

Critic

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ISSUE 03 13 MAR 2017



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Democracy Behind Bars

How Arthur Taylor is taking on central government from prison and winning

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Evidence of Obstruction

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—Wee Doubt, p22



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The Cheapest Alcohol In Dunedin: A Critic Investigation

Our tireless and dedicated reporter has put himself in the line of fire to find the cheapest drink of them all

—Swilliam Shakesbeer, p26

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Why we printed a Don Brash interview

Last week an advert appeared in The Star newspaper promoting Don Brash's new political movement "Hobson's Pledge". In it, the group calls for politicians to stop giving "extra rights for those who arrived here first," "favourable treatment based on claimed treaty principles," and asks that those who "don't like being sneered" at and called "racists" join their ranks. It asks for donations of between \$25 and \$750. They also have the gall to quote Dr Martin Luther King's (sans the "Dr" part) "I Have a Dream" speech to reinforce their warped understanding of the issue.

It is astonishing that Brash can look around at his ancient, white cohorts and conclude that we live in a fully functioning meritocracy and therefore should not give "favourable treatment based on imagined treaty principles."

Having laws that theoretically give equal rights to every adult citizen of New Zealand doesn't address the prejudice and inequality caused by colonialism. Pakeha today may not have been personally responsible for the crimes of their ancestors, but they continue to benefit from them.

Brash came into the political sphere as the National Party leader on the back of his financial expertise as the Governor of the Reserve Bank and was not initially involved in race politics. He seems to have jumped on this divisive bandwagon later in his career when he discovered he could attract votes by banging on about ending the "favourable treatment" of Māori. Now, as an extremely wealthy ex-politician, Brash has a position of power and influence he could be using for a good cause, as many other ex-politicians have done in the past. Instead he has chosen to push a weird, racist agenda that is not going to benefit New Zealanders in any practical way.

Brash has stated he is tired of "being sneered at" and being called a racist, as though being 'sneered at' is a form of oppression comparable to what Māori face in their everyday life, and have faced since Pakeha turned up in New Zealand to deceptively appropriate their land. He claims preferential treatment of people is coddling them, as though he hasn't been coddled his entire life by being born into privilege with the right family of the right colour and right religion, with a father who was the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Dairy board.



"We are now one people"
—Don Brash (& photoshop)

We had an argument in the Critic office about whether or not to print our interview with Brash (pages 12 and 13). It centred on whether, by giving him space in our magazine, we were helping him to promote his controversial agenda or whether we were simply providing a broad range of political information in an election year.

The rise of right wing populist politics and the increasing acceptability of their messages is a terrifying phenomenon that is happening around the developed world (France, UK, USA) largely due to the dissemination of false information and deceptive political tactics (think "alternative facts"). This phenomenon has prompted closet racists to feel accepted enough to say what they used to merely think.

Dr James Maclaurin wrote an opinion piece that we printed in Critic last week, entitled "How to keep talking when the world is upside down." In it he argues that "What we desperately need is effective, honest, and productive arguments with people whose passionately held beliefs are diametrically opposed to our own." Actively listening to other people and attempting to understand their point of view is the first step to counteracting those views. We believe Brash when he says he thinks his ideas would make New Zealand a less racist society than it is today. We also think his ideas are full of shit. You may not agree with him either, but maybe if you take the time to read his interview answers, you will be a bit better informed on how to talk to people with similar ideas in the future.

Lucy & Joe
Critic Editors

THE CRITIC TEAM

EDITOR LUCY HUNTER

EXECUTIVE EDITOR JOE HIGHAM

DESIGN NATASHA MURACHVER

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION CERI GIDDENS

CHIEF REPORTER JOEL MACMANUS

SUB EDITOR CHARLIE O'MANNIN

NEWS INTERN ANNA LINTON

SECTION EDITORS

ART EDITOR MONIQUE HODGKINSON

FILM EDITOR LAURA STARLING

MUSIC EDITORS BIANCA PRUJEAN & REG NORRIS

BOOKS EDITOR JESSICA THOMPSON CARR

GAMES EDITOR CAMPBELL CALVERLEY

SPORT EDITOR CHARLIE HANTLER

POLITICS EDITOR GEORGE ELLIOTT

CONTRIBUTORS

ZOE TAPTIKLIS, DAVID CLARK, DANNI PINTACASI, JUSTENE ALLEN, TERINA RAURETI, SIANY O'BRIEN, BRANDON JOHNSTONE, JAXON LANGLEY, JACK TREVILLA, CHRIS LAM, JAMIE GREEN (LAST WEEK), LUCY NORTHWOOD, MIKADE BARNES-GRAHAM

