

Critic Est. 1925

ISSUE 15 17 JULY 2017

act LAS SHRUGGED





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Political Saturdays

On Saturdays our proud MPs love to kick back and unwind.
These are just some of their stories. *by Matson Clark*

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ACTlas Shrugged

Young ACT's President wears a flowery blazer, a living emblem of the libertarian individual choosing how to live their life, *by Isaac Yu*

Feature



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The Phenomenon of Marxist Indoctrination via Memes: A Case Study

You are now aware enough of the world to feel enraged by the Capitalist Establishment Inequality Machine, *by Sinead Gill*



[Centrefold](#) by Motoko Kikkawa
motoko.aurora-arcade.com
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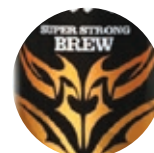
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University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

THOUGHTS ON HEALTH SCIENCE: A TRIAL BY FIRE

Heya.

Awesome article on Health Sci stress! Can definitely relate to that, being a med student...Just some things that I wanted to comment on:

Firstly, the competitiveness of Health Sci is NOT NECESSARY to make good doctors. As it was pointed out, it can obviously lead to illness; the competitiveness of Health Sci is only there because there are fewer spaces than there are students. THAT'S IT. If there were less applicants, it would be easier; that's how the Maori and rural pathways work. You see, technically, you only have to get a ~B in every paper. THAT'S ALL. Many of you who 'failed' have got everything it takes to be a doctor. Don't forget that.

Also, there's so much more than medicine. Sometimes I think the only thing that differentiates us from say, nursing, is that we have an archaic system that unnecessarily overburdens us, but we're working on that. Other contenders include the other professional courses: dent, physio, med lab sci... but there's also the related courses at polytech: nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy and social work. Nowadays, anyone can be a specialist in their field; the doctor definitely does not occupy the same perch that he used to. Furthermore, there's plenty of variety for allied health workers to specialize further; nurse practitioners are essentially mini-doctors.

On top of this, there's all the other sciences to consider; not only can you gain a well-informed entrance into med via a post-grad entry, but much of doctors' work is informed by research. You could always get a job and come back to it, if you were still keen. Some medical students were builders before they got in!

Furthermore, there's other things entirely. You don't have to be a doctor to be awesome; you can be awesome just the way you are. Sure it's nice to set your sights on something, and then get it, but we all have to learn at some point that that doesn't always work out. It's especially hard to learn this for the first time after you've graduated from medicine; some specialist exams have pass rates of only 50 %.

And, finally, before I wrap up, HOW ON EARTH ARE WE LETTING CRYING IN THE

CORRIDORS BE OKAY? WHO WOULD WANT THAT? Since when do Head of College's follow Hyde's advice over Ethyl's? A big shout out to the minds behind Health Sciences; good on you for being well informed regards mental illness/ distress amongst Health Sci students. Wouldn't it be nice if the heads of residential colleges shared your opinions?

Oh, and before I finish, a quick reminder that EVERYONE should be looking out for their mental health. Many of us suffer without having to take medication for it. The more we can do, the better. Don't we all drink too much coffee, spend too much time on our computers and worry about our appearance?

Kia kaha.

Out.

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

LABOUR DUMPING THEIR JUNK

Just a serious FUCK YOU to David Clark (MP) for chucking rubbish into our mailboxes despite a very clear no junk mail sign. Yet another reason not to vote for lackluster candidate representing, to say the least, a pathetic party that grovels at the chance to shit on National.

Do something more productive with your time.

Sincerely,
a environmentally concerned citizen

Response from David Clark:

Dear Critic

I suspect the piece of mail to which your correspondent refers was an invitation to a public meeting with Jacinda Ardern and I to discuss the future of our country. As your Member of Parliament I take my role to represent and engage with all of my constituents seriously. Without your feedback (thank you for your letter) I am unable to do my job effectively. An MP is only as good as the people they speak with.

That said, I'm a little surprised your correspondent has become so worked up about one of my volunteers sharing information printed on a renewable resource. My volunteers make a call about whether 'junk mail' signs on any

given letterbox extend to a distaste for democracy. Clearly on this occasion my volunteer overestimated the intelligence of the recipient. Please encourage your correspondent to notify my office and we will ensure they join the two other Dunedin North households currently on the 'please don't deliver to this address under any circumstance' list.

Kind regards,
David

THE CENTRE OF MY WORLD

Hi Critic,

I have been very disappointed in the lack of posters in the past two magazines, and have therefore decided to take matters into my own hands. Enclosed is a poster drawn by myself and edited by my wonderful flatmate (and me again). Hopefully it is good enough to make it into the magazine (god knows I shouldn't have much competition).

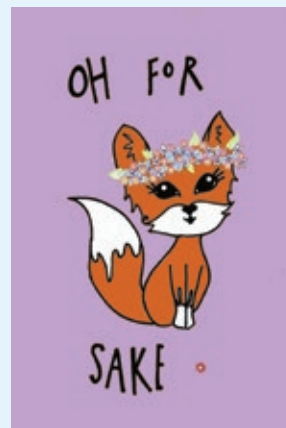
Keep up the good work,
Romy

Response

Dear Romy,

Thanks for your feedback and for the picture. We've missed the centrefolds too. We couldn't fit them in the past two issues as we had a lot of ads to put in the mag. We hope you enjoy this week's centrefold by the fantastic Motoko Kikkawa.

Thank you for the picture. Unfortunately, it is too small to print at the resolution needed for a centrefold. Here it is for the enjoyment of our readers.



Thanks and please keep in touch,
Love from Critic

Editorial

The Other Side

Liberals are a bunch of bike-riding, tree-hugging, whale-saving, big-government-promoting, tax-increasing, flip-flopping, wishy-washy, namby-pamby bedwetters. Conservatives are a bunch of meat-eating, game-hunting, tax-decreasing, hard-drinking, Bible-bashing, black-and-white-thinking, immigration-hating, oil-fracking-loving, morally dogmatic philistines.

These stereotypes are lifted from Michael Shermer's book *The Believing Brain*, slightly altered for a New Zealand setting. Most people identify more with one side than the other. Choosing what you identify with should be a rational, personal decision, but it is actually highly likely that your political leanings are the same as your parents'.

A lot of us, myself included, go through most of our lives completely baffled by how members of the opposite political spectrum can believe that their version of the world is correct.

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt proposes five innate and universal psychological systems that give humans a sense of what we believe is right and wrong. These are harm/care (the ability to empathise), fairness/reciprocity (a feeling of justice or injustice over exchanges), in-group loyalty (the prioritising of people close to you over strangers), authority/respect (the acceptance of social hierarchy), and purity/sanctity (the avoidance of things or behaviours we believe are unclean).

Liberal and conservative people seem to have priorities that are irreconcilable because each group prizes different social values. Haidt has had over 300,000 people online rank these values in order of importance. His findings show consistent differences in the values of conservatives and liberals. Conservatives tend to value in-group loyalty, authority/respect and purity/sanctity slightly more than harm/care and fairness/reciprocity, while liberals place the latter two at the top of their priorities.

Reading Isaac Yu's feature "ACT! as Shrugged" was a reminder for me that people at the opposite end of the political spectrum aren't necessarily polar opposites. One side isn't entirely bad and the other entirely good. Each side has an ideology that doesn't fit to the nuance of the real world. They choose the parts of the nuance that their ideology seems to be able to fix, and perhaps they are right.

In the ideology of libertarianism, the individual should be in charge of their own decisions with as little restriction from the government as possible. It sounds nice, and could be nice, if everybody started on an equal footing with everybody else. But that's what a bike-riding, tree-hugging, whale-saving, big-government-promoting, tax-increasing, flip-flopping, wishy-washy, namby-pamby bedwetter would say.

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CRITIC EDITOR

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Totally Execrable

by Joe Higham

The Department of Tourism have made a proposal to “repaint the two corridors in the Division of Commerce building ... in the rainbow colours that have been utilised both by the LGBT community and the post-apartheid South Africa as an emblem of inclusivity”. The department wanted to know whether OUSA could provide help or support for the initiative, however the proposal failed to mention whether they were seeking financial help or just people power, leaving the OUSA Executive unsure of an appropriate response. President Hugh Baird stated that they will have an “extensive capital budget” to finance it themselves, though Finance Officer

Cody Kirby noted that helping out could promote the association by providing “long term recognition”. OUSA CEO Debbie Downs noted, “it is not much of a public space,” believing that it would be much better suited to the “side of OUSA [Clubs and Socs Building]”. A decision was deferred to next week’s meeting.

Quotes to replace the windows in the OUSA Clubs and Socs Building have been given, although the difference in the two quotes is significant, with the second being half of the first, without much difference in the equipment that would be used by either. A quote from a third company has been requested.

Downs told the group that a cycle-way will be built along the one-way system in North Dunedin as a result of the injuries and fatalities of cyclists along those roads in the past. Further details on the cycle-way will be given in the near future, but some may see the 300 car parks that will be lost and only 110 car parks that will be regained to be particularly problematic considering the issue that parking can be during semester time.

Education Officer Bryn Jenkins was interested to know what is happening with the CCTV issue, stating that the “first we [heard] about the process is in the newspaper”. Hugh responded by saying he “thought he’d sent the proposal through,” although none of the other executive members seemed to have received the proposal.

The meeting ended with Admin VP William Guy saying a big “congratulations to Hugh [Baird] for the glass initiative”. For more on this initiative, have a read of the article below.

Uni News

OUSA Lead the Way in Re:Orientation Glass Ban Initiative

by Zahra Shahtahmasebi

A new initiative is being launched during this year’s Re-Orientation week that will ban glass in the North Dunedin area, in the hope of cleaning up the glass that regularly plagues the streets of the city’s student quarter.

The initiative continues to be student led, initiated by OUSA following constant complaints about the glass from students and others in the area.

The plan is to move students away from using glass bottles and towards using cans and plastic bottles. Many local liquor stores have got on board with the idea, offering specials on plastic and cans, and so have Campus Watch, which will also promote the purchase of plastic and cans. The initiative has prompted the slogan, ‘pass on glass and crack a can’.

OUSA President Hugh Baird believes this is an extremely



promising move, saying “it is heartening to see the bottle stores on board ... it’s an incredible sign of goodwill on their behalf,” while also showing that it “is a good way to show that we [students] can look after the area”.

The move also works against a lot of the negative attitudes and stereotypes that seem to be associated with Dunedin’s student population, as well as showing that drastic actions, such as a liquor ban, are not necessarily needed.

Not only is it hoped that the glass ban will greatly improve the appearance of the suburb’s streets, it is also hoped it will make them significantly safer. Baird reported that if the campaign is successful, it is likely that it will continue for the rest of the semester.

Baird has used his Critic President’s column, which is located on the inside back cover of Critic, multiple times to speak about the problem smashed glass is for students living in North Dunedin’s streets, specifically focusing on how frustrating it is “spending three days with tweezers trying to flick that tiny shard from your foot”.

Students Fight 'Unliveable' Flats at Tenancy Tribunal

by Joel MacManus

Two student flats have won cases at the tenancy tribunal over flats which were deemed to not be in clean or liveable condition.

Prime Campus Ltd., the property management firm which leases 654 Castle Street was ordered to refund the tenants \$5,250, the equivalent of six weeks' rent. When the tenants had attempted to move in on February 9, the premises were "like a construction site," and builders on the premises prevented residents from accessing their belongings. Photos show collections of rubbish and glass lining the outside of the building.

The landlord had failed to get consent from the tenants to undergo construction on the site, and he simply assumed that they would not want to move in until sometime in February. According to the adjudicator Justice Wilson, the landlord was in breach of two provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act, firstly by not providing the premises in a "reasonable state of cleanliness or repair," and secondly because the tenants were not able to occupy the

premises from the date they started paying rent and therefore became entitled to occupation.

This constituted an illegal act on the landlord's behalf, which can entitle the tenants to exemplary damages up to \$4,000. However, the tenants decided not to pursue damages. They received 6 weeks free rent as payment.

A second group of flatmates from 61 Grange Street also recently won a dispute against their landlord, Four Walls Property Management. The tenants complained of a leaky roof and mouldy walls, and provided a failed building assessment and a doctor's letter from Student Health Services as evidence. It was thought that the roof started leaking due to damage from a hail storm.

The landlord made some attempt to fix the roof and provided the tenants with a motel room and one week's free rent while doing repairs, but the house continued to take on water and grow mould. Justice Wilson said that, "Premises must be able to be used and lived in, in the normal responsible way, with-out mould



Prime Campus Ltd., property at 654 Castle Street (bottom image)

developing. If this cannot be done, then it is the landlord's problem".

The tenants did seek exemplary damages, but lost the claim, as the judge was not convinced that the landlord "intentionally failed to maintain the roof".

The tenants succeeded in their motion to end the tenancy early, and received compensation for the cost of the building assessment, the additional electricity required to run dehumidifiers, and a partial rent refund of \$15 each per week.

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*Seller earnings before tax.

Uni News

Landlords Provide Perfect Conditions for Mould At No Extra Cost!



by Joe Higham

Former Blackcaps cricketer and current host of TV3's AM Show Mark Richardson provided some advice to anyone worried about the inaccessibility of the property ladder last week: "just rent," he said.

However, research clearly shows that renting can expose people to serious problems beyond the seemingly perpetual position of 'throwing money down the drain' in comparison to homeowners.

Rental properties "need bringing up to standard," according to HRV's 2017 'State Of The Home Survey', which revealed that "just 36 percent of renters had insulation in their homes."

Additionally, it also found that "63 percent of renters said they wanted to move out of the home they live in now, compared to a third of homeowners."

The health implications of living in substandard properties have been proven by many, and are commonly worse for those living in rental properties in comparison to homeowners. The same survey showed that approximately five percent of the population, which equates to 230,000 people, take more than 10 days off each year, while the same figure among renters currently sits at seven percent.

The Residential Tenancies Act states that landlords "shall provide the premises in a reasonable state of cleanliness," with the presence

of mould and dampness understandably being particularly relevant for this legislative requirement.

As arguably the only adult demographic in the country that are almost exclusively renting, students will disproportionately face housing conditions conducive to the growth of mould and presence of dampness, especially in the colder conditions of the South Island.

Predictably, only 1.41 percent live in their own homes during the semester, with that figure rising to 3.68 percent during summer, according to the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations' 'Income & Expenditure Report 2017: The Cost of Being a Student in New Zealand'.

World Health Organisation (WHO) research into dampness and mould concluded that they "may be particularly prevalent in poorly maintained housing for low-income people. Remediation of the conditions that lead to adverse exposure should be given priority to prevent an additional contribution to poor health in populations who are already living with an increased burden of disease."

Despite the coastal location and topography of Dunedin being a significant contributing factor for conditions in which mould is known to flourish, the problem is not insurmountable, and central government can provide increased help to mitigate the issue by helping students and rental markets in general.

Having noticed the situation worsening in many respects, and even often being the cause of inter-flatmate violence in some cases, OUSA's Senior Advocate at Student Support, Justene Allen, told Critic that Student Support has four hygrometers that they have been lending out to students in order to map out and develop a database of the humidity of North Dunedin's housing stock.

Healthy properties will typically have hygrometer readings of between 40 and 60 percent, however the average reading so far has been between 70 and 80 percent, with the highest coming in at an incredible 88 percent.

The WHO says that the "problem of excessive moisture ... is the root cause for problems with dampness and mould in indoor built environments." Allen said there is a common misconception that bleach is sufficient to deal with the mould problem, whereas a "70 percent vinegar and 30 percent water mix is the only way to kill mould ... and most students don't know this".

