses spoken to Muhammed by the devil himself in an attempt to deceive him into including them in the Qur'an, the Islamic holy book. The response to the novel was catastrophic for freedom of speech. The book itself was banned in many countries and groups of offended Muslims burned the book in a show of public anger at its content. In an inexcusable misuse of authority, Iran's Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini, issued a fatwa, which called on all Muslims to kill Rushdie (and all those who were involved in the book's publication) in exchange for money. To put it bluntly, this is state-sponsored murder against the author of a work of fiction and deserves the international community to stand together in defiance against these 'offended Muslims.' How anyone, regardless of their beliefs, can read that and say he deserved these reactions for the work of writing a fiction book is almost as masochistic as one can get, and is as deplorable as the act of declaring the fatwa itself. In 1991, soon after the bounty was placed on the head of Rushdie, the Japanese translator of the book was stabbed to death, the Italian translator was seriously wounded after a similar incident, and the Norwegian publisher was shot in the back three times (but somehow survived). Soon after the publication, Rushdie and his wife, American author Marianne Wiggins were placed under 24 hour police protection and moved homes dozens of times in an effort to enforce their protection. The two divorced as a direct result of the pressure being in hiding placed on the marriage. Rushdie remains under police protection to this day, in spite of having formally apologised for his actions.

Again, despite the fact this fictional novel was published by a foreign author and those who were offended did not have any obligation to read the book, the offence caused and uproar

witnessed caused diplomatic ties to be strained. Despite this, very few came to the defence of Rushdie or indeed free speech itself, and it remains a defining moment and a dangerous precedent in the battle between free expression and cowering to religious zealots for fear of repercussions.

Many academics condemned the publication of the book, despite their liberal beliefs, which you would be right to expect would have led them to stand alongside Rushdie and in support of absolute freedom of expression. These included Germaine Greer, who labelled Rushdie a "meglomaniac", implying the situation was a stunt, calculated by the author from the outset. Even authors whose professional ideals were being curtailed by a restriction of free expression as a result spoke out against the book. The British author John Le Carre began a public feud with Rushdie, stating: "nobody has a God-given right to insult a great religion and be published with impunity." Even Roald Dahl condemned Rushdie, saying he was a "dangerous opportunist" and that he had stirred up the trouble to "get an indifferent book to the top of the bestsellers list," according to *Vanity Fair*. These comments stink of intimidation and a fear that if they were to stand by the author the repercussions would extend to them.

Liberalism, although being a philosophy based firmly on the freedom to express oneself, seems to have an aversion to upholding this freedom in the modern world. It was originally a popular movement because it promised people the freedom they had been previously denied. These movements that took hold to establish the freedoms we use everyday today have been protected by documents such as the first amendment of the American Constitution and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen. However, toward the end of the 20th century, liberals seemingly began to abandon the protection of free expression, preferring to protect the sensibilities of the offended than the rights liberals traditionally protect. No subject

Think about what you're condemning before you condemn it and weigh up whether it's more important to protect the feelings of the offended or offend the essence of free expression by condemning it

should ever be out of bounds of ridicule, especially religion. Another 2500 words could easily be written on the flaws of religion, and quite frankly, it should. Religion deserves to be ridiculed because of the claims it makes. If a religion proclaims to be the one and only truth and also holds that you will go to hell when you die for not believing in its teachings, it deserves to continuously be picked apart and ridiculed for the baseless claims it adheres to.

The controversy of the Satanic Verses may have been 18 years ago, but the ripples certainly remain to this day. The inexcusable response of the large majority of Rushdie's literary and political contemporaries was a precedent that gave a huge amount of ground to those who would rather deny the exercise of free expression in democratic countries than see religion criticised. The effects can be seen in today's self-censorship of the media, and although some media outlets do bravely defy this, the others help to further condemn us to be slaves to beliefs we don't believe in ourselves.

Charlie Hebdo is the freshest example of a stalwart defiance of self-censorship in the media in recent times and the consequences faced as a result of doing so. In September 2012, the editorial team at the Parisian newspaper, published a number of satirical cartoons mocking Muhammed. France has one of the strongest freedoms of speech, which stems from the French Revolution its fundamental document entitled the 'Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen', which helped develop the principle of liberty across the world. In a trend that is becoming familiar, the vast majority vehemently condemned the publication of the cartoons. However, in an unsurprising change of heart in the face of the impending fundamentalist danger, they then held pens to the sky in Paris' Place de la République and proclaimed "Je Suis Charlie" when twelve people, including two police officers and a maintenance worker were killed by French Al Qaeda militants, Chérif and Saïd Kouachi in January 2015. These two positions are mutually exclusive; if you condemn the decision to publish the cartoons, a vast contradiction is shown if you then demonstrate in favour of the newspaper following the attack. Pick a side and stick to it.

If you condemn Charlie Hebdo when the Islamic community is affected, where are you when they criticise other religions? If you say you were as angry with their criticism of Jesus as you were Muhammed, skip the rest of this paragraph. If you didn't, and let's face it, you probably didn't, the research of two French sociologists doesn't help your position. The results of their research were published in the French daily newspaper, *Le Monde*, and analysed the cartoons featured on the covers of Charlie Hebdo every week in the ten years between 2005 and 2015. Of those 523 covers, only 38 featured religious criticism, and of those, only seven were based solely on Islam, while three times as many focused solely on Christianity. These results show the newspaper is certainly not hellbent on criticising the Islamic faith, even though

individuals are tarring the newspaper with an Islamophobic brush on the basis of the few cartoons. You cannot be offended by the cartoons themselves if you don't speak French (see next paragraph) and, if you are, simply turn your head and look away, or pick up your pens (or in this case twitter handles and facebook accounts) to post your views on why you're offended, i.e. spark a debate! To kill because of the representation of religion is disgusting, and to express the view that "they had it coming" or "they shouldn't have published the cartoons if they didn't want to die" is abhorrent and you should be fully ashamed of yourselves.

You simply cannot have a bad thing to say about the cartoons Charlie Hebdo publishes without speaking French. This should be obvious, but it seems to be a point constantly lost. As Robert McLiam Wilson wrote in the *New Statesman*, "If you speak French and you tell me you think Charlie is racist, I can respect that. If you don't speak French and you tell me the same, well (how to put this politely?)...sorry, I can't actually put it politely." The captions that go along with the cartoons are essential to understanding the context of the cartoons themselves. I can hold an opinion on just the cartoon, as I am not analysing the content but rather the right Charlie Hebdo have to publish them. The two are completely different positions. Without being able to read the newspaper, you are just guessing what the overriding message is and the intended target is quickly lost. It must be remembered that the Charlie Hebdo itself is a satirical one. Satire is the ridiculing of people, issues, groups, and corporations in order to promote change; that fact is essential in deciding whether the cartoons are offensive or not. The famous cartoon of Muhammad that sparked the riots and deaths in 2012 was not targeting moderate Islamists but Islamic fundamentalists, who are the same people who are murdering innocent families, bombing cities across world and waging an ideological war without any moral or ethical limitations.

It should be said; the commentators who label the creators of cartoons 'racist' for their work depicting Muhammad simply show their ignorance on what racism really is. Racism, by definition, is based on a prejudice or discrimination against another race to your own, and so no religion should be included as a race. This means that even if they had fiercely attacked the Islam faith, which they didn't, they could not have been racist in any way. This does not mean they absolve themselves from all wrongdoing, they can be classed as Islamophobic, but certainly not racist.

By recoiling our views we are protecting ourselves from attack in the short-term, but revealing something much more important for the taking in the long-term. If we raised our hands in defiance after the attacks, we must continue doing so in defiance the next time a group demands we refrain from voicing our opinions, and it will come soon enough. There is no middle ground; it's one or the other. The free speech that we so often take for granted has cost lives throughout history in its implementation, and it will undoubtedly continue to cost lives in the future in order to remain, so we can say what we want, when we want. That freedom is being chipped away everyday by religion, and we have to continue to risk it all or we will eventually lose everything. Think about what you're condemning before you condemn it and weigh up whether it's more important to protect the feelings of the offended or offend the essence of free expression by condemning it ■



SPILLED SOUP, SECRETS & SCHADENFREUDE

Jean Balchin on that gleeful
feeling of happiness when
something horrible happens
to someone else.





IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, A COLD, BLUSTERY DAY IN THE CITY.

With the wind howling and the rain coming down in horizontal sheets, the interior of the bus seems positively luxurious. From your vantage point on the plush red seats, you watch as a bedraggled young man runs towards the bus stop, arms flailing and suitcase flying. Just as he reaches it however, the bus takes off, and he is left on the sidewalk; a profoundly disappointed and sopping figure. What's that you feel; compassion? Empathy? No; instead, *schadenfreude*, that deliciously guilty, almost inhuman sense of glee at someone else's misfortune.

