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Kiwi kids in an Orwellian schoo system p22 ISSUE 09

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Critic

Editorial

Editor HUGH BAIRD Deputy Editor LUCY HUNTER Sub Editor LAURA STARLING News Editor JOE HIGHAM Chief Reporter HENRY NAPIER

Design

Technical Editor TASH MURACHVER Features Designer CERI GIDDENS

Section Editors Books JESSICA THOMPSON Games CAMPBELL CALVERLEY Technology ANTHONY MARRIS Film NITA SULLIVAN Food KIRSTEN GARCIA Politics JOEL MACMANUS Music MILLICENT LOVELOCK Sport SEAN NUGENT

Contributors

Lisa Blakie, Alex Campbell-Hunt, Monique Hodgkinson, Sam McChesney, Tom Kitchin, Georgia Vosper, Magnus White

Production

Online Content Manager AMAN JAMWAL Distribution ROSS NICHOLLS

Advertising Sales

Elaine Byron, Hannah Griffin, Peter Ramsay

Read Online critic.co.nz issuu.com/critic_te_arohi

Get in touch critic@critic.co.nz lucy@critic.co.nz facebook.com/critctearohi tweet:@critictearhoi

03 479 5335 P.O. Box 1436, Dunedin

Critic is a member of the Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA). Disclaimer: the views presented within this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, PMDL, or OUSA.

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Editorial

Campus Watch takes eye off ball

'D JUST LIKE TO SAY STRAIGHT OFF THE BAT THAT Campus Watch are the ducks nuts. For the most part they do an outstanding job and are easy to get on with, usually making for some good light-hearted entertainment.

However this week we had a particular individual walk into the office and voice his complaints about the campus vigilantes. He explained that just last week, given his tattooed appearance he was allegedly mistaken by Campus Watch as a gang member while he was sitting at the bus stop waiting on a ride home. While the accusations may be quite flattering if you were an aspiring gang affiliate or heading to a particular dress up party, this social work student was naturally a little taken aback.

There's probably no question that if he was white and middle class he would have found himself on the next bus home uninterrupted, but it's the fact that he instead chooses to tattoo his face and indulge in a few piercings which has unfairly led to him being the subject of discrimination. I'm pretty sure that somewhere in the curriculum for all new entrant primary school kids is the lesson in not judging a book by its cover. It's a pretty handy teaching and one that carries some weight throughout life, particularly in this situation. When the aggrieved individual came to the office the other day to explain his mistreatment, he was well spoken, well mannered and a general good guy working hard towards his studies, something that had Campus Watch given him half a chance they would have realised.

Stereotyping is a rough practice full stop. To stereotype I feel is to restrict yourself socially. To assume that you have nothing in common with an individual based on their appearance or association just seems like a ridiculous thing to do. However I like to think that Otago is a little different given that students here for the most part get on incredibly well, whether it's out the back of Starters Bar on a Saturday night or being pushed together in the middle of the semester for that group assignment.

In defence I'm sure Campus Watch will claim that they were taking precautions for the general safety of the student population, and perhaps that may be true. But going around and stereotyping individuals based on their appearance is discriminatory and sets a dangerous precedent.

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Hugh Baird

Critic editor

News in Briefs

World Watch

Beijing, China

Ambulances in Beijing will be fitted with taxi-style meters in an effort to allay public concerns about overcharging. From May, the ambulances will charge a fixed rate of 50 yuan (US\$8) for patients being transported up to three km, and then seven yuan for each kilometre travelled after that. Until now, ambulance drivers worked out the charges themselves, regularly leading to complaints from users who felt that their bills were too high

Texas, United States

A young female tiger has been found roaming around a residential neighbourhood in a Texas town. The tiger was wearing a leash and collar and appeared to be tame. Animal control officers faced a challenge capturing the animal, but were successful and are now seeking its owner. If the tiger and its owner live in the town, the animal will no longer be able to live there as a result of this incident

Khorezm, Uzbekistan

A bank robbery in Uzbekistan's western region appears to have exposed the dire state of some financial institutions in the country. While the robbers stole 16,131,000 Uzbek soms, and it took 45 sacks to load it into their van, their haul turned out to be worth only US\$2,600. According to officials, the gang broke a window to gain access to the bank and smashed safes to get hold of the disappointing fortune. The suspects were caught, and now face up to 16 years in prison



Norway

A Norwegian minister has faced online ridicule for jumping off a rescue boat into the Mediterranean to see what it's like to be a refugee. Immigration minister, Sylvi Listhaug, travelled to the Greek island of Lesbos to see the rescuers' work and 'experience the situation from the migrants' perspective.' The stunt stirred a storm of criticism on social media, and many Norwegians saw the act as a publicity stunt



Hokkaido, Japan

Tourism officials in northern Japan have revised a visitor guide designed for Chinese tourists after it was criticised as being condescending. Originally titled 'Common Sense When Travelling in Hokkaido', the Chinese-language booklet featured examples of bad tourist behaviour and illustrations with large X marks. The Hokkaido Tourism Organisation revised the booklet admitting it was 'one-sided'

Finland

Finland's postal service will be doing more than just delivering letters and parcels over the summer, with workers now being employed to mow lawns too. The state-owned Posti company is offering a weekly grass cutting service, with customers able to choose either 30-minutes or 60-minutes of lawn-mowing. The service will only be available on Tuesdays as the volume of post tends to be lightest on this day, and customers will have to provide their own lawnmower



Ohio, United States

The head of Cleveland's police union has told the family of Tamir Rice, a 12 year old boy who was killed by police while playing with a toy gun, that they should use their \$6 million settlement money to educate children about the danger of playing with toy guns. Rice was gunned down at a park near his home while he played with a replica pistol. The two police officers who were involved in the incident were members of the police union and did not face criminal charges

El Salvador

El Salvador's top human rights official has said that police and soldiers executed members of the country's street gangs and then pretended that they had died in gunfights that never took place. The statement came after a nine month investigation of two incidents last year. This human rights report comes in the midst of an intensification of the government's hard line against the gangs, most prominent of which are the Mara Salvatrucha and the Barrio 18



Cherophobia is the fear of FUN

Human saliva has a boiling point **3 times** higher than regular water

A baby spider is called a **SPIDERLING**

In Uganda 50% of the population is under 15

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The word 'ejaculation' comes from the Latin word for 'THROWING OUT'

Slugs have 4 noses

California has issued 6 drivers licenses to people named Jesus Christ



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Campus Watch accuses student of being a "gang member"

by Henry Napier

AMPUS WATCH HAS BEEN accused of harassing and abusing a University of Otago student based on his appearance resembling that of a gang member. According to student Chris Boyd a Campus Watch officer approached him and proceeded to question his status as a University of Otago student saying he "looked like a gang member".

Chris Boyd was sitting with a friend outside the OUSA recreation centre on Albany Street last week when a campus watch officer named Lynn approached him and begun to question whether he was a student or part of a gang due to his appearance.

"[She said] 'excuse me are you a student here?' And she kept going on in that vain for about a minute [saying] 'are you a real student at this university, or are you a gang member?"

"I said I was a fourth year social work student. [She then] asked me to come for a walk down the street --to get me away from the guy I was sitting beside I guess - and I thought that was because I said I was a social work student and she might have a personal issue or problem [which she wanted to talk about]."

"So we took a few steps down the street and she just kept going in the same vain – 'so you're not a gang member? Because I thought of all your rings and your boots, it's just the way you look. You a real student?' On and on it went," says Boyd

The fourth year Social Work student says he begun to tell the Campus Watch officer that he felt he was being discriminated against, however this awarded no change in the officer's inferences.

"I said to her 'do you know how offensive this is? It's discrimination', [she said] 'no no I'm just asking if you're a student'."

"She was not just asking that, she was implying a whole lot of things. I said to her 'do you understand I'm feeling offended?'; she didn't understand that at all. Then she asked for my last name and I said no you can't [have it]."

Following the incident Mr Boyd complained to Campus Watch about the incident. According to Mr Boyd another Campus Watch officer named Steve contacted him hoping to resolve the dispute, yet continued to imply the student's appearance warranted the inquiry.

"I went and complained at the campus watch office and the next day her boss rang me and said 'do you want to meet up and have a talk?' So I met him and that went about as well as the first incident with the woman really."

When asked by Mr Boyd if the Campus Watch officer was wrong to infer wrongdoing from his appearance the officer named Steve responded saying "well I wouldn't say she did anything wrong... you do fit the mould".

The Proctor's office was unable to comment on the incident or

confirm whether a report had been filed. However, recently resigned

"Because I thought of all your rings and your boots, it's just the way you look. You a real student?"

Proctor Dave Miller said he was "unaware" of the incident.

University Proctor Dave Miller departed the role last week following his resignation earlier this year. Deputy Proctor Andrew Ferguson will take over the role.

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What has NZUSA aiven OUSA?

by Joe Higham

AST OCTOBER'S REFERENDUM saw the student body overwhelmingly vote for OUSA to remain members of the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA). Do OUSA need NZUSA or are they simply a hollow representative body?

Linsey Higgins, NZUSA's president, told Critic she believes there have been numerous NZUSA initiatives that have helped or will help Otago University's student population directly. According to Higgins, "since October we have had training for presidents and executive members across the country, held a national day of action to highlight student debt hitting \$15 billion, met with members across the country to hear the issues that have affected their students, and launched a successful Thursdays in Black campaign."

In addition, Higgins noted presenting a submission to parliament on rental standards, which included working with Bryn Jenkins, OUSA welfare officer, and Sean Gamble, OUSA campaigns officer, when they made a submission at the select committee stage of the Residential Tenancies Act amendments in parliament.

Moreover, NZUSA are "about to launch a campaign about student debt that involves knitting", are also preparing for Local Body Elections, and have been meeting with MP's and ministerial officials too.

Last year's OUSA executive were particularly against the vast amount of money NZUSA requires as their membership, which totals \$45,000 per annum. They highlighted that by not being a part of the organisation, those funds could be allocated towards groups, clubs or initiatives they believed were potentially of higher priority. Coupled with this was the fact that other student representative bodies. notably Victoria University of Wellington Student Association (VUWSA) withdrew its membership after the reforms NZUSA had promise to implement were not carried out —although VUWSA have since re-ioined after another referendum.

On-going discussion with NZUSA and OUSA culminated in OUSA refusing to pay the \$45,000 membership fee for 2015, but that has seemingly since been resolved. OUSA president for 2015, Paul Hunt, said NZUSA had been "ineffective and distracted by sideshows... for many years."

Dissatisfaction with NZUSA seems widespread, and they are now under the pump to deliver as much as possible during the remainder of 2016 to students nationally in order to restore the faith they have provided over their long history as the voice of New Zealand's tertiary education. Higgins finished by stating that she thinks it is "hugely important that OUSA are members of NZUSA. They represent a large body of students in a very unique part of New Zealand. I strongly value the input that Laura and her executive give

to NZUSA. I'm also aware that Otago students are really important to represent, a number don't live locally, their housing is terrible and people are happy to brand them with lazy stereotypes that need challenging."

OUSA president, Laura Harris also believed that the association had the backing of the student population: 'OUSA re-affiliated to NZUSA at the end of last year in light of a referendum that showed a majority of students wishing to retain membership."

Dissatisfaction with NZUSA seems widespread: "ineffective and distracted by sideshows... for many years"



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remunerated for their time and inconvenience.



NEWS

Hipsters boycott sold-out festival

Feastock to serve less sausage, more clam on next year's menu



by Sam McChesney

T WAS TIME ONCE AGAIN FOR LONG HAIR, bandanas, rull koiwi senging eccents, weed smoke and Double Brown at Pine Hill last Saturday as local music festival Feastock celebrated its eighth year.

Around 400 people attended the sold-out event, which featured 18 acts from Dunedin, Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington and Sydney, including Dunedin Sound legends The Chills. The first half of the concert was held in the backyard of 3 Fea Street, and the second half at Re:Fuel.

Festival organiser Steve Marshall said the day went "pretty smoothly" and the bands were well received.

The leadup to the festival was overshadowed by a social media spat over a lack of gender diversity in the lineup. More than fifty musicians performed on the day but only five were women, leading some Facebookers to brand the event "chadsville" and "a sausagefest".

In a post on the Dunedin Music Facebook group, Saz Mondo called for concertgoers to boycott the event for having overlooked "numerous potential female acts". Marshall said the organisers did not mean to cause offence with the festival's lineup. "The ethos of this festival was always just a party for our friends in the backyard," he said.

However, he said that the controversy had changed his perspective on curating lineups, and that gender balance would be "forever in [his] mind" after this year.

Molly Devine, who performed with Kafka Collective for part of their set and wore a t-shirt emblazoned with the words "Pussy Power", said the festival was "a really great day" but the lack of women musicians was noticeable.

In a Facebook post after the event, Devine wrote that she has experienced sexism throughout her career as a musician, and that women musicians were often made to feel unwelcome at festivals. However, she told Critic she didn't blame the Feastock organisers – "they didn't start the patriarchy" – and the important thing was that they were willing to listen.

Devine met with the festival organisers to discuss the lack of women and said their response was "pretty amazing and open". Devine said she would be "surprised" if the issue were not addressed next year.

Tom Corrigan, keyboardist for opening act Iron Mammoth, told Critic that gender balance at festivals was important, but said this should be weighed against the size and profile of the event. He thought it was unfair to single out Feastock for criticism.

"Feastock's a backyard party," Corrigan said. "An awesome backyard party, probably the best backyard party in the world, but a backyard party."

The festival has run every year since 2009 and has a dedicated following. Daisy Blincoe, who travelled from Auckland to attend, said she flies down every year to see "a heap of excellent Dunedin bands".

Highlights this year included Wellington band Funkacybin's cover of Prince's "Purple Rain", and a set by locals Made In China, their first live performance in three years.

"It was great, it was highly nostalgic," Made In China singer Sam McKean told Critic. McKean hinted at further Made In China gigs in the future.

Otago University's contribution to the World Wars

by Joe Higham

A week on from the ANZAC day commemorations, many of the emotive anecdotes, moving speeches, and poignant minutes of silence may largely be forgotten for another 51 weeks. New Zealand played a sizeable and courageous part in the wars, but how much of a part did Otago University play in the largest conflicts in recent history?

World War I

S YOU CAN IMAGINE, MANY STUDENTS AND staff members were caught up in the wars, and had to suspend their teaching and studies to partake in the catastrophic conflict. A blog, authored by Dr Ali Clarke, Research Fellow at the University of Otago's Department of History and Art History, noted, "at the beginning of 1914 there were just over 600 students enrolled at Otago, 70 percent of them male ... [Although] numbers attending dropped off rapidly as young men headed for the front." Indeed, the chancellor of the university, in March 1915, noted that, "at least a hundred students are wearing their King's uniform." By 1916, when conscription was introduced for New Zealand, some staff were told that their services were indispensable to the University, although those with medical expertise were in particular demand during the war. The dental school, which by 1914 had just eight students, provided three of them to the armed forces.

The biggest headache the first-world war presented for the university authorities was retaining sufficient staff to continue their educational services. Due to WWI being the first total war, in that there were few or no boundaries to weaponry, collateral damage or policy, no one knew how long it would continue for. This meant granting leave to those who were leaving for military service was difficult, and when conscription was introduced in 1916,



the university council also "had to decide whether or not to appeal against the calling up of its employees."

Numerous senior staff members did head overseas to serve their country in World War I. Daniel Waters, Professor of Metallurgy and Assaying in the School of Mines, served for two years; Henry Pickerill, Dean of the Dental School, served for three years; Louis Barnett, Professor of Surgery, served two years; and another, Thomas Adams, Professor of Classics, spent three years abroad beginning in 1917, "having been seconded for army educational duties in England."

World War II

HE PRECISE NUMBER OF OTAGO UNIVERSITY staff and students who were involved in World War II are unknown, but by December 1942 as many as 13 members of staff and 725 students were on active service, with 28 already having passed away in the conflict. The total student numbers at the university being just over 1400, the 725 student soldiers represented a huge proportion of the university's numbers. In addition to the amount of people who were removed from teaching or studying by the war, or died as a result of the war, the university faced consequences in other ways between 1939 and 1945 and beyond.