RA HAYWARD COLLEGE

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Applications close on the 31st July

University Objects to Night'n'Day Liquor License: OUSA President Hits Back



by Joel MacManus

OUSA President Hugh Baird has hit back at attempts by the University of Otago to prevent the sale of alcohol at a local liquor store.

The University of Otago is objecting to the continuation of the liquor license at Regent Night'n'Day in North Dunedin, but Baird says their efforts are not only inappropriate but will ultimately be ineffective.

"I don't think having fewer alcohol outlets here in North Dunedin would change student drinking in any way. [Cancelling the liquor license] would make no difference at all; I think that students will generally walk over broken glass to get themselves to a bottle store," Baird said.

In a letter to the District Licensing Committee, Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne acknowledged that "under the current legislation we have no grounds for objection," but nonetheless urged the committee to do "all in its power to address the density and opening hours" of bars and liquor stores in the student quarter.

"The university has the interests of 20,000 students at heart," she argued, "The excessive consumption of alcohol by young people and the impact of the consumption on the health, safety, and well-being of our students, the reputation of the University of Otago and the City of Dunedin is of

great concern to us".

Baird responded, saying, "I don't think students in North Dunedin drink any more than those the same age around the county. The only reason why those inside North Dunedin tend to be in the spotlight is because of the density of young population here. Obviously they have the safety of students at heart, but I don't think it's the university's place to be trying to restrict the sales of businesses in the area."

In a further statement provided to Critic, Hayne pointed to "evidence-based research" conducted in New Zealand, which showed a link between high levels of alcohol consumption and the number of liquor stores within walking distance of a person's house, and suggested that many societal alcohol issues could be solved by reducing the number of liquor outlets operating.

"The harmful effects of drinking are considerably stronger when off license outlets are within walking distance as opposed to on-license premises such as bars."

It is not the first time Regent Night'n'Day has faced opposition over its liquor sales. When their license was last up for renewal in 2015, Public Health South Medical Officer Dr Keith Reid opposed the decision on the grounds that the store should not be defined as a 'grocery store', but rather a 'convenience store', which is not allowed to sell alcohol. The store pointed out that just 5.2 percent of their revenue was from the sale of alcohol, as opposed to 42 percent from groceries.

How's second semester going?

Friday 28 July is the last day to delete second semester papers with a refund of fees.

If you're thinking of making changes to your course of study but are not sure what to do, talk to one of the expert team at the University Course Advice Service.

To make an appointment see
otago.ac.nz/courseadvice



Uni News

University Approves \$26 Million New Music Building and Renovations

by Joe Higham

The University of Otago has approved plans to construct brand new recording studios for the Department of Music as well as refurbishing the nearby Music suite, Teaching Wing and Tower Block on the University of Otago College of Education campus.

The project, which is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2019 academic year, will cost the university approximately \$26 million.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne has specified that this project will bring about some enormous benefits, not least a “consolidation of the department’s staff, students and activities, instead of them being in about 10 locations around the campus,” and also to “promote a sense of community in the East Precinct of campus and within the Division of Humanities”.

Division of Humanities Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Tony Ballantyne says the “East Precinct is considered a key area for the future development of the Division, so the relocation of the Music, Theatre and Performing Arts Te Kāhui Tau is the first step towards that future”.

The substantial investment also reaffirms the importance of the Department of Music, Theatre and Performing to the University, according to their press release.

Tertiary Education Union (TEU) Organiser, Shaun Scott, told Critic that he is supportive of the move, highlighting the need for “good quality facilities for both staff and students that are fit for purpose”.

Scott says it is a “great commitment to the Music Department by the University” and sees it as a “fantastic opportunity to build interest for students to study music in the future”.

The Music Department’s existing recording studio is currently located at 180 Albany Street, although it has been found to contain asbestos. Though independent contractors have deemed it safe for staff and students to use in the interim, the university has taken “the most cost effective option of dealing with the asbestos by demolishing the ageing building once the new facilities are ready, which would also free the site of the existing recording studio for future development,” according to the press release.

Uni News

Staff Brace For Redundancies as Support Services Review Proposal is Revealed

by Joe Higham

University of Otago Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne presented a business case proposal that will outline future organisation and management of support services at the university to staff on Friday last week.

The meeting, which took place at the College of Education Auditorium, is thought not to have included details on the future of individual positions, but rather the “new structure [of the support services] in its broadest sense,” Tertiary Education Union (TEU) Organiser, Shaun Scott revealed.

Because Critic goes to print on Friday mornings, at the time of writing we are unsure of many of the specifics contained in the business case, although Hayne will certainly include information about how the process will move on from here, including the ability of staff to provide feedback on the proposal.

The meeting is being streamed live to university campuses across the country and is one of the final stages of the Support Services Review, which the university began in the middle of 2015. “Anxiety on campus is palpable,” says Scott, “Every time I’m walking through campus I am approached by staff who are very concerned and worried by the proposal.”

Rumours continue to spread of redundancies totaling up to 300, although Scott was clear that the TEU’s position has “always been that any forced redundancies is a worst-case scenario”.

“There is a definite sense among [TEU] members and general staff that they’re not valued [by the University of Otago],” Scott revealed, especially with the unfortunate timing and “unnecessary spending of some of the beautification and also the rebranding of their logo”



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Applications close 21 July 2017

Image by Sam Harrison



Jacinda Ardern Speaks to Crowd of 120 on Otago Campus Visit

by Joe Higham

According to a Colmar Brunton poll on the country's preferred leader, Labour Party Leader Andrew Little is languishing back in fourth place, at just 5 percent, the lowest result for a leader of the opposition since 2009.

Deputy Leader Jacinda Ardern placed third with 6 percent of those polled preferring her to any other option; Bill English came top with 26 percent, while Winston Peters came second with 11 percent.

Ardern's popularity was clear as she spoke to a crowd of roughly 120 people, the vast majority of whom were students, at OUSA's Clubs and Societies Building on Thursday last week.

The median age of the current New Zealand Parliament is 50 years old, significantly older than Ardern, which provides some explanation of her appeal to the nation's youth.

Her speech began by tactfully exploiting this appeal, commenting that she is a "child of the '80s," before acknowledging that "politicians typically come across as bland and lazy".

Assuring her audience that she is "not in politics for the sport of it," but rather due to "a strong set of values and the ability to make a change," she noted that the values she has now are the same ones she set out on her political journey with.

During his brief opening speech and Ardern's introduction, Dunedin North MP David Clark spoke of the election being fought largely on Labour's plans of investment vs. the National Party's tax cuts. Ardern stated she considered "tax cuts to be blunt instruments that give money back to the nation's top earners".



Predictably, considering the audience, Ardern then touched on Labour's policy of three years free tertiary education for a relatively long period.

She told the audience how "terrifying it is to see the debt you're racking up," before mentioning Labour's track record of helping students, most notably taking interest off student loans while the student is studying, a policy that Labour implemented in 2005.

She spoke about how she considered climate change to be an issue of principle and explained that there is "so much to gain in being world leaders on the issue," believing it to be an issue that the "NZ I know would take the lead on regardless of its size".

Ardern finished by explaining the need to "leave our economy and ecology in better spot than when we found them."

After the event, David Clark told Critic that "having a packed hall to hear Jacinda and me speak is heartening and is the largest turnout for a political event on campus in a long while."

"It shows that when we share a message that is hopeful, and looks to create opportunities for everyone (not just the privileged few), people are inspired by that. Students are tired of politics as usual and are demanding a fresh approach that will put people, and the interests of our future generations, at the heart of our democracy."

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 Applications close 21 July 2017



Animal Law Conference Calls for Hearts, Minds, and Action

by Kari Schmidt & Oska Rego



Speakers at the inaugural New Zealand Animal Law Association conference, Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere (top) and Jane Goodall

On 1 July, the New Zealand Animal Law Association (NZALA) hosted New Zealand's first ever animal law conference at the AUT campus in Auckland. Dr Jane Goodall set the scene, providing perspective on why the legal community must do more to advocate for animals. She focused on compassion. "We need to link up our intellectual brains with our human hearts. We need to be compassionate people."

NZALA President Danielle Duffield provided an overview of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. She outlined how it ostensibly provides for 'five freedoms' in relation to animals: proper and sufficient food and water, adequate shelter, the opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour, physical handling that minimises unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress, and protection from significant injury or disease. However, 18 codes of welfare set minimum standards that allow intensive animal use and undermine the five freedoms.

Duffield conceptualised this as a rule of law issue—98% of domesticated animals are farmed animals; who are prevented from exhibiting natural behaviours. A law that arbitrarily only protects 2 percent of the population is inconsistent with the principle that laws should apply consistently across society.

Next, an expert panel discussed criminal prosecutions relating to animals. Manukau Crown Solicitor Natalie Walker discussed acknowledging the strongly-evidenced link between animal abuse and domestic violence. The Department of Conservation's Mike Bodie discussed prosecutions from a conservation perspective. He considered how descriptive legal submissions and the use of photographs are important tools for helping judges understand the significance of offences committed against animals. Finally, Nicky Wynne, a prosecutor who has regularly appeared on behalf of the SPCA, noted that animal welfare offences are starting to be punished with much higher fines and longer imprisonment times, reflecting growing condemnation of animal cruelty.

The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG, former judge of the Australian High Court, began his keynote address by stating that "all of us have a long way to go in achieving human rights, human dignity, and the dignity and rights of animals. That is why we are gathered together in Auckland to consider one of the great issues of the world." He discussed the UN's advances in achieving universal human rights, and the connection between such endeavours and the new ethical frontier—human treatment of animals. He considered New Zealand's animal welfare law to be "strong on symbolism, strong on values, not strong on implementation". He finished with "10 animal welfare commandments":

1. Give the aspirations of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 enforceability.
2. Give sentience meaning.
3. Increase collaboration between veterinarians and lawyers.
4. Improve education, including teaching children kindness to animals at primary school.
5. Reach out to industry.
6. Increase and target funding for animal welfare and enforcement.
7. Work closer with government, and consider removing animal welfare from the control of the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI).

8. Increase male presence in animal welfare advocacy.
9. Have media present at such conferences.
10. Get the UN involved in a similar capacity to their involvement in human rights and climate change.

Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere of the University of Otago discussed animal sentience, which is recognised in the long title of the Animal Welfare Act. This recognition was the first of its kind, but is seen as more symbolic than substantive. MPI has specifically recognised that the inclusion of 'sentience' in the Act does not impact on any rights, duties or obligations. The recent Court of Appeal case *Erikson vs. MPI* was the perfect opportunity for sentience to be discussed, but it was instead ignored. This case distinguished between companion animals and farm animals, asserting that "rational differences must be acknowledged". This counters the idea of sentience, which cannot be said to apply to some animals more than others on the basis of how humans use them. Rodriguez Ferrere's view is that genuine adoption of sentience as a "core criterion" would "require a paradigm shift".

Vernon Tava, of the Waitemata local board, analysed legal standing. He discussed the constitutional rights afforded to nature in Bolivia and Ecuador and how, in Aotearoa, legal personhood has been attached to Te Urewera and the Whanganui River. Tava provoked thought as to how such an approach might be adopted to improve legal protection of animals. He then joined Duffield, Rodriguez Ferrere, and SPCA Chief Scientific Officer Arnja Dale to discuss animal law reform. Animal welfare was characterised as an "invisible topic" in the political realm. Moral leadership from politicians in this area requires a strengthening of public opinion. Inspiring such sentiment and action is part of what the conference aimed to achieve, by bringing together almost 300 students, lawyers and other practitioners to discuss legal advocacy for animals.

In September, the annual Animal Law Week will be held in Dunedin. A series of events, including some presented by the experts from the conference, will hopefully help grow public understanding of animal issues, and how change can be achieved.

See facebook.com/OtagoStudentAnimalLegalDefenseFund for more information.

ALTERNATIVE FACTS

If the truth makes you uncomfortable,
try believing the opposite

Elephants can't jump because
they whad a bad experience when
playing jump rope

Nothing's got legs in the sea

Sea snakes are like what snakes
would be in zero gravity

Fish suck so much

Most animals can swim and I don't
know any snake that can't swim.
Giraffes can just touch the bottom

Every day is actually 15 hours long.
The government lies to us because
they want everyone to get a good
night's sleep

Cups are pups

Three eyes in the morning,
nature's warning
Four eyes in your head, nature's
bread

Divers fall into the water
backwards so they don't have to
see their reflection

If you lie on the concrete and trace
a thick chalk line around your body,
you will be declared officially dead

We don't want mannequins of Joe.
It would be weird

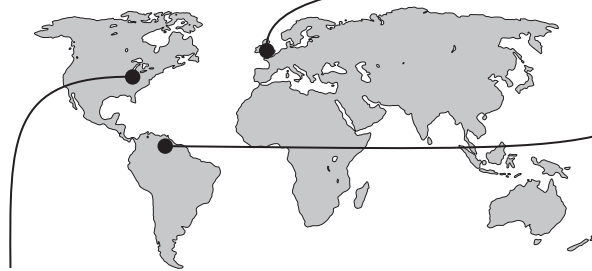
It's in the trees. It's coming

Crabs are just eggshells that have
forgotten how to love

My god, look at the rats

You swore to all or us that you were
not going to harm the dinosaur

WORLD WATCH



VENEZUELA

Protestors have begun
throwing what they
describe as "poopootov
cocktails" at security
forces, as tensions
continue to rise in the
country. The 'cocktails'
are jars filled with
human excrement
and water, and people
ranging from high school
students to parents are
reportedly hurling them
at police officers.

INDIANA, UNITED STATES

Eleven teenagers were hospitalised after eating gummy
bears laced with THC – the active ingredient in marijuana.
The hospitalised teens experienced hallucinations and
blurred vision after eating just one half of a gummy bear
each. Police noted that the gummy bears were larger
than normal sized ones.

BUNCH OF FIVES



LUCY—Archaeology

- 1 Charles Higham?
- 2 Beautiful but cold
- 3 Adam Sandler
- 4 Twitter
- 5 Passive aggressive note on fridge



JAMES—PPE

- 1 Winnie
- 2 Beautiful but cold
- 3 Kim Kardashian
- 4 Pinterest
- 5 Just buy more milk!



WILLIAM—Pharmacy

- 1 Winnie P
- 2 Beautiful but cold
- 3 Mike Hosking
- 4 Instagram
- 5 Mildly passive aggressive group chat messages



CAITLIN—Finance & Economics

- 1 Kanye West
- 2 Disgusting but warm
- 3 Hugh Baird
- 4 Instagram
- 5 Pour milk in their bed



BRYN—LLB & BCOM

- 1 Winston Peters
- 2 Beautiful but cold
- 3 Kardashians
- 4 None of them
- 5 Get them to skull another bottle of milk

DERBYSHIRE, ENGLAND

Having a bus stop close to your house is always handy, but one local council may have taken things too far. A bus stop has been placed right outside a two-bedroom house. To get to the front door, you'd have to climb over a metre-high fence. Locals have only just noticed the rather inconveniently placed bus stop, which will be relocated soon.

by Jack Trevella

Q's

- 1 Who is the leader of the NZ First political party?
- 2 Would you rather live in a beautiful but cold flat **OR** a disgusting but warm flat?
- 3 Who is the most annoying celebrity you know of?
- 4 Twitter? Instagram? Pinterest? Or Tumblr?
- 5 What's the correct response to finding out your flatmate drank the last of your milk?

ODT WATCH

by Charlie O'Mannin

To start this week, the ODT is getting all down on optimism.

New Zealanders still optimistic about their prospects

The ODT gave up on its dream of being a dancer a long time ago.

Next, the ODT is worried. Deeply worried. It has lost its reflection. All it sees when it looks into the burnished bronze disk, the one that the Regions department uses to attract smugglers, is an elderly one-eyed racehorse with the word "pun" spray painted in mustard yellow across its flank.