Schadenfreude is a loanword from German. Its literal translation being 'Harm-Joy', *schadenfreude* encapsulates perfectly that slight sense of elation one feels watching lost tourists reading maps, or stressed waitresses dropping warm soup into the lap of restaurant patrons. Tumbling ice-skaters, Kim Kardashian's weight gain and news anchor gaffes are other instances in which one savours a gratifying sense of amusement. *Schadenfreude* differs from loathing or true malice in that it is not malevolent but rather mischievous in nature. An expression with a similar meaning is *Roman Holiday*, derived from Lord Byron's poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. Here, an atmosphere of debauchery and sadistic delight is created when a gladiator in Ancient Rome expects to be 'butchered to make a Roman holiday'. Lord Byron's got nothing on Broadway though – the musical *Avenue Q* sums up the

feeling succinctly: "Right now you are down and out / and feeling really crappy, I'll say / and when I see how sad you are / It sort of makes me happy, happy."

The opposite of sadness is joy; the opposite of *schadenfreude* may well be the Buddhist concept of "*Muditā* (Pāli and Sanskrit: मुदिति); "sympathetic joy" or "happiness in another's good fortune." A classic example of this might be the joy of a parent observing how little Tommy can now walk four steps. However *muḍitā* is distinct from pride in that the person feeling *muḍitā* may not have any interest or beneficial outcome from the success of the other. *Muditā* therefore is pure joy unadulterated by self-interest. I watch my anxiety-riddled friends get their acceptance letters into med school with a certain measure of goodwill, but this feeling isn't nearly as satisfying as watching my enemy realise he's missed a deadline.

According to the medieval church, 'morose delectation' (the Latin equivalent of *schadenfreude*) was a grave sin, and indeed the Book of Proverbs warns us: "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth." Why, then, are we thus inclined? A number of scientific studies of *schadenfreude* are based on the social comparison theory proposed by Leon Festinger, which claims that when those around us encounter bad luck, we appear better to ourselves. In keeping with this theory, it has been found that people with low self-esteem are more likely to feel *schadenfreude* than people with high self-esteem are.

BEING THE CARING, AFFECTIONATE ELDER SISTER THAT I AM, I HELD MY TONGUE AND GLEEFULLY WATCHED HIS SHINY BALD HEAD EMERGE.

Schadenfreude is also inextricably tied up with envy. Professor Susan Fiske, of Princeton University and her PhD student Mina Cikara conducted an illuminating study with regards to schadenfreude and its relation to envy. The electrical activity of participants' cheek muscles (highest when the participant smiled) was measured with an electromyogram. Each participant was shown photographs of people associated with different stereotypes; rich professionals (envy), students (pride), drug addicts (disgust), and the elderly (pity). Alongside these images were everyday events such as "Was soaked by a taxi" (negative), "Won ten dollars" (positive) or "Went to the bathroom" (neutral). Participants were asked how each pairing made them feel and their facial movements were recorded. Results indicated that people took greater delight in the misfortune of those they envied – the rich professionals.

Let me digress for a minute. My father, being of the old-school mentality, disliked long hair on boys to the extent that he would regularly haul out the electric razor and shave my hapless brother's head. The razor had a cap that left a little hair – about 1.5cm – forlornly sticking up on Andrew's head like shorn grass. One afternoon we gathered around to watch this monthly ritual, noting the resigned way with which Andrew sat down in the barber's chair. I don't know quite what was distracting my father that day, but his mind was far away from the mundane reality of shaving his son's head, and he forgot to secure the cap on the razor. About three strokes in, I realised that Andrew was swiftly becoming totally bald. Being the caring, affectionate elder sister that I am, I held my tongue and gleefully watched his shiny bald head emerge. This spectacle paled in comparison to the look of shock

and abject misery on my brother's face when he finally beheld his billiard-ball reflection in the bathroom mirror. Now, I tell you this only to illustrate the perfectly obvious fact that children experience schadenfreude.

A study by Simone Shamay-Tsoory, a psychologist at the University of Haifa in Israel found that envy and jealousy are at the heart of schadenfreude in children. Here, researchers studied the manner in which children responded to someone's misfortune (in this case, spilling water on a book) under two conditions; when jealousy was involved and when it wasn't. In this study, 35 mothers read aloud either to themselves, in front of their own child and the child's friend, or while hugging the child's friend. When the children were jealous because their mother was cuddling the friend, they were more likely to exhibit joy when she 'accidentally' spilled water on the book and had to stop reading. These little angels showed their happiness by doing anything from smirking to jumping up and down and clapping. If anyone has noted the acute mathematical precision with which children divide cookies, you'd realise that kids are generally obsessed with the notion of 'fairness'. This idea of 'fairness' is related to their feelings of schadenfreude. Self-esteem is also a factor. According to Shamay-Tsoory, "It has been shown that envy, which is related to schadenfreude, is related to a sense of inferiority...Individuals with low self-esteem feel more envy and tend to be more concerned with social comparison." Given that children exhibit signs of jealousy and envy before 12 months of age, schadenfreude evidently has deep developmental roots. Humans – be they drooling toddlers or aggressive businessmen – are social creatures, primarily concerned with comparing oneself to others.



Schadenfreude, like every emotion, has the tendency to range in intensity from the benign to the outrageous. Perhaps the most harmless example of schadenfreude is the tendency to giggle when someone slips on ice. Personally, while I like to think of myself as being generally above evil intentions and pure malice, I do savour the slight amusement derived from watching my brother walk into a glass door. Far more chilling, however, are the more serious examples of schadenfreude: the insatiable curiosity we have for bad news in the media. Events such as fraud, embezzlement, shootings, earthquakes and tsunamis evoke within us an avid fascination, and perhaps a sense of relief that we're not the ones suffering. While an admirable few might turn away, many watch the sad exploitation of others' suffering from the happy comfort of their living room, unthinking, uncaring.

So when is schadenfreude socially acceptable? In my opinion, feelings such as envy, jealousy and schadenfreude are involuntary responses – unconscious by-products of living our lives. Schadenfreude is admissible if the person has brought misfortune upon himself. As long as schadenfreude remains a silent, passive emotion it amplifies our self-worth and reminds us that even the most privileged people are fallible. Now, unless you've been living under a rock for the last year or so, you would have heard of Martin Shkreli – the greasy frat-boy pharmaceutical mogul infamous for raising the price of one of his company's drugs by more than 4000 percent. Shkreli's eventual arrest for security fraud elicited a wave of pure joy the internet had never seen before. However, the public's unanimous baying for blood had little to do with the consequences of his white collar crimes – they

were merely cheering on the demise of a sanctimonious bastard – in short, they were feeling schadenfreude.

Be it the basketball court, football stadium or swimming pool, the sportsground is undeniably one public sphere where schadenfreude is acceptable. One might argue that tabloids constitute another, yet these sickeningly salacious rags (I'm looking at you, Daily Mail) actively turn human failures into entertainment, and like Aunt Petunia Dursely, we're unlikely to jump up in the air upon hearing about Ben Affleck's split from Jennifer Garner. Politics is another sphere where schadenfreude is admissible, although it comes with an inherent social or moral justification for chuckling at the latest high profile scandal (David Cameron's affinity for pigs, anyone?). In sports however, codes of sportsmanship dictate that the winners shouldn't pick on the losers – but in my opinion, these attitudes don't strictly apply to people off the field. Recall if you will, the satisfaction you may have felt while watching France getting beaten by England in the 2007 World Cup after ignominiously defeating the All Blacks a week earlier.

Although the English language does not have a word for it, schadenfreude is undoubtedly an emotion we recognise. While schadenfreude is deeply repressed within our culture for its primitive and often cruel nature, one might argue that increased awareness of schadenfreude will help us to be more compassionate and sensitive. According to the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, "To feel envy is human, to savour schadenfreude is devilish." In the case of a cream-pie to the face, devilishly satisfying, perhaps ■



CONVERSATIONAL INTERCOURSE
WITH INTELLECTUALS

The popular professor

—DEAN OF LAW, PROFESSOR
MARK HENAGHAN

by HUGH BAIRD

FOR A WHILE NOW WE'VE BEEN TAKING requests on which lecturers students wanted to read about. Without fail a large majority of those I talked to unanimously agreed that the Dean of Law, Professor Mark Henaghan was top of the list.

A proud Timaru man, Professor Mark Henaghan cut his teeth wandering the streets and making idle chat with anyone and everyone. From about the age of three and living in close proximity to the local railway station he recalls that he would wander down and talk to the local guards for hours on end. Even from a young age it would seem he was destined for a career in law; "Some people from a young age, pick up a golf club and swing it rather well, I obviously just liked talking from a young age."

He went on to attend St Patrick's High School, now Roncalli College in Timaru where he described himself as a talkative, gregarious and at times an unmanageable student. In his final year at St Pat's Henaghan was made head prefect, a position voted on by the students to which he assures me "if it was voted on by the teachers I most definitely would not have been head prefect."

"The horror on the teachers faces when they announced that Henaghan was to become head prefect that day was something to behold, on a few occasions that year I was almost suspended even."

After high school he decided to head south and study at Otago, mainly because he had been brought up to believe that University A was the greatest rugby team of all time. "My great desire



in life was to play for University A, and with that in mind there was really no other option."

But law hadn't always been his goal vocation. Originally he thought the life of a Priest had looked far more appealing. But as he grew older and realised that his love of disagreeing with people was too considerable to ignore he decided law might be a more fitting choice.

He was a student of UniCol and describes it as a breath of fresh air after spending five years in an all boys' school with the only female interaction coming from behind the bike sheds. "Aquinas at the time was the all boys Catholic hall and I just thought I can't face it again. The thought of a hall with all boys again was just a step to far."