Two positive consequences for the university is a marked growth of student numbers during, and following the end of the war in 1945. Although half of students were fighting by the end of 1942, the student body grew significantly from 1348 in 1942 to 1839 in 1945 and the end of the war led to a "huge influx of students in 1946, when the toll reached 2440," according to Ali Clarke. A significant wartime drop in arts students was coupled with enrolment issues in commerce and law. Despite these drops, the science and medical faculties grew and scientific advance and the demand for both civilian and military doctors reached its peak.

Another positive consequence of the war was the new leadership opportunities that presented themselves for women. Female student numbers increased from just 25 percent of the student body in the mid-1930s to 40 percent in 1942, although they would not reach 40 percent again until 1976. Despite their numbers dropping back to 30 percent after the war, they were elected to prominent student positions, including to the students association executive, editor of Critic, and presidents of the drama and literary society.

Government's inflated positivity over increase in university fees

By Tom Kitchin

TAGO UNIVERSITY HAS argued that the increase in fees is necessary because it will help control spiraling costs. In October last year, Otago chief financial officer Sharon van Turnhout said the university was under "significant financial pressure" and "providing an acceptable level of funding for the academic divisions...will be difficult in 2016."

A spokesperson for Steven Joyce, the Minister of Tertiary Education, said the increase in the number of full time students as well as the number of graduates being 20 percent higher than 2008 means the increase shows that "the costs of study are not placing tertiary study out of reach for students". However, OUSA President Laura Harris said she did not believe Mr Joyce's reasoning was "indicative of [university] still being affordable", rather it was "indicative of it being very necessary" to have a university qualification in today's workforce.

Joyce's spokesperson went on to state that students only pay about 30 percent of the fees, while the taxpayer pays 70 percent and students are, on average, paying off loans through wages "in about six years, if they remain in the country following graduation."

Labour leader Andrew Little fiercely attacked Mr Joyce's

comments. "A free education for all was once part of the 'Kiwi Dream', along with the ability to buy your own home and a health system that was the envy of the world." He also said these actions by the current government are "putting more of the burden on taxpayers."

Nevertheless, the increase in fees this year is lesser than last year. In March 2015, the CPI showed that fees increased by 3.8 percent over that quarter. This is likely due to a change in government policy. Last year, the government put further limits on the percentage that universities can increase their fees by per year, now capping the increase at three percent instead of four percent.

Many of us don't think about the costs of life at university, piling up our loan by a few grand every year and then hiding the bill as soon as it arrives in the post. But still, we need to pay attention to these rising costs – they're going to chew on our salaries or wages for a while after we finish at Otago.



expensive

Otago top ranked scientific research university in New Zealand

By Laura Starling

HE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO HAS been ranked the top university in New Zealand for publishing high-quality scientific research papers, according to the Nature Publishing Group.

This follows on from last year, where the university was also ranked first, second in 2014, and first again in 2013.

The University of Otago was ranked 303rd out of thousands of other competing universities from around the world. This is an improvement from the last few years, as The University of Otago was ranked 340th in 2015, 351 in 2014 and 349 in 2013.

Nature Index founder David Swinbanks remarked that; "Otago University is an institution that clearly has a hunger to succeed despite its geographic isolation and the Nature Index shows that, for a number of years, it is a growing source of high quality research output"

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) Professor Richard Blaikie said that the university's ranking "is a welcome confirmation of the calibre and productivity of our researchers, who are continuing to make important contributions to scientific progress internationally."

The University of Auckland was second in New Zealand, overall ranking at 386th, and Victoria University of Wellington was third in New Zealand, ranking 464th. No other New Zealand institution was ranked in the top 500 universities from around the world. Within New Zealand, GNS science was fourth, then the University of Canterbury fifth.

The Nature Index rankings collate information from over 60,000 research articles published in an independently selected group of 68 different leading natural science journals in order to judge the top scientific research universities globally. The Index is updated monthly, and there is a 12 month rolling window of data openly accessible on their website.

"Otago University ...clearly has a hunger to succeed despite its geographic isolation"

Government signs historic Climate Change agreement

By Henry Napier

HE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY SIGNED A major climate change reduction agreement in Paris, which according to the Minister for Climate Change Issues Paula Bennett will include a multi-faceted approach to reducing carbon emissions.

The Paris agreement, which was finalised in December 2015, was signed by 188 countries and is said to cover 90 percent of the world's carbon emissions. According to Bennett the agreement is "huge achievement" for both New Zealand and the rest of the world.

However, Green Party co-leader James Shaw says the targets are "inadequate", and until the Government directly addresses the agriculture sector, emissions reductions will remain negligible.

"The Government's emission reductions target would be somewhere between three of four percent of global warming, and page one of the Paris agreement calls for us to limit global warming between to about one and half to two degrees. The target [the Government] has adopted is inadequate."

"We put out a report in September last year called the Yes We Can plan which went through the economy sector by sector and showed how you can reduce emissions in the New Zealand economy by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, as opposed the Government's 11 percent [reduction] target —you cannot do that without bringing agriculture in in some way," says Shaw.

However, according to the Government the domestic policy for reducing emissions will focus on a range of measures to address the growing issue of climate change.

"The Government is already processing a number of measures that will help reduce carbon emissions such as investment in public transport and cycleways, more fuel efficient vehicles, record investment in research and development and so on," says Minister for Climate Change Issues Paula Bennett.

Bennett was adamant the Government would

not look to implement a carbon tax, saying the focus was to reform the Emissions Trading Scheme.

"A carbon tax is not being considered at present. My focus is reforming the Emissions Trading Scheme so it creates the right incentives for people to reduce emissions," says Bennett.

"One of our most important tools for reducing emissions is the Emissions Trading Scheme which we are reviewing now. We need carbon to cost more than it does now so that there is the right incentive to reduce emissions, so I will be looking to remove the current 50 percent discount emitters get on carbon units at some point."

The Emissions Trading Scheme was introduced in 2008 by the-then Labour Government. The scheme placed a price on carbon emission units which were then able to be traded by the private sector. However, since New Zealand's introduction of the scheme the price of carbon units has significantly decreased. The price of carbon has more than halved between 2010 and now.

Tesla passes through town without a sound

By Georgia Vosper

HE TESLA SP90D ELECTRIC supercar was on show last week in Dunedin, showcasing the future in the luxury automotive industry.

Tesla Motor Company was co-founded by Kiwi Ian Wright and has been revolutionary with the introduction of sustainable cars around the world. The Model S, one of the company's signature vehicles, can travel 500 kilometres on a single charge, and around 400 kilometres of driving will only cost the user approximately \$20 worth of electricity. Although it is not officially sold in New Zealand yet, Steve West, an electric car enthusiast sourced one from the Netherlands in late 2014.

Critic spoke to Chris Sadler, an environmentally conscious University of Otago student and avid Tesla enthusiast. Chris described the new Tesla Model S as "effectively a futuristic Ferrarispaceship-tank that costs a 10th of the usual price, and is good for the climate", he stressed that the main thing limiting the sales of electric cars in New Zealand and also around the world is the "lack of



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consumer demand, that stems from a lack of awareness that they are even an option".

Chris explains the necessity of electric vehicles becoming the norm, they do not produce carbon dioxide and therefore prevent the warming of our planet, they are dead silent and have fantastic acceleration, plus you can save around \$2000 a year due to reduced petrol and servicing costs.

The Tesla Model S can take a maximum of four hours to charge, however Tesla supercharger stations would cut this time down. Chris noted that Steve West is helping with the setup of fast charging stations around New Zealand, which should alleviate the "range anxiety" for potential electric car consumers.

Too much coffee with Andrew Little

Andrew Little, current Leader of the Opposition stares at the gigantic mug of cappuccino in front of him, "Actually... Yeah, I think this is number five today".

by Joel MacManus

TRY TO RESTRICT IT TO TWO OR THREE CUPS A day. Maybe four. In a recess week you're meeting with a lot of people, and everywhere you go they want to have a coffee with you, so that can catch up to you." Not that five cups of coffee a day is unwarranted these days. His life has been rather busy lately. In the aftermath of the 2014 election he was catapulted from the very lowest spot on the party list, so far down that he couldn't even be sure of his re-election until special votes were counted, to the trepidacious heights of Labour Party Leader, the political equivalent of teaching Defense Against the Dark Arts.

It's a high pressure job with minimal downtime, where missteps can be catastrophic and mistakes get replayed on the news for days. Little claims he sleeps "About five hours on a good night. I can go for a couple weeks without sleep but then I'll need a couple days to catch up." Upon winning the position last year, he says he expected he expected to be home by 5five o'clock, just a couple hours after the announcement was made. Instead. "I didn't leave office until 10.30. I went up to Auckland early the next day for five days, it was about two weeks before I got the chance to actually go home and spend some decent time with the family and celebrate". He'll likely hold this position for three years, and if everything goes right for him, his reward will be a job with ever higher pressure and even less down time: Prime Minister.

Andrew Little sat down with Critic at a small outdoor table at the Green Acorn café on Albany Street. Beside him are three fellow MPs, including Dunedin's own David Clark and Clare Curran, a staffer and a couple of Young Labour-types who have apparently attached themselves to their leader like barnacles clinging to a whale. The MP's crisp black suits and matching red ties look completely out of place for North Dunedin on a hot Saturday afternoon (with the possible exception of a Donald Trump costume on Hyde Street). Yet despite this, our strange grouping receives nary a second glance from the pedes-

Little bellowed into a megaphone and activists led chants which cleverly rhymed 'Goff' with 'Fuck off'

trians passing by. The only recognition Little receives is from a Poppas Pizza employee who shows up to offer him a free Margherita, and even that is revealed to be more of a favour to David Clark as a loyal customer than anything else.

In comparison to the videos of John Key being swamped for selfies in shopping malls during the last election, it shows just how far Andrew Little needs to climb in order to save his party. Not that he's unaware of the challenges, or afraid of the work he's cut out for himself. Reorganising and restructuring struggling organisations has been a focus of his since he was 21 years old running for President of the Victoria University of Wellington Students Association (VUWSA).

"I was the business manager of SALIENT [The VUWSA magazine – think CRITIC, but not as good], and kept seeing ongoing issues with the executive. They simply couldn't make decisions, and we kept electing these people who had barely any connection to the students and no accountability. I consider student unions to be a massively important part of student life, so I really just wanted to see student reps do their job effectively."

Looking back on his time as President, Andrew calls himself a "reformer", pointing to a restructuring of executive roles, a challenge to the student radio as essentially a "failed commercial operation relying on massive subsidies", and proudly pointing out that his executive was the first to ever cut the student association fees.

The following year, he was elected president of the New Zealand University Students Association for 1988 and again in '89, a particularly rocky time for students due to the Fourth Labour Government's decision to introduce university tuition fees for the first time, which students responded to with mass protest marches, because it was the 80's and protesting shit was basically the favourite pastime of students in the 80's.

As an organiser of mass protests in a pre-internet era, Little would spend hours running telephone trees along with other activists getting the word out to as many students as possible, sometimes as last-minute as the night before an event. This was the case one Sunday night when his rag-tag team arranged thousands of students to attend a rally outside a university building where Phil Goff, Tertiary Minister at the time and now a colleague of Andrew's, was speaking. Together, they marched behind him the entire way back to his parliamentary office, while Little bellowed into a megaphone and activists led chants which cleverly rhymed 'Goff' with 'Fuck off'.

When talk of the old protest chants comes up, Little is quick to dismiss, admitting he was "Well aware of them", but insisting he "didn't author them and certainly didn't speak them. Phil's a great guy", although they apparently haven't reached the point where they can laugh about it, "there's no running jokes about the old days. We've never mentioned it. We don't mention the wars".

In his post-Uni years, Andrew passed the bar and went to work for the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU), the nation's largest workers union, first as a contract lawyer

FOR A RETTER FOTURE FOR ALL NOW ZEALANDERS Isupport #3yearsfree

and later making his way up the ladder to National Secretary, before working for the Labour Party and eventually ending up as an MP.

Since landing his current job as Leader of the Opposition, Little says the biggest change he's noticed has been the constant level of scrutiny he faces, "You're on show constantly, anyone

"most recently Sir Bob Jones wrote me saying my tie didn't match my suits... Most of my clothes are picked by my wife"

can take a photo at any time. It means always having to be on your game, because any old thing could come back to haunt you. I respond well to being thrown in the deep end though".

That scrutiny is about far more than his politics; internet commentators reported that his fashion choices were a hot topic of conversation among party faithful at the most recent Labour Conference, with much focus given to striking the right balance between 'everyman' and 'statesmanly' looks. Andrew claims he doesn't pay much attention to these critiques, saying that "most of my clothes are picked by my wife", but he does admit there are "certainly attempts to [give him fashion advice]. I often get letters from members of the public who try to give me advice about my glasses or my choice of ties. Actually, I think most recently Sir Bob Jones wrote me saying my tie didn't match my suits. So yeah, there are some suggestions, but not a

huge amount. Actually I'm guilty of it myself, early on I used to give prospective MPs advice on how to dress for campaigning and TV appearances".

Unlike David Cunliffe, who upon winning the party leadership sought to assert his dominance by demoting those who had publicly supported his rivals, Andrew Little focused on party unification by bringing his former rivals into the fold. He describes the first few days after the leadership election as conciliatory, but also very forward-focused, "I had one on one meeting with every member of caucus and made it clear I would line up people into roles based on skills not loyalty. They were hard conversations, but I made it clear it wasn't about me domineering, it was about working with everybody."

The party appears more unified now than it has in the past few years, and in terms of organization they will almost certainly head into the 2017 election more prepared than their last disastrous foray. That's not to say the new leader hasn't had teething problems, Little himself points out Budget Day 2015 as a "pretty poor" performance from him, and the lowlight of his leadership so far. National had been tactically downplaying the Budget in the media, which led to opposition parties overplaying their hand in the face of expected cuts. Instead, the government surprised everyone by announcing increases in weekly payments to beneficiaries. Little admits that he "over-prepped on certain things that turned out to be completely wrong. The \$25 dollar a week increase completely threw me, I was on the back foot from there", but he considers it a learning experience, "I took lessons from that. Bad things happen, you've just gotta dust yourself off and make sure they don't happen again. You can't dwell on it."

politics

Little always said that the first year of his leadership would be focused inward on rebuilding and strengthening the party. After that time, he promised he would turn his attention outward and focus on making Labour the '40 percent party' it once was. That first year expired several months ago, and the polls haven't shown any signs of growth. Two recent polls had Labour falling back under the 30 percent mark.

The path to government in 2017 looks slim for Labour at this point, it's going to require Andrew Little to not just release some stellar policies, but to prove himself personally as a competent and trustworthy leader. But he has a plan, and

"I think the mistake we've made in recent years is that we have a plan, but then we don't get enough in the polls and we get panicked and change the plan"

he's sticking to it. Whether it works out will just be a matter of time.

"The next couple years are going to be a balance of letting people know my personality, and letting them know our policies. It's about getting out there and meeting people. In the end I think the mistake we've made in recent years is that we have a plan, but then we don't get enough in the polls and we get panicked and change the plan. I'm very much into we have a plan, we stick to the plan. We have a high functioning caucus and leader's office. I'm also a big believer in sequence, there's no point releasing polices until we know what we're doing. And when we release policies, we have to release them right, not in the middle of the campaign. Last election, people simply weren't hearing them. People need time to get to grips with the big stuff. When people have a sense of confidence that we know what we're doing, that we've organised ourselves, then I'm confident it will show in the polls as well. The polls are a byproduct of us doing everything else right.