DISTRIBUTION SAM LLOYD

ONLINE CONTENT MANAGER AMAN JAMWAL

ADVERTISING SALES

TIM COUCH, PETER RAMSAY, JESS DRYSDALE

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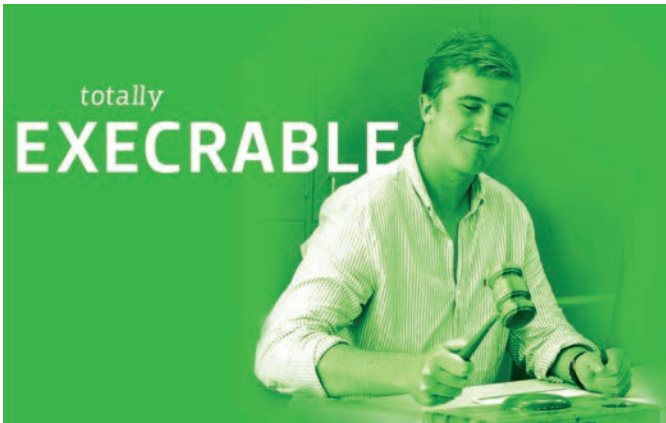
(03) 479 5335

P.O. BOX 1436, DUNEDIN

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Press Council: people with a complaint against a magazine should first complain in writing to the Editor and then, if not satisfied with the response, complain to the Press Council. Complaints should be addressed to the Secretary, PO Box 10-879 The Terrace, Wellington.

TOTALLY EXECRABLE

by Joe Higham

The executive began by discussing which charity the proceeds from the Capping Show would be given to. Postgraduate Officer Lucy Northwood proposed the Lucy Foundation (no connection), as an alternative to suicide prevention charity Life Matters, which was proposed by President Hugh Baird at the previous meeting.

The Lucy Foundation's goal is to "revolutionise the way we do business by creating a culture of inclusivity in trade," they go on to say that "we are helping create an entire supply chain of coffee that is inclusive for people with disabilities across the country of origin (Mexico) and country of consumption (New Zealand)." Finance

Officer Cody Kirby and Welfare Officer Bryn Jenkins both stated their support for the Lucy Foundation, before a vote showed the executive in unanimous support for the coffee-based charity. Jenkins also proposed flyers to publicise the charity be distributed before the production each night, an idea that was also agreed with.

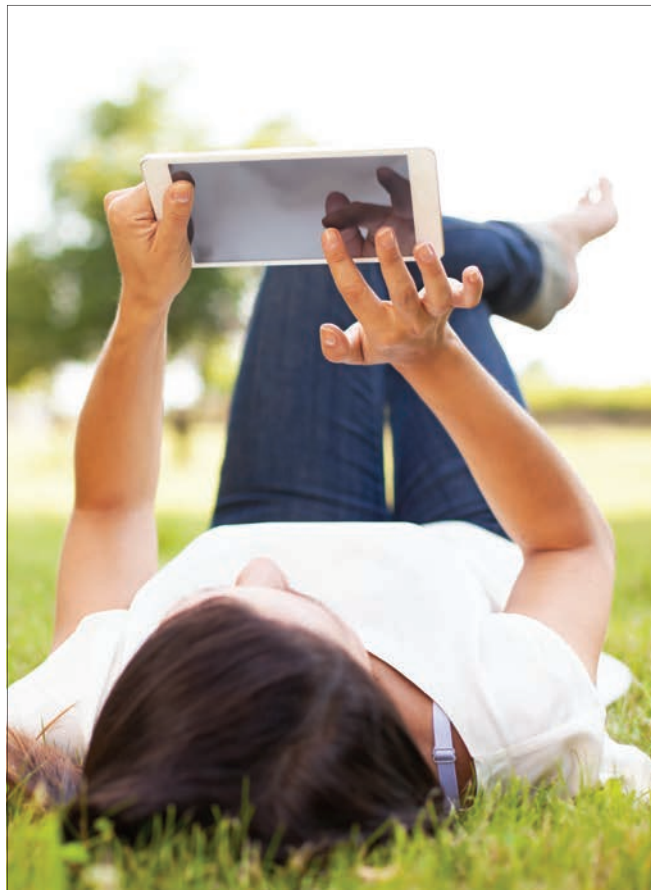
Baird then offered his congratulations to the entire executive for their efforts in Orientation Week, which he said, "went very well overall".