'I can't believe it's happening again'

Last time this happened was in 2003 when the ODT lost the title of the Best Daily Newspaper of the year.

The ODT went on to ruminate about their past experiences with the worlds behind the mirror.

Pay attention or you may wake up in a different world

No one likes being in the mirror world; it fogs up horribly whenever someone has a shower.

Next, the ODT decided to print an overheard conversation between God and a miscellaneous angel.

"What's that stink?" says God. "That," says an angel, "oh, just the soul of New Zealand. Rotting."

And finally, we are very impressed that the ODT refrained from using a pun.

Man hurt in dough roller

Well done ODT, you've done a good job.

FACTS & FIGURES

The square where Julius Caesar was killed is now a sanctuary for stray cats

The Indonesian word for water is air

China is building a giant solar farm in the shape of a cartoon panda

Whilst imprisoned on Alcatraz Island, Al Capone gave concerts with an inmate band called 'The Rock Islanders'. He played the banjo.

Tourists tossed around 1.4 million Euros into the Trevi fountain last year

For the birth of their twins, Beyonce and Jay Z built a \$1m maternity ward, including a neonatal wing, at their Hollywood mansion

A group of frogs is called an army

Westside Story was originally called Eastside Story

The fingernails on your dominant hand grow faster, with the dominant hand's middle finger growing fastest of all

by Jack Trevella

Mazagran
ESPRESSO BAR

36 Moray Place Dunedin
03 477 9959



David Clark



WARM DRY HOUSING & STUDENTS

Every New Zealander should expect to be able to live in a warm dry house: students included. But, unfortunately many students still endure cold, damp and mouldy accommodation. I'm sure that isn't news to many of you reading this column.

Substandard living conditions contribute to poor health outcomes for individuals, and to costs for the public health system. Where health risks exist, government often has a role to play in mitigating them. For example, food hygiene standards and accreditation ward against the risks associated with food preparation. Unfortunately, the current government has been slow to act to improve the quality of rental accommodation, and refuses to set a healthy standard for the houses that people rent and live in. Labour leader Andrew Little introduced a healthy housing bill to Parliament last year which sets minimum standards for things like heating and insulation. Instead of supporting these measures, National has tried to stop the bill's progress.

Ultimately the lack of rental standards impact all those who live in rental accommodation. Students continue to endure poor quality housing because there is no directive for landlords to do better. That isn't to say all landlords do the bare minimum – but your health and living conditions shouldn't depend on the luck of the landlord you're renting your house from.

OUSA Student Support are giving out hygrometers so you can measure the moisture content in the air of your flats. Not only will this contribute to research on damp student flats in Dunedin, but Student Support will help you through what you can do to improve moisture levels. And Critic is asking you to send in pictures of your mouldy flats. I urge you to support efforts to raise awareness of flats that are falling short.

The World Health Organisation recommends a minimum indoor temperature of 18 degrees C in order to avoid sickness. The average indoor temperature across New Zealand is just 16 degrees. And I'd wager that in winter, even 16 degrees would be unheard of in Dunedin's worst-insulated rentals.

Responsible landlords already provide clean heating and decent insulation in their rentals. Landlords who haven't improved their rentals are often unaware they can get subsidies for insulation, or are just not interested in the well-being of their tenants.

It really is time to look at the issue of housing anew, and adopt a fresh approach. We know what the issues are, we know the harm that is caused, and we know how to solve it. It will take more than relying on intransigent landlords to do the 'right thing'. They have an incentive to keep their costs low. Personally, I favour putting people first—which is exactly why we need to adopt rental standards.

International

A GAME-CHANGING REVELATION IN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S RUSSIA SCANDAL? OR MORE NOISE?

by George Elliott

The Trump-Russia drama escalated last week after the US President's son released an email chain from June 2016 in which he eagerly discussed plans to receive damaging information on Hillary Clinton.

In the emails, publicist Rob Goldstone tells Donald Trump Jr. that there is dirt on the Democratic candidate that "is obviously very high level and sensitive information but is part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump". The US President's son replies: "If it's what you say, I love it."

Rob Goldstone is a British-born entertainment publicist who has acted as an intermediary between Russian oligarchs and international businessmen.

After months of noise, low-key bubbling leaks and innuendo about the Trump campaign's ties to either the Russian government or people close to the Kremlin, the email finally shows a clear, albeit brief, sign that there may have actually been some sort of collusion. However, the scope of the implications remains unclear.

President Trump issued a statement in support of his son, describing him as "a high-quality person". Besides the brief statement, the bombastic reality TV star has been uncharacteristically quiet. Several journalists in the American capital have also reported that the atmosphere in the White House is tense. The Trump Jr. email story has apparently been driven, or at least facilitated by, administration officials leaking information anonymously.

The email exchange led to Trump Jr. meeting with Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya. The meeting was also attended by President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and campaign manager Paul Manafort, who were also forwarded the emails that Trump Jr. released. Since the story broke, Veselnitskaya has said she did not have information on the Clinton campaign and has never worked for the Russian government.

Donald Jr. released the email chain on Twitter after the New York Times (NYT) broke the story, "to be totally transparent". Earlier, the NYT had run a story citing three White House officials as its source.

In an interview with Fox News pro-Trump presenter Sean Hannity, Trump Jr. said he wanted to find out what the contacts knew. "I should hear them out ... This was again just basic information that was going to be possibly there ... I wanted to hear them out and play it out." But he admitted, "In retrospect, I probably would have done things a little differently".



National

GOVERNMENT SEARCHES
FOR WAY AROUND REGULATIONS
ON COAL MINING

by George Elliott

Forest and Bird, says newly released documents show the government is working on “secret” plans to get around environmental protections to enable contentious coal mining.

The documents, released to the environmental NGO through the Official Information Act (OIA), reveal that current Finance Minister and former Economic Development Minister, Steven Joyce, is interested in creating special economic zones that would have special “regulatory relief”.

One zone concerns the Buller Plateau and would allow the government to circumvent investment, conservation and immigration regulations. The powers it would also allow the government to provide tax breaks for favoured developers, take conservation land and private land, and fast-track consenting rules.

Despite a volatile coking coal price, the down-turn Australasia's mining industry has faced, and the general consensus that alternative energy is the way forward, these documents show the government is still exploring options for coal mining and is doing so without public consultation.

Forest and Bird Chief Executive, Kevin Hague, says, “We’re talking about zones where normal environmental, social and democratic safeguards don’t apply.”

One set of internal documents from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) show that current MBIE minister, Simon Bridges, has renewed the plans set in motion by Joyce in 2016.

Documents also show the MBIE has been instructed to investigate other ways at speeding up the consenting process for new mines on the West Coast. Elsewhere, however, coal mines have been closing and jobs disappearing, including in Waikato, Southland and the West Coast.

Bridges has rejected Forest and Bird's claims, saying that the special economic zones are a complex topic of consideration within the ministry. “They are trying to paint this in a very simplistic and therefore misleading way as a bulldozer to the current laws—it is not that.”

Since 2008, when the National-led government came to power, the government has been attempting to mirror Australia's, then-successful, mining industry. The government started by expanding MBIE's petroleum and minerals office, directing them to investigate options that would free the industry from Resource Management Act and the Overseas Investment Act restrictions.

Oil and gas have also become a big energy issue. Parallel to the constant debate on Resource Management Act reform, the government made block offers for oil and gas to corporations such as Anadarko, a decision that proved controversial in 2016, attracting protests and lobbying action from environmental groups. Eventually, the Texan oil giant, along with Brazil's Petrobras scaled back its exploration plans.

Earlier this year, the government renewed efforts to allow oil and gas exploration. In March, Energy Minister Judith Collins, announced a new block offer near Fiordland National Park, which industry experts say is under explored.

The release of the emails followed days of evolving accounts from the Trump administration about the nature of the meeting and its purpose. The emails were posted only after news media had already obtained them, and after they had first reported on them.

It could be that the president's private lawyers have finally got through to him on keeping a low profile when it comes to the Russia story, and specifically the new scandal involving his son.

President Donald Trump and his defenders have insisted that there's no evidence of “collusion” between Russian operatives and the Trump campaign. In May, the US justice department appointed ex-FBI director Robert Mueller as special counsel to investigate Trump's alleged cooperation with the Russian government and its associates. This latest news will undoubtedly interest Mueller's independent investigation. Meanwhile, Trump Jr. will likely appear before the Senate's intelligence committee to give official testimony. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the committee, said he “absolutely” wanted to speak to him about the meeting and referred to the revelations as “the first time that the public has seen clear evidence” to back up the Trump-Russia theory.

Republican Senator from Maine and member of the committee, Susan Collins, told reporters that “our intelligence committee needs to interview him and others who attended the meeting” as part of its investigation into Russian interference in the presidential election.

In front of a Senate confirmation hearing, President Trump's pick to lead the FBI, Chris Wray, was asked about the scandal and said that someone in Trump Jr.'s position “would be wise to tell the FBI” when offered compromising information on an opponent by a foreign agent.

These new disclosures signal a turning point. The Trump-Russia story is no longer solely contained to the spectacular, perpetual coverage that CNN depends on for ratings. Reports of panic from Trump's inner circle, the constant leaks from disgruntled advisors, and the lack of the usual arrogant counter-attack from the US President show that this part of the story could be something that rises above the noise.

If anything, a Trump son, son-in-law and campaign manager (who was already very cosy with prominent Russian officials and businessmen) agreeing to such a meeting shows just how stupid and generally inexperienced the Trump campaign was and administration is.

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20% off eyelash extensions, \$25 spray tans, Student Brazilian with free eyebrow shape \$35

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Free upgrade to a waffle cone ever Monday & Tuesday*

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NBA

Teams I Hate And Why You Should Hate Them Too

(#2)

THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

by Charlie Hanfler



Fuck Draymond Green

This could very easily be an article in itself. The man sits on stage alongside the likes of Steve Smith, Quade Cooper, Bernard Tomic and Justin Gatlin for the most hateable person in sports, and he probably takes out the prize.

Affectionate Warriors 'fans' (est. 2015) will amicably refer to Draymond as a player with 'hustle'. This 'hustle' involves kicking players like our beloved Steven Adams in the nuts, talking copious amounts of shit about the greatest player in the world, LeBron James, that he couldn't possibly back up, and flexing on his opponents when he finishes the easiest of layups.

The fuckwit clearly has a chip on his shoulder the size of his donkey mouth after sliding to mid-second round in the 2012 NBA Draft (35th pick, for the record), and he makes sure everyone and everything knows it, from Adams's and LeBron's crown jewels to the referees. Best example of karma I've possibly ever seen was Game 4 of the 2016 Finals, where he accumulated enough technical fouls to miss Game 5. If there was anyone to blame for the Warriors collapsing in the finals and missing out on history, it was Green. The Cavaliers were dead in the water after Game 4 and LeBron seemed to have given up on the prospect of beating the Warriors, but Green gave 'The King' and the Cavs new life in the series.

Bandwagon Fans

You get this in every sport, clearly, but the Warriors fans have got to be the worst of all. Four years ago the Warriors were a genuinely terrible team, nowhere near the playoffs and nowhere near being relevant in the slightest. But don't let their fans know that. Seriously, they won't know. In their minds, the Warriors were formed as early as 2014 and took over from the Charlotte

Hornets; players such as Jason Richardson and Baron Davis are unheard of.

Conveniently, the rise of the California-based Warriors coincided with the fall of the Los Angeles Lakers. You do the math. Just as with Liverpool fans, please don't waste your time trying to discuss basketball with Golden State fans.

Kevin Durant

In the summer of 2016, Kevin Durant made one of the weakest decisions in basketball history. No hyperbole. Last season, the Warriors went 73-9 in the regular season, breaking Jordan's Bulls' record of 72-10. Before choking and relenting a 3-1 lead in the Finals, the Warriors were on track to win back-to-back titles. KD really promoted the weak "if you can't beat them, join them" mentality here.

Moreover, Durant's Oklahoma City Thunder were 3-1 up against Golden State in the Western Conference Finals before he went cold and lost his team the series. They were that close to beating the Warriors and facing up against LeBron and the Cavs in the Finals. Truth be told, I don't blame him one bit for leaving OKC to play on a different team with better ball movement, but not the Warriors fam. Now, when I watch them destroy teams by 40 points and showboat on the sidelines, I have to watch one of my, previously, favourite basketball players join them. Now when I watch Klay Thompson drop 60 freaking

points in 29 minutes, or Steph Curry routinely draining 30-foot three pointers, I have to watch KD cheering them on.

Style of Play

If you aren't a Warriors fan (good decision) then watching them play is fucking shit. Most of their offence comes from one of the two 'Splash Brothers' posting up from 40 feet and draining three-pointer after three-pointer.

I hate to sound like a hard-nosed, old time basketball purist, but you have to wonder if the Warriors are damaging the future of basketball. Steph Curry has an unprecedented gift for shooting the basketball at a high rate from preposterous distance, but fans have to realize that he is a once in a lifetime talent. Now, as a result of Curry being one of the league's more popular superstars, young kids want to play and score just like Steph. Shooting 30-foot three-pointers is certainly more exciting than learning how to post up and properly defend and while shooting is an important skill to teach young basketball players, it is just one of many fundamentals they need to learn in order to become well-rounded and versatile players. The NBA is without a doubt becoming a shooters league, but let's hope that post up play doesn't become entirely obsolete.

Team Culture

Since the Warriors are such great shooters, they start celebrating shots before they even go in. Steph Curry shimmies down the court after made shots. The coach Steve Kerr complains about officiating in wins AND losses. Their bench is the most obnoxious bench in the league. Draymond Green gets in the opposing player's face every chance he gets. In the middle of the 2015-2016 NBA season, we saw the unbelievable arrogance of the Warriors owner, Joe Lacob. He went to an interview with the New York Times and said that the Warriors are "light-years ahead of the rest of the league". I understand that you just won your first NBA championship in 45 years, and you are on pace to break the regular season wins record, but saying you are "light-years" ahead of the rest of the NBA is as arrogant as it gets.

Look, don't get me wrong. The Warriors are clearly a great team, and their recent record speaks for itself, but there's still oh so much to hate about them.

Parliament TV: Uncut Saturday Edition

by Matson Clark

Our MPs have pretty tough jobs. Representing the dozens of electorates from around New Zealand every single day, whilst hashing out new legislation, is no easy task. That's why on Saturdays our proud MPs love to kick back and unwind. These are just some of their stories.

Simon Bridges

Simon Bridges is sleeping in late this Saturday. He wakes up groggy and cranky at 2:00 pm and removes the shower cap he sleeps in every night. His assistant delivers a weekly family pack of shower caps to him early on Friday morning. The shower caps are the only effective method of containing his torrent of oiled hair when he is sleeping, and Simon uses one, sometimes two per night. He stumbles around in the dim light, alone in his large room. The only light is entering through some small cracks in his large velvet curtains. It is now that Mr Bridges begins his Saturday ritual. He sits, legs spread wide-open in his dressing gown on his very expensive black leather couch. He spends exactly three minutes looking at a photograph of himself shaking hands with former Prime Minister John Key, while intermittently sipping a tiny white wine. He puts the photograph down.

"It's show time."

He fires up his favourite movie – Wall Street (1987) – and removes his dressing gown. Hours pass, but still nothing. He is still not aroused.

"Come on damn it," he barks at himself. He has already watched his favourite scene twice. "Come on, greed is good... Say it, greed is good... Economic development... Growth... Adam Smith... Growth... Unlimited growth... Growth! Ah fuck it!"

He turns off the screen in a rage, defeated once again – but by what, he cannot say. He slumps into his en suite bathroom and applies a fresh shower cap before spending an hour spitefully comparing his CV to his enemies' on LinkedIn. Simon finally falls asleep at 6:30 pm in his \$6000 massage chair.