Breakdown of the NBA playoff chances

by Sean Nugent

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Golden State Warriors - 2/1

In an article I wrote about the Warriors earlier in the year I said "in sport you have to expect the unexpected." Well, here we are. After a record breaking season where they escaped any major injury setbacks, it took less than a week of playoff basketball for that to be undone. The wheels have fallen off the bus. Actually, the driver has got out of the bus and sprained his knee while doing so. Luckily for the Warriors, MVP Steph Curry will only be out for around two weeks. However, this still leaves them without their leading scorer against either their arch rivals the Los Angeles Clippers or the Portland Trail Blazers. It's unlikely he will be out for the entire series, but it is possible for him to come back too late to save his team. Nevertheless the Warriors are still the favourites to make it to the Finals, although if there are any more bumps in the road, it may derail their entire season.

San Antonio Spurs – 5/1

Three years ago, people said the Spurs were too old and too slow. They had no chance against LeBron James and the Miami Heat. Yet two Finals appearances and one championship later (it would have been two if not for Professor Clutch Ray Allen), and the Spurs are still hanging around with a distinct chance of going back to the promised land. Of course they no longer rely on their old troopers, instead placing the baton in the hands of arguably the best two-way player in the league Kawhi Leonard. He is the heart and soul of this current team, and with LaMarcus Aldridge, will carry this Spurs team as far as they can go. However, they face a tough challenge against Oklahoma in the second round, and will need to play at their very best to overcome them. As per usual, the tactical nous of Greg Popovich will be a key contributing factor to this side's success, and he will no doubt have studied OKC for weeks on end in preparation for this series. If they can get past OKC, then there is no reason why they couldn't beat Golden State and possibly win it all.

Oklahoma City Thunder - 15/1

For all the critics of their "two-man team", the Thunder actually had a really good opening series against the Dallas Mavericks. In the five games against the Mavs, OKC had three blow out wins and lost only one game - by one point. There were strong contributions from the likes of centres Steven Adams and Enes Kanter, as well as the usual dominance from superstars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook. However. with a tough series against the Spurs coming up, OKC will need a more consistent production from its bench, which has been its Achilles heel in the past. There's no way that OKC will win by relying on its two stars, but if players like Kanter, Adams, Serge Ibaka, Dion Waiters, and Andre Roberson can at least make an impact and take the load off Durant and Westbrook's shoulders. then they have a distinct chance of victory. Of course, OKC will also have to pray to the heavens that neither Durant nor Westbrook get injured during the series, otherwise their season will be over in a heartbeat. In good form, OKC should be able to force a six or seven game series against the Spurs, but as previously mentioned, bench production will be crucial to the final result.

Portland Trail Blazers - 100/1

The Blazers have been very impressive this season for a side that lost four of its five starters in the offseason. Credit has to be given to coach Terry Stotts for bringing this mediocre looking side to the playoffs, and quite possibly, the second round. But even if they do upset the Clippers, it's unlikely that they'll be able to repeat the same against the Warriors, and even less likely to defeat either the Spurs of Thunder in the Conference Finals. Strange things have happened, but nothing that strange. It would be cool to see this team go on a run and maybe take the Warriors to six or seven games, but they just don't have the manpower to get any further.

Los Angeles Clippers – 250/1

Chris Paul has broken his hand and will miss the rest of the playoffs. That's all that needs to be said really. With their talisman gone, the Clippers will be lucky to make the next round, never mind the Finals. It seems like the dynasty that fans had hoped for when Paul signed with the team in 2011 will never eventuate, and it now seems likely that there will be a change of personnel in the offseason. Only if every other team in the West suffers serious injuries to their stars will give the Clippers any hope of progressing. That's unlikely, which in turn makes their chances to do so equally unlikely. See you next season L.A.



EASTERN CONFERENCE

Cleveland Cavaliers - 2/3

The Cavs are still easily the best team in the East despite not having a particularly great regular season. They showed how superior they are in the first round against the Pistons, sweeping the up-and-coming Detroit side in just four games. It's unlikely that they will face a really tough test in either of the next two rounds, as quite simply the other sides just don't have enough strength to knock them off in a seven game series. Now remember these are just the odds for making the Finals, not winning it all. In all honesty, the Cavs will struggle against both the Spurs and Warriors, and could even lose to the Thunder, if the Oklahoma side make it that far. But as for coming out of the East, they shouldn't have too many problems.

Miami Heat – 15/1

If they have made it out of the first round as this goes to print, then Miami are probably second favourites to get out of the East and into the Finals. On paper they have a pretty strong side, and if injuries don't come into play, particularly to the aging Dwayne Wade, then they could have a legitimate shot at beating the Cavs in the Conference Finals. Having said that, they have struggled to overcome a Charlotte Hornets side that isn't exactly oozing with talent, so they would need to greatly improve to even have a shot at the Cavs in the first place. It's difficult to say much more as they are still locked in a series with the Hornets, so it pays not to speculate too much.

Toronto Raptors - 20/1

The Raptors really should have capitalised on the Cavs inconsistency during the regular season, but instead suffered the same way. They'll be pleased with the fact that they made it out of the first round this year, after embarrassing losses in the past two seasons. But for all their success in the regular season, this team just lacks the talent to put teams away at will and, as shown with their series with the Pacers, can drag series out for far too long. They'll play either Miami or Charlotte in the second round, and will probably end up in a hard fought battle that could go all seven games. If they win that, it's hard to see them putting up much of a fight against the Cavs as fatigue surely would have crept in. However, they still have a presence in All Stars Kyle Lowry and DeMar Derozan so you never know.

Atlanta Hawks - 50/1

It has to be said that most of the teams in the Eastern conference aside from the Cavs are all pretty even. The Hawks took a step back this season after a record sixty wins last year, but have proved so far against the Boston Celtics that they are still a force to be reckoned with. Unfortunately for the Hawks they face Cleveland in the second round, a team that swept them in the conference finals last season. Considering the Hawks have arguably taken a step back since then, it's difficult to see the outcome end in their favour. However, as seen in the West, all it takes is one injury to derail a team's season, and the Hawks will be practicing all kinds of black magic in the hope of having LeBron James sitting on the bench rather than playing. Probably won't happen though.

Charlotte Hornets – 100/1

Currently locked in a tough series against Miami, the Hornets will believe that they could make a golden run if they overcome their South Beach rivals. Certainly not the strongest team in the conference, the Hornets rely heavily on their guards for point production, particularly Kemba Walker and Jeremy Lin. However, both are heat check players, and if they aren't on form, then neither is their team. Really hard to see them in the Finals, but thanks to the lucky draw, could get to the conference finals. Still have to beat Miami though.

Boston Celtics - 250/1

At the time of writing the Celtics have just been blown out by thirty points against Atlanta, meaning they now have to win the next two games to go through to the next round. That's pretty unlikely. Even more unlikely is if they beat the Cavs in the next round if they did get through. It's simply not going to happen this season for the Celtics, but with plenty of strong draft picks and possible free agent pick-ups, expect a stronger team to come back next year. Indiana Pacers – 500/1

The Pacers are also down three games to two against the Toronto Raptors. Sorry, but again, it's not happening. They might get to the next round, but that's it. See you next year Indiana.

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ou may want to sit down for what I'm about to smack you in the face with: bananas are dying, and it isn't the most a-peel-ing situation. Bananas all around the world are starting to die from a deadly and uncontrollable new strain of Fusarium Oxysporum f.sp. Cubense (Panama Disease) —the same pathogen that wiped out nearly the entire population of conventional bananas in the fifties. That's right, bananas have gone extinct before, and they're doing it again —well, kind of. The genetic modification used to create our bananas was a result of the big extinction of Gros Michel, colloquially recognised as 'Big Mike' bananas; the sweet and fleshy fruit your grandparents probably ate. Taking this out of the nutshell and actually looking at the situation from a more objective viewpoint however, the future extinction of the banana is a lot more complex than it first appears.

Before we get started, here are five fun banana facts you need to know (Okay, so you don't need to know them but hey, bananas are rad as heck!)

- Rubbing banana skins on your teeth can temporarily create the illusion of white teeth, but they do NOT substitute a tooth brush
- Bananas are in fact scientifically herbs —I bet they'd be great in pasta! The banana "fruit" is actually a berry.
- 3. Bananas are slippery AS FUCK
- 4. Bananas are naturally radioactive due to their large amount of potassium
- A cluster of bananas is called a hand, with one being called a finger – make sure you go for the middle one.

Everyone seems to be shitting bricks when they learn that a ubiquitous lunchbox staple is going extinct right underneath their noses. But species of bananas have gone extinct before. The banana flavouring in sweets and ice creams can taste artificial and strange because it is based on a now extinct banana. The Gros Michel 'Big Mike' banana tasted different to the banana we have today, and its flavours were mimicked in the confectionery industry. Every time you drink some banana milk you are tasting the fruit that your grandparents grew up with. It was similar to our modern Cavendish banana, only a little bit rounder, shorter, thicker and sweeter in taste. Humanity was trying to pull itself back together after WWII ended. The Civil Rights Movement was beginning in the United States, a new generation was inventing what it was to be a "teenager", and the economy was booming. However, in the world of the banana, things weren't looking so cheery. Panama disease had arrived, and it was here to stay. Like a rogue piece of popcorn that gets trapped between your molars and is there until you die, the deadly fungus that took up a vendetta against the banana was the Maggie Thatcher of harmful pathogens. Ruling with an iron fist, Panama disease wiped out over 90 percent of the world's population of 'Big Mike' bananas, and revelled in its success at destroying one

the deadly fungus was Maggie Thatcher of harmful pathogens and wiped out wiped out 90 percent of 'Big Mike' bananas

of the world's most popularly consumed foods. Gros Michel bananas can still occur naturally in some rare and lucky places around the globe that aren't affected by Panama disease.

The bananas we eat would not exist without artificial selection. Ray Comfort, a New Zealand local and Evangelist, appeared on television in the early 2000s to introduce the answer to the world's largest debate: how do we prove God exists? His idea is that the banana is perfectly formatted for the human mouth, with its three grooves on the top and two on the bottom to fit a human hand. Is this evidence the world is designed for humans by God? Comfort's argument is flawed in that bananas have been so genetically modified they lack the ability to reproduce. Each banana is an asexual clone bred through banana-tree "pups" - manually-cut side-shoots of the parent corm, including a stem and some roots. Without humans the bananas we eat

There is no hope for the future of our tasty and phallic shaped fruit

could not survive. Wild bananas are small, dry, cacao-pod-looking things loaded with inedible seeds and hard flesh. The soft, yellow flesh of the edible varieties is the result of collective mutations cultivated thousands of years ago. But this selection has rendered the fruits of these plants completely sterile, and so unable to survive in a wild "natural" state. Comfort also doesn't mention that edible bananas only grow between 30 degrees north latitude and 30 degrees south latitude. Many people who lived outside of the tropics had never seen a banana until well into the 20th century.

Bananas come in many different species, with over twelve hundred varieties. Each plant within a species is almost genetically identical. This can be of huge benefit to cultivators for producing consistent and high quality harvests, but also means that what can kill one banana can kill all of them. Panama disease began to slowly infiltrate the banana as early as the roaring twenties. At the time scientists had less knowledge than they would now of pathogens and genetic mutations. Panama disease —known back in the day as Race 1 – spread and thrived. By the time the pathogen and its methods of destruction were understood it was too late to save the precious yellow berry. As the golden era of Hollywood prevailed, the death defying rapture of the Gros Michel was unfolding in front of everyone, and there was nothing they could do.

Panama disease is a soil pathogen that infects the root system of the banana plant. From there it goes on to colonise the entire population, pillaging and wiping out all hope of resistance against the machine-gun-armed fungus. The only way to cure the disease is to treat the affected soil with chemical treatments which have such awful environmental impacts they have been almost entirely banned from being used. This leaves no hope for the future of our tasty and phallic shaped fruit. As the pathogen infiltrates the roots, it gets into the vascular system of the plant, travelling up to the top and destroying not only the fruit but also the leaves and the plants ability to survive. Unless a strain of the banana that is both resistant to Panama disease and fits well into the human standards of what constitutes a 'good' banana can be found, the soil affected by Panama disease is unusable and the pandemic continues.

Fortunately for your grandparents and all generations to bear passage into the world since – the banana we know and love today, the Cavendish banana, was an almost perfect substitute for the 'Big Mike'. The Cavendish banana was named after the sixth duke of Devonshire Sir William Cavendish. He was a missionary who supposedly fell in love with the fruit after seeing the image on a piece of imported Chinese wallpaper. Sir Cavendish was the first person in the developed western world to start cultivating the then extremely rare and expensive edible wonder. The Cavendish was longer, slimmer and less sweet than its rival the Gros Michel. It made a good alternative, for a while.

The Cavendish got its big break as the banana pandemic seemed hopeless. Like a superhero crashing through the door in the eleventh hour, the Cavendish banana's resistance to the strain of Panama disease made it the new hottest banana celebrity figure in the free market. Unfortunately for the Cavendish this new found fame and prosperity only lasted thirty years before signs of trouble began to emerge on the white picket fences of banana farms around the world.

As the Cavendish came along, showing off its resistance to the deadly disease its older brother was smothering under, farmers began to replace the Gros Michel plants with that of the Cavendish. But all was not well. The cost of replacing the Panama disease infected the entire population, pillaging and wiping out all hope of resistance against the machinegun-armed fungus

> world's fields and transporting/harvesting needs was expensive. The Cavendish bananas were much more delicate to handle. Their shelf life was lower than that of the 'Big Mike' and they had a bitter aftertaste. Nevertheless, the Cavendish did us well for 30 odd years. Then, in the early '90s, a plant pathologist from the University of Florida named Randy Ploetz discovered an all new strain of Panama disease dubbed Tropical Race 4 that posed a threat to U.S supplies of the fruit as well as to Latin American Producers. "There's nothing at this point that really keeps the fungus from spreading," said Professor Ploetz in an interview for CBNC around the time of his discovery. Twenty four years down the track the Cavendish, which makes up 95 percent of the world's commercial banana population is under attack from Tropical Race 4.

> But don't despair —there is hope in the 1000 different types of banana able to be eaten by us. Most bananas in the world are used in cooking, rather than to eat raw or with breakfast cereal. Just like humans, bananas come in all different shapes, sizes, colours and sweetness. There are Saba bananas, Musa Balbisiana, plantain, namwa, ice cream, and viente cohol bananas. There are Mahoi, dwarf red, and golden finger bananas, Mysore and Mona Lisa bananas, just to name a few.

> Why must we only have the one banana in our supermarkets anyway? There are so many different, edible and cultivable types of banana that if our commercial primarily sought after Cavendish does disappear like its front runner the Gros Michel,

I don't think we'd have a problem finding a new 'banana'. We have at least five different selections of apple, one of the most mundanely boring fruits to ever exist. The banana is fun, fresh, and humorous in its shape. Bananas have been confined to the homogenised representation of the exclusively prestigious Cavendish that dominates our screens and supermarkets — and it's time for a banana revolution!

This sounds fun, but here in the West we are lucky to have bananas as a small and funny part of our lives and diets. Large populations of people are dependent on the successful yielding of Cavendish bananas for their income. Bananas are the fourth highest grossing crop industry in the world, coming only behind wheat, rice, and corn. Cavendish banana crops produce multi-billion dollar revenues each year. They are also a large part of 410 million people's diets around the globe, providing at least a third of their daily recommended calories. Randy Ploetz described the new strain of Panama disease as "a really insidious, hidden type of pathogen that doesn't rear its ugly head until it's widespread and causing a lot of damage." One of the world's top leading banana specialists, Professor Rony Swennen has claimed that if Panama disease hits Latin America once again then the risk of infection would spread like a wild bushfire. Ploetz believes that there are more than a enough optional replacements that are just as good, if not tastier than the mainstream Cavendish banana. Unfortunately consumers are picky, and they want what makes them feel comfortable and settled in the chaotic journey of our existence.

If we cannot find a way to control the spread of the new Panama disease, Tropical Race 4, we will be forced to adapt to alternatives to the Cavendish, while mourning the extinction of a beloved fruit that has suffered through two apocalyptic like epidemics. Watching the eradication of something so mundane you thought it would stand the test of time though? That is just straight up bonkers

Escaping the Cult of Accelerated Christian Education

by Jean Balchin

icture this: gray walls rising up on three sides of you as you sit, hunched over your schoolwork - a science worksheet repudiating the theory of evolution, using the Loch Ness Monster as an example for why Darwin was horrifically, inexcusably wrong.