Cody Kirby then raised two recommendations. Firstly, a plan of how each executive member with an allocated budget line, or who intends to spend from the general budget line, plans to spend that money. Secondly, that any money spent will include a memo to Kirby himself as to how that money has or will be spent. Kirby noted that this initiative wasn't worded to have executive members "ask for permission, but to encourage transparency."

The discussion then turned to the seemingly widespread confusion about the OUSA Free Breakfast

Initiative and when it would be being offered this year. Both Recreation Officer Caitlin Barlow-Groome and Hugh Baird had received questions about the initiative, and had not known the answer. OUSA CEO Debbie Downs clarified that it would "only be offered during the exam periods" because of "budgetary issues". Concerns were raised because free breakfasts were still publicised on some OUSA's banners and on their website.

Finally, OUSA's new website will be up and running in re-orientation week. The process has cost approximately \$35,000, according to Debbie Downs.



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UNI NEWS

SKY TV Ripping Off Students



by Joel MacManus

Under a new policy from Sky TV, students in the North Dunedin area are being offered significantly worse deals than non-students or residents in other suburbs of Dunedin. In 2016, first-time subscribers were offered a package of \$39 a month including Sports, Movies, and MySky. The price this year has gone up to \$49 a month, but now students are being offered only one premium option. Other areas of Dunedin continue to be offered all three premiums.

According to one Sky insider, who spoke to us on the condition of anonymity, the standard deal was offered to residents in North East Valley, Central Dunedin, and the City Rise, excluding only the student quarter "I would say the cutoff [where I can offer the standard deal] is probably around Cargill St or London St".

"The decision's come from up in Auckland. Someone's seen the stats showing six or seven hundred disconnects and decided this is a bad area." These disconnects would have been the result of most students not staying in the same flat for more than one year. "They're just trying to save money, but the decisions are coming from up high and they've got no idea what's happening on the ground."

Sky TV Director of Corporate Communication Kirsty Way defended the decision, saying "At any point in time SKY will have various sales offers in the market, across numerous sales channels. This is a normal sales and marketing strategy used across multiple industries. For example, you could find different pricing at petrol stations across various cities or parts of a city or different offers to join one gym brand in different regions."

Our source, however, disputed this statement and claimed that the decision was based on whether the signees were students or not. "I've had a few

signups where I have been able to offer the [the better deal] in the student area. For example, I had a bloke on Grange St who was a builder. I got questioned by management, but I just told them he was working full time and they okayed it."

The decision has apparently been just as unpopular with salespeople as it has been with students. "It's really affected our ability to get sales. I haven't seen any definite figures, but I'd estimate it has cost us about 100 signups compared to last year. They're trying to eke an extra \$15, \$20 out of students, but it's just not happening. A lot of other flats just reckon they can make do with Sky Go and Netflix."

"It's short-sighted if you ask me. If you guys [students] get a bad taste in your mouth [about Sky], you're probably not going to get it in the future. If you don't have Sky now, you're probably not going to have it in five years."

According to our source, Sky TV sales use a statistical system whereby houses and areas are given a ranking of A to F based on the likelihood of signups and timely bill payments. "If you ask me, it's actually quite a racist system. Minority-majority

“Minority-majority neighbourhoods get lumped in there the same way you guys [students] do”

neighbourhoods get lumped in there the same way you guys [students] do. They didn't even want us to come into this area at first, I still don't know if we'll be here next year."

"One thing I will say is that Sky has shown they're responsive to bad PR. I'd imagine if you guys kick up a fuss they would respond, but who knows".

We made multiple requests to Sky TV to offer an explanation as to why all other areas of Dunedin were offered better packages, other than the fact that the university area is mostly populated by students, but they failed to respond.