He speaks of his time at UniCol with great enthusiasm, explaining the benefits of living on the basement floor; "I was lucky enough to have a window which opened straight out onto the

car park, so I spent most of my year letting people in and out of my window with after hours alcohol or to run over to the women's block, which was a great way to meet people."

Luckily though, he explains, the exams where at the end of the year, as he "would have been stuffed with a semester system." He says he never teaches a semester system as he wouldn't impose it on anyone, finding it a cruel and unusual punishment "I do believe that students need some time to settle in and I think the system we have at the moment where you hit exams and assignments within a couple of weeks would have killed me. You've got to get your sealegs."

But he explains also that he did know when to draw the line and knuckle down; "When the blossoms came out mid August, if you hadn't started studying by then you might have a bad year."

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



SOMETHING CAME UP

Something's moving —in my *HAIR*!

by ISA ALCHEMIST

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PHOBIC ABOUT SPIDERS. Especially little ones. I usually let out a high decibel scream and continue to pant hysterically until it's removed. I tried to rationalise to a friend that I'm scared it will crawl into my ear or another orifice. But then I realised – this was learned behaviour, my mother ALWAYS screamed at spiders.

So, unsurprisingly, I was really horrified when I felt something crawling around my scalp. Though my hair had been extra itchy for a few days, I put it down to new shampoo. I got a friend to have a look and to her disgust she saw something moving!

Head Lice! (*pediculus humanus capitis*)

H EAD LICE ARE OFTEN SPREAD THROUGH HAIR brushes, hats and shared clothing, including bed clothes. The lice can crawl from head to head and they have six claws.

Head lice tends to go in waves through dense populations. There's a recent epidemic throughout the University. This March in Dunedin was uncharacteristically warm, helping the head lice to hatch. The mites themselves are very small, about 2mm, and live off our blood, sucking it through the scalp. They tend to congregate in the area just above our ears, and at the back of the neck.

There are differening ways of trying to find them

L OOK FOR THE EGGS. THE FEMALE LOUSE CAN lay up to 100 eggs six times a day. The unhatched eggs are dark, greyish dots. But the empty shells are easier to find. They are white, almost opaque, and are cemented to the hair follicle near the bottom. It is the tenacity with which the eggs cling to a hair strand which is the definitive diagnosis. Flakey skin and dandruff will brush off.

Otherwise, you can look for the lice. They will appear as small, grey-black dots (about 2mm) close to the scalp, and they will be moving. Or, for the more industrious of us, you can drown wet hair in three times the normal amount of hair conditioner, and use a "nit" comb to comb them onto a white paper towel. They will still be alive, just a little slippery.

If we don't treat our little parasite they can multiply happily and complications can develop, such as dermatitis in the form of scaly plaques, secondary bacterial infections (pus filled sores) and tender swollen lymph nodes.

Malathion is the most common treatment. It comes as a spray or a cream, and is very effective. Shampoo in, wash off. Some people don't like putting chemicals on their skin, and there are some "natural" products that are promoted for lice treatment. Tea tree oil applied to lice free hair has an excellent reputation for preventing infestation by stopping the lice from settling. Maybe their feet can't get a grip!

A metal nit comb is a handy piece of kit. It costs around \$10, and has metal prongs set close together. Good for combing out eggs and dead lice. Used in wet hair, it is very effective at removing lice and eggs.

Flu Vaccinations

\$35 for individuals or \$25 for groups of five or more.

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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



THAT WE SHOULD REGRET THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NZ LABOUR PARTY

+AFFIRMATIVE **by BY OLD MAJOR**

The current Labour party sucks. They don't know who they are or who they're meant to be representing. To be a major party you need to have a broad policy base that can appeal to a range of voters. Labour is failing to do this. They're currently flip-flopping around on issues like a pair of broken jandals. Last election they wanted to raise the retirement age; now they don't. They wanted a capital gains tax; now they don't. Let's not forget their little racist gaffe when they conflated people whose surnames sound Chinese with foreigners. Because, presumably in Andrew Little's mind, all New Zealanders look like him.

They were the party that negotiated a free trade deal with China, the first of its kind, and they were also in government when the TPPA talks started. Now they're purportedly against it, although if they were elected tomorrow it's unlikely that they would back out of it. Why? Because they know that it's important for a small country like NZ to have access to global markets. That's why they've embraced free trade deals in the past and why people like Phil Goff and David Shearer have publically come out in support of them.

Many people, and probably more than the 25 percent that voted for Labour in the last election, would like a centre-left government. Problematically, Labour doesn't know if it wants to be that type of party. They don't even seem to know what they stand for. Currently they seem to be just floating policy ideas, on the off chance that some of them will resonate with the electorate. It's hard to tell if they will actually stick with their free tertiary education policy and their idea of a Universal Base Income. Labour just isn't trustworthy.

It's not just bad for Labour that they're shit. It's bad for the country. For a democracy to function well, it's important that there is a strong opposition who is able to hold the government to account. Labour is failing to do this. And you can't just blame the media for being part of some kind of right wing conspiracy. When Russell Norman was an MP the media would go to him for comments on government policy, and he would present alternative views in an intelligent and powerful manner. The current Labour party is uncharismatic, failing to engage with voters, failing to create good policy, and failing to hold the government to account.

-NEGATIVE **by SQUEALER THE PIG**

Labour is doing well. The party is currently in a rebuilding phase, with new talent filtering into leadership positions. The Labour party is also committed to the future of New Zealanders and is willing to create tough policies that will protect what is important to us. It's part of the Kiwi dream that if you work hard then you should be able to buy your own home. However, the Auckland housing market is dire. Ordinary New Zealanders are unable to buy houses because foreign investors are buying up all the properties. The same thing goes with our farms, which are being snapped up by people from overseas. New Zealand should be, first and foremost, for New Zealanders. The current government is failing to protect ordinary Kiwis who are being driven out of the housing market.

Labour is committed to the future. The free tertiary education policy will give everyone the opportunity to do further study. This will allow people to get the skills they need to be valuable members of a productive New Zealand future. It will also mean that students won't leave university with such a crippling burden of debt and will be able to buy a house and start a family when they want to.

Labour is also a fit party to form a government. John Key shouldn't be representing New Zealand overseas. He is a creep who thinks that it's just a bit of a lark to pull a female's ponytail. The office of Prime Minister should be dignified, and John Key is a disgrace. Labour is committed to diversity and representation. A few years ago the party bravely started a discussion about implementing an affirmative action that would require a proportion of the party's MPs to be female.

The Labour party is on an upward trend. They're looking to the future, and not just the future of the rich and privileged, but the future of every New Zealander.



THE WEEKLY DOUBT

Breatharianism

by WEE DOUBT

DO YOU EVER FEEL JEALOUS OF PLANTS? JUST sitting there, stuck in one place, never having to go looking for food, getting all the energy they need from the sunshine that shines right on top of them. What a life! Well, according to the breatharians, you don't need to bother eating anymore because humans are capable of living without food or water.

Imagine a world without hunger and malnourishment, without food related disease, where

we don't need to worry about finding drinking water, where animals aren't farmed in horrific conditions, and you never have to do the dishes again.

Breatharians believe that a person can give up food and water altogether and live purely off prana, which is a Sanskrit word that translates to "life air" or "life force." Breatharianism is also called "living on light" or "living on air." The movement is credited to Jasmuheen, formerly Ellen Greve. In her "Prana Program" Jasmuheen advises followers to convert to Breatharianism gradually by becoming vegetarian, then vegan, then move to raw foods, then fruits, then liquids and finally prana. As of 2012, four deaths have been linked to Jasmuheen's influence.

Jasmuheen tried to demonstrate the breatharian abilities under scientific supervision. After 48 hours without food or water, Jasmuheen displayed symptoms of acute dehydration, stress, and high blood pressure. Jasmuheen claimed that this was a result of "polluted air". She was

moved out of the city to breath fresher air, but still her speech slowed, her pupils dilated, and she lost six kg in weight. Her pulse was double the rate it started at. The experiment had to be stopped as Jasmuheen was close to kidney failure.

Mony Vital, a breatharian, said he would "never ever ever ever die". He believed death was a concept constructed by life insurance companies to make money. In his book "Ageless Living: Freedom from the Culture of Death" Vital claimed that you don't need water if you breath, even though every living thing, from bacteria to blue whales, needs water to survive. Then, as Penn Gillette put it, "In a moment of both sadness and great hilarity he died in 2013 after lecturing on his alleged immortality. He was in his late 50s." According to some of his followers, he "made a choice to leave this existence for a higher calling."

So breatharianism doesn't work, but don't worry; the alternative is eating lovely food and drinking nice drinks. You can be spiritual and eat at the same time. Is that really so bad?



No knack in the sack

Dear Sexcellent,

I'm seeing a guy who is perfect in every way except for his bedroom skills – or lack thereof. When he does something I like, I try to encourage it and let him know how much I like it, while remaining fairly unresponsive during the stuff I'm not a fan of. I assumed that this would get the message across, but so far nothing is changing.