As you fill in the blanks, copying the answers from the pages of information in front of you, you begin to long for the sight of another human face, or the sound of something other than the scratching of pencils. Forget communication or cooperation with fellow students – the only way you can converse with the supervisor is to raise your small American Flag above your head, the stars and stripes alerting your need for attention.

You might be forgiven for thinking I'm describing a scene from Orwell's Nineteen Eightyfour. But for thousands of children and teenagers around New Zealand who learn under the Accelerated Christian Education programme – not to mention the hordes internationally – this is an everyday reality.

When I was eight years old, my mother and father summoned me to the living room, along with my six younger brothers and sisters. Reluctantly laying aside my comic book, I traipsed into the lounge and flung myself down upon the sofa, fully expecting yet another pregnancy announcement. Glowing with barely-contained pride, Mum clasped Dad's hand and announced "We're going to homeschool you!" Even then, as a self-proclaimed hermit who disliked school because of the bullying I received, I had a feeling this was not going to end well for me. Don't get me wrong – my parents are wonderful, kind and encouraging, and I love them greatly. I grew up in a very loving home, with parents who taught us Biblical tenets and ensured that we knew who our Lord and Saviour was. To them, believing in God was a matter of fact, not faith. With church services at least twice a week, devotional prayers every day and the constant questioning whether I had "read my Bible" that day, the old adage "familiarity breeds contempt" began to make sense for me. Homeschooling was the final straw - ACE would ensure that right-wing, conservative teaching permeated my life a further six hours each day.

Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) is an American educational program for students from New Entrant level to the end of high school, founded in 1970 by Dr Donald R. Howard. ACE is taught in over 6,000 schools in 145 countries worldwide. ACE is also utilised as a homeschooling program – because it does not require any actual teaching on the part of the parent, virtually any family can use it. ACE upholds the belief that the Bible is literally true, and that there should be no distinction between church and state. Although the traumatic events of my own home-schooling 11 years before have seared themselves into my cerebral cortex, I decided to head to the ACE website to refresh my knowledge of this 'educational' regime. Clicking on an informational video, I was welcomed by a rotund, balding and over enthusiastic man waving his arms and waxing lyrical about the carnal, secular times we live in. This man was Mr Duane Howard, the Vice President of ACE. Duane informed me that "Children are so different – some short. some tall, some towering over their friends... children are uniquely different because God made them that way!" Paradoxically, every single child presented in this video (save one token black boy) was able-bodied, white and seemingly adhered to traditional presentations of gender.

After half an hour. I had learned more than I cared to know about this educational program. ACE comprises an individualised learning method that uses printed booklets of information known as PACES (Packages of Accelerated Christian Education) which enable the child to advance at their own speed. There is a compulsory core curriculum of five subjects; English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Word Building (grammar). Pupils are required to complete 12 PACES per year per subject, and are examined by the 'International Christian Certificate of Education' in place of NCEA, GSCE or A levels. The ACE program may be employed for home-schooling, or it may be the educational curriculum for a Christian school. My brother Will recently spent six weeks at Drury Christian School in Auckland, where the ACE curriculum is implemented. I listened to his anecdotes with glee – Will's first encounter with life at Drury involved him walking in on a hall of middle-aged men, wearing the same clothes – "long trousers, cardigans and bare feet" - silently washing eggs

to sell. "Normal enough," Will concedes, but "it struck me as a bit odd."

These schools revolve around a 'learning centre'; namely, a large room divided up into individual cubicles. Like a plastic, sterilised medieval monastery, the students are sequestered off for the majority of the day, working their way through PACES in utter silence. These learning centres also include supervisor's desks, which are scoring stations where the pupils can mark their own work. Teachers do not exist within this institution – instead there are 'supervisors' and 'monitors', responsible for answering pupil's questions. According to my brother, the monastic layout of the classroom creates a "studious environment" although "it fails in that you are always learning by yourself and that you seldom get taught properly." Will said that ACE required a great deal of "self-motivation" which by his own admission he "sometimes lacked."

Every morning, pupils set themselves goals in terms of the number of pages they aim to complete that day, and then are left to work at their own speed through the PACES. If the pupil encounters difficulty, they raise a flag on their learning station to ask for help from the monitor. At regular intervals throughout each PACE, the student marks their own work, and at the end of each booklet there is a test in which they must achieve at least 80 percent before progressing onto the next PACE. Indeed, Duane informed me that a student has "to repeat the unit of work until he had learned the material". Hearing this, I was transported back to memories of filling in the same Social Studies worksheet until tears of frustration filled my eyes because I failed to understand a certain concept, and not having an actual teacher to explain it to me (or classmates to ask), I was doomed to repeat my mistakes until I chanced upon the right answer.

The educational video went on to discuss the chaotic, hedonistic environment of regular schools, as the camera panned over a stereotypical classroom, complete with many desks Will's first encounter with life at Drury involved him walking in on a hall of middle-aged men, wearing the same clothes, silently washing eggs crammed together and students hurling paper planes at each other. Into this anarchy, a voiceover intoned how "the nurture and admiration of the Lord requires biblical discipline" – until relatively recently, corporal punishment was considered a valid means of disciplining a wayward child. ACE even published instructional

these teaching methods are essentially "low-level cognitive tasks"

guides on how to properly spank a student with a paddle (known colloquially in some schools as the "Board of Education"). This short film was often unintentionally hilarious – at one point, dear Duane recounted how "most schools screen out underachievers", while a lanky, bedraggled student was lead outside the classroom and the door shut ignominiously in his face. The next frame showed the same student morosely peering through the classroom window like a Victorian street sweeper glued to the windows of a brightly lit department store.

According to the official ACE literature, students "are taught to see life from God's point of view". Religious instruction is embedded in every facet of this educational system – biblical principles and concepts are insidious and inescapable. History is presented as 'His-Story', the unveiling of God's will. The concept of Creationism underlies every Science PACE. and evolution is simply a devilish lie. Every example, illustration or activity is inherently religious; for example, in English, children are given examples of interrogative sentences such as "Do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour?" The children are then asked to underline the correct verb in a sentence like "God (is, are) good." This conservative approach extends to politics, where pupils are taught that God's views are solely right-wing; left-wing ideals are evil and godless. For example, students are taught that government benefit

schemes and healthcare programs defy God's will. To quote Social Studies PACE 1094, "God's plan is for these needs to be met first by family members, and then by local churches, but not by government programs."

Quite apart from its propagandist and brainwashing elements, ACE is flawed because it relies upon disproved, outdated methods of teaching and learning that restrict a child's imaginative and creative potential, as well as discouraging actual understanding in favour of rote memorization. For example, in my experience with English PACES, I only remember filling in countless pages of grammar exercises – I cannot recall ever studying a book or a poem. The majority of educational activities in ACE involve rote memorisation and filling in the blanks, which has been criticised by educational researchers such as D. Fleming. To quote educational psychologist David Berliner, these teaching methods are essentially "low-level cognitive tasks that emphasize simple association and recall activities." Students are forced to work in absolute silence – there is no possibility for debate or argument. In my opinion, exposure to varying opinions and ideas (as occurs in classroom discussions) is healthy, encouraging the student to consider all alternatives and make a well-informed decision on the topic. Almost utterly devoid of scholarship and critical thinking, ACE promotes a very limited and often inaccurate view of the world within the mind of the student. Children have no chance to learn through investigation, exploration, or hands-on knowledge.

ACE is also very problematic with its insensitivity towards Blacks, Jews, and Asians – in fact, anyone who isn't white. I remember sitting at my desk until five or six in the evening, toiling over a white-washed colonialist account of American History with only the odd brightly coloured comic strip incorporated within the PACES to alleviate my boredom. These cartoon strips promote segregation – students of each race attend different schools. White children attend Highland, Black students attend Harmony and Asian students go to Heartsville. The PACES go on to explicitly support racial segregation, arguing that although apartheid appeared to allow the unfair treatment of blacks, it was nonetheless a remarkably successful system, enabling the development of South Africa into a modern industrialized nation; "White businessmen and developers ... turned South Africa into a modern industrialized nation, which the poor, uneducated blacks couldn't have accomplished in several more decades. If more blacks were suddenly given control of the nation, its economy and business, as Mandela wished, they could have destroyed what they have waited and worked so hard for." Forget the misery, poverty and racism occasioned by such a scheme - as long as white Christian businessmen were in power, all was well in the world.

It won't surprise you to learn that ACE is also guilty of promoting sexism, homophobia and ignorance regarding gender and sexuality. It's no secret that religious fundamentalism and feminism aren't exactly compatible. Traditional,

their beatific smiles in the comics made me want to rant and rave –to throw plates, swear vociferously, and push old ladies in front of buses.

restrictive ideas of femininity and masculinity are reinforced throughout ACE, from English PACES where students studying grammar are asked to underline words about women submitting in the home to cartoon strips where young girls are shamed for daring to show their knees. Consider this question, found in a Maths PACE: "You come home from school to find a sink full of dirty dishes. What should you do out of consideration for your mother?" One of the less-than-credible answers is actually "Tell your sister to do the dishes while you do your homework." Also, the female characters in the cartoon strips are always homemakers – or, if they actually have a career outside of the home, they are always secretary to the male CEO or teacher aide to the male principal. Any girl aspiring to something other than motherhood and the domestic sphere (not to deride these occupations, but one should be given a choice) will be sorely disappointed, as will any male student who wants to be a stay-at-home dad.

Far from inspiring me in my quest for femininity and purity, the aggravating piety and beatific smiles of the children in the comics made me want to rant and rave – to throw plates, swear vociferously, and push old ladies in front of buses.

I couldn't abide the unerring compliance and righteousness of the women and girls in these comics and thus they paradoxically brought out the worst in me. My parents blame my heretical ways on my secular education at a public high school, but I firmly believe that my wicked ways began with the provoking effect of the ACE comics. Unsurprisingly, sex education in ACE was virtually non-existent. All I gained from ACE was the feeling that somehow I was to blame for having a developing body – it was my fault that the mere sight of my shoulders or bare knees incited a man's lust. Pre-marital sex was a no-no, let alone any romantic or sexual interest in the same sex. I was led to believe that the majority of my worth as a young woman resided in my virginity, and any sexual activity before marriage would render me 'damaged goods'. Uniform policies are strictly enforced at ACE schools - as if the sight of bare skin somehow propels one closer to Hell. My sister recently visited Drury Christian School for an exam, and was severely told off for wearing a sleeveless t-shirt - for daring to show her shoulders. Although this was at the height of summer, she was told to put on a hoodie to preserve her modesty. After hearing this, I became so enraged and indignant that I seriously considered donning my most revealing outfit, smearing on great quantities of red lipstick and marching into Drury to protest.

ACE PACES are relentlessly homophobic. Beneath a section titled "Man's Corruptions", one may learn that "homosexuality is a learned behaviour" and that there is "no biological difference between homosexuals and others". Given that homosexuality was met with death in the Old Testament, and that "since God never commanded death for normal or acceptable actions", the act of love between two persons of the same gender is tantamount to "murder or stealing" (Science 1077). Thousands of young queer people have been exposed to these poisonous beliefs that they should be ashamed (if not stoned) for their sexuality. My brother Will told me that even while swimming, young boys were ordered to keep their shirts on, just incase the sight of another boy's prepubescent chest stirred up latent feelings of homosexuality.

Finally, ACE is the antithesis of scientific information and methods. ACE is incessantly and inexcusably Young-Earth Creationist, with "evidence" for creation included in virtually every PACE. Evolution is denigrated as "impossible" and a "sinking ship". According to ACE, evolutionary scientists believe that "There were only fish. Then one day a fish mysteriously gave birth to a frog. Then there were reptiles... Then there were mammals... Then one day a monkey gave birth to a human and... voila! The human race." As a child, this was the only explanation of evolution I received. Mainstream scientific books were very rare in our house, and thus from about the age of 8 to 14, I was under the impression that evolutionists were incredulous idiots. I distinctly remember asking my biology teacher why, if humans had evolved from chimpanzees, chimpanzees still existed? According to ACE, evolution couldn't have occurred because there are "no transitional fossils" - nor will there ever be any future discoveries of the sort. That is,

Then one day a fish mysteriously gave birth to a frog?

-from the age of 8 to 14, I was under the impression that evolutionists were incredulous idiots if one ignores the thousands of transitional fossils discovered since On the Origin of the Species was published. Remember that vaguely exciting discovery of Lucy, a 40 percent complete Australopithecus afarensis skeleton back in 1974? Perhaps ACE missed that memo.

an ideal Christian school has "the ethos of Christianity pervades the schools, but dogma is notably absent." Not so with ACE.

Furthermore, ACE ridicules evolutionists by claiming that they use the "hopeful monster" theory to explain this apparent lack of transitional fossils. This theory, put forward by Richard Goldschmidt, dates back to 1940 and argues that the large genetic differences between species require profound 'macro-mutations' as a source for large genetic changes which once in awhile can occur as a 'hopeful monster'. However this theory has been rejected by the scientific community at large and is not incorporated within the widely-held theory of evolution. A strawman version of evolution is thus set up and set fire to, thereby 'proving' Creationism. Lamarckism, an old theory arguing that evolution can be influenced from non-genetic experience, (for example, a giraffe stretching its neck to reach to the tops of trees will have babies with longer necks) is also resurrected as another straw-man attack on evolution. Students are taught that fossils exist to test one's faith, that Noah's flood explains the Grand Canyon as well as our reserves of oil and gas, and that humans and dinosaurs existed at the same time. All this makes me wonder whether the PACE writers genuinely don't understand evolution, or whether they are wilfully misrepresenting it.

ACE also includes no practical science and consequently no investigation. When I was a student of this program, I remember learning about the material world ad infinitum, with nary an experiment in sight. Upon actually entering high school, I was struck with how illuminating and instructive experiments and investigations in the lab could be. As with other areas of learning, there is no room within this reading and comprehension method of learning for the generation of ideas, the formulating and testing of hypotheses, and the discussion and application of results. Moreover, ACE's approach to science is decidedly unscientific as rather than weighing evidence objectively, ACE systematically rejects any science that contradicts the Bible; "If a scientific theory contradicts the Bible, then the theory is wrong and must be discarded."

Lest I be accused of biased reporting, let me dwell briefly on the potential benefits of ACE. For a start, children are encouraged to set goals each morning. This provides them with something to work towards, and I remember the sense of achievement I felt after completing each day's list. Another advantage of ACE is that unlike traditional classrooms, if a child is absent, they can just pick up where they left before. Hearkening back to the instructional video, I learned that the silent, individualised method of learning ensures that a "child does not have to ask embarrassing questions in front of his peers." Having said this, ACE does not take into account children with social or developmental disorders – I have heard of no accommodations or alterations to the curriculum for children with ADHD or Dyslexia, for example. Even a number of Christian educational experts disagree with ACE. For example, Geoffrey Duncan (General Secretary of the National Society and the General Synod Board of Education for the Church of England) describes an ideal Christian school as one where "the ethos of Christianity pervades the schools, but dogma is notably absent." Not so with ACE.

I guess I'm one of the lucky ones - I escaped ACE after only half a year of homeschooling. My mother, who acted as my supervisor, couldn't deal with the stress of homeschooling five children and raising a baby. I returned to a secular primary school and went on to high school, where I learned about safe sex, evolution and women's rights. I was never physically or mentally abused, although it has taken time for me to unlearn certain fundamentalist principles. I also was primarily taught at home, and thus escaped the more poisonous environment of the ACE schools themselves. However, six of my brothers and sisters continue to 'learn' under the ACE curriculum, and I really feel for them. I still can't fathom the rationale for why so many parents are willing to put their children through what can only be described as psychological abuse. I guess that ultimately, if you seriously believe you are saving children from Hell, you can justify anything.





ONTRODEW WORD & COORD & COORD by Lucy Hunter

The Critic team attempt to contact the dead through a Ouija board in the office.