"It's show time."



*"These guys are just a little hard-core.
It's not a big deal."*

James Shaw

James Shaw is attending a Green Party barbecue this Saturday. He arrives and makes his way to the back yard of the host's home, where he is greeted by twenty to thirty Green members and supporters. James grabs a craft beer from the table and joins the team. They are three or four veggie burgers in and everyone is having a good time chatting in a large circle. Someone from the corner pulls a small box from their pocket and removes an expertly rolled spliff. They light it up, and it makes its way around the circle. When it is James's turn the party grows quiet and all eyes turn towards his nervous hand as he takes it. Everyone is dead silent. James notices the lull and everyone staring at him. He gets this a lot.

"I-It's ok guys... I'm cool."

All is silent and every pair of eyes in the circle follows the joint as James puts it to his mouth and takes a shallow drag. He exhales and peers around with a curious expression as if to say 'see?' Reassured, the party starts up again and the conversation becomes lively once more. Soon conversation turns to politics and a young bearded man, new to the group, begins his rant against the government's stance on privatisation in recent years.

"... It's like they don't even pretend to care anymore," to which the people around him nod in agreement, "... But it's like I've

always said – the real problem will always be Capitalism."

The party grows quiet again, and people can be seen wincing and looking around and even a couple of 'oh noes' can be heard. All eyes move once again to James, who is standing quietly and looking at his shoes. He breaks the silence.

"It's just... Well... I believe the free market is a pretty good system, as long as nobody is exploited and it can provide a wider good, that's all."

There are a few nods among the circle as Mr Shaw looks around, confident in his statement.

"Of course it is, James," Metiria Turei pipes up, putting her hand on James's shoulder and looking around the circle for support. "It is a pretty good system, that's right!" and a few quiet 'yeahs' can be heard amongst the murmurs. The party begins again and James takes Metiria aside.

"I'd better go."

"No, James please stay. These guys are just a little hard-core. It's not a big deal."

"I know, it's fine. I've got a lot of work to do."

James walks back to his car and hops in, placing his hands on the steering wheel. He closes his eyes and exhales. He then opens his wallet and takes out a photo-shopped picture of the Dalai Lama in a business suit doing the thumbs-up.

"One day they'll understand. No one said it'd be easy."

Jacinda Ardern

It is a glorious Saturday morning in Mount Albert. Jacinda Ardern wakes to songbirds and sunlight streaming in through her flowing curtains. She checks her Hello Kitty® alarm clock and sees it is still early. Jacinda cannot concentrate on the birds, though. Instead, she listens closely to the same sounds that have begun her mornings for the past three months:

"Andrew Little will get us lots of votes ... Everything will be fine ... Your party is not a shambles."

She listens to the audio file on her headphones as she gazes around the room. She has slept with the headphones on since February, and has gradually needed to increase the volume since then.

"A leadership coup at this point would be bad for your party. Just wait it out."

"Just because you are the preferred leader among many voters, does not necessarily mean you should be the leader."

She begins to fidget. 'How many days until our election, again?' she thinks to herself. She draws her knees up under the covers and sits, staring at the motes of dust floating on the air.

"Think of the unions... those are all Andrew's."

"New Zealand voters are sensible and will base their votes on the issues, and not on the personal appeal of the parties' leaders at all, I swear."

It begins to rain heavily outside.

"The Labour Party is a well-organised and coherent party that New Zealanders will easily vote in this time, I swear."

She gets up and walks into the bathroom, keeping the headphones on. Leaning on the sink, she stares herself down in the mirror. The sink is clogged with hair. It was never that bad before she started wearing the headphones.

"The Chinese names in the house-registry thing was a totally fine thing to do. And even if it wasn't, everybody who didn't like it will have forgotten about it by now."

She closes her eyes and sighs deeply, "Fuck."

"Thirty-seven is too young to be leader of a country anyway. Just look at France... you have to be at least thirty-nine..."



"The Labour Party is a well-organised and coherent party..."

Jonathan Coleman

Health Minister Jonathan Coleman is pacing his large office in the Beehive. It is Saturday but he hasn't got time to relax. Two walls of his office are filled with screens, displaying various figures and data in real time. His assistant enters the room with a large glass of milk.

"Here you are sir, I've got your milk."

"Don't you remember our little chat, Sarah?"

"Oh, oh my apologies, Doctor."

"Yes. Yes I like to be called Doctor in private because I have earned it."

Jonathan Coleman only has one vocal cord – around the size of a rubber band. Before press meetings he does some neck exercises he learned in med-school to tighten it up so his voice doesn't scare away the public. But today is Saturday and there is no press to be seen, and Jonathan Coleman's voice sounds like the death rattle of an elderly boar dying alone somewhere in the wilderness. His assistant hands him the glass of milk and he drinks all of it immediately.

"Oh sweet nectar, my ambrosia! This is the lifeblood, it is the essence," he croaks. "Now, let's take a look at Dunedin shall we?"

He pushes a button on his desk and several of the screens change to show Dunedin hospital. The screens display various

graphs, charts, and figures. There is also CCTV footage of the main entrance to the hospital, the executive board rooms, and staff toilets.

"Now, let's pull up a figure for this week," Mr Coleman rumbles, and then magnifies one of the graphs.

"Ha! Look at that Sarah, they're barely hanging on! They barely have enough sticking plasters."

"How can we help them, Doctor?"

Jonathan swivels around in his chair and stares at her, perplexed. "You haven't been here very long, have you?" He busies himself again with his desk. "We aren't going to help them, Sarah. I thought someone would've told you by now. We are cutting all non-essentials. We are going to balance the budget, and show these free-loaders that publicly funded hospitals do not work – by cutting their public funding. Don't you see? If they want a good hospital, they are free to build their own – it's a free country. Have you ever read Ayn Rand? It's –"

But Jonathan drank his milkies too fast and does a big hiccup before spewing a fountain of milk with yellow and black bile onto his desk.

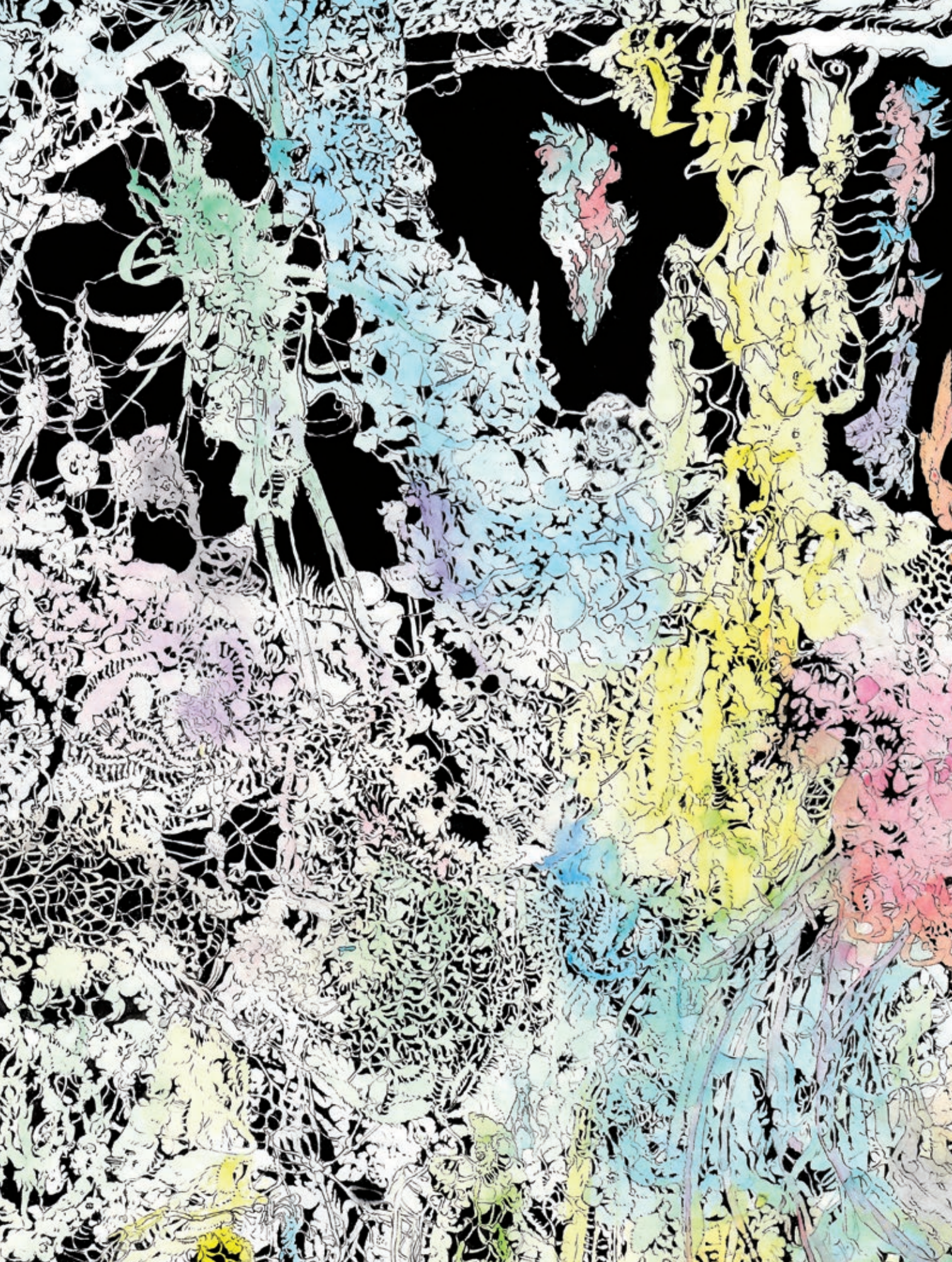


*"If they want a good hospital, they are free to build their own.
Have you ever read Ayn Rand?"*



Winston Peters

Winston goes to the beach and eats a big bag of prunes.





ISAAC YU

act LAS
SHRUGGED



When it comes to politics you can never judge a book by its cover and 20-year-old Sam Purchas is a great example why. Standing at a lanky 6 foot 3 and dressed in a bright flowery suit that looks like a Coachella attendee's LSD fuelled vision of 'smart casual', Sam looks more like a psychedelic hippie than a Randian right-winger. When he's not singing bass in a Barbershop Quartet, or playing Doctor Who in this year's Capping Show, Sam serves as the president of Young ACT at Otago.

ACT, or the Association of Consumers and Taxpayers, is an independent right-wing political party which Sam describes as espousing the values of "Individual freedom, whether that is in consumer choice or speech, so long as you are not hurting others, personal accountability and individual responsibility". Or, in POLS jargon, 'socially liberal' (you do you and I'll do me) and 'fiscally conservative' (the freer the market the freer the people). This is classical liberalism or libertarianism – big on personal freedoms, private property, and minimal government intervention. Think Ayn Rand, minus the receiving medicare and social security near the end of her life after hollering about parasites part. While in the past ACT has been a party that denied the impact of climate change, under the leadership of David Seymour the party has shifted focus toward education reform through charter schools, and hot topic issues such as euthanasia.

Describing himself as a former "Bleeding heart liberal and socialist," Sam cites his mother, a leading advocate for the legalisation of medical marijuana, and Lindsay – a close family friend and mentor – as two big influences on his political views. "Growing up I didn't really talk much politics with either of my parents, although I knew they were quite strong Green and Maori voters, but I wound up spending a lot of time with a friend of theirs [Lindsay]."

Sitting in the café, Sam pauses while ordering to make a self-deprecating joke about his unfamiliarity with coffee, "I'm a right-winger mate, we know the value of money," referring to the meme about millennials not owning homes because of overspending on avocados and coffee (as opposed to reasonable things like skyrocketing property prices and higher costs of living). "I would spend all day drinking wine and debating politics [with Lindsay] and he would have excellent arguments to my positions which made me reconsider my beliefs." One of the core tenets of ACT (and libertarianism) is that of liberty over state intervention – that no one should be able to impose their way of thinking over the way you live and that all individuals should have the right to self-determine. "I read Ayn Rand at his [Lindsay's] request."

Ayn Rand – a US migrant from the former Soviet Union - created the philosophy of Objectivism in response to the failures of collectivisation and big government she'd experienced. Objectivism emphasises rational self-interest and individualism, optimistically viewing people as masters

of their own destiny who can pull themselves up by their bootstraps to become titans of industry. Rand divides people into either titans of industry or moochers, looters, and parasites who, envious of the successes of the former and unable to achieve success on their own, opt to pull the former down through taxation and collectivisation. As described in the appendix to *Atlas Shrugged*, "My philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute."

At its best, Objectivism is a motivating life philosophy that promotes accepting personal accountability and doing the best that you can by being rational and meritocratic. At its worst, Objectivism is an intellectual justification for selfishness and neoliberal bootstrapping that divides people into titans or parasites and fails to account for the different socio-economic conditions people are born into.

For Sam, his political philosophy stemmed from the belief that, "it is condescending that anyone, especially the

RAND DIVIDES PEOPLE INTO EITHER TITANS OF INDUSTRY OR MOOCHERS, LOOTERS, AND PARASITES

BUT PEOPLE ARE NOT RATIONAL ALL THE TIME, AS NEWLY-FLATTING SECOND YEARS LEARN TO THEIR HORROR

state, demands you live a particular way and that they know better than you. To me it harkens back to those arguments you have with your parents where even if you are objectively right and your argument is superior, they still have the power over you so their view is automatically right.”

Sam’s argument raised one of the criticisms of libertarianism: that it presupposes all adults are rational and self-interested human beings who will therefore be encouraged to act ethically. But people are not rational all the time, as newly-flattening second years learn to their horror. This same argument, that people are rational and self-interested, also does not apply to children, who cannot be given full liberty and self-determination, as they have not emotionally and intellectually matured enough to understand the ramifications of their behaviour. Therefore, children under libertarianism possess no autonomy, as they are the private property of their parents, which can be used to justify child labour and abuse to respect the parent’s autonomy from the state.

“I think the critics are right in that regard – full libertarianism isn’t great and neither myself or ACT are for that kind of extremism. That being said, the current way the government handles things is atrocious – one of my core beliefs is that in almost any case the government solution is worse than anything else when they try to control people.”

Sam referred to his mother’s work as an advocate for medical marijuana. “Look at the drug laws and problems in New Zealand at the moment compared to a country that uses sense and reason – like Portugal.” Since 2001 Portugal has decriminalised the possession of small amounts of all illicit drugs for personal use and has shown sharp declines in heroin addiction and deaths from overdosing – dropping from 369 to 152 deaths per year between 1999 and 2003. “Instead of the government making the blanket statement that all drugs are bad, therefore anything to do with drugs is an illegal and criminal offence, Portugal is treating it as what it should be, a health issue – and look at the

results, a 50 percent reduction [in heroin addiction].” Sam’s view reflected the attitude of libertarians – that what I do in the privacy of my own home is no one’s concern so long as I am not harming anyone else, and that, when it came to drugs and addiction, people should be helped rather than thrown in prison.

“The government is wasting all this taxpayer money, that you and I pay, on prosecuting people for petty drug offences when we should be helping them. Neither National or Labour are willing to make a stand on this because they are too busy toeing the party line to get elected.” This is where Sam found his belief in ACT, “Because ACT is a small party you often play kingmaker in deciding which issues are talked about”. The recent controversy over David Seymour’s Euthanasia Bill being selected from the ballot was a flagship moment that vindicated Sam’s views. “This wouldn’t have been brought up by either National or Labour, because no one wants to talk about controversial topics, everyone wants to play it safe.” Despite this, Sam is no zealot, even when it came to his own party, as he added soon after, “Sometimes I wish ACT would be more willing to make more waves and make a bigger stand.” For Sam his big passion was the charter school programme implemented by ACT in 2012.