UNI NEWS

Preloading Pressing Issue for Dunedin Police

by Anna Linton

Information released under the Official Information Act last week has highlighted the effect pre-drinking is having on Southerners.

The Alco-Link data reveals that the majority of intoxicated offenders are drinking at home before going out, raising questions about the relationship between pre-drinking and disorder in the community. The information shows a trend in the last three years for alcohol consumption at home having led to the bulk of those arrested whilst drunk.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Officer Sergeant Ian Paulin told Critic that the Police are seeing the prevalence of house parties rising, with police attending three to four parties daily during this year's Orientation Week. Rather than the criminal activity highlighted in the Alco-Link report, the police are finding the uncontrolled drinking to cause issues like intoxication and broken bottles. However, Sergeant Paulin notes the overall decline of offenders who have consumed their last alcoholic drink in a private residence over the past three years.

Asked whether the closure of Student Bars over the past years have had any impact, Sergeant Paulin asserts that drinking at home and the associated uncontrolled drinking has long been an issue but that "We do see more uncontrolled parties since student bars have closed, which can lead to more alcohol-related harm."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne rejects the idea that the closing of student drinking establishments has had an effect on preloading or on student misbehaviour. Hayne instead highlights remiss liquor laws as increasing the prevalence of binge drinking in private residences.

Otago University has continued to strongly lobby for "meaningful changes to our liquor laws, such as raising the price of alcohol, and cutting down on the number of off-licences". However, off-license premises continue to offer easily obtainable alcohol cheaper than licensed premises.

Proctor Dave Scott told Critic that he was in agreement with the University's stance that the excessive pre-drinking identified in the report stems from particularly lax liquor laws.

INTERNATIONAL

International Women's Day 2017

by Mikade Barns-Graham

Wednesday 8 March marked 2017's International Women's Day; a day that has for over 100 years given people a chance to stand up for issues of gender equality.

This year has encouraged a sense of boldness and action as the #BeBoldForChange campaign focused in particular on gender pay disparity in the workplace. New Zealand is one of the many countries that participate in International Women's Day, an event organised primarily by UN Women NZ and other affiliated organisations that have organised over 26 for this year. The University of Otago held two events: a UN Women breakfast and talk and a soapbox event, which gave women a chance to listen and be heard by others.

The theme for this year has brought to the fore the relevant and pressing issue of workplace inequality in New Zealand. A recently published report, entitled Empirical Evidence of the Gender Pay Gap in New Zealand, has revealed that a 12.7 percent pay gap continues to exist between males and females in New Zealand. The research attributed 20 percent of the pay gap to traditional factors such as childbearing, family responsibilities and the career paths women choose, however the other 80 percent is "unexplained".

Contrary to the pay wage statistics, the report also showed that women are, on average, more highly qualified than men: they stay in school for longer, achieve better grades in NCEA, and are more likely to graduate from tertiary education. The gender pay gap also increases as one's job position increases on the wage scale, meaning it has specific relevance to those who undertake tertiary education. As such, the question must be raised, even though women are just as qualified, if not more qualified, as men, why are they being paid significantly less than their male counterparts?

With this theme for International Women's Day, it would seem like a good time for change. After 14 years of without improvement since the last attempt to close the gap in pay wages, the newly-elected Minister for Women, Paula Bennett, commented that it was one of her "top priorities" to address the gender pay gap. The Government is currently

looking into the gender pay gap and researching different solutions and actions to tackle the issue.

Their first aim is to resolve the pay gap in the public sector, by taking recommendations from the Joint Working Group on Pay Equity. Bennett hopes that their efforts to close the pay gap in the public sector will "encourage employers to address the issue in the private sector".





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Issue 03 | Mar 2017

POST-FACT WORLD

Facts schmacts. Reality is so boring. Say these with conviction and everybody will probably find you fascinating.

Tables were invented to keep food away from the sinful dirt of the ground.

Each 1000 piece puzzle of a map of New Zealand can be rearranged to make a portrait of Sir Edmund Hillary.

Tigers run backwards when attacking to make their prey think they are moving away from them.

Eyes work by a clockwork mechanism that is coiled tightly when you breathe in and out.

When you copy and paste text, quantum mechanics causes the letters to pop out of existence and back again.