In the office, Ceri, Laura, Tash, Joe, Jean, Bij and I sat around waiting. Red light from the candles flickered on our faces and over the board. My workmates and I had had a couple of wines each and were trying to get scared. We held hands, breathed deeply and closed our eyes. "We are here in peace," I said mystically. "Is there anybody there who wants to talk to us?"

For those who don't know, Ouija (pronounced wee-jah) boards are "talking boards" through which living people can supposedly talk to ghosts. It is a relatively new invention. The Ouija board was patented as a parlour game in America in 1890 by E.C. Reiche, Elijah Bond, and Charles Kennard. The letters of the English alphabet were painted in twin arcs across the middle of the board. Below the letters were the numbers one to ten. In the corners were "YES" and "NO," underneath, "GOODBYE." The only other piece to the set was a heart-shaped wooden planchette with a hole in it. Participants place their fingers on the planchette, ask it questions, and the planchette moves terrifyingly about the board to spell out words. I had wanted to buy a Ouija board but couldn't find one for sale in Dunedin. I had make one instead. I got some spooky supplies – a piece of purple cardboard, some polka-dot letter and number stickers, and a packet of little wooden aeroplanes that I thought would make good planchettes. We didn't have enough letters to spell "GOODBYE" so we wrote "LATERZ." I also got red cellophane to tape around glasses to put candles in and make creepy red

IT'S DEFINITELY TUPAC"

light. I asked Ceri, our feature designer, to draw on the plane so it looked like a scary demon, but instead she made it look like an even more adorable plane, now with a friendly face. So far we hadn't achieved the spooky mood I wanted to.

Joe and I had just read a book on Mother Teresa called "The Missionary Position: Mother Teresa in Theory and Practise." It said she was a corrupt person. We decided to ask her, through our purple Ouija board, if it was true. "Why are you such a bitch?" someone asked. "We'll try nice and then we'll get mad," said Ceri. "Blessed be, Mother Teresa," said Tash. "Are you really a bitch?" asked Joe. Nothing happened. "We need to give her some kind of stimulus to react to," said Ceri. I said "bet you can't do a miracle, Mother Theresa." She wasn't replying and we decided we were aiming too high. The planchette hadn't budged. I told people off for letting their arms touch the table.

Maybe red candles and holding hands wasn't going to be enough to summon the spirits. We put on the Hannibal soundtrack and told scary stories for a while, hoping to get spooked. "Is anyone hungry for person right now?" said Ceri. Joe told a story about the guy in Germany who arranged to be eaten by a cannibal. Laura

FUCK IT, TONIGHT I'M A BELIEVER

told one about a woman trapped in an elevator and not found until a month after her death. I told my favourite story – my old drama teacher's son who went haywire after a nasty breakup and was found by police to have been living for months in his ex girlfriend's roof, spying on her and her new boyfriend through holes in the ceiling.

We had some more wine and tested the planchette to make sure it wasn't sticking in place and blocking the ghosts. "It's pretty slippy," said Ceri, "You can feel it wiggling. They're trying to get through. Fuck it, tonight I'm a believer. Come at me, Mother Theresa." She didn't. After Mother Teresa's no show, we asked for a random person, anybody, we didn't care. This time, the planchette started to mooooooove...

Kennard, one of the board's first marketers, claimed he called the invention "Ouija" after the Egyptian word for "good luck." Ouija is not Egyptian for good luck, but since the board reportedly told him it was during a session, the name stuck. In 1982 William Fuld took over the company. Fuld said that he himself had invented the board and that the name Ouija was a fusion of the French and German words for yes ("oui" and "ja"). The boards were marketed as innocent parlour games with no connection to the occult. They were were said to read minds or tell the future, not contact ghosts.



"Is anybody there?" Once it got going it could really hoof it. It moved to yes. I told Joe off for having his finger in a weird position. The recording of our interview goes hushed with whispery giggles at this point. We held our fingers on the planchette as it spasmodically hopped around the board. It went to the '2', then the 'P'. Tupac? "It's definitely Tupac", said Tash. The planchette went to "No."

Parker Brothers, who make the board games Monopoly, Cluedo, and Trivial Pursuit still have the rights to the Ouija board, which is marketed as the "Mystical Oracle." Not everyone swallows this innocent sounding title. Conservapedia describes the Ouija board as "an occult device currently manufactured by Parker Brothers under the auspices of a board game." The website warns "evil demons pretend to be cooperative ghosts in order to trick users into becoming spiritually possessed." In 2001, Ouija boards were burned in Alamogordo, New Mexico, by fundamentalist groups alongside Harry Potter books as "symbols of witchcraft."

We decide to make a new board so the planchette could slide better. "We have meters of that fucking news roll," said Tash. "Lets use that." Joe was worried there really was a ghost and we were being too sceptical. We accused him of moving the planchette and he swore he wasn't. We all agreed that Joe was going to become a cult leader after this. He has a deep voice, calm demeanor, and was quickly becoming a Ouija believer.

American Spiritualist Pearl Curran popularised the Ouija board as a divining tool during World War I. Using a Ouija board, Curran believed to be able to communicate with a spirit, Patience Worth, who had died in the 17th Century. There was never any documented evidence that Patience had ever been a living person.

"Is there anything we need to know about the Critic office?" said Tash. The little balsa planchette spun to N, then O-H-U-G-H. "We have to get rid of him," said Joe. "Maybe we need Hugh here to talk to the ghost?" said Laura. "We need to specify," said Ceri. "Do you want to speak to Hugh?" The planchette moved to N-O. "Hugh isn't here," said Ceri. "How do you feel about that?" G-O-O-D, said the ghost. "Why no Hugh?" asked Laura. S-H-I-T, said the ghost. Poor Hugh came back in the office and found us laughing.

Popular culture adheres to the idea that Ouija boards are potentially dangerous tools of the occult. In the 2007 film "Ouija"



a group of adolescents use the board and a murderous spirit starts to follow them. Four years later, "The Ouija Experiment" portrayed a group of friends whose use of the board opens, and fails to close,

EVIL DEMONS PRETEND TO BE COOPERATIVE **GHOSTS TO TRICK USERS**

a portal between the worlds of the living and the dead. Horror movies have the boards predicting deaths and facilitating demonic possession.

"What is your name?" I asked. P-J- "PJ Harvey?" said Ceri. NO said the ghost. P-J-O-D-I-E. "Did we get your name right?" YES. Now the ghost really got going. Pjodie told us her favourite colour is black. She said the afterlife is bad, but she is happy. She was a student at Otago in 1983. She studies English Lit (oo yeah, hi-five,) and said she likes Critic. But she had an issue with the Critic editor from 19-- (date obscured for legal reasons). She couldn't remember their name, but they had done something bad to her she didn't want to talk about. S-E-C-R-E-T, she said. Holy fuck. Pjodie left. L-A-T-E-R-Z.

Ouija consultations have the potential to mess with people's lives (like that editor from 19--). Take the case of Stephen Young, an insurance broker from East Sussex who was convicted of murdering newlyweds Harry and Nicola Fuller at their cottage in East Sussex in 1994. Young won the right to a retrial when it was found that four members of the original jury had consulted a Ouija board to help them reach their verdict.

The last ghost we chatted to was called George. He was at Otago in 1953. "Good shit, George," said Ceri. "I bet you had some rad doowop and shit. Did you like jazz, the devil's music?" NO said George. Watch it Ceri! He had a secret too. He said it was of a sexual nature, and it was making him sad. It turned out he had been a gay man who couldn't tell anybody about it because of the prejudice of the time. We asked what his sex life was like. He said B-D-S-M. We asked what kind and it said S-P-I-N-K-I-N-G. Spanking?

Sadly, big old dorky science has come along and ruined everyone's fun with a giant wet blanket of a rational explanation for the Ouija board. The ideomotor effect refers to the influence of suggestion or expectation on involuntary and unconscious motor behaviour. Sometimes if you are concentrating hard on not moving something while expecting the thing to move, you will subconsciously move it. Another example of the ideomotor effect is the movements of rods and pendulums in dowsing. The effect has been demonstrated on the Ouija board by stacking a series of plastic disks on top of the planchette. If the

movement were coming from the planchette, the disks would be expected to slide away from the fingers from the bottom layer up as they try to keep up with the movement. What happens is the opposite - the disks are pushed forward from the top down and it is the planchette that seems unable to keep up. The movement is coming from, surprise, the fingers of the people playing the game. Another test the spirits have failed to pass is if the participants are blindfolded and the board spun around,



the planchette moves as it usually would, to where the letters had been before and the places where "yes" and "no" had been.

"Why don't you guys close your eyes, so you don't move it unconsciously?" asked Jean. "Because it won't work," said Ceri. "It stops working cos it's not real," I said. It is understandable that people are scared of Ouija boards. Even knowing about the ideomotor effect, not believing in ghosts, and hooting with laughter while we did it, it felt like it was real. The planchette slides along with strong determination. It stops on letters and swivels around. It moves to leave when you don't want it to. It's an example of how strange our brains are and how the control we think we have over them is probably largely an illusion. We had a fun night with the Ouija board, even if we didn't find out much about the afterlife.

Epilogue: The Monday after I was at work and Elaine from Planet Media asked if remembered seeing her on Friday night. I said no I didn't. She said "It was strange. Your eyes were glazed over and you were staring at me. Vacant. Then you gave me a hug." "Ew," I said. "That sounds creepy." "It was," said Elaine. "You're eyes looked so weird. It was like you were possessed."

Sir Ray Avery



by HUGH BAIRD

IR RAY AVERY IS A SCIENTIST, INVENTOR AND A SOCIAL entrepreneur of the highest order. He developed affordable intraocular lenses that by the year 2020 will have brought sight to 30 million people. He also revolutionised baby incubators to save countless lives in third world countries . He was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit Knight of the Grand Companion, New Zealander of the Year and in 2011 he was voted the Reader's Digest most trusted kiwi of the year.

To say that Sir Ray began at a disadvantage to others is to gravely understate his situation in early life. Growing up in London, the man responsible for changing the lives of millions for the better found himself living under railway bridges and escaping orphanages. This life of hardship, Sir Ray believes, gives him a sort of heritage or sense of security, that the worst has already happened and that not only has he survived, he's thrived.

Following years of roughing it, a 14-year-old Ray Avery was hospitalised after being found on a train with blood poisoning. The hospital called the school he attended and they sent the gardening teacher Jack Wise to help him. While in hospital the nurses found a rucksack full of books. Sir Ray believes the books made the nurses realise he may be interested in education. It was then that Mr Wise gave Sir Ray a choice: "go to a Borstal-like juvenile detention centre, or attend Wye College and complete a course he was teaching in rural horticulture," he recalls.

He chose the rural horticulture course. It was there at Wye College that he realised his life could be better than it had been. After completing the horticulture course, he secured himself a position as a pharmaceutical laboratory technician while studying biochemistry and chemistry on the side. He worked hard and eventually made his way to the top of his field. But in 1970 he left England with a will and a want to travel and three years later he made New Zealand his home. He claims that New Zealand is a country of dreamers and believes there is a unique freedom and adventurousness about Kiwis.

Sir Ray is also proud of the many New Zealanders right around the world making huge advances in multiple fields. "There are billions of people around the world benefiting from inventions and products that were developed right here in New Zealand: the whistle that was used to blow full time at the Rugby World Cup was designed here; the disposable hypodermic syringe was invented by Kiwi Colin Murdoch; Buckley Systems, based in Auckland, produces machines which activate about 80 percent of the chips used in mobile phones and TVs around the world." **ERE IN NEW ZEALAND SIR RAY BECAME A FOUNDING MEMBER** of the Auckland University School of Medicine's Department of Clinical Pharmacology and worked as a Technical Director at Douglas Pharmaceuticals. However, it wasn't until he was approached by an individual acting on behalf of the legendary Fred Hollows that Sir Ray found his calling. Fred Hollows had previously been crowned Australian of the Year in 1990 for his work in restoring eyesight of those in developing countries and wanted to build factories in third world countries such as Eritrea and Nepal to manufacture and provide lenses at cost which would mean those living in these third world countries would have their eyesight restored for a much more affordable price.

So, in 1993, Sir Ray found himself in Eritrea, east Africa, with the burdensome and what seemed impossible task of building factories to produce these lenses in a country with very limited and finite resources. Then something terrible happened – Fred Hollows passed away after a battle with cancer.

"I was there initially to see whether or not it could be done... However on the way out there Fred had actually died and I had promised him on his deathbed that I would get the job done."

Although Sir Ray had promised Hollows he would complete the project, it became apparent it couldn't be done. "I couldn't find cement, I couldn't find any power cords, there was no running water..."

Sir Ray then rung Gabi Hollows, Fred Hollows' wife, to break the news that the project her husband had devoted his life to couldn't be done. He decided to pack his things and head home.

However as he was leaving Eritrea, a war torn country, a young boy caught Sir Ray's eye.

"I saw a lady with a boy on her back as I was cueing to go home, this young boy was clearly devastated by war... He had burns all over him and was missing an eye socket."

Of all the things that Sir Ray had seen in his lifetime, it was the first time that he had confronted the immediate damage the war had had on a person's life. He went back to his hotel room and after a period of personal reflection decided that although it was near impossible, he promised he would find a way to build the factory.

"I found myself alone in the hotel room, exactly like I was when I was under the railway bridge as a teenager, LED lights, no power, no running water... I felt sorry for myself. I wasn't married, didn't have kids and at that moment. I thought that maybe this was the point to my life. I had been made as hard as nails so that I could withstand all of this adversity and build these factories."

However, it took a while getting the products out globally and it wasn't until a representative from the World Health Organisation tested the lens and remarkably published a report saying it was the best lens design that he had ever seen that the project started to take flight.

Eventually, in the face of all of the hardship and with the skills and knowledge he had acquired over the years, he fulfilled those promises and completed the construction of the factories against all odds. The project was a complete success. Sir Ray had built a factory that produced high quality intraocular lenses and had reduced the prices of these lenses drastically, falling from over \$300 US to \$6. This huge change in price meant that even those in the poorest regions of the world would have access to the surgery. After the success in Eritrea he designed and commissioned another factory in Nepal in 1997. Together these laboratories now supply 16 percent of the world's market for intraocular lenses.

It is estimated that by the year 2020, 30 million people will have benefited from Sir Ray's development of intraocular lenses

Given these new factories it is estimated that by the year 2020, 30 million people will have benefited from Sir Ray's development of intraocular lenses. With those sorts of numbers it's easy to sit back and reflect, perhaps put the feet up for a while and enjoy a cup of tea, but Sir Ray insists that the only way is to keep looking forward and trying to change the normal.

"I'm a bit like an Italian race car driver, what's behind me doesn't matter."

Sir Ray is adamant that innovation is simply a bi-creation of observation and whilst working at the Fred Hollows Foundation he could see a few things of concern in developing countries. He decided in 2003 to go off on his own and created Medicine Mondiale, a company dedicated to making healthcare accessible for everyone around the globe.

Whilst visiting Nepal he saw a number of old and unused baby incubators hiding away in the corner. These incubators, Sir Ray explains, had an average life cycle of months, sadly not designed to work in developing countries. However he found that with the help of a Swiss army knife he was able to unlock the filter and reset the overload switch, giving the incubator of few more months of life. Clearly an alternative was needed.

So Sir Ray went about creating a new incubator. It is designed to be indestructible, purifies its own air and water, runs continuously without the need for new parts or maintenance and most of all costs only \$2000, as opposed to other incubators which generally cost upwards of \$35,000.

When the average individual would sit complacent after achieving what Sir Ray has achieved, he himself remains humble and upbeat about the possibility of the future and all that can be accomplished. He remains adamant that when people come together, amazing things can be achieved.

"If someone is inspirational enough to lead and get people behind them it shows that you can really make a difference."

In response to last week's news:



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

Dear Hugh.

I read this week's critic (issue 08) and read the article about the mental health counselling "pilot" under scrutiny.

Earlier in the semester I decided that finally I should probably talk to a counsellor. Luckily I didn't have to wait 4 or 5 weeks as some of the poor souls who have to now.