Charter schools are government funded schools which operate independently from public schools and are given the autonomy to use their own teaching paradigms and ideologies. These schools run at a for profit basis, as they are owned by private entities instead of the government, which in theory ensures higher quality due to free market competition. “Think about how wastefully the government spends your money. Why is every MP given a car at the taxpayers’ expense? Why do they fly around in business class instead of economy? They don’t pay for it so why should they care.” Sam referred to Milton Friedman’s quote that, “No one spends somebody else’s money as wisely

as he spends his own". Friedman's work on free market capitalism serves as a foundational cornerstone for libertarian thought and is mirrored in ACT's push for tax cuts, "You earned it, and you are the best person to decide how to spend or invest it."

It was clear that Sam subscribed to Friedman's school of economics, "These charter schools know that they are directly accountable for the money they spend because they need to pay their staff and turn a profit. If you have bad teachers, they get sacked instead of being protected by unions. The best teacher doesn't make the same amount as the worst teacher, so there is incentive to perform. The school is able to provide for teachers and limit class sizes so they have a good work environment." A key aspect of ACT's educational philosophy is that there is no 'one size fits all' a la NCEA (whose critics refer to it as Not Certified to Educate Anyone), and that parents should have more consumer choice in what schools they send their children to, dictated by the free market instead of by the government.

"At the moment we have the grammar school system which is a way for the rich to get richer. While they are publicly funded the neighbourhoods they are zoned in become priced out for those from poorer backgrounds because they get bought out by middle class people." This system of competitive zoning in Sam's mind further fuelled inequity by having those who could afford private schools being able to take advantage of taxpayer funded schools. "The Labour solution to this problem would be to tax the rich and try to make everyone the same." The National solution seems to be for a businessman who has never set foot in a public school to loudly boast about how he "did it on his own" and that "at least they have free schooling". "The ACT solution is to step back and analyse the situation and look at what's happening with some of these schools."

The Vanguard Military School, located in Albany, serves as a flagship for those in favour of charter schools. Utilising a military ethos – with emphasis on parades,

personal honour and responsibility, leadership and working in groups – the Vanguard Military School prioritises students from Maori and Pasifika backgrounds who struggle under a more conventional education system. "These kids are given free uniforms, textbooks, lunches, committed and dedicated teachers who have great working conditions, and on top of all that the school is even able to turn a small profit." Sam views charter schools as a more effective way to address the education gap between Māori and Pasifika students and their Pakeha counterparts. "The results speak for themselves – students who ordinarily struggle are thriving and these schools have such an enormous impact on their lives." Statistics released by Vanguard and independent studies have shown these improvements across the board – from attendance, which in 2015 was between 24-37 percent higher for Maori students than the national average, to academic results with 100 percent success rate for NCEA level 2 and 3, a 19-28 percent increase than the national average.

Throughout our discussion Sam showed knowledge of research and studies that supported his claims and knew his own limitations. Coming from a science background, he joked that, "For someone motivated by money I don't know an awful lot about economics," choosing instead to focus on the evidence. For Sam his key political tenet was that everyone independently develops their own views, "I don't think anyone should have the right to impose their views on someone else. I think it's good to discuss these things instead of insisting you know better," and that education was the best way to achieve this.

ACT isn't just a party of rich white fuddy duddies who complain about people being parasites," Sam concluded, "I don't think ACT can drastically change the system we are in because of how small it is, but it can at least liberalise smaller issues and hot election topics [like euthanasia] so we can discuss them instead of ignoring them." ●

**"NO ONE SPENDS
SOMEBODY ELSE'S
MONEY AS WISELY AS
HE SPENDS HIS OWN."**

The Phenomenon of Marxist Indoctrination via Memes: A Case Study

By Sinead Gill

Over my life, I have been especially susceptible to many typical 'phases'. As a child, I was an eager 'Pot Head', following the adventures of the golden trio in the Harry Potter series. As a pre-teen, I was content to be babysat after school by the exploits of Disney Channel characters. During my teen years, I was tragically cursed with a softcore, yet very real, emo phase. By the time I arrived on Otago's campus I was not quite a Potter-less, Miley-less, eyeliner-less blank canvas, but I nevertheless endeavoured to take my place in the world. Now evicted from the comfortable womb of childhood, I was convinced that I was a Proper Adult and done with phases. Little did I know I was only a matter of months away from embarking my the greatest one yet:

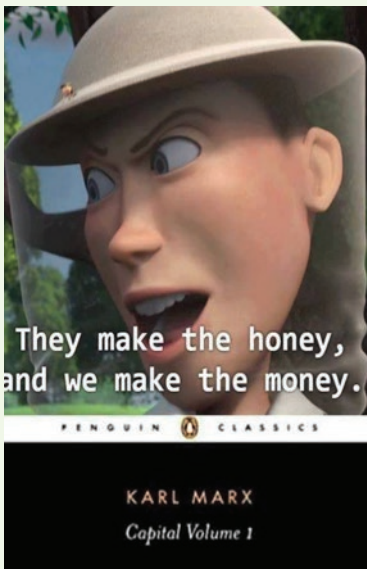


Exhibit A

*Second-year socialist.
(Noun Phrase)*

After a year of attempting to make it on your own, you have begun to feel disenfranchised from your humble middle class upbringing. You are now aware enough of the world to feel enraged by the Capitalist Establishment Inequality Machine™; but you are not quite ready to fight it while you benefit from it (shout-out to Studylink).*

It is innocent enough. I am a politics major so this lowkey ideology has suited me just fine. I am not about to claim that my next phase in life is genuine Marxist indoctrination, but I will make the case that memes are paving the way for this flavour of socio-economic enlightenment for our generation and the generations to come.

I recently liked a page on Facebook called Sassy Socialist Memes and was greeted with the following image:

Exhibit A: An oppressive capitalist force attempts to rob the working class of their labour

It was entertaining enough to click to the next meme. And the next one. And the one following.

It took only a few minutes for my inner Meme Connoisseur to begin hoarding them on my laptop in their own special folder, for later laughs. It was during this process that I stopped seeing the surface-level funnies and actually began thinking

about the Marxist ideology it references. Exhibit A is funny because it references the trend of absolutely-anything-relating-to-Bee-Movie. But it also makes a concise summary of one of Karl Marx's (the founding father of socialism as we know it) claims that labourers are commodities who are enslaved by



Exhibit B

the bourgeois class. In Marx's view, capitalists are Bee Movie's beekeepers, enslaving the working class bees and reaping the honey of their labour.

Exhibit B: Class-conscious bees seizing back the means of production

I later stumbled across this gem on the same Facebook page. It is a much more on-the-nose nod to the teachings of Karl Marx and, at the time of writing, this lengthier example had reaped 10,000 fewer reactions than Exhibit A. There could be many reasons for this. I would argue that its more in-depth insight into Marxist economic policy is to blame. However, those Sassy Socialist Meme consumers may very well have taken the time to read it all. And should any of those readers be a second-year socialist like me, they may be rather swayed by those words.

Exhibit C: Sweet and Simple

But savvy 21st century socialists don't need to rely on bee memes alone to get their message across. It is just as effective to keep up-to-date with the online world, and join the bandwagon of whichever meme is most relevant. Nor do these memes need to be ideology-heavy to be popular.

Capitalist: Where's my hug?
Me:



Exhibit C

Exhibit D: #RelatableMeme

Of course, most of their posts are a bit more insightful than a meme with a five-word caption. Exhibit D is one of my favourites for the simple fact that I have been in this exact social predicament. Only, I pushed send.

Exhibit E: An Educational Tool?

On the other hand, maybe I am overthinking this? For all I know the page is purely satirical. I therefore put my POLS215

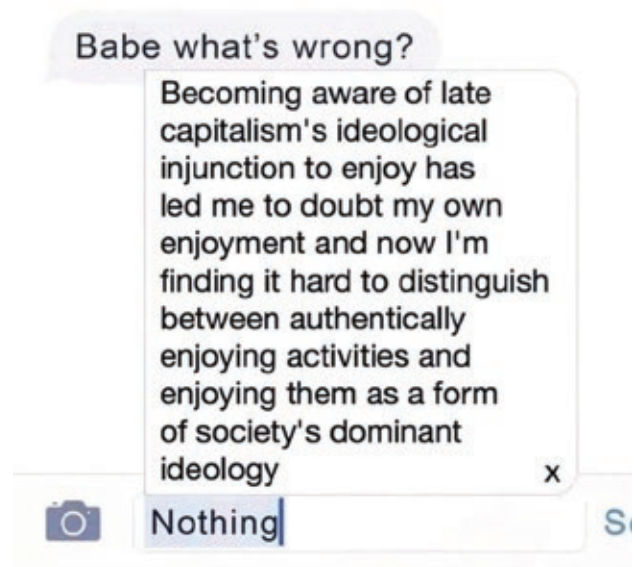


Exhibit D

I stopped seeing the surface-level funnies and actually began thinking about the Marxist ideology it references.

Bae: Come over
 Me: I cant I'm spreading class consciousness
 Bae: I privately own the means of production and use it to appropriate surplus value from the wage labour of the workers.
 Me:



Exhibit E

hat on and embarked on a bit of investigative journalism. I sent their Facebook page two questions. As it is a two-year-old page and is nearing one million likes, my hopes weren't too high for a response. Fortunately, they were pretty speedy, and, after promptly asking me if I was writing "anything like that terrible Vice [article],"** a page admin answered the following:

Q1: Do you believe that memes could pave the path to genuine Marxist indoctrination?

Answer: They could, depending on how good they are.

Q2: Do you think socialist memes (especially the sassy ones) can be considered an educational tool?

Answer: Yes, but it all depends on quality. If it's a shitty pun or a cheap gag, there's not much educational content.

Short and sweet, they both support the theory that memes have a certain level of influence. Doubtless the extent of this influence simply varies from person to person.

Exhibit F: Memes Are Power

Perhaps taking memes to heart is a niche phenomenon. Nevertheless, for those it influences it is an educational tool. Exhibit F certainly reiterates the self-awareness that Sassy Socialist Memes has. If pages like these openly acknowledge this, should that make us discerning meme consumers more vigilant, or more open-minded to what they have to say?

Whatever your opinion is, I am yet to meet or be personally indoctrinated into genuine Marxism by memes alone. I have certainly learned a bit more about it than I have otherwise picked up by osmosis during my years at university. I am confident that I will continue to like these memes and maintain my current levels of second year socialism. But to all you comrades out there, maybe seizing the memes of production is the next step for future establishment change? ●

* Humble middle-class upbringing not mandatory.

** The article in question can be found by following this link: broadly.vice.com/en_us/article/how-meme-culture-is-getting-teens-into-marxism



Exhibit F

8:38 AM · 11 Apr 17

Games



Highlights from E3 2017

■ Lisa Blakie

E3 is a giant nerd festival where all the big name game companies like Sony, Ubisoft and Microsoft come together to hang out and try to be all serious and have a competition to see whose press conference will be the best (which doesn't really even matter because Nintendo always wins). Most of the time the press conferences are full of trailers and gameplay footage, but they also get middle aged white dudes to come on stage and say tiny speeches with inspiring quotes like "we make games for the gamers," or "the future of gaming is here," or "Xbox One X S xBone X". E3 makes me feel like how I used to feel as a kid on Christmas morning; the hype, the enthusiasm and the plethora of "top ten games of E3" articles rekindle my love for games every year. One News did a terrible segment on E3 and only talked about the xxXbox-OneXxx and how it's kind of better than the other consoles. I mean they're not wrong, but they miss what E3 is actually about, and that's the actual games that were showcased! I'm going to talk about the ones I'm looking forward to playing, but you can also view each individual press conference on YouTube for free to see what might tickle your personal fancy! Yay, Internet!

Ashen

This game made its first debut at E3 2014 and guess what! It's being developed by a company right here in New Zealand. Aurora44 are an independent developer based in Wellington (they're also hiring, check out their website) and showed off an extended trailer during the Microsoft press conference showing gameplay that boasts the huge progress they have made over the past three years. Its eerie atmosphere and Dark Souls style of combat is going to make a rad Xbox exclusive. Support kiwi games and buy this when it comes out.

Beyond Good and Evil 2

Finally! A! Game! With! Interesting! Nuanced! Complex! Characters! It gets SO exhausting seeing game trailer after game trailer with the same rugged, troubled, brown-haired-white-dude protagonist. I've not played the first Beyond Good and Evil, which was released in 2003, but I cannot wait to go on a sci-fi adventure with Jade and company. This is the Star Wars, Guardians of the Galaxy, Fifth Element amalgamation I've been waiting to see in games! Although the release date is to be confirmed, and the trailer only showed one scene, I'm going to buy the shit out of this game when it comes out.

Moss

I'm still on the fence about Playstation VR, mainly because of the high cost and because I need to buy a Nintendo Switch first, but this game looks adorable. You go on an adventure with a tiny little mouse friend, a nice change from the oversaturation of horror games and simulators that VR seems incessant on pushing to the mainstream market. I'm going to sum up Moss with the Twitter thread I made while watching the live press conference.



1:36pm

TINY MOUSE FRIEND

1:37pm

Mouse friend vr

1:37pm

I'm watching this in the office n wanna scream but everyone is 2 quiet

2:03pm

Tiny mouse highlight of Sony e3 10/10 mouse

Super Mario Odyssey

Super Mario Galaxy One and Two are my favourite games for Nintendo Wii and seeing extended footage of Super Mario Odyssey on the E3 livestream made me immediately preorder this game. Rather than power ups, Mario's hat can take control of objects in this game, and the different worlds look rich with detail and character. Also, I can't wait to see Mario hanging out with humans who are way bigger than him, what's that about? Is Mario not a human? Is he hanging out with lizard people? This is probably the narrative they will be driving and I can't wait to see the story unfold.

The Last of Us 2

This was the final game showcased in Sony's press conference. I'm not really sure why Spiderman is the main protagonist of this one, but I'm interested to see where Naughty Dog is taking the franchise.

Music



Album Review:

Music To Get Puppies To Sleep

Artist:

Ghosts of Electricity

My job is awful,

But this album is worse.

I pass him on the stairs. Gazing into the bloodshot eyes of a man whose bowel has erupted in brown rage not once but three times in one day. He doesn't know that I know. It was like picking up mud in the pouring rain.

My job is awful,

But this album is worse.

It reminds me of the still warm projectile vomit on the shower wall after her own child defecated on her two bare feet. The distorted cucumber of faeces mashed onto the toilet seat lid. The customer who used their own crap as a crayon to write 'Poo' on a toilet wall. Shitty hand prints searching blindly for toilet roll in a well-lit and amply provisioned cubicle. The look of achievement on her face as she explained how they got most of it down the drain. The day that it found its way into an already blocked urinal. He hoses it into a corner half way down a flight of stairs. The look on her face when she found it straining through the slats of a wooden seat. Spread it up walls and drag it down halls. Their son's shoes are trailing dog shit through a shivering crowd. Found it in a bin, concealed under the liner. Vomit, piss, shit, 0 negative thru AB positive, toenails, bloody tampons, used condoms, oozing soiled nappies, no nappies assisted by gravity. There is a stick to push large quantities around the U bend. It's either that or dig in. Hard water liberates the stink of yesterday's dried piss. They walk through this with open sores. Tracking wounded animals. The skin on his feet slips easily. He tells me so. I offer him a band-aid. He departs flanked by school students. And leaves me with his pool of coagulating blood.

My job is awful,

But this album is worse.