The neurons in your brain have tiny hands that link together when you remember something. If you can't remember a word, it is because two neurons have had a fight and won't hold hands.

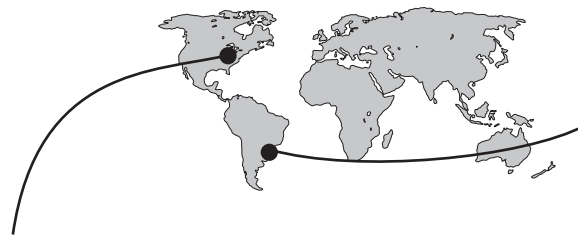
Don Brash is taking out a lawsuit against the World Wildlife Foundation to stop them saving the pandas, which are causing pandering. He is tired of being sneered at by pandas.

If you pat your friend on the head gently 2,000 times in one day, they will become your servant.

Cats are baby bears.

Knives and forks need to be kept in separate compartments for the sake of common decency.

WORLD WATCH



Indianapolis, USA

The city of Indianapolis has installed small wooden ramps in the downtown canal to help ducklings escape without drowning. The ramps came in response to baby ducks and geese dying because they were unable to get over the cement ledges placed around the canal.

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Six shelter dogs have stolen the show at the Brazil Open, where they served as ball kids to raise awareness for pet adoption. The dogs, hailing from two different shelters, showed off their ball retrieving skills in an exhibition match between Brazilian tennis player Marcelo Demoliner and his coach.

BUNCH OF FIVES

- 1 What was the significance of people wearing red on Wednesday?
- 2 What is the best place to get fish and chips?
- 3 Should jail be used primarily for punishment or rehabilitation?
- 4 Do you have an interesting fact from your last lecture?
- 5 Who is this? Jacinda Ardern, Judy Bailey, Judith Collins, or Kate Middleton?



KATIE—Physiology

- 1 International women's day
- 2 The Grill
- 3 Both
- 4 Smoking causes heart disease
- 5 Jacinda Ardern

1 JOEL—Law

- 2 International Women's Day
- 3 Caravan at the cricket
- 4 Primarily for people who "should of" Saw Neil Wagner take 2 wickets on a really jumpy stream
- 5 My celeb crush

1 BRIDGED & LYLA—Env.Science/Geology

- 2 International Women's Day
- 3 Kate Middleton
- 4 "That place" (*Squidies*)
- 5 Rehabilitation Didn't go to class (*Naughty*)

MR JOHNSTON—Pensioner

- 1 I'm a fan of red—I was called "Red Terror" on my motorbike
- 2 Halfway Bush Fish and Chips
- 3 Punishment
- 4 Less technology is best
- 5 Jacinda Ardern

SAM—Commerce

- 1 International Women's Day
- 2 ReBurger
- 3 Both—50/50
- 4 Spice trade—it influenced how trading is done today
- 5 Judy Bailey

International Space Station, Space

A long bright line hovering above earth could be an alien 'megaship', according to conspiracy theorists. Theorists are claiming that NASA deliberately dimmed the lights on their feed to make the object disappear, but Nigel Watson, a UFO expert, says there are a number of possible explanations for the mysterious object, like space junk or satellites.

By Jack Trevella



KATIE



JOEL



BRIDGED
LYLA



MR J



SAM

ODT WATCH

This week the ODT has finally done it. They've run out of content completely.

Wonder to behold . . . A magpie's feather lodged in grass.

Over the next couple of weeks they plan to see how many different kinds of feathers they can lodge in different locations.

We seem to have an infestation of Australian troops.

Australian troops eat our rations

This week the ODT divulged perhaps the best kept secret of all time.

Life in Waimate feels like having won Lotto

Don't everyone rush there at once.

Next, the ODT decided to tackle the difficult issue of substance addiction.

Oyster addict shells out for 'bad habit'

And finally, the ODT continues to thrash around in the swamp of vague headlines.

Applicant 'responsible'

Not only do we not know what the applicant is applying for or what they have done, we also don't know whether they were really responsible.

By Charlie O'Mannin

FACTS & FIGURES

On average Britons will eat 1 ,126 CHICKENS in their lifetime

There are 177,147 ways to tie a tie.