I was quite shocked after my first visit to find out that I had to pay \$10 for just a visit. I also paid this before I actually met the counselor. I know this is a stupid thing to stick with but I found it a bit much as the polytechs counselling is free. As the university said in the article "most students complete their counselling interaction in as few as three sessions". Now I finished in three sessions because I was not getting anything out of it. I found it wasn't helping and I kept being asked if I wanted to go on medication, even though in the first session I stated I didn't want too. I also ended my third and my final session in 10 minutes and just felt emotionally and physically drained, which is not the feeling you would want.

The six allocated appointments are also a stupid waste of time as the appointments are

only 50 minutes long, a lecture in aspect.

Personally I think the university needs to rethink their ideas on the enrolled students mental health. This year I wasted some money that I can't get back and I feel like I didn't gain anything out of it.

This is my own personal experience and feelings, but I hope whoever took my spot on the list actually gains something out of it.

I was charged \$20 for a missed appointment when I was only four minutes late (parking display thing to prove it) which I thought was pretty bullshit considering when I made an appointment I must have booked a slot of time that was a bit longer than four minutes. So not only did I have to pay that but then had to pay again to come back an hour or so later. I understand that I was late and that there has to be something to stop people abusing the system but how crazy do they need to get? Students don't have the \$10 to spare to even go to the doctor let alone an extra \$20 for that.

Cheers, Nikki

Dear Unwatched Birds

I felt it amusing that your letter claiming the tenants of the "Bird Watchers" was taking a moral high ground to people who are "a bit creepy" and whose views might, indirectly lead to rape culture which might, indirectly lead to sexual assault, coming from people whose gendered politics apparently directly led them to commit trespass, theft, and vandalism. Oh how quickly we become that which we despise. Perhaps a better name would be jailbirds.

Regards

NOTICE: RAPE AWARENESS WEEK

This week, from the 2nd to the 8th of May, is Rape Awareness Week. In addition to activities being held throughout the week – a quiz night on Tuesday night at the Dog With Two Tails, a clothes swap on Wednesday at the OUSA clubs and recreation building, and the annual street appeal for Rape Crisis on Saturday – there is also a regional Hui to enable various community agencies to network. According to Rachel Shaw, a community educator for Rape Crisis Dunedin, the primary goal of Rape Awareness Week is to inspire conversation amongst the community. She believes that the people of Dunedin are at a "really good point at the moment to have that discussion," in light of recent events on campus, such as a screening of American documentary The Hunting Ground, and a recent forum on student harassment. "I feel like students are ready and wanting to talk about this, and also wanting the University to talk about it – for me, the goal (of Rape Awareness Week) is conversation and openness."

> -Amber Allott (full feature in *Critic* on rape culture on campus out week 11)

Dear Critic (and I wish to remain anonymous),

I wanted to thank you for the recent article that helped strip away some of the preconceptions about social nudity; it can be fun and completely harmless. I think everybody should give it a go at some point in their life. Personally, I'd like to see it more commonly on the beaches in the area (without that being creepy!). All beaches are nudist beaches, so long as you're considerate of others, and we do already have the Nude Blacks and two naturist clubs (Southern Free Beaches is perhaps a little more student friendly).

Furthermore, the nude tunnel run organised by Rosco's Milford Kayaks happens just across the way in Milford and is always well-attended. All money raised goes to charity and it would make a great group-bonding activity. It happens every year on the first of April.

So, let's give it a go!

Cheers. A regular reader and occasional skinny-dipper.



RIDDLE ME THIS:

JOHNNYS MOTHER HAD THREE CHILDREN. THE FIRST CHILD WAS NAMED APRIL, THE SEC-OND NAMED MAY. WHATS WAS THE THIRD CHILDS NAME?

(arimos go) hnnyor 🗤

CIARK V WOODHOUSE



The case for a Universal Basic Income



by DAVID CLARK

E ARE ALL BORN HELPLESS. NONE OF US WOULD SURVIVE TO adulthood without parents or guardians to ensure we had necessary nurture, food and shelter.

And we're lucky to be in New Zealand. Everyone has the opportunity to get ahead with the help of publicly funded hospitals, schools, roads and access to justice. History tells us, these are preconditions for a society that enjoys widespread prosperity. Even those in the very lowest income bracket in New Zealand are still likely to have income higher than 2/3rds of the world's citizens.

Making sure everyone had a decent income was at the heart of Labour's 1938 Social Security Act. It established the welfare state. It made sure there were provisions to assist those who needed it – the vulnerable, sick, and temporarily unemployed. We led the world on this. Many developed countries followed our lead.

However, over the years ad hoc extensions of benefits – and a proliferation of rules, exemptions, additions and detractions – have created bureaucratic barriers to citizens accessing that social safety net. There are stand-down periods. There are declarations and incomprehensible forms that lead to despair. And the bureaucracy is also accompanied by growing administrative costs that we all pay for. The system supports many of those in need, but it is far from perfect.

The idea of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) to replace a raft of existing benefits has had support from economists and public health academics around the world. That said, there is much debate on what exactly a UBI would look like – and how we could afford it. It is hard at this stage to imagine a UBI being a glamorous payment. People will want to work to increase their incomes.

But what is agreed is the simple principle behind the UBI: that every citizen is supported by sufficient income to allow them to participate fully in society and develop their full potential.

A UBI is attractive to economists because it is simple, straightforward and fair. No-one sits in judgement about who has access to what. Everyone receives a fixed amount to live on, regardless of their living situation.

Unfortunately, while the UBI is the darling of public health experts and economists of a variety of political persuasions, no nation state has yet implemented one comprehensively. This is why if elected in 2017, Labour is first modestly considering a regional trial of the UBI.

And while a UBI is not yet Labour's policy, it is easy to see how it shapes up better than the current complex and more costly system of insider knowledge, additions, subtractions, paperwork and exemptions. It's a discussion worth having.

by MICHAEL WOODHOUSE

ABOUR'S FUTURE OF WORK PROJECT WAS A NOBLE ENOUGH ATTEMPT to address an issue that, to be blunt, is nothing new. The nature of work changes constantly, as it did during the industrial revolution, when cars replaced horses and carts and when the internet became a commercial tool, just to name a few examples. Labour then shot themselves in the foot by making this a Future of Welfare project in thinking out loud about a wholly unaffordable Universal Basic Income. In theory this would give every adult, regardless of need, a regular income from the government and could replace all other forms of welfare such as pensions, benefits and student allowances.

This announcement was followed by the release of a paper suggesting a payment to everyone in NZ 18 years or over of either \$11,000 a year, replacing welfare benefits except for "supplementary transfers for disadvantaged groups," or \$22,000 a year completely replacing all welfare benefits.

The cost for this policy is calculated as costing up to \$54 billion extra spending each year. At present there are around 3.5 million people in NZ aged 18 or over and an \$11,000 payment would cost around \$38 billion a year and a \$22,000 payment \$76 billion. At present all welfare benefits (including Super, Working for Families, Income Related Rent Subsidy and the Accommodation Supplement) come to only \$22 billion a year so there is at least \$16 billion, and up to \$54 billion to be made up.

Where would that money come from? Obviously it would have to be by inflicting much larger tax rates on workers, perhaps at least double, maybe triple income tax rates.

We already have a productivity problem in our workforce which wouldn't be helped by providing up to \$22,000 a year for doing nothing, particularly when marginal tax rates would be so much higher if you worked.

Then there is the issue of fairness. Why should the wealthy businessperson get the same support from the government as a sole parent who is unable to work due to illness and has three children to care for? Does that really sound like the country you want to live, work and bring up your families in?

The best response to the changing nature of work is to create the conditions that allow businesses to be nimble in embracing technologies and logistics, then negotiating trade agreements that reduce the barriers to the enormous international markets on which New Zealand relies. That's exactly what the Government is doing and will continue to do.

ISSUE 09



dear ethel It's not that complicated

Dear Ethel,

Recently I went to a bathroom when a man entered, or at least I thought they were a man. When I told him they were in the wrong bathroom he said, I'm actually a woman, and then she continued to enter a stall. I don't want to make this embarrassing mistake again but how I am supposed to tell when someone is in the right bathroom?

From Confused Student Dear Confused Student,

I read this great tip on the internet recently about your exact problem, it goes like this:

If you're in a public bathroom and you think a stranger's gender does not match the sign on the door, follow these steps:

 Don't worry about it, they know better than you.

This issue of people being called out and even harassed when they enter public toilets is so common it has a name: 'The bathroom problem'. This is where individuals are challenged in toilet spaces and their gender questioned or they are assumed to be men in women's toilets or women in men's toilets.

ALL people share a real human need for safe bathroom facilities when we go to work, school, and participate in public life. Gender segregated bathrooms are intended to provide safety, modesty, and security in these facilities. BUT 'The bathroom problem' can be a daily issue for transgender and gender non-conforming people. Many people would rather risk health problems by 'holding on' all day than risk experiencing discrimination or harassment.

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Education and the Department of Labour all state that individuals should be able to use the facilities that match their gender identity. They all reinforce that this can be an important way to support a trans person's sense of identity and wellbeing. For some people this will mean access to gender segregated toilets and others, access to a gender-neutral bathroom is best.

Because there are very few gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, the University of Otago's Disability Information and Support are happy for trans, gender non-conforming and gender diverse individuals to use the accessible bathrooms labelled as gender-neutral/unisex.

OUSA Queer Support is currently compiling a list of gender-neutral/ unisex toilets to make available for students. If students have any questions or feedback feel free to contact Queer Support by emailing q.support@ousa.org.nz.

Remember, trust that people know what toilet is right for them!

XO, *-Ethel*



SCIENCE, BITCHES

Natural vs synthetic

by LUCY HUNTER

ATURAL" IS DEFINED AS EX-ISTING IN NATURE AND NOT made or caused by people. Many people believe natural products are intrinsically better for you than synthetic ones. Arsenic is natural. Blood poisoning is natural, but wearing clothes is unnatural. AIDS is natural, as are snakebites. A diabetic dying from lack of insulin is natural, while it would be unnatural for a diabetic to inject insulin, as needles are unnatural. Duvets,

books, bread, makeup, pencils, asthma inhalers, chocolate, phones, cars, and carpet are unnatural. Apples used to be natural – they were also tiny, tough, and bitter. Humans have altered them through artificial selection and now they are unnatural.

Looking around me I am interacting with the following "unnatural" things. The glasses, which correct my short sightedness, are unnatural. Music is unnatural, as are the instruments it is played on and the devices we listen to it through. My boyfriend is older than 30, which was around the life expectancy of many prehistoric people (though if they made tools and cooked food, even they weren't entirely "natural.") He went to the dentist this morning, delaying the "natural" process of having the teeth rot out of his head, become infected, and stop him eating, which was the fate of most humans and hominids to have ever walked the earth.

Just because something is natural does not mean that it is good, safe or healthy. Herbs are natural but they are also drugs when used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease. The chemicals in synthetic drugs are from natural sources. They are extracted so that only the useful part of, say, a plant is used in the drug to minimise side effects and to control dosage.

Many people take St John's Wort to treat depression, for which it is somewhat effective. St. John's Wort is "natural" but it is also a drug. It contains hypericin, which inhibits monoamine oxidase, a chemical associated with depression. In other words, St. John's Wort (hypericin) is an "MAO inhibitor". Doctors prescribe other types of MOA inhibitors as anti-depressants. They have fewer side effects and bear warnings for users to avoid certain foods, which can react badly with MOA inhibitors. St John's Wort can also "naturally" react with certain foods, but does not bear the same warnings. Side effects include convulsions, extremely high fever, and death by natural causes.

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



EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REQUIRE THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES TAKE REGULAR DRUG TESTS

+AFFIRMATIVE by by old major

Employers have a responsibility to ensure that their employees are working in a safe environment. That doesn't just mean they have to make sure nothing is likely to explode, but they've also got a duty to make sure that your workmates are up to the job. This isn't just some wishy-washy thing; employers are legally required to take reasonable steps to protect their employees. Say you're working as the stop-go person. Not only do you want to be standing somewhere where cars aren't likely to run you over, but you also want to know that the people operating the heavy machinery aren't as high as kites. Employers are in the business of making money, they don't want to drug test everyone. Nor are they members of the Stasi. They're not likely to randomly test people. They would only do so in cases where there is doubt about a person as a one off thing. Or, if they did test regularly, it would be in unique, high-risk industries like adventure sports. When you jump out of a plane you want to know that sky-dive instructor is sober.

Let's also remember here that many recreational drugs are illegal. You might get drunk and then crank out your inner Mary Poppins singing: "Let's get high as a kite, fly up to the highest heights.... Oh let's go soaring" but when you buy weed you're supporting criminal networks and gangs. Your weed dealer might be a nice person but somewhere back in that chain of supply there, in all likelihood, will be a bunch of people in organised crime who are profiteering. If drug testing in the workplace helps to stamp out the use of illegal drugs at all, then that's already a massive positive. Moreover, many people who have a drug addiction don't get help. When employees are required to undergo drug testing in their workplace, employers can help them to identify the problem so they can come to address it.

Because drugs are illegal and the profits go to organised crime, because drugs can lead to an unsafe workplace which can endanger people, and because employers have a duty to create a safe workplace, drug testing in this context should be allowed.

-NEGATIVE by SQUEALER THE PIG

You have a right to privacy in your own life. Just as you'd be up in arms if the university started installing cameras in residential areas of Dunedin (ohh, wait...) you'd also be furious if your employer could simply demand that you undergo a drug test. It's a massive violation of privacy. What you do in your own life should have no impact on your work life.

A policy like this also creates unfair divisions. Could you imagine the university requiring lectures to take a drug test? It's unlikely, right? However, it requires a smaller stretch of the imagination to think of a scenario where the Uni requires that Campus Watch employees take a drug test. You might want to argue that it's fine for your lecturer to be a stoner, but not for Campus Watch but that's just ridiculous. In both cases smoking weed during non-work hours makes no difference to each group's respective abilities to do their jobs.

You might point out that this isn't really a debate about weed. But you can't be sure. Drug tests pick up the whole spectrum. So even if they were just concerned about harder stuff they'd still be able to see if you had weed or some magic mushrooms. There have even been cases overseas where people get called out for taking prescription medications. If you're taking meds for a legitimate illness the last thing you need is stress at work over a botched drug test.

Another argument for employee drug testing is that it's all about workplace safety. But workplaces are largely self-regulating places. Just like everyone knows who the lazy-slacker is you're also likely to know who the stoner is. And if their drug use impacts on your own safety, or the safety of those around you, you're able to just have a chat with them.

If talking to a person isn't enough, then you can look at more official measures. But another problem is that some people do have drug addictions. Penalising them for this, by testing them and then locking them out of the workplace, isn't going to help solve the problem. If it's not impacting on their ability there's a valid argument that it's none of your business, or more importantly their employer's business. If they're you're friend, have a chat about it.

At the end of the day work is just work. Your employer should have no say over how you spend your own time. If your drug use impacts on your work it'll be pretty obvious. There is no need, or principle justification by which you can validate drug testing in the workplace.


If you go down to the woods today... you're fucking lucky

Dear Bush Warrior

a dickhead.

The time is currently 8.33am. It is

a Sunday morning. I am in central

library, still half drunk, with a pro-

ductivity projection of two hours

before the hangover really kicks in,

so forgive me if my tether is a bit

short: but your boyfriend is

is to put his visual preferences over

Who the fuck does he think he

Dear Sexcellent,

I don't like shaving my pubes: I get awful ingrown hairs and it's horribly itchy. I keep it nice and trimmed but I my boyfriend wants me to go completely hairless because he likes it better. How do I make it stop hurting?

Yours,

Bush Warrior



THE WEEKLY DOUBT

Cultural relativism

by WEE DOUBT

ULTURAL RELATIVISM IS THE principle that an individual person's beliefs and activities should be understood by others in terms of that individual's own culture. This is true, to a point, but often it translates as "We cannot pass judgement on people of other cultures, no matter what they do, because we can't understand it."