Conveniences beget inconveniences. They're completely unaware that their actions have consequences. Your five-year-old has far more insight into how things take time and when closed actually means closed. Toddlers howl at the same subset of minor horrors that their thirty-something parents do. Too hot. Too cold. Waiting too long. Too many rules. "What's that?!" they cry in abject terror. THAT is a wet leaf or a sodden bread crust. The vending machine won't vend. It is out of order. They persist in a low blood sugar haze desperately feeding in coins

like it's two minutes 'til closing at the pokies and they're on the brink of that big win. The residual stink of hot fried chips in a small humid room totally unfit for habitation let alone a late tepid lunch. They're mixing sugary drinks again. This time on the floor. Two fully laden school bags drop from the sky. "They're too heavy to carry," they say. I explain the situation to their teacher but he's far too busy being a Speight's billboard for a lesson in terminal velocity. His eyes fixed on something behind me. I'm transparent again. They've been behind that locked door for half an hour. How they maintain arousal is beyond me. In there. In it. Someone threatens to call the cops. The door opens. Four eyes meet forty daggers. Parents peel and re-skin their kids for class. In there. In them.

My job is awful

But this album is worse.

I'm trying to eat lunch but he's relaying that one of his mates can't wear a motorcycle helmet in a bank so why should they be able to exercise a basic religious tradition? "Ban it," he says, and "they'll take over soon". They'll have us working on rice paddies if his worst nightmare comes true. Wouldn't



you be better off learning Chinese? Why should we? But you're not Māori! They sold that land for a dog

and a blanket! They call us white pigs! He's got a bit in him! Casual racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, it's all here, in the staff room. "SHE is cute". SHE is an electrician. He feels a little wrong when he realises he's been staring at the ten year old ass of your daughter. He's ridiculed for letting the team down by not sleeping with an intoxicated colleague at the staff Xmas party. She makes a camp hand gesture when considering a gender-neutral toilet, "you know, for people who are a bit like that". "You're not in the middle east any more," he whispers to me. She has olive skin and is wearing t-shirt and shorts. Staring, giggling, and that masculine nudge to the ribs. He salivates over a stranger and his identically dressed minions vacate the room in sly pursuit. I've talked to some female workmates about this. To get their point of view. They say they see it. They say it's a problem. She's resigned to giving it as good as she gets. They say it's not worth the trouble. When they're not around he has referred to them by their breast size. And this one plays an unconvincing support role. He doesn't mean it but says it anyway. Most of the people I work with are okay. But it only takes a few. He's twenty years younger. That giggle is a sign. The poison working. Casual. As. Bro.

My job is awful,

But could this album be that awful?

Yes it can. Because of songs like 'Tits out for the boys' and 'Young MILFS'. Sorry lads, you can't reframe misogynistic slurs, and if do you can't expect it to come across as satirical or critical of rape culture. Fact is you shouldn't be saying it at all; let alone using it as fodder for chorus hooks.

Ghosts of Electricity and their new album can fuck off.

Their music reminds me of my job.

And my job is awful.

Film

Cars 3

(2017)
Directed by
Brian Fee
rating:
★★★★★

The most repeated question I've heard regarding Pixar's latest work is "what's left to tell?" However, following its largely disliked predecessor, this final chapter in the Cars series manages to tell a story I'm convinced is necessary and heartfelt.

Following a fatal loss, the world is forced to question Lightning McQueen's necessity to the sport of racing, drawing heavy parallels with McQueen's former mentor whose career was halted in a similar fashion. Naturally, the theme of passing on the reins is incredibly strong throughout the film, through the intriguing character arc of natural talent Cruz Ramirez, and inclusion of the late mentor Doc Hudson and his mentor before him. This makes for a refreshing change of pace, as it broadens the scope of the film, and allows Pixar to tell the age-old story of "try hard to succeed" while also addressing an arguably far more relatable topic for older audiences: knowing when to move on.

McQueen's main competitor, Jackson Storm, emphasizes this theme and provides an easy target for moviegoers to dislike, but feels lacking in depth and suffers from never really being fleshed out beyond "I'm fast and cocky".

As always with Pixar, the movie itself is stunning, with a noticeable variation in colour tones and scenery. Director Brian Fee isn't afraid to use accelerated cross-cutting and other such techniques to intensify race scenes, but also knows when to rein in the theatrics to convey some sincere atmosphere (look particularly for the roadside talk and Thomasville raceway). Unfortunately, some touching moments are undersold, which, following previous studio entries like *Up* and *Toy Story 3*, feels like a lost opportunity from a capable creator. However, the film still packs an emotional punch where it counts.

Cars 3 brings the franchise back up to industry standard. A broader scope of locations, new, likeable characters, and a contrasting theme to its predecessors, breathe fresh life into the series, lending a satisfying close to the trilogy.

Review: Callum Post



TV Series

Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction

(1997-2002)
Created by
Lynn Lehmann
rating:
★★★★★

"We live in a world where the real and the unreal live side by side. Break through the web of your experience, and open your mind to things... Beyond Belief."

You may or may not remember this spooky anthology series, which ran for four seasons from 1997 to 2002. A bit like *The Twilight Zone*, each episode features several stories about eerie paranormal events—but the twist here is that half of them supposedly really happened, while the other half were made up. At the end of the episode it's revealed which ones were which, and until then viewers must endure the suspense of not knowing whether some woman really did get pregnant with an octopus, or if some guy really did see a disembodied laughing head in his oven.

This show really put the shits up me as a kid. In addition to the segments mentioned above, other images I recalled were someone seeing a dead lady standing behind her every time she looked in the mirror, and a waterlogged undead corpse angrily screaming at someone. Fortunately the show is way less scary than I remembered—in fact many of the segments are unintentionally hilarious (particularly the one about the evil bucket), and as an adult you notice the extreme '90s cheesiness that you were oblivious to at the time.

Another source of entertainment is the presenter, Jonathan Frakes (or J-Frazzle as I like to call him), who hosts the show with a distinctive combination of solemnity and

Dad Jokes. After each segment he will discuss the story with complete seriousness, before rounding things out with some wordplay worthy of *CSI Miami* ("Is this story of the mysterious screwdriver inspired by an actual event? Or are we just... screwing around?" *YEEEEAAHHH!!*) and toothily smirking into the camera. *Beyond Belief* is a corny show, but it has an earnest and, at times, sentimental quality that gives it a particular charm. If like me you watched it as a young'un, I definitely recommend revisiting it—and, if you've never seen it, I recommend checking it out for the retro goodness.

Review: Alex Campbell-Hunt



Film

Wonder Woman

(2017)
Directed by
Patty Jenkins
rating:
★★★★★

She's powerful, she's intelligent, she's strong, she's the daughter of Zeus, she's Wonder Woman. Most importantly, she does not disappoint.

We follow Diana's childhood on the island of the Amazon women, surrounded by her mother Queen Hippolyta, her aunty General Antiope, the most revered warrior of all time, and many other badass women. Then, a man enters the island and their world changes. Chris Pine portrays the American spy Steve Trevor, who is escaping German troops in WWI and stumbles upon the mystical island of Themyscira.

Diana then joins Steve and his band of national stereotypes (an Arab, a Scot and a Native American walk into a bar...) to destroy evil and win the Great War. A war Diana is certain has been caused by Ares, but good and evil is not so black and white in the human world; something Wonder Woman must realise throughout her journey.

It is always amazing to watch a movie with a woman as the central star, and as the ultimate protagonist. However, DC never said that this would be the most feminist movie ever made so can everyone please stop giving it so much shit? So much criticism has been given about the tiny outfits, the perfect make-up and the 'born yesterday, sexy today' theme. But this was not a movie where every single cliché was going to be absent. They made a movie to entertain and it most certainly did.

At the end of the day, Wonder Woman was a strong independent woman who knew about sex (who needs men for pleasure? Procreation only thank you very much), love and life and who grew before our eyes. Of course, it was typical Hollywood that they would make her fall in love with the first man she ever lays eyes on, but when that man is Chris Pine, who can blame her?

Gal Gadot did amazingly and she is definitely a real-life goddess in my eyes. Top marks go to Jenkins for not ruining the crucial moments with cringe romance but also, curse you Patty Jenkins for not giving us a sex scene.

Review: Maisie Thursfield

Food

Aquawhatta?

by Liani Baylis

If, unlike me, you're not up with the vegan or frugal kids, you're in for the biggest PSA of your young life, so stay seated and prepare to be mind-blown.

I kept hearing about this thing called "aquafaba" and I was like TF is that? Turns out, it's a magical liquid that can be used to almost perfectly substitute an egg in most vegan baking situations. As always with such fads, I presumed it was something that claimed to be from somewhere with an astonishing altitude selling at \$14.99 for no more than a measly 10 grams—I was mistaken.

Turns out this precious liquid is something that I had been throwing out for years.

PSA TIME FOLKS: IT'S THE SHIT FROM THE CHICKPEA CAN YOU'VE BEEN POURING DOWN THE SINK.

In recent times, I haven't genuinely been amazed - with Trump breaking all boundaries and social expectations my standards have been subsequently depleted, for a lack of a better word.

All that was blown right out of the water when I, somewhat pessimistically, started to whip the brine and the gentle foam began to expand. "What the actual fuck," I said to myself as I whipped it to the stiff peak stage whereby a quick flip over the head will either leave you looking like a white-froth covered knob or a fancy chef who'd give ol' mate Ramsay a run for his money. For me, the latter was the result and I was absolutely gobsmacked.

Even if you're not vegan and if you don't give a shit about plant-based diets, eggs are expenny. Save them for poaching and use a bit of chickpea (or any canned legume) brine in your baking. You were only going to pour the brine down the sink so it's as if it essentially cost you nothing.

Use it to make mousse, bind cookies, muffins, make meringues, macarons, pancakes, royal icing—unlike space on this page, the possibilities are endless. This shit gets me way more excited than a bit of unsuspecting brine ever should.

Non-vegans, let me put it like this - brace the cold no more when you've run out of eggs for a supermarket run. Seriously though, why would you mish to the supermarket when you could stay at home in the cold (but not as cold as outside) and make mousse to cure your winter blues.



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Books

The Panopticon

—Jenni Fagan



review: Jessica Thompson

I studied this book for an English paper last semester and thought it was worth a review. Set in Scotland and with Edinburgh vernacular to match, the *Panopticon* is a sharp novel that examines the lives of the down and outs, the uncontrollable criminal youths and the doomed to fail losers of the world. Rough, right?

Our protagonist Anais Hendricks begins the story 15 years old in the back of a police car, school skirt drenched in blood, and with no memory as to why she is there. She is taken to the Panopticon, a home for 'chronic young offenders', originally designed by philosopher Jeremy Bentham, styled in a circle with a tower ('inspection house') at the centre so that staff may observe inmates at all times. Shady, I know. Anais enters the building in full defence mode, and seems pretty aware of how to cope in such a situation.

She is quick to make friends, first fighting a girl named Shortie, then proceeding to bond with her and the others. There's Isla, the anorexic, self-harming, HIV positive teenage mother of twins and her lover Tash, who is working as a prostitute to save up money so they can escape and live together. Anais is an

intriguing protagonist. She's a vegetarian, a bit of a white witch, and, while tough, is ultimately kind. She describes herself as pretty 'hard', but doesn't mean to be cruel. It's hard not to like her easygoing fuck-the-polis but save the squirrels lifestyle. She is, however, an unreliable narrator, and the *Panopticon* blurs the lines between fact and a drug trip. Throughout the novel there is a sense of conspiracy, whether it's from the police, the social workers, or Anais herself; who knows what's real and who to trust. Constantly paranoid that she was created from a petri dish and released as an experiment, she's felt eyes on her long before the panopticon.

The *Panopticon* is a wild, acid infused coming of age tale for those beaten down by life and the 'system'. It's understandable why Anais is just over it. The world is a sick place. Raised into a normalised environment of drugs and prostitution, home jumping and violence, she is trapped until she's old enough to break free. And she is constantly informed by her elders that she'll be in prison before she gets a chance.

An entertaining book, tender and strong, The *Panopticon* mates pain with humour. "I want to cry and hit my head off the wall—and scream until I pass out, but I gave that up for Lent."

Art

From Funedin to Sunedin

Sunroom

—Trudy Lane

review: Waveney Russ

Staring at the sun as a child seemed a formidable challenge, akin to holding your breath at the bottom of a pool, only with a greater chance of permanently damaged corneas. Enter digital artist Trudy Lane. Like switching from a BSc to a BA, Lane endeavours to transport us to that sun gazing end goal with as little discomfort as possible.

Known for her blending of art, science, culture and ecology, Lane transformed the empty 23 Princes Street into a galactic viewing platform. Infrared heaters line the ceiling to present an authentic (minus 14,999,975 degrees Celsius) face-to-face encounter with te rā. The vacant store is transformed into a haven of warmth as the winter solstice arrived and the frost set in around Dunedin. A simple yet impactful project, the Sunroom aims to interlace the beauty of science and artwork, highlighting the encompassing power and majesty of the sun and its role as the origin of energy, and therefore life, on Earth.

During daylight hours, solar telescopes within the Beverley-Begg Observatory provide real-time images, which on-lookers can safely stare at for as long as they wish. When the sun sets in the Southern Hemisphere, a highly detailed live stream from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (which I googled the location of, and was informed, 'Earth') is projected onto the feature wall. It periodically switches to a live stream from Dresden, Germany (also located on 'Earth', if you're interested) when cloud cover prevents a clear image from being displayed. This sun exchange



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TWELFTH NIGHT

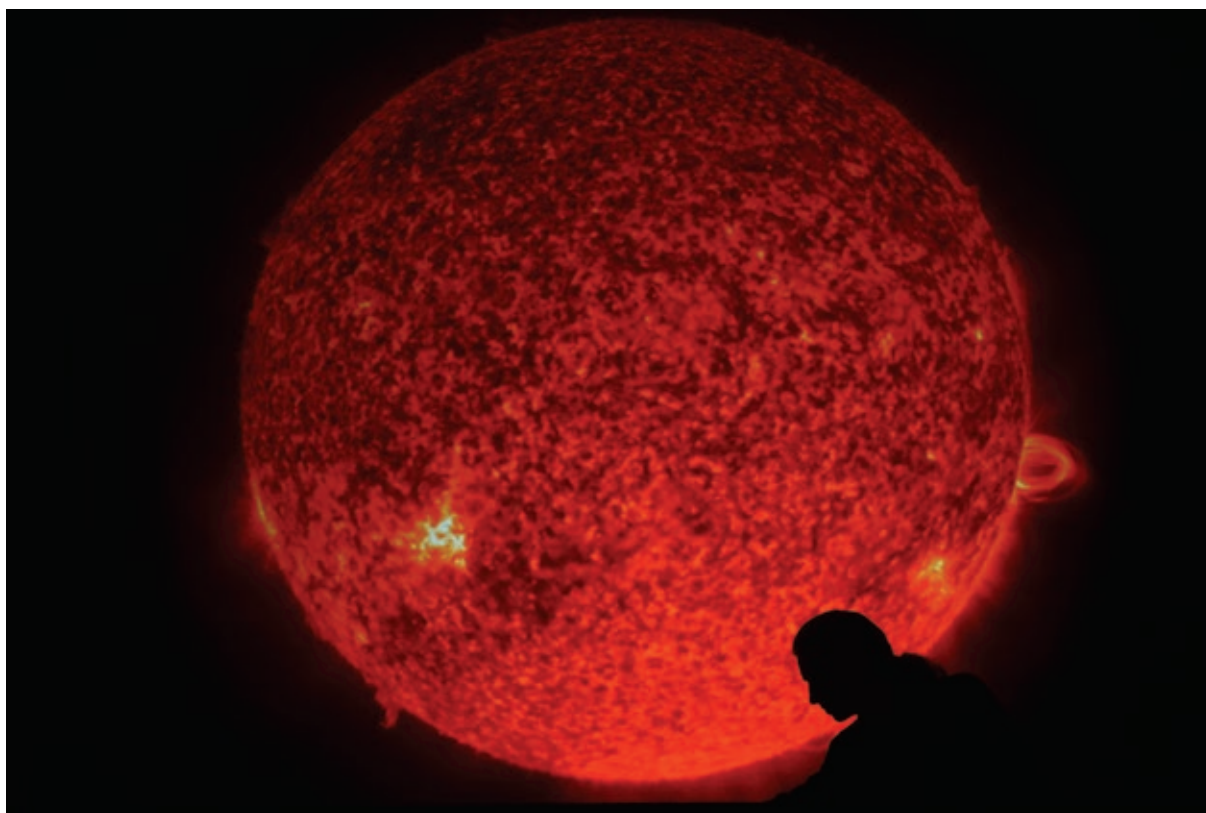
1-22 JULY

By William Shakespeare

Some Performances Already Sold Out

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between Dresden and Dunedin has the potential to be reversed in the future if Dresden wishes to share our view from the bottom of the Earth.