How can I get him to hone his technique without hurting his feelings? I really like him and I don't want to accidentally drive him away or make him feel like less of a man.

Cheers

Clyde St gal

Hi Clyde St gal,

Have you tried just speaking directly and honestly to the fella? I think most guys would agree that it's always better to be corrected than deceived, especially if he's not picking up on your coy little hints. Put yourself in his shoes – how would you feel if your partner was putting up with sub-par boudoir escapades in order to spare your feelings? Nobody gets anywhere by skirting the truth, Clyde. Unless you count the two years I spent clubbing underage with someone else's driver's licence and a whole lot of street smarts, but that's neither here nor there because it was 2002, which was a very special and different time in Dunedin. You just had to be there, okay?

Where were we? Oh yeah, the issue at hand. What I recommend is to talk to your guy at a

time when you are both far away from the bedroom (the key is discussion, not accusation!) and blatantly tell him what you do and don't like. You can also use this opportunity to ask him whether there's any feedback that he'd like to give you – think of it as a time for you to both lay all your cards on the table in order to maturely progress in your relationship. Then you can go forth and put your newfound honesty into serious action!

If he doesn't want to pick up what you're putting down, then perhaps you guys should focus on improving your communication as a couple first!

-S xx



Wrap me in bubblewrap

University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a

\$30 BOOK VOUCHER

from the University Book Shop

Dear Editor,

Why are people so sensitive?

Prior to Hyde Street a conservation begun around whether certain costumes should be allowed to be worn due to their potential to offend. Since then a debate has sprung to life as to whether punishing those who dress offensively infringes

on the right to freedom of expression. While I would agree that it does, I do not see why we need to have this debate in the first place.

People are too sensitive. The issue I have is that we are beginning to vet our decision making through the lens of "will this be offensive"? Last

week you wrote a column about pay inequality in sport, and while some may rightfully disagree with you it was good you wrote it. It started a discussion. Yet somehow I feel this developing culture of trying not to offend will cloud the real debates we need to be having about real issues.

So my advice to any and all who fear the judgement of pairs for acting controversially or offensively is this: do first, ask later.

Yours sincerely,

A Donald Trump supporter

Dear Editor,

I am writing this in response to your editorial piece on the pay gap between men's and women's sport published in last weeks issue.

It seems that whenever someone challenges a feminist's argument such as this they are treated as if they where the devil and this is wrong. Your arguments were unchallengeable and you balanced both sides well. If men and women were required to be paid the same amount of money irrespective of how much revenue their particular code raised then this would be terribly damaging for NZ sport and would ruin the free market distribution of funds to where it is most needed.

Also, where the fuck is the men's room in the link if there is one for women? Where is the equality in that ay?

Yours truly,

Fellow beach volleyball enthusiast.

SEND A LETTER MARIA:

Dear Critic,

I am sure you have already received a huge amount of backlash for the article titled, "Pay Gap in Sports Not Discriminatory." I too am writing to outline my frustrations with the article. Yes, the article was misogynistic, and I will address that. But, importantly, the article was incorrect. It was clear that little effort had gone into actually understanding the nature of the pay gap. Given that an editor of the Critic wrote this article, it is unsettling how uninformed this article was. I have outlined below the issues I have with the article, and would happily be contacted to discuss this content in more detail.

I will give one thing to the writer: equal pay for equal work should also extend to men in his example. His example in the modelling industry (if they are in fact doing the same amount of work), is valid. However, these examples stem from the same oppressive forces. Modelling is not a "male" profession the same way sport is not a "female" profession, and therefore we see a huge pay gap. The systematic forces that teach women to be models and men to be sports players are the same and Hugh is right, it affects both genders. We could go on and on about the roots of this pay gap: a gender binary, a historical allegiance to this binary that affects both men and women. These are huge issues that affect both males and females. Now, I don't hold everyone to understanding all of these social issues, but good reporting would have included recognizing this lack of knowledge and seeking out people who might have ideas.

But the writer's lack of understanding was especially prevalent when discussing sports. To

some degree, he is right; women typically do not draw as large crowds as men. I would argue that this is because they have not historically been seen as athletes. In fact, the sports that do draw high crowds are typically those that sexualize women (such as beach volleyball, as Hugh so lovingly pointed out). So let's accept Hugh's premise (although I will later explain why this premise is faulty) that women do not draw large crowds. A doctor does not get more money for keeping more people alive. So why should athletes receive more money for the higher number of fans that come to their games? So, even if we believe Hugh's premise that male sports draw higher crowds, it does not actually justify paying male and female athletes a different amount of money. Furthermore, as a huge Highlanders fan, I can attest that there have been some games at the Stadium where the attendance would be rivalled by that at a peewee rugby game. As far as I am aware, the players were not paid less that day due to an inability to draw a crowd.

Now, I won't spend too much time even engaging with his argument that watching males play sport is better than watching females play sport. That is a personal opinion and I don't have much to say on the matter. I will say, that this was a personal opinion, and should have been clearly stated as such, as opposed to ostensibly being factual.

But the previous paragraph was only relevant if we accept the premise. But, once again, the editor appeared unwilling to educate himself on this topic fully. For example, the women's soccer team in the USA has won the Word Cup three

BEE IN HIS BONNET:

Hi Critic

I am writing about Hugh's editorial published in last week's Critic. As a young man I was disappointed to read such an ignorant article written by a fellow young man. I am particularly disappointed with the blatant chauvinism that Hugh indicates is not chauvinism. Hugh's objectification of female volleyball players is disgusting. It is also boring and cliché – time to develop some new thoughts Hugh that stop perpetuating the unrelenting sexism upheld by men.

From Nathan Bee



times. Their male counterparts have never won a World Cup. The furthest they made it was the semi-finals...in 1930. In fact, the Women's World Cup Final was the most watched soccer match (men or women's) in U.S. history. The women's team currently rakes in over 2 times the amount of money that the male team brings in. The females, however, are still paid less (and currently in a law suit fighting that pay discrimination). If we want to go on your metric, then not only should the women be making the same as the males, they should be making more. It was very clear from the editorial that the writer spent no time researching the counter argument to his views.

Ultimately, a female athlete is brilliant for so many reasons, and no, it is not because they look good in a bikini. Men have a historical institution of playing sports. It is not surprising if

males more likely draw bigger crowds than women; they have been allowed to engage in sport for much longer. Not to mention that women's development in sport is more difficult given the reduced expectations of engaging in physical activity and the reduced finances funnelled to help women excel athletically. And yes, I agree with Hugh that putting money into grass roots athletic development for women is important. But, he failed to understand that starting to pay women the same is the best top down procedure to highlight the fact that, irrespective of gender, equal work means equal pay. Furthermore, what female is going to pursue athleticism, knowing that they will never be able to make a living wage, when their male counterparts are incredibly wealthy? For example, the University of Connecticut women's basketball team is currently 204-0. That is not

a typo. 204-0. They have not lost a game since 2013. Since 2010, however, only 8 players have gone pro because the starting salary for a female in the WNBA is around \$22,000. A starting Salary for the lowest pick in the NBA is about \$943,300. We disenfranchise female ability when we allow for such a high pay gap between male and female athletes.

Women train as hard as men, women play as hard as men. And, from the women I know, playing like a girl means kicking fucking ass. I recognize that this article is attempting to only speak about the pay gap in sports. But in doing so, the writer has attempted to legitimize the pay discrimination in the job market. It doesn't matter which angle you look at the issue, this article was uneducated, poorly written and erroneous and that is very worrisome coming from an editor of the Critic.

Kind regards, Marea Colombo

A RESPONSE:

Dear Marea,
Although it may not seem it, the article was not supposed to be sexist but just an observation or explanation as to why there is such a pay gap.

As for the comment about women's volleyball it was simply a cheeky joke, but as I've learned over the last week maybe this is not a place for humour.

When you ask whether a doctor gets paid more if they save more lives I'd agree that they don't, but a GP who owns their own surgery and

brings in more patients earns more than one who doesn't. In the same way that a member of a sales team that makes more sales for their firm will earn a larger commission.

I also do believe that the argument of higher crowds is justification for higher pay. Sporting organisations rely on advertising to fund their operations and advertisers are far more likely to advertise in places where they know they'll gain the greatest exposure for their brands.

When it comes to the US women's soccer team

I wholeheartedly believe they should not only be paid an equal amount as the men, but should be paid well and above them due to the fact they generate more revenue. Throughout the article I wasn't implying that women should be paid less, I was explaining that you should be paid in equivalent to the revenue you bring your organisation.

I look forward to many more letters in the future,

-Hugh

CULL'S COLUMN

DUNEDIN'S PROUD HISTORY OF WELCOMING NEW MIGRANTS

COMPARED TO SAY AUCKLAND, DUNEDIN'S ethnic makeup may seem overwhelmingly European. However, Dunedin – and the University of Otago for that matter – has a long and proud history of welcoming different cultures and ethnicities into the community and there are a large number of cultural strands to our city's makeup.

Maori first arrived here around 1200, and our manawhenua/pakeha interaction goes back to the early 1800s. In 1848, when the city's founding Scottish settlers arrived, they were assisted and sustained by the local Maori who helped them with housing and food over that first crucial year when they had little means of supporting themselves.