Every year, around 3,000 people get **bubonic plague**

A kiwi's egg is so large it's equivalent to a human mother giving birth to a **SIX YEAR OLD**

Pope Francis used to work as a bouncer in a **Buenos Aires nightclub**

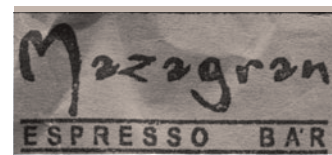
GUINNESS isn't black; it's very dark red

Oxford University was over 300 years old when the Aztec Empire was founded

The facial expressions on Lego figures have become increasingly **ANGRY** over the last 30 years.

By Jack Trevella

NEWS IN BRIEFS MADE POSSIBLE BY MUCH COFFEE COURTESY OF:



INTERVIEW

Critic Interviews

Don Brash

Don Brash is the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Leader of the Opposition, from 2003-2006 (National Party), and, for seven months in 2011, led the ACT party. His return to the political sphere comes as one of the two spokespeople for controversial political lobbying group Hobson's Pledge, a movement that opposes Māori 'favouritism', seeking to abolish the Māori electorates amongst a number of other things. Māori activist and former parliamentarian Hone Harawira said of the movement that "this is racism and it's time somebody called it out", while Radio New Zealand's Executive Producer Tim Watkin has said "Brash is back and so we have to explain again why his argument is built on rubbish and rubble."

Critic's Joe Higham spoke with Brash about the movement and how he hopes it will influence New Zealand politics in this election year.

Can you briefly describe what the Hobson's Pledge movement is to those who are unfamiliar with it?

Some months ago, an old friend approached me to say he was seriously worried about where New Zealand was heading on "Treaty issues" (separate Māori electorates, co-governance, giving tribal appointees voting rights alongside elected members of local councils, the exemption from income tax for the trusts established as a result of Treaty settlements, etc.). I told him that setting up a new political party, based on a single issue, would be unlikely to be successful, but after much discussion we decided to establish the Hobson's Pledge Trust to actively promote a colour-blind society in New Zealand, reflecting the words which Governor Hobson spoke as each Māori chief signed the Treaty in 1840 —"We are now one people." We plan to oppose as strongly as possible all policies which are inconsistent with a colour-blind society, and to support any political party, or parties, committed to the same goal.

Do you think that New Zealand is sympathetic to the issues that you are attempting to address?

I have not the slightest doubt that a great number of New Zealanders – almost certainly the great majority – agree with our objective. There have been many things pointing in this direction, not least the huge increase in support for the National Party in 2004 after I gave a speech to the Orewa Rotary Club in January that year promising that a future National Government would move New Zealand decisively towards a colour-

blind society. Unfortunately, many New Zealanders have been so indoctrinated with the false notion that the Treaty of Waitangi created some kind of partnership between Māori and the Crown, that we have become terrified of stating our commitment to a colour-blind society in public.

How are you aiming to try and bring about this change? Is it a political campaign in its own right or are you just attempting to convert already elected MPs to pursue the issues your movement cares about?

To date, we have been running ads in community newspapers in many parts of New Zealand, running the occasional ad in the main Sunday papers, holding public meetings, and building support for our campaign through Facebook and our website (www.hobsonspledge.nz). We do not propose to field candidates in the forthcoming general election, but may well endorse a political party that is committed to our goals.

From just a brief look at your website's 'Who We Are' page, you seem to have a striking amount of elderly white men (and also a few women) behind the campaign. Do you think this is a party that can appeal to Pakeha and ethnic minorities alike?

Yes, certainly we have a number of white men with years of experience, though four of our 14 members are women. Unfortunately, though I don't doubt that most New Zealanders agree with us, those who voice these opinions in public are routinely abused as racist, even though of course what we are arguing for is not only NOT racist, it is the very antithesis of racism! To call us racist is nothing less than Orwellian double-speak! We want all ethnicities to have the SAME rights, not different rights. But understandably people don't like being accused of racism, so that a great many of those who support us do so "below the radar".



Lyndon B. Johnson once said: “You do not take a person who for years has been hobbled by chains, liberate him, bring him to the start line of a race and say you are free to compete with all the others and still just believe you have been completely fair.” How relevant do you believe that quote is in a modern New Zealand context?