Cultural relativism works if you are talking about, for example, how

in one culture it is traditional for a bride to wear white while in another culture they wear red. One isn't better than the other. It's like trying to say that your favourite thing to do – snowboarding, which I think is cold, boring, and horrible, is not as good as my favourite thing to do – reading, which I think is warm, interesting, and comfortable. I like my hobby more, obviously, but it doesn't mean one hobby is better

your comfort? It's a goddamn privilege he gets to see your pube-y area, let alone touch it, the ungrateful bastard. Pubes, like anything, go in fashion: influenced by the mainstream media and in our generation, porn. The current thinking happens to be that a woman should be hairless below her eyebrows. Newsflash boys: that doesn't just happen magically. We grow the hair. We have to get rid of it somehow: and it's a long, tedious, painful, temporary process. We deal with ingrown hairs and shaving burn and waxing, and this dickhead wants to add another twenty minutes and an awkward, thigh-burning wide squat to the pre-Saturday-night-shower routine? No.

Tell him that it is your body, your vulva, and your rules. He can have preferences, sure: but a) he should critically examine why he has those preferences, and b) even if he doesn't want to look at the reasons behind his preference, he can't impose that on you.

In any case, boys and girls, you should try out different pubic hair styles because you want to, not because some ungrateful douche is telling you to, there are lots of ways to do it. Shaving, obviously, but also hair removal cream (please though, use the stuff specifically designed for sensitive areas), waxing, laser, threading, and I'm sure a hundred other ways to remove your pubes that my poor hungover brain can't think of right now.

Ingrown hairs are awful, but exfoliating a lot can help prevent them. If you shave, make sure your razor is shiny and new and shave with the grain. Be gentle with your bodies, and exfoliate, exfoliate, exfoliate!

хо, S

than the other. We like different things. That's fine. If your hobby was setting dogs on fire, that's not fine.

It does not work if you are talking about cutting the clitorises off girls. Can wellbeing be measured? Is a child better off with their body in tact, or with part of it cut off because of the sexual repression of their society? If you believe you can't make a moral judgement on this, there is no point in having a definition of good and bad at all. Tolerating cruelty against vulnerable people or animals is not open-minded, it's cynical.

In his book "The Moral Landscape" neuroscientist Sam Harris points out how the concepts of physical and mental health are difficult to define, and how they change over time. The average life expectancy in some ancient cultures was around 30, now it is around 80 in the developed world. Perhaps in the future it will be considered unfortunate if you can't run a marathon at 200. Yet we know that physical health doesn't mean you are constantly vomiting in agony. Similarly, there are many kinds of food, and no one thing that is the best food for everybody. But we do know the difference between food and poison.

Would New Zealand society be better if we broke the toes of every third child? Would it be better if we infected everybody with tuberculosis? Would we be generally better off if we made some of our children live in the dark? I don't think it's presumptuous to say no, our society wouldn't be better with these things.

ALLEGIANT

Director: Robert Schwentke

RATING: C+



by JESSICA THOMPSON

I wanted to give Allegiant a chance, I swear. I walked into that cinema, illegal chips under jacket, with clean judgment and an open mind. Excited, if anything, to see director Robert Schwentke amend the travesty that was Insurgent. Alas.

Allegiant is the third installment to the American Science fiction

series Divergent and I wish it was the last. Based on the books by Veronica Roth, the film follows Butch Katniss (aka Tris Prior aka Shailene Woodley) escape her apocalyptic, war torn city now named Chicago (I swear it wasn't called that in any of the other films), and go beyond the wall with the

help of Hot Crazy Eves (aka Four aka Theo James) and Augustus Waters (aka Caleb Prior aka Ansel Elgort). Outside they encounter a brand new form of oppression and conspiracy (think 1999 Star Wars meets Mad Max) and must attempt to fight for their rights as equal human beings against the corrupt and creepy David (played by Jeff Daniels). Tris takes a bit of a back row seat in the action department on this one, leaving all the gnarly scenes to Four (disappointing), and allowing herself to be manipulated by David (bring back Kate Winslet pls!) until it's all too late.

This film was not very deep, though some aspects could arguably be seen as relatable. The animation was so outrageous and half assed, it vGranted, there were a few badass chicks who carried the story, but there were too many holes in the plot to take it seriously. I found myself constantly frowning, but more than that—laughing. It is a hilarious film. Please go watch it as a comedy and separate it from the first film because Divergent was great. They should have stopped there.

There came a point where I started to really enjoy myself-I think it was early on about the time when Augustus Gloop (sorry Ansel) tried to run again. He was my favorite part. If you go, go to see him, its method acting at its Renaissance, and it means I cannot wait for the next one, even though this two-part thing grinds my gears beyond measure.

So if you want running, guns, more running (youtube: Ansel Elgort explains why he runs silly), weird futuristic mum outfits and endless basic bitch tattoos, then this is the film for you! If you don't like any of that stuff, go anyway. Because Ansel.

This was just the worst film I have seen all year. Not even like so bad

A WARRIOR'S TAIL

Director: Maksim Fadeev RATING: D

by LISA BLAKIE

38

it's good, it's just.... Bad.

A Warrior's Tail is a low budget Russian animated film which I'm hoping was poorly translated because I have no idea what the narrative was actually trying to convey. Every character was obnoxious and annoying and lame and had their own bizarre storylines going on.

So like, the main character is this child called Savva who has to save his village from a pack of Hyenas who are doing A Bug's Life-esque steal of all the food from the weak people in exchange for money from the bad guys who are monkeys. Whoopi Goldberg voices the villain who is a cursed three-headed Gorilla. Each head represents vanity, foolishness and power or something. To save his Mum and the village, he has to go see a wizard(??). Savva meets really weird friends along the way. There's a sexy looking white wolf who turns into a sexy looking anime dude. The sexy wolf guy is also cursed because their leader ate a human or something and so now their whole race of wolves is turned into humans as punishment and their only weakness is mosquitos (???). The next character is this gross rat looking man who is ALSO CURSED because he has women fight over him or something(??) (I hope you are getting this gist with all these



question marks..) Then there is this annoying as hell pink furby looking thing who then gets worshipped by some non-specific indigenous tribe. Then some girl from the tribe joins them to see the wizard, and there is a battle or something and then the village is saved because the monkey lady shrinks.

As well as all that, the animation is just awful. I understand the need for more "family appropriate" films during school holiday time, but this was just so bad. I was the only one in the theatre!! It looks like The Jimmy Neutron movie but worse. I have no idea what else to say about this because it was so bad and if the only redeeming factor is a poorly animated white haired anime looking dude, why the hell was it even released globally.

It's an interesting coincidence that both of the new Kiwi movies

ORPHANS & KINGDOMS

Director: Paolo Rotondo

RATING: A



by ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT

currently showing cover similar subject matter - both involve juvenile delinquents getting into a dangerous predicament alongside a reclusive adult, with everyone eventually bonding and becoming better people.

However, the two movies have different tones: Orphans &

Kingdoms has fewer laughs than Hunt For The Wilderpeople (understandable as it isn't a comedy), but it is well worth watching.

In O&K the delinquents in question are Jesse, Tibs and Kenae (played by Jesse-James Rehu Pickery, Hanelle Harris and Calae Hignett-Morgan). Homeless and parent-less, they decide to break into a lavish mansion on Waiheke Island, assuming it to be unoccupied. But the owner, a man named Jeremy (played by Colin Moy from In My Father's Den) soon arrives home. Further complications ensue and the situation becomes dire for both parties, but when Jeremy has the opportunity of turning his captors in to the police, he considers helping them escape instead.

This sounds like it could potentially become quite corny if it weren't clear that Jeremy isn't of sound mind. His decision to help the teenagers involves a lot of emotional transference, as we learn that he had been a neglectful father to his son in the past, and is still racked with guilt. The film never feels like a morality tale; more like a realistic story about a collision of wounded souls.

The four leads all give great performances, but it's Moy and Hignett-Morgan who stand out the most. Kenae is the youngest of the three teens, the most volatile and threatening, and yet the most vulnerable. The characters of Jesse and Tibs had potential to be expanded on a bit more, and given the film's quite short run-time of 75 minutes, I feel it could've easily included another five or six scenes without overstaying its welcome. However, the economical less-is-more approach might not be a bad thing.

Either way, the film certainly held my attention throughout, and continued to after I left the theatre.

Before seeing Eye in the Sky, a fairly

EYE IN THE SKY

Director: Gavin Hood

RATING: A-



bpNHA-SULLYVANler that centres on the arguments around and ramifications of using drones in modern warfare, I had pretty high expectations and I wasn't disappointed.

Dame Helen Mirren leads a pretty star-packed cast (Alan Rickman in one of his last performances, Aaron Paul - well known for his portrayal on Breaking Bad, and Iain Glen, aka that guy who plays Jorah Mormont in HBO's Game of Thrones), which provides a solid and particularly human portrayal of the people and issues at hand. The film follows multiple groups of people in a number of locations; Nairobi, London, Nevada, Pearl Harbour and beyond. Instead of the ranging sets being annoying and hard to follow, the film seamlessly threads these multiple layers into a giant overarching struggle of morality, politics, terrorism, and (yeah, you guessed it) drones. Hence, over the 102 minute runtime, I experienced a gripping chain of events that involved the 'yay or nay' debate of launching a Hellfire missile attack on a small house in Nairobi.

The film does a fantastic job of balancing its perspective in regards to a pretty serious issue. The humanization of the people involved (both the targets and those in charge of the mission) is there without being overbearing, while the ethical complexities, disconnectedness, and sheer scale of drone warfare is fairly represented. As a result, when the credits begin to roll I wasn't sure where the film stood on the issue of nukes and their place in modern warfare—a feat I consider both admirable and difficult to achieve. This even-handedness is rather rare in politically oriented films and I enjoyed the way the film encouraged the viewer to develop their own take on the people and issues at hand.

Aside from some minor cringe moments —times where a couple of actors perhaps found themselves overacting due to the fragmented setting and action of the film—Eye in the Sky is an interesting and quality watch.



TEENAGE FANS



The basic truth of the matter is that girls and women make incredible fans

by MILLICENT LOVELOCK

Yesterday I sat thinking about my thesis as I listened to Sandy Hsu's "Teenage Girls" on repeat. It's a tender song, but rough around the edges, recorded in a bathroom with some lo-fi piece of recording equipment that manages to capture Hsu's crystal voice but muffle her guitar.

I came across the track on One Direction expert Brodie Lancaster's twitter, in the wake of a Guardian article that laments the attitude of male musicians towards female fans. I'm writing my thesis on One Direction, I care deeply about music, and I'm a woman, so I was all riled up, muttering curses under my breath at these arrogant, ignorant men who don't want women and girls listening to their music. The Guardian article names and shames bands like Mothxr and 5 Seconds of Summer for suggesting that they'll know they've made it as musicians when they see more men in the crowd than women, because women obviously don't like their super important music for the right reasons. Both bands did later retract their statements, but underappreciating and even deriding women's appreciation is all too common in every corner of the art world, be it popular or not.

-40

If there is one thing that unites people it is a deep seated distaste for teenage girls and anything they like. I would even go so far as to say that people hate teenage girls, but that gets people's backs up because they think you have to actively wish someone ill to hate them, but as far as I'm concerned constantly (and aggressively) dismissing someone's interests and passions is as good as hating them and it does as much damage. We've all heard the way society talks about teenage girls, they're hysterical, they're deluded, they don't know what is good art and what is bad art because all they're

If there is one thing that unites people it is a deep seated distaste for teenage girls and anything they like

interested in is cute boys and celebrity gossip, they're shallow, they're vapid, it goes on and on. And then, whatever it is that teenage girls are passionate about is treated with as much venomous disdain as the girls themselves. Think tweets sent by grown men to Justin Bieber and Harry Styles, think "serious" musicians and critics aggressively wishing ill upon public figures who just happen to be adored by teenage girls. The worst crime One Direction ever committed was being enjoyed by millions of teenage girls, and they're one of the world's most financially and internationally successful bands. I'd put it down to simple envy but the misogyny runs a lot deeper than that, the undercurrent whispering that if something women like is hugely successful then there must be something wrong.

The basic truth of the matter is that girls and women make incredible fans. When we see footage of fans outside a pop concert and they're young girls and they're screaming and beside themselves with glee, we're told they're hysterical and they're out of control, not that they're passionate and engaged, and so, so happy to be involved in a community of likeminded individuals that is all about sharing interests and feeling good. If you shift the narrative for just a second and pay attention you might notice that what women and girls do for music they love is pretty damn incredible. Recently I was moved to tears by a One Direction concert film when, mid show, the audience in the 120,000 seat stadium brought out coloured paper to form a banner spanning the entire stadium that read "We heart the 1D family". And if you're not moved by the effort that goes into organising a small city's worth of people to spontaneously produce a heartfelt banner, then you might consider that without teenage girls you might not have had your precious Beatles and Rolling Stones.

Hsu encapsulates in the first line of her song everything that is special and important about women and girls caring about your music. She sings, "all the teenage girls are tired but they'll stay up late and scream when the TV shows your face, and all the teenage girls are crying but they say that they're okay". For me this is so nostalgic, sending me right back to the moments where I experienced pure ecstasy as a young music consumer, staying up until midnight to watch the premier of a new White Stripes music video, staying up all night with friends watching My Chemical Romance documentaries and weeping during the live performances. Teenage girls are driven by an unbridled love for music that speaks to them, and when they get behind a band or musician they are absolutely dedicated and more often than not that band does pretty well for themselves. And more than that, those girls, if they aren't shamed out of their passions by the time they turn seventeen, go on to approach what matters to them with unashamed and undeterrable focus and zeal. We should always talk about female fans with the respect they deserve.

THAT DRAGON, CANCER

PC | Developed and Published by Numinous Games

RATING: A





by CAMPBELL CALVERLEY

When you hear that a game has tackled the heavy topic of a child battling with cancer, it's understandable you'd be skeptical. It's likely to be emotionally manipulative, or merely uncomfortable rather than honest, or just corny. That Dragon, Cancer is none of these things. Instead, it is an astonishingly soft, abstract game about aching, aching loss.

That Dragon, Cancer was made by two parents named Amy and Ryan Green. Their youngest child, Joel, was diagnosed with a cancerous tumour as an infant, and it was estimated that he would only live until he was sixteen months old. He ended up living for five years, but these years were filled with infirmity, excitement, anxiety, love, pain, beauty and sadness. Eventually, in 2014, he died. Put simply, the game is about the life of Joel.

It's difficult to elaborate upon the good qualities of the game without describing the events of the game. That Dragon, Cancer is not technically impressive in any way. Gameplay-wise, it contains nothing that has not been done before, and some of the voice acting is a bit forced. There are also a couple of moments where it is difficult to figure out what to do in order to progress. The game belongs to the walking simulator genre, with nothing to do outside of what the game directly tells you to do. Instead, the game takes you intimately from moment to moment in Joel's life, out of any chronological order, in an almost dreamlike state.

When the perspective of the player is that of Joel, the game takes on a toybox-like quality. Food items are absurdly massive, and playtime is never over – unless it is interrupted by the evil, looming dragon of the title. When the perspective switches to that of the parents, the events of the game switch between heartbreakingly sweet and emotionally painful. One sequence has you looking through Ryan's eyes as he rocks Joel to sleep in his hospital ward. Another has the two receiving very bad news from Joel's doctors, as the room slowly fills with water. Another has the two parents stranded in the ocean, arguing about the best way to get Joel to safe ground. The most wretched sequence has you trying to care for a suffering Joel, who will not stop crying. The more he cries, the more your energy and will as a parent drains – but if he stops crying, the worst may have happened.

All of this could be seen as ridiculous were it not for the fact that the story is true. Yes, the game does have a heavy Christian bent; however, this is only because Amy and Ryan are Christians themselves. The game is not preachy in any way. It simply depicts their emotional and philosophical struggle to come to terms with their son's inevitable death.

By far, the most clever and subtle way the game wrenches your emotions is the way in which it changes how you interact with the world. At the start of the game, you must actively interact with objects in order to learn how they related to Joel's life; how much he loved playgrounds, certain words, dogs, pancakes, driving, and being told stories. By the end of the game, these interactions occur automatically – but the game also slowly pulls away from every interaction unless you keep clicking. You have to keep interacting if you want to spend more time with Joel. It is only

when you simply stop, and let go of Joel, that the game will end.