Chinese were also among the more prolific early immigrants to this region, many of them arriving in the 1860's gold-rush area. At one stage there were more than 4,000 Chinese miners in Otago and at some diggings they outnumbered the Europeans.

Subsequent arrivals of British, Germans, Poles, Lebanese, Dutch, Indian, Pasifika, French and many others has seen Dunedin's cultural makeup melded into a much more complex weave, where no one culture so clearly dominates.

The same is true of the University.

I can recall many Malaysian students, amongst others, in the 1960s and 70s brought here under the Colombo plan, and also a number of African students.

Of course, there were other nationalities then as well, but the range of countries that now contribute to the cultural diversity of Dunedin has increased even more.

Soon our city will welcome the first intake of around 50 Syrians – refugees who have fled from one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time in search of a better life for their families.

The New Zealand Government recently chose Dunedin as a new refugee resettlement location because we have a strong set of services, good employment opportunities, suitable housing and, most importantly, excellent community support.

The Red Cross has done a terrific job coordinating volunteers who will formally assist with the successful integration of Syrian families into our community.

However, it is also the small, informal gestures that can be the building blocks of integration.

Helping with grocery shopping, giving directions and even friendly acknowledgements are small acts that can make the world of difference to these new members of our community.

It makes me proud to live in a community where people care and are so willing to lend a hand to welcome and support those in need. I know that many students, with such a strong record of volunteer effort, will be among the many who make Syrian families welcome in our city.

11 April | 2016



Student antics – Better or worse?

DAVID CLARK

S STUDENT BEHAVIOUR REALLY GETTING WORSE?

Is Castle Street going to hell in a handbasket?

If you read only headlines, you might believe it is. But the headlines were the same twenty years ago – so what has changed?

When student loans were introduced a quarter of a century ago they were more generous, and rules around accessing them more lax. Anyone who ventured on a Friday night towards the Gardens Tavern risked never making it that far – since kegs lined Castle Street when loan monies came through.

The difference was there were no mobile phones to record transgressions. Back then, when a tree fell in the woods no one heard it.

Fewer incidents were reported. People learned from their mistakes (or didn't) away from the glare of the public eye. Because incidents are now filmed and aired on national television within a day, it is a far less forgiving climate. Students are seen by many as drunken misfits who contribute nothing to the cities they inhabit.

I've spent 11 years living on Castle Street and I don't buy the argument that students are more troublesome than ever. If anything, I reckon over time, students have become considered more and more considerate. Plenty balance studies with volunteering. Plenty look for opportunities to make the world a better place.

Students still find time to have fun, and sometimes to make mischief, but today time for extra-curricular activities is more limited, and

usually more wisely spent. It has to be. Academic assessment is relentless, and financial pressures dictate a more single-minded focus on prescribed courses.

Most encouragingly, there is a rising tide of students with sights aimed above the self-absorption that marked my generation's university experience. Students have rediscovered a voice in social causes, lost for more than a generation. No one wants to grow up in a country marked out by a degraded environment, or second rate housing. Groups like Generation Zero, UN Youth, P3 and Ignite Consulting mark a wider trend towards University experience as preparation for Global citizenship.

Don't believe the hype. Students of this generation take a bow. If the future is in your hands, it is brighter than people think.



Dear Ethel,

I'm a first year student and three of my papers are going well but I've got a really crap lecturer for the other paper and I'm not sure what to do about it. I'm not the only one who's worried. The lecturer hasn't been on time yet, she goes off on

tangents, we don't have any idea what she's talking about, she doesn't have office hours and she doesn't reply to emails. I'm so stressed because this is a compulsory paper for my major and I can't fail! What can I do?

–Gonna Fail?

DEAR ETHEL

Intangible teaching

Dear Gonna Fail?,

It's great to hear that you're enjoying your other papers but a shame that one lecturer is bringing you down. You've paid a substantial amount of money to be provided with education in this particular subject by the University of Otago so you deserve to get some bang for your bucks. In terms of the problem lecturer/paper, there are some things you can do. The first step would be to get in touch with

your Class Rep. Hopefully you know who they are. If you don't, you can email classrep@ousa.org.nz and they will be able to give you a contact email for the rep. Your rep will check in with the rest of the class and get some feedback, which they will pass on to the department. That will hopefully be enough to get your lecturer back on track. If it isn't and nothing changes for the better, your next step would be to

contact the OUSA Rep Coordinator at classrep@ousa.org.nz and make a time to have a confidential chat about what's happening. The OUSA Rep Coordinator will liaise with the class rep and will probably take the concerns directly to the Head of Department. The Rep Coordinator can present the concerns anonymously or can arrange a meeting that includes the rep and concerned students (depending on whether

students want to keep it low-key or not).

Departments are usually pretty eager to sort stuff like this out, so the sooner they get some feedback, the better all round. And, if you feel that you've been academically disadvantaged for a period of time, drop in and have a chat to an advocate at 5 Ethel B and we'll see if something can be done.

Whole lotta love,
–Ethel



I'LL FORGET 17 —LONTALIUS



Johnston knows that there is more to sad, indie music than just a guitar and some scratchy vocals

by MILLICENT LOVELOCK

Lontalius (Eddie Johnston) uses repetition in all the right ways. I've been waiting on his album *I'll Forget 17* since its debut single "All I Wanna Say" came out in 2015. Each time Johnston sings "all I have to offer is my love, it's not enough" I find myself sinking a little deeper into the song, believing it a little more. Johnston's insistence is endlessly endearing, behind the heartache he knows how strong his melodies are, and most of all he knows the power of self-contained lyrical morsels that give just the right amount away.

This is the kind of record where nothing gets in the way. The production is so smooth, every guitar practically glistens, and not a single beat gets in the way of the gliding, mournful melodies. At first I wasn't so sure about the strings on "Kick In The Head", my first instinct telling me strings are always a bit much, but the more I listen the more it makes sense. If you were writing songs that were so simple and yet so, so lush why

wouldn't you use whatever instruments you could get your hands on to make a point? Sadness at seventeen (and looking back on it) warrants as many violins and violas as your heart desires. And I'm convinced that Johnston knows that there is more to sad, indie music than just a guitar and some scratchy vocals. Melancholy is crashing and rolling depths, it subsumes you, and to listen to this record is to find yourself swallowed whole, unable to even gasp for air between layers of liquid smooth instrumentation.

Even if you were the happiest of seventeen year olds, even if you're the happiest of twenty-two year olds, there is something on this album that is going to grab you where you're tender. For me it was "It's Not Love", a song that so consumed me when it was first released I resented going to work because while I was there I wouldn't be able to listen to it on repeat. I found

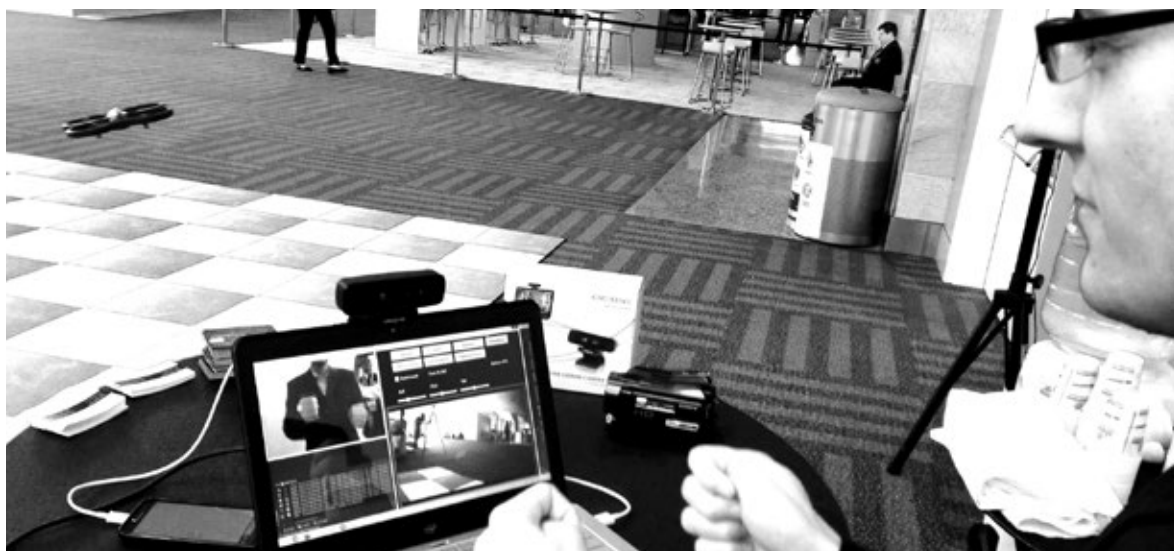
myself singing over and over "it sinks into your heart, hell it hurts but it's not love" and laughing because there's no way I could say it better myself.

If you don't like unabashedly sad music then this album might not be for everyday use, but you would do well to keep it in mind for the next time you're confined to your bed nursing a broken heart. This record never really surfaces from the depths of despair, and in the wrong mind-set this could be exhausting, but for those who are self-indulgent and miserable like me there is nothing better.

I'll Forget 17 is low and soft, a tender caress, a moment in the sun, bare skin on fresh sheets. I've listened to this album so many times just to feel it out and I know I will listen to it many more. I'm not sure I've forgotten my teenage agony, but that doesn't make this record any less touching.