Not relevant at all to this issue. First, those who benefit from the constitutional privileges being provided to those with a Māori ancestor (always with ancestors of other ethnicities now of course) are not most ordinary Māori but overwhelmingly the Māori elite (and indeed the Pakeha lawyers and academics who get indirect benefit from their role as legal counsel, educators, etc.): they are the ones who get the benefit of the directorships of the corporations formed from Treaty settlements, who get appointed to council committees, who often receive

the benefit of the koha required when resource consents are needed.

But, secondly, to tell Māori that they have been so incapacitated by something that happened to some (not all) of their ancestors five, six, or seven generations ago that they need special coddling is to patronise them – indeed, infantilise them. Telling somebody that their future success relies not on their own efforts but on waiting for some kind of benefit, special privilege, or hand-out doesn't help them, it hinders them.

Māori social statistics have shown steady improvement across the board in large part due to affirmative action policies. How do you see your policies affecting these improvements?

I'm not at all sure that I would agree with the proposition that “Māori social statistics have shown steady

improvement across the board in large part due to affirmative action policies.” There are still plenty of “Māori social statistics” which are appalling – domestic violence, rates of imprisonment, and drug abuse are all areas where Māori statistics are very substantially worse than those for any other ethnicity in New Zealand. But to the extent that those with a Māori ancestor need more help, help should be based on that need, not on who some of their ancestors were.

Do you see many similarities with your movement and other current populist movements going on around the globe? (I'm particularly referring to Marine Le Pen in France, Nigel Farage in the UK—and Brexit more generally—etc.)

Yes and no. Yes to the extent that many of the “New Zealand elites” – those with a Māori ancestor and those without – seem intent on ram-roading through policies that a very large number of New Zealanders reject. But many of those “other populist movements going on around the globe” are based on the fear of foreigners – of immigrants, refugees, bureaucrats in Brussels, or distant power-brokers in Washington. Those supporting the Hobson's Pledge Trust, and, more generally, those wanting a colour-blind society in New Zealand, are not saying we fear foreigners, or fear Māori. We want to live in a society where all citizens, irrespective of whether our ancestors were Māori, European, Pacifica, or Asian, have the same political rights. That is the only way to racial harmony in the long run.

Please refer to the editorial on page five for both Lucy (Critic Editor) and my opinions on this movement. This interview was conducted prior to the writing of that editorial, once context about the movement has been given.

If you find any of the issues raised in this article offensive, please refer to James Maclaurin's article on how to listen to people outside of your filter bubble and argue constructively with them, which was in issue two (and is also available on the Critic website).

NATIONAL

PM's Proposed Raise in Retirement Age Receives Little Cross-Party Fanfare

By George Elliott

Prime Minister Bill English broke with his predecessor last week in a major policy shift, announcing a proposal to raise the age of eligibility for superannuation, New Zealand's pension scheme, from 65 to 67 years old in the year 2037.

English argues that this measure will cut costs for an 'unaffordable' and 'unsustainable' superannuation scheme, which currently costs about \$11 billion annually. Economist Michael Littlewood of the Retirement Policy and Research Centre pointed out last week that this equates to 4.2 percent of net GDP, with the projections showing an increase to a net 7.1 percent by 2060 – still below the average net cost for public pensions, 7.3 percent, among OECD member states.

Additionally, as part of the new proposal, the eligibility for new permanent residents mean they would now have to live here for 20 years before collecting the pension, instead of 10.

National plans to present the relevant legislation to the newly elected parliament next year, but there's little support among their colleagues.

The opposition and National's support partners, excluding ACT, oppose raising

the retirement age. Labour Party leader Andrew Little said, "Life expectancy may have changed, but bodies wear out pretty much at the same rate as they always have done".

Council of Trade Unions President, Richard Wagner, concurred, saying the plan would be too tough

"Life expectancy may have changed, but bodies wear out pretty much at the same rate as they always have done".

for people working labour intensive jobs and the age should stay at 65.

"This policy is being created in a context of government that doesn't like to spend money on people whether it be health, education or retirement," Wagner said.

Andrew Little also said it's time the government resume contributing to the fund if

they wished for the scheme to become affordable in the long run. In 2009, the government stopped making contributions (until then around \$15 billion), saying they would continue in 2020.