With this game, Amy and Ryan Green have made a declaration of love. It is a celebration of a very short life. It is a symbol of support for anyone who is – or who knows someone who is - struggling through a battle with cancer. It is a stark depiction of the utter exhaustion that parents have to go through. This is the kind of thing that may be hard to understand unless you have personally experienced it. But this is the magic of storytelling in all mediums: to enable an outsider to live through an experience vicariously, so that they might know how to react once it happens to themselves.

This is a very lovely, very sad, and very heartfelt game. Play it. It will make you cry, and it will probably make you want to call your parents afterwards. Have a blessed week.



by TANTHONY MARRIS

Described by the revered Jedi Master Obi Wan Kenobi as an elegant weapon for a more civilised age, the lightsaber is a blade of energy which can deflect blaster bolts, cut through steel and sever the odd limb or two. Fandom website Dorkly ranked the lightsaber as the coolest fictional weapon in a poll which also included Wolverine's claws (seventh) and Dr Who's Sonic Screwdriver (14th). As awesome as it would be to own one, the real world applications of such a weapon would be limited.

The lightsaber is an extension of the Jedi's command of the Force. In much the same way as a wizard's wand, or Kim Kardashian's cellphone, the lightsaber amplifies the Jedi's capabilities. Without knowledge of the Force (an unseen energy field which connects all living things), the lightsaber is nothing more than a dangerous glow stick. As a practical weapon, the lightsaber requires a lot of skill to use. If we were able to purchase one today, the emergency departments of every hospital in the world would be full of people with burns, missing appendages and cauterised gaping holes. Both Jedi and Sith warriors were able to use the Force to avoid danger by leaping vast distances, deflect shrapnel and move objects. The average person, armed with a lightsaber but having no command of the Force would succumb to injury if they were shot at by a rifle or had a hand grenade thrown in their proximity.

Assuming we could build one, a lightsaber requires a power source with high output to low expenditure. Particle physicist Don Lincoln noted in a Space.com article that a standard lightsaber power supply potentially produced 20 megawatts of high energy, and yet the wielders hands were not burned by the extreme heat emitted from the blade. In the real world, Lasers and plasma are cited as the two main possible vehicles to make this dream a reality.

Lasers are a small beam of focussed light. Using lasers, MiT Professor Vladin Vuletic has managed to merge two light photons together in the lab to make a molecule, which he notes has potential to mimic how lightsabers do not pass through each other. The second hypothetical solution is plasma, an ionised gas which has a high gas temperature but low heat



temperature. Plasma is being used for welding and the electricity available determines the temperature. Both options draw on a huge power supply for low yield, not to mention that neither presented account for the problem of containing the blade length or the blade's energy field.

Of course, anyone armed with a lightsaber would have to be familiar with some form of fighting. The Jedi have developed seven forms of lightsaber combat, but like any situation where policy and perspective changing weapons are put into play, the non-usage of the lightsaber or Form Zero would be the best option. I like Form VI (Niman), a style that was aimed at the Jedi who spent their days thinking and studying, a less aggressive form which allows for improvisation depending on the situation. With no real advantages or disadvantages in a one on one fight, it was proven to be impractical for the open battlefield.

To use a lightsaber effectively requires an understanding of the Force. But given that the Force is fictional, the question that should be asked before building any weapons system is, "at what cost?".

Given that this week is International Star Wars Day (May 4th), I suggest you watch Cartoon Network's The Clone Wars. A solid series full of violence, deception, political skulduggery and humorous quips. For a potential mind altering perspective on The Phantom Menace, Reddit user Lumpawarroo has presented a detailed argument on the true nature of Jar Jar Binks.

TL;DR – Lightsabers are cool, but without an ability to use the Force, they are deadly glow sticks. Would still buy one.

If we were able to purchase one today, the emergency departments of every hospital in the world would be full of people with burns, missing appendages and cauterised gaping holes



MURTABAK

by KIRSTEN GARCIA

This week I'm going Southeast Asian on you all with one of my favourite street foods. The name comes from the Arabic word for folded. It's essentially roti with minced meat, and a scrambled egg folded inside. It can be eaten by itself, with curry or even just tomato sauce. You have to work fast in the kitchen when you make this, they're so good they'll probably be eaten just as quickly.

MAKES 8 - SERVES 4

For the dough:

- 3 cups white flour 1 teaspoon salt ½ cup oil
- 1 cup lukewarm water

For the filling:

- 1 onion, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 500g of minced meat, beef or chicken
- 12 stalks spring onion, sliced
- 1 chilli, finely sliced (optional)
- 4 eggs



To make the dough:

- 1. Place flour and salt in a large bowl and rub in 1 tablespoon of oil
- 2. Add water and mix into a soft dough
- 3. Knead the dough for ten minutes
- Divide the dough into 7-8 equal-sized balls and place them in a small bowl with 1/2 cup of oil (which we will use again later for frying)
- Leave dough in the oil for an hour, which will help make the dough easy to roll

Bringing it all together:

YOUR SATURDAY STARTS HERE ...

- Beat eggs in a medium bowl, season with salt and pepper
- 2. On a smooth surface flatten a dough ball with a rolling pin until pastry thin
- Heat a flat, wide pan with oil (you can use the same oil from the dough)
- 4. Transfer flattened dough on pan
- Working quickly so it doesn't burn, spoon about four tablespoons of beaten egg on the middle portion of the dough

Meanwhile, you can make the filling:

- Heat and oil a large frying pan and add onion.
- 2. Add garlic and fry until the onion is brown
- Add turmeric and curry powder and stir for a few seconds
- 4. Put in the minced meat. Lightly brown meat before adding salt to season, spring onion and chilli if desired. Carry on frying until meat is cooked, then take it off the heat
- 6. Spoon some meat on top
- While the egg is slightly undercooked, and before the dough overcooks, bring each corner to the middle so it overlaps and looks like an envelope
- 8. Turn it over and cook the other side

Seasonal, local, healthy & affordable

 Repeat Steps 2-8 with each ball of dough

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A DEEP AND TUMBLING KIND OF LAUGHTER JOHN WARD KNOX

27 February – 30 April 2016, Hocken Gallery FREE ENTRY

by MONIQUE HODGKINSON

It would be easy to mistake the current exhibition at the Hocken Gallery for an empty space, so diminutive is the scale of John Ward Knox's paintings. Yet what a deep and tumbling kind of laughter lacks in size, it makes up for in the intimacy, skill, and sheer beauty of the works.

John Ward Knox is an artist living and working in Auckland, who was named the Francis Hodgkins Fellow for 2015. Marking the culmination of this period of his work, a deep and tumbling kind of laughter is an exploration of human forms and skin tone. You won't find any selfies, spray tans, or artificial poses here; instead, Knox creates delicate close-ups of skin in shades of translucent porcelain, gently alluding to the curves and plains of human bodies. Smatterings of red tones, with tiny flecks of freckles break up the stretches of ivory luminescence, the cool white of the backgrounds hinting at soft interior scenes.

many colours I could pull from the inky depths, and how with an upturned face I could find the sun or the bulb without recourse to specific vision. Since then I have

"As a child...I used to see how

known the skin as a thing not of opacity but of translucency and diffusion," writes Knox. "When you gaze upon the skin of a lover or of a friend or of a dying relative or any human being what you are seeing is not the surface of an object but a subtle and fleeting display of depth."

Walking through this exhibition it is easy to find a sense of rest and serenity, each small painting showing a different angle of sinews, a different muscle stretching, a new constellation of freckles or rivers of veins in slightly new ways. The depth described by Knox is evident in the colours and subtle detail in each and every canvas. A new, more thoughtful understanding of the human body is proposed here, one more intimate and guiet than is easily found in the rush and artificiality of modern media. The space of a deep and tumbling kind of laughter provides a welcome sanctuary of stillness, and a valuable alternative way of seeing our physical selves.









light switch and THE JIM BARR AND MARY BARR COLLECTION conduit



JOHN DIES AT THE END

AUTHOR: DAVID WONG

by LUCY HUNTER

I quite like insects. I don't mind them on me unless I can feel the weight of them. If one is stuck somewhere I will administer a gentle transport of cardboard over glass jar and dispatch the creature outside. However, while reading John Dies at the End, I developed a fear of bugs. If you are the kind of person who is paranoid about insects crawling in your ears at night and building a nest, this book may not be for you.

Misfits John and David can see things other people can't see. They see shadow men, demons, floating worms, people talking to them on the television, ghost doors, and portals into Hell. They can also see the future of every human on earth. And it doesn't look good. Despite being two of the most useless bums around, John and David have to quit their jobs at the video store to save the world.

They gain their abominable abilities by accidentally taking soy sauce, a drug that gives users a window into another dimension. The soy sauce is difficult to avoid as it can shape-shift into an insect and fly at your face, then stab into your skin, then get into your brain ...

And the soy sauce isn't close to being the worst insecty thing in the book. John and David are plagued by flesh eating "wig monsters" (pictured) —dog-sized, wig-wearing, hu-man-handed, scorpion-tailed, beaked creatures that nobody else can see. People are pushed into a pit full of spiders, who eat just enough of them to not quite kill them. Then there are the colonizing maggot-flies who get into you and breed, bursting out when they are done to infect other people. They make a sound like this: "Imagine fifty thousand men trapped on a desert island, deprived of food and water and sex but somehow kept alive for fifty thousand years. Then, after they've been tormented a hundred steps beyond

insanity, tortured past self-mutilation and cannibalism, somebody drops off a sculpture of a naked woman made from T-bone steaks. If you could then capture the sound of them simultaneously fucking and eating and tearing her to shreds and broadcast it into the center of your skull at ten thousand watts, it would still sound absolutely nothing like what I heard."

David Wong (pen name of Jason Pargin) is my favourite Internet writer. The first thing I do when I wake up in the morning is see what's new on cracked.com. I ordered his book off Amazon expecting to not talk to anyone for two days while I read it. I couldn't do it all at once though - the pages are so full of action it's kind of difficult to read. The book was written as an Internet serial and it shows. Each chapter is like a mini short story. It's exhausting. There are plenty of cracked-esque dick jokes. Observe: "Every man is blessed with his gifts from the Lord. One of mine happens to be a penis large enough that, if it had a penis of its own, my penis's penis would be larger than your penis."

I soon learned the spoiler in the title doesn't reveal much about the story. Characters live, appear to die, come back to life, find their own dead bodies, reanimate them, kill themselves, come back for revenge, lose limbs and grow them back, etc etc.

John and David are plagued by flesh eating "wig monsters" (pictured) —creatures that nobody else can see

John Dies at the End is a horror parody, but a distressing one. It really reminds you what a breakable lump of talking meat and bone you are. If you are feeling delicate, be prepared for real fear and angst that sticks around between reads of the book. The fear of God? The fear of science? Or the fear of insects? John Dies at the End really gets under your skin and scratches around with its nasty little legs.

e is blind 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 svounds 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



SWEET MAMA

I signed up for the *Critic* blind date to add a tick to my Scarfie bucket list and for the amusement. On the night of the date, I downed a few too many drinks before hand (which in hindsight was a terrible idea) and headed to the restaurant where my date was waiting. Due to the fact that I had previously had a few my drunken mind convinced me he was cute and this was all a good idea, which turned out to be very untrue the next morning.

He was the definition of a wannabe hipster, long hair, tattoos, and a philosophy student with average chat. We ordered a bottle of wine and his liquid confidence seemed to kick in as he forwardly decided to sit next to me and have a cheeky kiss or two at the table. After a bottle of wine, cocktails and then another drink at a bar in the octagon I was next fairly drunk and texted my flattie to come and pick us up. My first mistake of the night...

This is where things turned incredibly hazy and messy. He was welcomed into the flat by my flatmates who interrogated him and low key ripped into him for his terrible fuck boy appearance, stupid comments and how much he bragged about smoking weed. At this point I was so incoherently drunk I invited him to come have a shower with me (no clue why) and took him back to bed. With little memory myself, my flat mates filled me in on my strange drunken antics which I can only imagine. After the shower, the night literally became the weirdest of my life... I was expecting to have an average one nightstand, instead I felt like I was in some weird fetish porn film, but hey I was too drunk at the time to really care. He was incredibly kinky with some weird butt fetishes. He continued to try talk dirty to me, which just came across incredibly weird when he

continually referred to me as a "good girl" and asked me to call him "daddy"... Thankfully, we soon fell asleep. The next morning he asked for my number, thankfully I gave him the wrong one, as I pray I never have to see this guy again. As a psychology student I was not ready to help

og With Two Tails

DADDY

After. We shared a bottle of wine and neglected some garlic bread. The chat was alright enough for me not to remember any of it which suits me and at 9:30 I said goodbye to my dignity and accepted the free ride.

Any worry about me walking home that night was alleviated by her gracious flatmate whom picked me and the lass up. Soon as we walked in I was greeted by her beaming sober flatmates and was shuffled not too discretely to the bathroom. I'm not proud to say it boys, but I struggled to turn my piece of wet spaghetti into anything useful.

Discouraged but not defeated, she introduced me to her friend Dildo McDildoface and we had a pretty pleasant time. Nice guy, needs a shower. All the while I'm having one of those drunk reflection moments, except instead of looking in the bathroom mirror I was sucking on the tits of some girl I met just an hour and a half ago. Continuity is like a sponge they say, but it wasn't gonna help me here.

After waking up and slotting in a semi chub to seal the deal, she said something about her boyfriend hopefully not minding, and had a laugh at my awkward pause. Good chat to be honest and ultimately gave me the impression of a relatively good night.

Cheers Critic and a Dog with Two Tails for the night to probably not remember.

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fix his daddy issues and fetishes.

President's Column

This year we are putting some real effort into bringing you practical and fun ways to get through the upcoming exam period, with the following initiative being run by our fantastic executive members and OUSA staff alike.

Our Clubs and Societies Centre will be open, warm, and welcoming for you to utilise during the study and exam period thanks to Campaigns Officer Sean Gamble! What useful things can you find in this facility during this time? Free noodles and a hot water station, frozen meals and microwaves, 5c a page printing, the occasional midnight pizza party, free wifi, bean bags and board games for study breaks. So if this sounds like somewhere you would like to be from 1 st -15 th of June (excluding Queens Birthday) then pop by and make the most of it. If it proves popular, it may well return at the end of the year.

We want to make sure your exam time is as stress free as is possible. As I mentioned in my last column, Alexia your Education Officer has been organising exam packs for you with things to keep you going throughout the study period. Keep an eye out for her and other executive members handing out these packs closer to exam time.

Cuddle Fix was initially started up to help with exam stress, but now you can destress with animals almost every Wednesday at Clubs and Socs. For a gold coin donation, you can cuddle whichever small animals we have sourced that week – be it puppies, kittens, or bunnies.

ousapage

If you do start to feel the stress setting in and want a friendly person to talk to, get in touch with our wonderful advocates at student support. You don't have to go through it alone, there are so many people here who want to help you when the times get tough.

Let us know if there is something else you think would make all the difference to you during exam time – we are here to help.

Take care,



into participating cafes and buy a Fairtrade coffee. The twist is that as well as buying their own coffee, they will also pay a Fair-

trade coffee forward for the next customer! The next customer

then gets a free coffee (plus a guick rundown on Fairtrade from

the barista) and the chance to pay it forward to someone else.

We hope that the domino effect of customers paying it forward

will also spark discussion about the Fairtrade movement which

guarantees a better deal for Third World Producers – not through hand-outs but by letting them trade their way out of poverty.



Sign-up to hear all the latest from us and be in to win weekly prizes! Every week we've got a care package to give away, once you have subscribed you are automatically entered into the draw. This week we're giving away a dose of terror: a double pass to see 'The Witch' on May 7 at 8.15pm at the Regent as part of the NZIFF Autumn Events!

Sign up at **bit.ly/ousanews**



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Feature Writing Workshop

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