WHY DO WE NEED...Drones? (Part 2 -civilian)



by **ANTHONY MARRIS**

Previously I have mentioned UAVs (drones) used in a military setting. I am not a fan of them. Now my attention is on civilian UAVs, the cute and cuddly version compared to their military brethren. But not really.

UAVs have so much great potential. Search and rescue, agriculture, conservation, law enforcement, and use in film and television. Their use as a delivery service is being trialed by Amazon. Across the world, UAV racing leagues have been established. Pilots use first person goggles to relay what the cameras are seeing to the pilot as they navigate through the course.

From kit sets and personal designs using off the shelf parts to building everything from scratch, UAV racing leagues offer a chance for people of all walks of life to have a level playing field based on skill. Watching one clip of a UAV going through the Miami Dolphin's stadium reminded me of pod racing from Episode 1. Twisting and turning through neon squares before moving under the stadium, pitching and rolling through the narrow spaces, they hit speeds over 120 kph. It was fun to watch. The text on screen suggested that the long term goal (hope) was that UAV racing leagues are televised and stadiums filled to capacity.

As fun as UAV racing might be, there is the concern of those same devices are being used

for questionable practices. Some come equipped with microphones as well as cameras. You might be able to see these versions compared to their military counterparts, but that still does not mean you are any less protected. No matter how conservative or liberal you are about personal privacy, I am sure you do not want your budding relationship, or conversely, your break up recorded by a third party and posted online for all to see. That being said, Youtube has some marvellous clips of people versus UAVs highlighting operator fails like crashing into people, buildings, rocks etc; unwilling subjects fighting back by shooting the UAVs out of the sky; and UAVs being attacked by animals.

Current NZ civil aviation laws mean that UAV flights cannot be within 4 kilometres of an aerodrome, must stay under 120 metres, and only fly in daylight. Also, the drone must be in actual eyesight at all times (not using a monitor, binoculars etc), be under 25 kilograms, cause minimal harm when flown, and be able to be operated competently if autonomous mode should fail.

A hilarious presentation given by Michael Robinson at DEFCON 23 (a computer security conference) was all about his attempts to combat his neighbour's rogue drone. Once he identified the model, Robinson gained entry (aka hacked)

into the drones system and was able to play around with the settings. He trolled the neighbour by erasing the images that the drone had captured and replaced them with Rick Astley images. He could switch control of the UAV from the neighbour's controller to his smartphone and iPad, as well as killing the UAV in flight.

Once he had finished with the neighbour, he set about exploring UAVs hidden potential. Robinson found he could rewrite the base commands and change the "Go Home" setting of the UAV to a place that he chose. He also learned that he could potentially change the "No Fly Zone" settings to include his house on his personal UAV, and could also rewrite and remove other "No Fly Zones", thus allowing him access to off limit areas. Taking that fact, as well as UAVs being equipped with pistols and automatic weapon is a scary scenario. All you have to do is fit a civilian UAV with homemade explosive, and you have a flying bomb with few means to stop. And people still think they are toys.

TL; DR – UAVs have great potential for good, but will probably end up being used to spy on people.



UNDERTALE

PC | Developed and Published by
tobyfox
Rating: A+

by LISA BLAKIE

Within gaming circles, there is an ongoing debate about what it is that makes games important and unique among other forms of media. With reference to gameplay, these arguments usually focus on the dissonance between a game's ludic elements (the 'game' part of the game) and the implementation of the game's story. Undertale provides a giant smack in the face to this false dichotomy. It is a satisfying marriage of both gameplay and story, and has given me a very special gaming experience that I will never forget.

You play as a "human" fallen into the Underground, a place heavily populated by very unique and quirky monsters. Your objective is to escape the Underground and return back home to the surface. At face value, Undertale is fun and goofy – but don't let the initial puns and somewhat ugly graphics fool you. Every action you make is irrevocably tied to your fate in the end. The tag line for Undertale is "the role-playing game where no one has to get hurt", and although it follows moderately traditional RPG rules, every exchange you have with a monster is entirely unique and connected to the monster's character. If you stay determined and survive the very challenging half-bullet-hell-half-turn-based combat, you are rewarded with a piece of dialogue that teaches you something about your enemies as characters. This is satisfying in itself, due to the humour of the fantastic writing.

The gameplay and narrative are so perfectly intertwined in the battle segments. Undertale plays with expectations of traditional RPGs, only to have you laugh, groan in frustration or learn from your mistakes through its metafictional self-aware dialogue. So many aspects of the story are scarily relatable to real life.

Player choice is a huge part of the journey, and every action you take changes the outcome of your ending. I initially completed Undertale with what is known as a "pacifist run": I did not kill anything and performed acts of kindness at every opportunity. This is just one of the routes one can take to finish the story, and it left me



alternately sobbing uncontrollably, laughing out loud and exclaiming "THIS GAME!!" more often than should be possible. The self-deprecating humour of the game is reminiscent of what encapsulates the internet culture that we are all too familiar with. Alternatively, if you

Nothing is consistent. You really need to be ready for anything —and I mean anything

aren't the emotional type like me, you can take what is known as the genocide run and kill everyone you meet, turning Undertale into a pretty terrifying horror game.

Undertale places a lot of emphasis on both its overarching story and its many NPCs, whom you can either befriend or kill. However, what Undertale really nails is exploration and rewarding player curiosity. There are unexpected turns and events throughout every inch of the Underground world. Nothing is consistent. You really need to be ready for anything – and I mean anything. Date a skeleton, talk about anime with

a scientist lizard, have a cooking lesson with a fish warrior, flirt with a ghost or buy desserts from a spider bake sale.

The soundtrack – aptly described by Fox as "literally just mp3 files lol" – is beautifully composed, with a variety of acoustic guitar melodies, epic Final-Fantasy-style chimes, piano themes that drive home a feeling of dread, and nostalgic throwbacks to retro NES games. For me, each song triggers a memory of a particular encounter, area and emotion felt when immersed in the game. Tracks as simple and short as "Memory" or "Home" are enough to make me emotional.

Undertale is an inspiration for anyone feeling like they can't pursue a creative endeavour. Created in Game Maker, with music composed in FL Studio, sprite character design and a sometimes-ugly art style, Undertale is doing everything that huge Triple A studios wish they could pull off or even have the guts to try. Effortlessly funny and charming, while simultaneously heart wrenching and beautiful, and for a price of only \$12, Undertale is a triumph in the creative vision of what games can be.



TRACKS

Author: ROBYN DAVIDSON

Rating: A

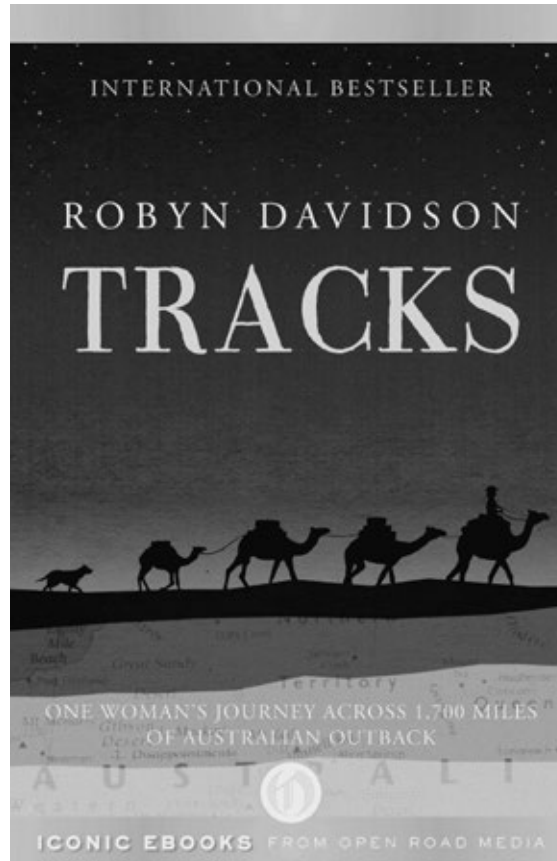
by JESSICA THOMPSON

This is the first travel book I have ever fallen in love with. I haven't read many in my time—growing up in a family of mountaineers makes the climbing books strewn about the house too ordinary to appear interesting enough to devour — and the ones I have perused were always too pretentious, technical and distanced for me to love them.

Tracks follows the extreme journey of one Robyn Davidson, a humble, slightly sassy and completely competent Australian woman as she attempts and succeeds to cross the Australian desert from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean, a full 1,700-miles, on foot. Davidson does this with four camels (Dookie, Bub, Zeleika, and baby Goliath) as well as her dog Diggity.

Through rough, hot desert days and freezing nights she walks, risking her life passing through uninhabited land where many have been lost, gaining (to her immense disgust) the title of 'Camel lady' by tourists and locals she encounters along the way. Davidson's novel was initially an article in National Geographic, the magazine who funded her trip and introduced photographer and love interest Rick Smolan into the story.