Audible pulsating and rumbling was produced by 20 years of raw data (courtesy of Birmingham University) increased in speed 100,000 times, then finely tuned to 300Hz to become discernable to the human ear. The drawling hum of the historic solar flares embraces you, almost meditative, partnering with steady warmth and low lighting to foster a peaceful womb-like atmosphere, an area in which life begins.

Several events were held in the gallery spanning the two-week duration of the exhibit's modest existence. Highlights included the morning sun salutation

yoga, discussions on quantum physics and creation narratives, and a sun-themed science show.

This was a partnership between the Dunedin Astronomical Society, Otago Polytechnic and Puaka Matariki and a showcase of an unostentatious relationship between science, artwork and community. For others it was simply warmer than two degrees, and therefore half the flats in the North East Valley.

In an interview Lane hinted at the possibility of the exhibit's return, with additional elements to increase Dunedinites' vitamin D intake during the winter months. However, public interest will need to take the reins and solidify the demand for an encore. Perhaps the Gregg's coffee factory won't feel so inclined to light the city up after dark if Lane's solarium returns.

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DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY

Campbell Patterson call sick 2017 Video stills Courtesy of the artist and Michael Lett. ►



HUNT FOR THE MYSTERY OBJECT

at the Otago Museum

WE HAVE AN
EXTRA DOUBLE PASS
TO GIVE AWAY FOR
THE MOST CREATIVE
ANSWER OF THE
WEEK

DAY OF THE DAY

This week calls for masses of celebration (I think that every week but this week holds true. I swear).

Monday 17 July—**WORLD EMOJI DAY, YELLOW PIG DAY**

Imagine a world where symbols of emotional expression used frequently in online communication were not adequately appreciated; it's a dark world, is it not? Fortunately, we do have World Emoji Day, so get involved! Yellow Pig Day is also here—despite its name it actually celebrates the number 17. The reason for this is intriguing but my word count is peaking, so look it up yourself.

Tuesday 18 July—**CAVIAR DAY**

Although the thought of eating fish eggs repulses me, it's important to honour the man or woman who was insane enough to try eating fish eggs in the first place. Kudos.

Wednesday 19 July—**ICE CREAM DAY**

The Rob Roy deserves a visit today, so get in quick before it's no longer Ice Cream Day and you have no excuse to be there.

Thursday 20 July—**WORLD JUMP DAY**

In 2006, a German artist set a time for 600 million people in the Western Hemisphere to all jump at the same time, suggesting (as a hoax) that this would shift the earth out of its orbit and into a new orbit that would prevent global warming. What it did do was raise peoples' awareness of the issue.

Friday 21 July—**JUNK FOOD DAY**

Ice Cream Day was only the beginning, get your Fatty Lane fix asap!

Saturday 22 July—**PI APPROXIMATION DAY**

22 July = $22/7 = 3.14$. Celebrate Pi Approximation Day by memorising and reciting as many digits of Pi as possible! As if life wasn't thrilling enough already.

Sunday 23 July—**INTERNATIONAL YADA YADA YADA DAY**

International Yada Yada Yada day is for all you Seinfeld fans—it recognises the term 'Yada Yada Yada' that became ubiquitous after episode 'The Yada Yada' showed how skipping over some things in conversation can cause ... issues.

CLUES:



This object was made by Madeleine Child in Dunedin in 2008

It is a ceramic model

Most of the exterior is coloured pink and coated with glass beads. Some areas have gold lustre.

GO TO THE OTAGO MUSEUM TO SOLVE
SEND YOUR ANSWER TO MYSTERY@CRITIC.CO.NZ
FIRST CORRECT ANSWER WINS A DOUBLE PASS TO:



DISCOVERY
WORLD
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FOREST

OR

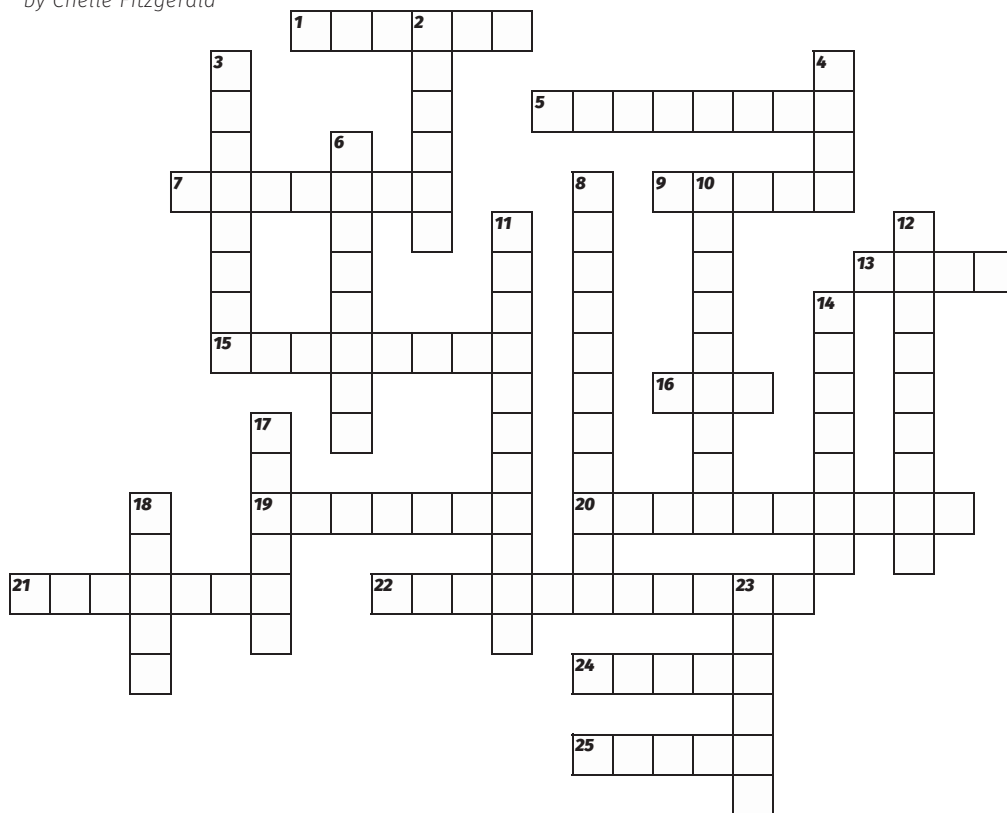
PERPETUAL
GUARDIAN
PLANETARIUM



LAST WEEK'S MYSTERY OBJECT was a Himalaya tahr. These animals were introduced to New Zealand in the early 1900s. Three females and two males, from the Duke of Bedford's park at Woburn, England, were released into the Mt Cook area in 1904.

Several more introductions took place over the next few decades, leading to the establishment of this species in the South Island. Now, they are considered a pest species in New Zealand, and cause damage to the alpine flora. Initially the species was protected, but in the 1920s licenced shooting of the adult males was permitted.

CONGRATULATIONS *Nather Hamer* FOR FINDING
THE TAHR. YOU ARE GOING TO THE PERPETUAL
GUARDIAN PLANETARIUM!



ACROSS

1. Mt. Cook
5. Collarbone
7. Puffy, cotton-like cloud
9. Talking Heads frontman, _____ Byrne
13. Nickname of Edwin Aldrin Jr
15. Laird _____, big wave surfer
16. Pork Pie, Stetson and Boater are various styles of this
19. Location of 1947 UFO crash
20. Shag Point fossil in Otago Museum
21. _____ Station, the US Antarctic base
22. Noisy/pesky ghost
24. Slithery friend
25. Penny _____, the world's first postage stamp.

DOWN

2. Struck by shock or terror
3. To leave or give (personal property) by will
4. Now banned in paint and petrol
6. Passing quickly
8. Military parachutist
10. Aurora _____, the Southern Lights
11. Lunar feature, the Sea of _____
12. Titillating style of cabaret
14. One who denies the existence of God
17. Mineral often used in radio-metric dating of rocks
18. Donald _____, a bumbling fool
23. Furtive; surreptitious

INVENTIONS OUT OF TIME:

GUNPOWDER

rating: 4/5

Gunpowder was invented by the Chinese, along with everything else ever.

Lots of people talk shit about gunpowder due to its unfortunate association with guns. However, such an association misses the fundamental essence of gunpowder: it smells really, really, really, good. It is a smell that evokes both childhood and chaos, the pure annihilation of everything flawed or difficult in the world. Leaving just the smooth fizzling tang of anarchic bliss.

Also, an essential ingredient of gunpowder is saltpetre, which is a very funny word.

The only reason I did not give gunpowder 5/5 is that the name is misleading. Surely gunpowder should be made out of powdered guns. Very confusing. Gunpowder should have a serious look at its marketing department. If I put a miscellaneous powder into a gun, does it immediately gain the sumptuous olfactory blessings of 'gunpowder'? No, it does not.

I can hear you thinking "but how can you be so callous? Gunpowder kills people". To which I disagree. Gunpowder is an innocent combination of minerals and charcoal, it is how it is used that is evil. After all, gunpowder doesn't kill people, guns kill people.

1. What is the nickname of the New Zealand men's badminton team?
2. In World War Two, if you were a US soldier and you heard the word "Flash", what should your reply be?
3. How do deep sea anglerfish reproduce?
4. How long is a blue whale pregnancy?
5. Which Chinese dynasty overthrew the Yuan dynasty?

1. The Black Cocks, 2. "Thunder", 3. The male bites into the side of the female, and then he becomes fused into the side of her body and degrades away until he is just a parasitic lump of sperm, which the female then uses to impregnate herself. Hot, 4. 22 months, 5. The Ming dynasty

QUIZ ANSWERS:

C_____WORD ANSWERS:

1. Aoraki
2. Aghast
3. Bequeath
4. Lead
5. Clavicle
6. Fleeting
7. Cumulus
8. Paratrooper
9. David
10. Australia
11. Tranquility
12. Burlesque
13. Buzz
14. Atheist
15. Hamilton
16. Hat
17. Zircon
18. Trump
19. Roswell
20. Plesiosaur
21. McMundo
22. Poltergeist
23. Sneaky
24. Snake
25. Black

Advice Column

SAGE ADVICE: “The City of Dunedin (Part I)”

■ Mat Clarkson

“We run Dunedin and every other city in this nation. You can’t stop us, because you need us. Just let us do what we do, and nobody gets hurt.”

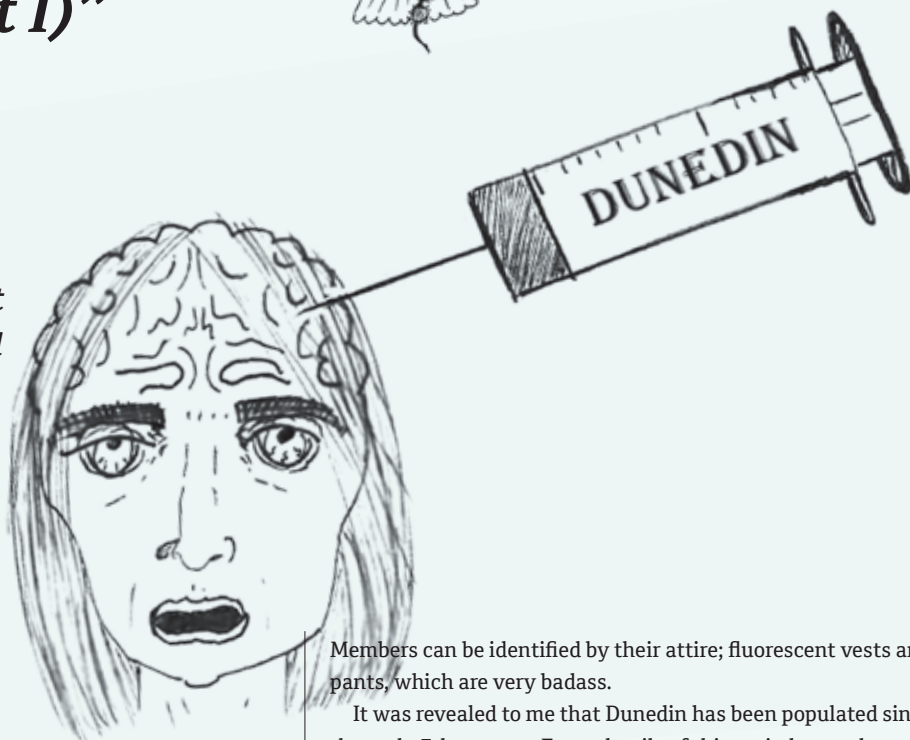
—*Dave, spokesperson of ‘The Workmen’ Dunedin chapter*

Over the ages, the city of Dunedin has been home to many great sages and bards. Who better to help uncover its rich and ancient heritage than a local Dunedin expert and historian? This week I have been contacted by a local woman with a huge brain, filled with secret histories of Dunedin that are rarely spoken about. She wishes to remain anonymous, but I can reveal that she hails from the wonderful suburb of Wakari.

“Ah, Dunedin! A shroud of mystery envelops her! The riddles scrawled on her stone walls and icy streets are indeed hard to solve! It has taken me most of a lifetime to put all the pieces together, but I will humbly share some of what I’ve gathered on this, one of the great cities of the world...

Dunedin is a veritable utopia of the mind. Only the smart and the eloquent may survive here; it’s a dog-eat-dog town. Oh, is that a flat-billed cap? Get the fuck out of here. Oh, what’s that, you’re studying? Medicine, is it? Ha! Tend to my rash, slave, and then begone! I am reading about the trials and joys of the human soul, you would not understand.

The culture of Dunedin is so distinct that newcomers often need a briefing as soon as they arrive. I am getting mad at the amount of times I have had to tell people all this. Firstly, pissing in the park is completely fine. Secondly, most facets of Dunedin are run by a small, secret society which operates somewhere out of South Dunedin. They are known collectively as ‘The Workmen,’ and dictate the goings-on in the city. They can slow the entire town to a complete standstill at their pleasure, but their goals for doing so remain well hidden.



Members can be identified by their attire; fluorescent vests and pants, which are very badass.

It was revealed to me that Dunedin has been populated since the early 7th century. Exact details of this period are unknown, but legend has it that the hills of Dunedin once formed the rim of a large volcano. Knowing this, members of a pagan cult from modern-day Lithuania immigrated to the area because the enormous volcano provided a perfect site for performing their human and cattle beast sacrifices, via immolation. The cult died out long before the arrival of the first pacific peoples, but their legacy is rumoured to live on through the modern-day ‘Workmen’. The warmth from the Dunedin volcano allowed the men of the cult to walk around with their peens and shrumpy balls hanging out (not shaming, people were just different back then). Also, the women of the cult were cool and did not wear bras—because, if they did, those big Haast’s eagles would go wild when they caught a glimpse of the bras (because they were made out of fur and looked like the eagles’ natural prey), and they would swoop down and steal the bras with their large talons. Some even say that the big eagles would wear the stolen bras sometimes, but I reserve judgement on that point.