Davidson does not jump into her adventure straight away. She begins at the beginning - with the arrival in Alice Springs, and we follow her struggle to learn and train camels on various camel farms, eventually earning her own animals. Davidson spends the first half of the book (two years) dirt poor, working for money to buy equipment, organising her route, losing camels, finding camels, freaking out and losing camels again. She tells us honestly that what she is doing is a bit crazy, but explains her need to do it is true. The situation Davidson puts herself in is one that probably would not be legal today (the trip was completed in 1977 and took nine months) but reading it makes you want to do it so bad! Or at least something like it. A big fat risky adventure that involves just walking, something we all know how to do.



One of the reasons I adored this book was the way it made such a journey so attractive, but

The situation Davidson puts herself in is one that probably would not be legal today... but reading it makes you want to do it so bad!

not in a 'glossing over the rough stuff' kind of way. We see that Davidson has a horrible time for a great majority of the book, and this is only remedied by the brief bursts of freedom and bliss that she feels once every few weeks. But the

ambition, perilous honesty and courage that she performs is something admirable and desirable even to the towniest townie like me.

Davidson writes with a clarity and intimacy that separates her book from other travel narratives. It is personal, does not show off and is even funny at times because she is so blunt. It is a perfect example of someone simply telling their journey with thoughts, feelings and concerns all mapped out for us to follow. Since reading this book I have also developed a slight obsession with camels. Not a bad thing if you ask me, they are amazing animals. Would highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to read something original and escape the city for a short time.

DUTCH BABIES

by **KIRSTEN GARCIA**

IT ALL STARTED WITH AN EPISODE OF BOB'S BURGERS. THEY STOP AT a diner and rave over these pancakes called Dutch Babies.

My BF is Dutch so I asked him what they're like and he has no idea. The next morning, I'm stalking Chrissy Teigen on insta and I find a post from two days ago of a Dutch Baby from her recipe book which apparently people are going crazy for. I'm surprised I had never heard of this form of pancake before since making meals from flat breads is my life (I make crepes for a living). So I take this as a sign from the culinary Gods that it is something I must try.

The result was an eggy cake that puffed up - kinda like Yorkshire pudding. Apparently the thing to have with it is lemons and maple

syrup, with a thick dust of icing sugar. Didn't have lemons or syrup so I put icing sugar and some homemade cranberry sauce on mine for something tart. The cake itself is quite bland, it's the toppings that really make it yum.

Did a wiki search and turns out it's not even Dutch, it originates from America. Instead of cooking it on the stovetop like normal pancakes, you actually bake it in the oven. Which was so quick and easy! If you don't have an oven proof pan like an iron skillet, a cake tin or spreading the batter out on a muffin tray should do the trick.

(Serves two)



INGREDIENTS

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 tablespoon butter
- icing sugar for dusting

Place a 10 inch cast iron skillet (or oven proof pan) inside oven and preheat oven to 245 °C

In a medium bowl, beat eggs with a whisk until light. Add milk and stir. Gradually whisk in flour, nutmeg and salt.

Remove skillet/pan from oven and reduce oven heat to 220 degrees C. Melt butter in hot skillet so that inside of skillet is completely coated with butter. Pour all the batter in the skillet and return skillet to oven.

Bake for about 12 minutes until puffed and lightly browned. Remove from oven and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve immediately with desired toppings.

DERIVED FROM:

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/23898/dutch-babies-ii/>





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45 YEARS

Directed by Andrew Haigh

Rating: A



by ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT

Kate and Geoff Mercer are about to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary. A few days prior to the party, Geoff receives a letter. The body of his former girlfriend, Katya, has been found in the Swiss Alps – perfectly preserved in the ice, into which she fell 50 years ago. (Possible metaphor here for how early romances are always perfectly

“frozen” in time, while the ones with longevity have to deal with compromises, familiarity etc.?) At this point, I can already see that this will be a little darker than what you’d expect from a quiet drama about a retired couple in the English countryside.

Geoff and Kate are both more shaken up by this news than they

let on at first. Geoff hasn’t spoken much about Katya before, but Kate begins to suspect that the two had been closer than she initially realized. The film features many shots of paths – not just literal dirt paths, but also roads, rivers etc. – a visual reminder of the paths people take in life, which they may then reflect on and wonder what else might have been.

Kate is established as a friendly character in the earlier scenes – but as jealousy and fear gradually take hold, actress Charlotte Rampling conveys these subtle changes in a convincing way. Additionally, there are moments where the interpretation of an entire scene depends on how you read her facial expression and she manages to keep it just ambiguous enough so that different interpretations are

possible. Tom Courtenay’s performance as Geoff is not to be overlooked either. Geoff mostly comes across as unassuming and well-meaning, but he is losing his marbles a bit and tends to speak his mind without being particularly tactful. Occasionally we are unsure if he is being deliberately callous or not.

The film’s cinematography must be given a special mention. The English countryside, which one would expect to provide a peaceful backdrop, is made to look ominous as hell: usually shrouded in mist, with black silhouettes of trees, frequent howling wind in the background, and the careful, deliberate framing of each shot, as well the effective use of music, make 45 Years all the more absorbing.

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING II

Directed by Kirk Jones

Rating: C+

by JESS ALSOP

I made the mistake of rewatching the first *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002) the night before I saw this, and it honestly set my hopes far too high. In one of the least coherent films I’ve seen in a while, Toula (Nia Vardalos) and her husband Ian (John Corbett) are getting ready to send their daughter Paris (Elena Kampouris) off to college. They are also struggling with their relationship. Meanwhile Toula’s parents Gus (Michael Constantine) and Maria (Lainie Kazan) discover they aren’t actually married and decide to re-do their wedding. If that’s not enough for you to follow, there’s also Gus’ search for his ancestors, Paris’ search for a prom date, Toula trying to figure out who she is

without her daughter, and various character revelations from the rest of the family. Mid-Movie, I felt like yelling at them to stick to one idea and do it well, instead of this hodge-podge of half-baked storylines.

On top of that, the comedy itself isn’t all there. Where the first film had a quirky vibe, this relies so heavily on stereotypes that it’s missed out on originality by miles. Here, the scene in which Toula’s father Gus is learning to use a computer for the first time, just feels recycled. At times, I wondered whether writer Nia Vardalos had been living underground for the past 14 years, because anyone who’s seen modern comedies



would know that older people trying to understand modern technology is not groundbreaking humour. And if you’re going to stick to old tropes, at least do them better.

Maybe I’m just being mean because the first movie is so much better. I still laughed at times because I do enjoy watching the Portokalos family on screen, and

this is not a terrible comedy (it’s just not great). It does have heart – the tone of the film is generally uplifting, and there are some sweet moments between people who really care about each other.

That being said, if you want to see a fun rom-com about a hilarious Greek family, go watch the first one.

BATMAN V SUPERMAN

Directed by: Zack Snyder

Rating: D

by NITA SULLIVAN

Ok, so, *Batman v Superman* was just terrible. During the exhausting 2hr 31m runtime, the film follows the plight of both an unpopular Superman and ageing Batman as they initially battle each other, and then combine forces to take down a villainous Lex Luthor. To be honest, I walked out of the movie not having a clue as to what I just watched – the film synopsis above is actually courtesy of the Internet.

Basically, the film opens with some pretty edgy scenes summarising Batman's dark familial past, and then jumps to some action shots of Gotham being destroyed by Superman (what I later realise is Bruce Wayne's real beef with Clarke Kent), and then we are suddenly somewhere else, where

Lois Lane is in trouble – but no worries, 'cause Superman turns up and saves her. And so it goes.

I have to say that I was genuinely disappointed. Without spending my childhood pouring over comics, I would say I'm a friend (not foe) of the comic world, and really wanted DC's newest blockbuster to be a success. Boasting a massive cast, with Ben Affleck as the newest incarnation of Batman, Jeremy Irons as the Alfred, Henry Cavill and Amy Adams returning as Superman and Lois Lane respectively, and Jesse Eisenberg as a decent but predictably twitchy Lex Luthor, the film had made some pretty solid casting choices. But ultimately, the absolute lack of any coherent plot, character development, or



interesting scene interchange and/or dialogue, rendered the whole thing a bust.

Probably more fun than actually seeing the film was reading the various scathing reviews about it. A special note must be given to the creator of 'Sad Affleck', a YouTube clip that has gone viral since being posted (check it out, it's comedy gold), and a number of quality one liners born out of negative reviews, had me in stitches all evening (see the Guardian's compilation of the

most savage *Batman v Superman* Reviews).

I do apologise for the general lack of film reviewing that has occurred here, but there just isn't much else to say. The only redeeming factor in an otherwise wasted two and a half hours at the cinema? Alfred's glasses (seriously, they're very hip). So trust me when I say, only those truly dedicated to the DC fandom should be shelling out genuine currency to see this one.

RESERVOIR DOGS

Play written by Quentin Tarantino

Rating: A+

by TOM LORD

I am proud to say that this is one of the few reviews I have written that is completely unbiased and impartial. And by that, of course, I mean the opposite – this film is just too damned good to be impartial.

At 99 minutes it is the perfect length for nearly any occasion. I often find that while I'm drinking most of the things I say are Tarantino references. I was at a party just the other day and when 'Stuck In the Middle With You' by Stealers Wheel came on, and I asked the group of strangers I was talking to if the song made any of them want to cut someone's ear off. They didn't get the reference at all, and looked at me like I was psychotic. Suffice to say, I left fairly quickly after that.

In more general terms, this film definitely falls into the 'Cult Hit' camp. As the then-little known Tarantino's first film, it was shot with a budget of only \$1.2 million. Fun fact, most of the cast were wearing their own suits and Ray-Bans during shooting, and I think I read somewhere that the car driven by Harvey Keitel was actually Tarantino's own. But don't quote me on that. And while the film was only a moderate success at the box-office, following the release of *Pulp Fiction* in '94 it rose in popularity significantly and, indeed, notoriety (be warned: it has its fair share of violence).

Following the non-linear structure that Tarantino built on for *Pulp Fiction*, *Reservoir Dogs* depicts events either side of a botched diamond heist by an ad-hoc group of men assembled for the job. The

script is superb, the cinematography incredibly gripping (albeit relatively modest compared with subsequent Tarantino films), and the cast outstanding, particularly Keitel as Mr White and Steve Buscemi as Mr Pink.

The soundtrack is similarly excellent, reflecting the at times gruesome action with Tarantino's typically dark humour. While I concede that this film probably not for everyone, definitely suck it and see.





BUBBLEGUM INDUSTRIAL FASHION SHOWER

CHRISTIAN MCNAB & NIKKI CAIN

by **LUCY HUNTER**

"As well as being good friends we're artistically compatible," says Christian McNab on his relationship with collaborator Nikki Cain. Bubblegum Industrial Fashion Shower was an exhibition involving performance, music, painting, video, and garments made by Nikki and Christian. It is the second show they have done together. The shower was last Friday at Albell Chambers Studio, in a venue calls "Geoff's".

Nikki and Christian work together to create strange garments with elements of illustration and printmaking. Sometimes Christian will design something and give it to Nikki to draw or paint on, other times she gives him images he screen-prints onto fabric.

The artists were both studying at the Otago Polytechnic School of Art where Christian was doing printmaking and Nikki textiles. They then went on to do a fashion design course at the Otago Polytechnic where they first collaborated.

"Both of our interests are more than just fashion," says Christian. "It's an outlet for our creativity in which we can explore all sorts of different themes." The pair worked on a bomber jacket Christian made and then gave to Nikki to draw on. Christian says he like "the process of it being unexpected." When asked if it he gets nervous giving his garments to Nikki to draw on he said "There are some things I'd be precious about if I spent time on it but generally I'm really stoked with whatever she does." Nikki says, "Our aesthetic is really different but also really similar."

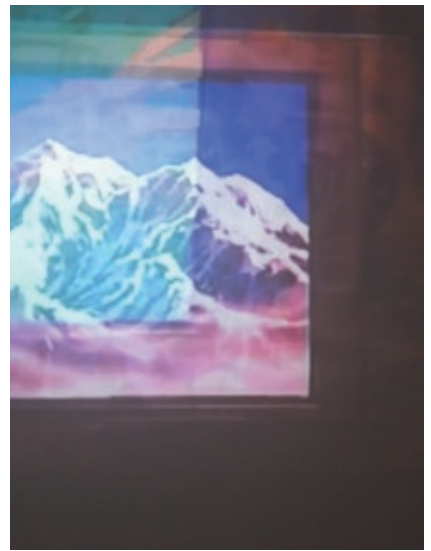
Nikki's inspiration comes from "The brain." She thinks about "dreams and fantasylands, personality, and performance of artists." Nikki once dreamed she was at an award ceremony for Christian and wanted to wear a big dress that she wasn't allowed to wear. She told Christian about it and they made her dream dress together.

"I draw faces," says Nikki. "I always start with eyes, and even if it's not a human it will end up having little eyes on it somewhere." A gormless blue visage with visible brain is printed on many of their dresses. "The first time I drew that face I drew this little blue pastel face, and Christian saw it and said, "That's really cool." I drew a watercolour one and he took the image and made it big." The show also featured a video projection by Nikki. She said it is about, "Life. I try to think of heaps of different things and put them all together —nice things and not nice things."

Nikki and Christian find inspiration in '30s high fashion and couture, such as Italian fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli



who's clothing often featured faces and surrealist images. Christian's deluxe bomber jackets are influenced by Seth Price who used bomber jackets as a symbol for the simultaneous timelessness and temporality of fashion. Performer and musician Horse Dr played their debut show at the fashion shower dressed in Bubblegum Industrial clothing. Christian said the way Horse Dr plays, dances, sings, and reacts "brought the clothing to life and gave it an energy that no one else would have been able to do."



Horse Dr plans to join Nikki and Christian again to make videos and photo-shoots featuring their garments and artworks.

Check out Bubblegum Industrial clothing at:
<http://bubblegumindustrial.com/>
 for photos and prices.



3.33.12
 MARGARITA ROBERTSON

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

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

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

HERS

Well, what a night. After almost saying no when *Critic* texted me about the blind date, the gals persuaded me to make a night of it. I was not disappointed when I sat down opposite a blonde rugby player. As I learned he was a top rugby player (exactly my type) the date got even more exciting. Because of this, conversation flowed relatively well. The riveting chat quickly turned somewhat sexual, probably helped along by the drinks I was chucking back as fast as possible. Topic of conversation subtly turned to sex positions, and as one thing led to another he offered to show me a few of his favourites back at his place.

Things get a bit fuzzy after that – I have a few memories of getting into a taxi, getting kicked out of said taxi for inappropriate behaviour and stumbling back to his. Here, I discovered that he had an even more attractive roommate – needless to say we all got along very well.

I went home to debrief the gals the next morning after a very satisfying night – cheers *Critic*, for double the action I was expecting.

HIS

So it all started last week when I received the text that I was going to be attending a blind date for *Critic*. I'd heard good things so I was fizzing more than a Coke factory in an earthquake. As the designated day rocked round I found myself wondering who will be attending this date with me? Nerves started to creep in so I did what any smart lad with half a liver does and sunk some piss till my confidence was at an all time high. The time had come so the lads dropped me off at The Dog With Two Tails. I enter the joint and a few seconds after this absolute stunner follows me in so I looked to the heavens and prayed in the hope that she was the lovely lass accompanying me. To my utter amazement I was in luck. I felt like a fish out of water talking to her, due mainly to the fact that I'm ugly as hell and she was incredibly good looking. We started to get stuck into the bar tab and the drinks started to flow. I prayed like hell though that things wouldn't go a step further due to the fact that just that week I'd taken a test for a possible sexually transmitted diseases which I think I may have caught a few weekends earlier (the symptoms weren't good). Anyway she suggested that we should go home, so we went around the corner to the taxi stand and grabbed one back to mine. Back at mine we went straight back to my room, where I had completely forgotten my roommate was sleeping. At first it was fun, all three of us getting it on until I found myself left out the loop, eventually folding my undies in the corner whilst my flatmate decided to take all the glory. But all in all not a bad night it must be said! Thanks *Critic*! I just hope I can at least get a piece of the pie next weekend!



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President's Column

This year, the OUSA executive is focusing on how better to improve safety and wellbeing of students during their years at university. As such, we are engaging with several welfare campaigns over the year.

Thursdays in Black is one such initiative focused on eradicating rape and violence. Initially created as a global human rights campaign in 1980s, this year it has been adapted and relaunched by Tertiary Women New Zealand with a focus on New Zealand tertiary institutions. The premise of the campaign is an all-inclusive, visibility movement that encourages a best practice process for all tertiary institutes in how they deal with violence and rape in this sector.

Consequently, this campaign has been adopted by several student associations in New Zealand, with many students bringing back black to raise awareness around these extremely important issues.

Being involved can be as simple as wearing black clothing every Thursday. This visual element of the campaign serves to heighten awareness, and promotes opportunities for those in our community who are survivors to feel supported and recognised. Demonstrating your involvement and support is a great step towards a more visibly tolerant and accepting community, the likes of which universities are known to foster.

So dig out some of the darker items in your wardrobe, come down to the OUSA Main Office to grab a Thursdays in Black badge in Te reo or English, and let the visibility speak for itself.

If you are interested in getting more actively involved, we are looking for enthusiastic students to be leaders within this initiative, so get in touch with our welfare officer Bryn Jenkins via email at welfare@ousa.org.nz and he will get you sorted.

For more information, check out the Facebook page: facebook.com/TIBNZ/

Hope to see you all in black on Thursdays.

Laura Harris

Laura Harris | president@ousa.org.nz

Semester 1 Photo Competition Results

Well done to everyone who entered!

1st: Jack Harker 'Untitled' (pictured)

2nd: Katharina Kruger 'Comfort Zone'

3rd: Tyson Ball 'Where the Night Sky Meets the Marae'

Highly Commended

Sofie Hagland Borseth, Polo Ngugen, Athira Mohan, Sylvia Ayana Nikolaison, Emily Robertson, Abbie Wakelin, and Scout Liu

Check out all the entries here:

bit.ly/PhotoCompS12016



Referendum Key Dates

4 April: Call for questions

13 April: Question submissions close 4pm

4 May: Forum at midday

16 May: Voting commences at 9am

19 May: Voting closes at 4pm

More information available online at referenda.ousa.org.nz



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