The music scene of Dunedin has been charming locals and visitors for centuries. This has given rise to the fabled ‘Dunedin Sound’. But what is my favourite Dunedin sound? I simply open my windows at the crack of dawn, and listen to the birds fighting and shitting loudly all over my driveway. Ahh! Lovely! Bye.”

LUCKY IN LOVE

Each week, we lure two singletons to The Bog Irish Bar, give them food and drink, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email: critic@critic.co.nz

MANNY:

I've been thinking about the best way to approach this, and what I'll do is break the eve down into tracks like some random hip hop mixtape that got dropped in your shopping bag at some stage while walking through the mall.

TAKE ONE

Welp, here we go. I chose to avoid the super intimate sit-directly-across seat and shifted into the booth next to her instead. Her friendly smile makes it easy to settle in. There's a lot of yeahs...which evolve into a few "oh yeahs?"

HOOD

Shout outs to the fam, study, work, friends... we have none of them in common (oh, phew). There's a second verse in here that goes way too quickly, and nobody can remember the words—not even the artists.

ESPY (ft. two bored kids)

The crazy story track. So many, but the best are crafted on the spot. Life stories for peeps in the pub, fake ones... or is that alternative? I'm not sure. But laughs and small brushes of contact keep the charm alive.

BAKED (ft. \$penny mealz)

This track is the smoke track where you get "casual." IRL, that's me endeavoring to eat in front of a stranger who would write a review about me. Reckon I did ok... didn't find any leftovers on me the next day.

ODE

The drive slowly with the music way too loud track. And yes, I mean riding in a car—you dirty dogs. This track is an octave lower and borderline mumble rap. Possibly, too low. Sleazy I believe she called it.

GO (ft. AAA)

Dropping with a four count start, this is the banger on the tape. The one you've been holding out for... that beat that you like. Followed by the remix that you like even more (KRAYTRANANA style). Because four count starts are great, but some people just need it funky.

Finally, there's the hidden, way-too-much talking outro that's not on the listing. I'd be Kanye on this track, tip-toeing between incoherent and over-sharing. Or is the combo the perfect balance? There's no hope that you recall the lyrics, or why you're even here but fuck it! It was fun.

Thanks, Critic, The Bog, and especially to my lovely new friend. Peace.

FRAN:

There were two main motivators for going on this date. Firstly: a free meal. Secondly: the column had always been my go to read during uni and I was attracted by the idea of going on one of these 'brief encounters' with the potential of a raunchy story to share with mates.

The night began with me downing a few crumpets to ease the burden of the wines I knew I'd be necking if perchance this guy turned out to be an utter douche canoe. I arrived on time, grabbed a glass of wine and, five minutes later, my date arrived hairy, tall and not too bad to be quite frank, Critic you done good.

I lead the conversation for the most part while also talking him out of getting the pie as a main, who the eff orders something that mundane on a free night out? He soon started participating fully in the conversation, family, careers, uni, him crying over the alien movie *Arrival*, and a deceased xmas tree I am unable to mention by sworn secrecy and a shared appreciation for Dylan Moran.

After dinner and a bit more light hearted banter he invited me back to his place, by this stage those three rosé actually had me buzzing and, while trying to keep a cool head, I was wondering if returning to my grotty flat and going to bed alone was a better idea, and I thought (pardon my millennial lingo bullshit but)... YOLO. He called us a cab and we were off to his baller apartment in a penthouse apartment (not a word of a lie).

He began staring me down through sleaze squinted eyes and using a deep voice (not at all sexy), I told him to cut it out and we tried to decide on a movie to watch. Before you could say "pants-off dance-off" our clothes were on his bedroom floor and he was attacking the pink fortress while Amy Adams droned on in the background.

I slept not a wink as the bed was lump and I was quietly trying to suppress farts. Apart from that he was super adorable and affectionate and you might even say cute.

Morning eventually appeared and I was dying for a shower and my own waffle quilted bed. Before we left he took me to the roof to show me the view and hot tub!! WHY THE HELL DID WE NOT MAKE USE OF THIS? FOR EFF'S SAKE!

Rooftop hot tub aside, he drove me home and wished me well and all I have to show for the night is a hickey he left on my right side of my neck.

Adieu handsome bearded stranger.



TUESDAY PINT NIGHT
& OPEN MIC NIGHT
FROM 8PM TO 11PM TUESDAY NIGHTS



Drinking

Critic BOOZE REVIEWS

2016 ASPA Award
Winning Column

el Diablo SUPER STRONG BREW

■ Swilliam Shakesbeer

In all my years of exploring and analysing the finest alcoholic beverages New Zealand has to offer on the student budget, the one question I've

gotten more than any other is: "What's the grossest beer you've ever tasted?"

I've drunk a red onion ale from Lighthouse Brewery, an oyster and fig stout from Funk Estate, I've even had a couple cans of Tui (never again).

But nothing has even come close to tasting as stomach-turningly awful as El Diablo Super Strong Brew. There is no logical reason this beer should exist.

The beer review website ratebeer.co.nz gives it a 4/100, which is generous, noting its "Aroma is a mixture of medicinal, wood, grain, glue/plastic and wet cardboard. The taste ... well it's pretty much just alcohol with a touch of bitterness thrown in. Beers tell a story—this one screams dirty overcoat & park bench. Bad, bad, bad."

At \$3.99 for a 500ml bottle of 12% 'beer', it beats Golden Ratio \$1/standard threshold, which is the one thing I will give it credit for. It is incredibly cheap. But that's about all it has going for it.

First of all, it burns. Yes, genuinely burns going down your throat. Beer should not do that. Very few beers can justify a 12% ABV. Intensely flavoured beasts like an imperial stout or maybe a triple IPA could attempt to pull it off, but even then it is hard to cover up that much ethanol. El Diablo doesn't even try. It's a pale lager, barely darker than a well-hydrated piss stream.

It looks and tastes like a Corona with two shots of vodka in it. In fact I'm pretty sure that's exactly how they make them. Every mouthful I swallowed generated an involuntary shudder, like I was chucking back a cocktail of sandpaper and moonshine. This isn't a beer you can sit back and sip. This is a mortal battle of wills between man and drink. Every step of the way it wants you to give up, walk away, and buy something drinkable.

In the end I didn't succeed. Every sip made me want to curl up in a ball and cry. I ended up squeezing about

*like chuck-
ing back a
cocktail of
sandpaper
and moon-
shine*



half a bottle of lemon juice into it, which made it if not palatable then at least potable.

As far as I know, the only store which stocks it in New Zealand is Big Barrel, which is yet to venture all the way down south, so for now Dunedin is safe from the evil clutches of El Diablo. Thank the Lord.

Taste rating: 0.01/10

Tasting notes:

Gagging, stomach acid, tears

Pairs well with:

sticking two fingers down your throat

cheers!

Hell Hole

THE PISS BABY

👤 Fanny Clive-Trevor

The contractions had started. The woman's husband was at work, and she was at home, on maternity leave, waiting in boredom for the last weeks of her pregnancy to end. The thing she had longed for throughout the past eight months was beginning, but it was too soon. She had called her husband, but he wasn't answering. The contractions were sudden, long, and close together. It felt like someone had reached inside her and was grabbing and twisting, trying to pull everything out of her. Then a hot watery substance seeped down her legs.

She sat down on the bed, pulled down her pants, and put a hand underneath her to feel what was going on down there. Pulling her hand away she expected to see blood and gore, she met only warm, clear liquid.

The liquid began dribbling again, then flowing, then gushing. A thick yellow stream sprayed hot into the air around her, filling her nose with the unmistakable smell of urine. She was pissing uncontrollably in volumes larger than anything she'd done before.

The gushing went on, and with it came convulsions of pain as strange muscles sucked and pushed deep inside of her. The piss heaved out of her. It rolled in waves down the bed, stirring the sheets into a sodden slime.

Finally, the flow tapered off. She felt a sweet rush of endorphins flood her body and a peculiar moment of calm came over her.

Then she looked down.

"My baby! Where is my baby?" screamed the woman. She clutched at the empty folds of her belly, the skin hanging down over her concave muscles, the empty place where her pregnant bulge had been. The months of sickness, the stretching, the sleepless nights, the anticipation, all gone – gone in a gush of piss.

Ethel & Hyde

SEXUAL CONSENT

Dear Ethel and Hyde,

So a couple of weeks ago I went to this big post-exam blow out party with my flatties. We preloaded at home and were on form when we arrived. I got talking with this guy I recognised from one of my classes. He was pretty flirty and after few more drinks he suggested we go back to his. On the walk to his flat I vaguely remember having to push him off me a couple of times because he kept trying to make out (and more) in the street. It's quite hazy from that point. I don't remember at any point saying no or yes, but can't recall what happened at his flat. I woke up in his bed the next morning and quickly left. I don't want to see him again, but have this bad feeling he'll be in at least one of my semester 2 classes. Usually I would brush this kind of thing off but I can't stop thinking about it. Even just walking around campus I'm worried I'll see him. What can I do to stop feeling this way?

Yours uncertainly,
Girl in a turmoil

Ethel and Hyde is brought to you by the Student Support Centre. They advise you to take Ethel's advice.

➡ Send your questions to:
ethelandhyde@ousa.org.nz



Ethel says:

There are several issues I want to talk about regarding your brave disclosure and question. Firstly, I'm not sure if you're aware, but legally no one is able to consent to a sexual activity if they are drunk. Also be aware that you cannot 'consent' if you are asleep or unconscious, no matter what you may have agreed to before, and it doesn't matter if you had previously said "yes" or "no". Both sexual assault and rape are very serious crimes, which can take a tremendous toll on the victim, even when they try and brush it off. Although you're unsure of the details of what happened once you got inside, if you feel as though something took place, then I really encourage you to talk to someone, such as a counsellor at Student Health or the support workers at Rape Crisis Dunedin about how to work through your feelings and trepidation at seeing this person again. Your fear of seeing them is a normal reaction to such an experience; similar feelings might include mood swings, self-doubt, anxiety, and depression. Coming into the OUSA Student Support Centre may be another way of beginning to address the situation.

Thank you for being willing to ask this question as the situation you've been in and are still dealing with is a relatively common issue for a significant proportion of our population, both female and male. Best wishes to you moving through this emotional experience.



Hyde says:

Itching pustulating sore of a feeble hooch filled skin bag could've smeared some sick cells across the divide. Without the benefit of a time machine to go back and keep your booty at that party, avoiding the whole alcohol fuelled lecherous attack, you need to go get yourself swabbed to check none of the nasties have moved into your vjayjay to start a new colony. This is NOT your fault!

We friends, have a DUTY to bring DOWN the MYTH that makes dirty fucking FUCKERS act on URGES with folks who ain't got no sense in their heads COS THEY DROWNED IT with nectar. Bring in the P.R.A.T. team, Protect with Reality check by Accompanying and Terminating sexual misadventures. Before heading out to any more parties create your own PRAT team, or call 0800PRAT. Equipped with jelly shots the PRAT team member approaches an identified potential perpetrator flirting and/or fondling some drunken innocent, and gives them a jelly shot laced with an audiopill, which is a miniature speaker which will be activated in their digestive tract causing music to ricochet through their body. Make sure to install it with 'The Most Unwanted Song', which starts of kindabad and heads into previously unrecorded echelons of hideosity over 21 minutes. The aim of a PRAT is to INTERVENE, and be that someone who will Protect the vulnerable, provide a reality check past the beer goggles, Accompany you if you're headin' out the door with someone prepared to take advantage of you, and ultimately terminate any sexual advances you are in no legal condition to handle. Be a PRAT and break the game, you might not be thanked at the time, but you will MAKE IT CLEAR there is no place for this typa FuckMunster on our patch.

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TARDIGRADES

■ Chelle Fitzgerald

For the last 500 million years, the micro-animal *Hypsibius dujardini*, otherwise known as tardigrades, have ruled our planet. If you've never even heard of these bad boys, then boy howdy it's time to learn you.

Measuring up to a whopping 1mm in length, their curious little three pronged hands look like miniature garden cultivators, whilst their bodies resemble little obese caterpillars made from vacuum cleaner bags. It's no surprise that they are also adorably referred to as "water bears" and "moss piglets."

Tardigrades are the only creature to have survived all five of Earth's mass extinction events, from the Cambrian to the present. Why? Because they are extremotolerant, meaning they can survive in incredibly extreme conditions that are too hostile for other lifeforms - such as the atmospheric pressure of the bottom of the ocean, places with high doses of radiation, and even the goddamn vacuum of space.

Included in their arsenal of trickery is the ability to master cryptobiosis (which

translates to "hidden life"), a form of suspended life whereby a creature can remain alive even whilst appearing to be dead. When shit gets real, tardigrades just dry up into little husks (called a "tun" state) and shut right down until their environment is more palatable, dropping their metabolisms down to 0.01% their usual rate.

casually turn into glass for a few years to weather the storm. Their tardigrade-specific intrinsically disordered proteins (TDPs), which are usually in a jelly state, turn the cytoplasmic fluid of their cells into a kind of glass, completely protecting all their sensitive areas and proteins and removing the risk of their proteins and molecules breaking or deteriorating.



Another incredible way tardigrades are able to survive radiation and space is a tardigrade-specific protein called Dsup, which binds itself to DNA and becomes a shield against X-ray radiation, allowing the DNA to remain intact when exposed to radiation. Even more exciting is that this protein could totally be transferred to cells of other organisms —like humans. Tests using human cells showed Dsup to reduce X-ray damage to human DNA by 40 percent, meaning that when we go up to colonise Mars, this could be a very real asset to our ability to survive up there (and in other parts of space).

When tardigrades are confronted with a dry environment, they just

On top of this, they use their own glycerol as an anti-freeze agent, which is probably why last year a tardigrade that had been completely frozen for over thirty years was revived by scientists, and was subsequently able to reproduce as normal. These little guys could potentially tell us so much about extraterrestrial life as we encounter it in the future, and they could also help us further our own biological and genetic advances.

I, for one, welcome our tardigrade overlords.

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24A London St, Dunedin
29TH JULY 2017
11:00AM - 6:00PM

President's Column



Hey Team

Welcome back! Hope your re-o festivities went well and you're all making the most of the dusting of snow.

Here at OUSA we've been working through the break on a couple of things. One of those things is the search for consultation on the implementation of CCTV cameras in the area around the University. If you have an opinion, either good or bad, on the proposed plan then its important that you submit that opinion so that we can work to mitigate any concerns that people may have.

If you head to our Facebook page and follow the links you will be lead to a page that will give you all the details that you need to know on the proposed plan, with facts figures and the links to submit your opinion.

It's integral that you do make your opinion heard so that we can better understand what the major concerns are when it comes to the proposed plan.

Anyway I wish you all the best with the upcoming week and hope wherever you are you're managing to keep warm.

Enjoy your week though!

Cheers!

Hugh Baird
OUSA President
president@ousa.org.nz



Future DJ Competition...

The battle of the scratchers is back! Entries close 24th July.

More of the listener than a mixer? Make sure you're at Refuel on July 26th to see the best of the best take it out!



OUSA Art Week : Aug 14 - 18, 2017

Been creative over the break? Feel like making a bit of cash and showing off your talents? Why not enter some pieces in the OUSA Art Week Student Exhibition + Sale? Zero comission + week long display + epic prizes!



Blues and Golds

Nominations are now open for Blues and Gold awards! Head to

www.ousa.org.nz/recreation/blues-and-golds-awards/

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