The Maori Party opposes a change and repeated their position of lowering the age to 60 for Maori and Pasifika, who have lower life expectancy. ACT's David Seymour argued that the change should take place by 2020 not 2037.

As per usual, the likely king-maker Winston Peters was front and centre last week after the announcement, saying "We are categorically not going to support this legislation, or a continuation of the National Party breaking its word to the constituency."

As for the politics and optics of the announcement, English has driven the initial headlines and forced the other political parties to tell the country where they stand on the age of retirement, a common election issue. Last election things were different, with Labour advocating for change and National defending the scheme's affordability.

Despite its unpopularity, the National Party will feel confident that their older voting base won't kick up a fuss; those born on or before 30 June 1972 won't be affected and the base would probably see this as a wholesome final step in burying the remnants of the tax-sucking welfare state.

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INTERNATIONAL

Trump Faces Immediate Challenges, Has No Strategy as Rivals Race Towards ISIL Capital

By George Elliott

Fighters belonging to the most important players in the Syrian civil war converged on the small Syrian city of Manbij last week, illustrating the complexity of a conflict which will be six years old on March 15 and reminding us that the Trump administration is yet to outline a coherent strategy.

Russian and American special forces, Kurdish militia and Turkish troops and their local rebel allies have all been spotted in and around Manbij, with the potential to become a flashpoint in the continuing rivalry between these groups which have one thing in common: they all fight the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in one way or another.

Despite their apparent mutual interests, the Turkish and Kurdish parties are at each other's throats. Turkey wants to keep Kurdish aspirations in check and the Kurds want to carve out more land, there's little middle ground. They are racing towards ISIL's de facto capital, Raqqa. The liberator of Raqqa would be well placed to re-arrange Syria's ethno-political landscape.

US special forces driving through an active Syrian hot spot, while Russian soldiers patrol just five kilometres away, is a rare occurrence. Indeed, US activity on the ground in Syria has been limited relative to their operations next door in Iraq.

The American show of force in Manbij is part of an effort to stop fighting between the Turkish and Kurdish factions, something the Pentagon is calling "reassure and deter". It's an example of the predicament that US leadership in the region faces.

US forces are embedded with and fund and equip the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of some Arab but mainly Kurdish fighters that experts see as the best anti-ISIL fighting force. NATO member Turkey, however, sees the group as

connected to Kurdish "terrorists", specifically the PKK, a militant separatist group that has been at war with the Turkish state for decades.

Adding to this problem, we have no idea what the new US administration is going to do about it. A plan years in the making formulated by the Obama White House that would have seen intensified air and ground support for a SDF liberation of Raqqa has been tossed out by Trump's team, according to the Washington Post, possibly delaying the operation by a year.

Due to a lack of public comment, news media is having to use Trump's comments from the raucous campaign trail to represent some sort of White House perspective on Syria, comments like a child talking about his toy soldiers and making explosion sounds.

Trump has said next to nothing on the Syria issue since his inauguration. He said that he will "quickly [...] destroy" ISIL and that he "will absolutely do safe zones" without providing any details.

The White House's complete lack of leadership on one of the world's most immediate foreign policy challenges is of no surprise to those not recently living under a rock.

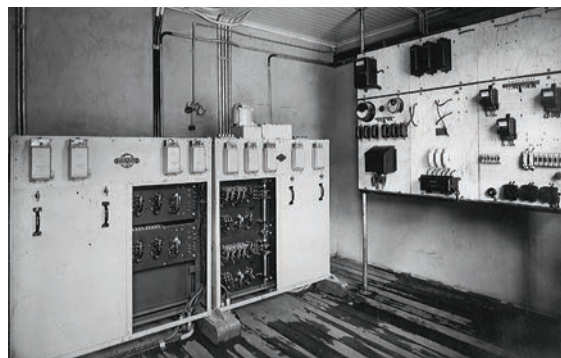
Yes, the US military can continue to function independently of the executive's policy directions. However, the possibility for a sustained military-led US foreign policy should alarm us, especially considering the Trump administration's plans to boost military spending while gutting the State Department and deprioritising diplomatic and humanitarian tools.

If the United States wants to continue to have a say in the Middle East's future then a civilian-led strategy needs to be articulated now. The race to Raqqa is entering its final stretch.



DAVID CLARK

Why a hospital rebuild matters to students



Archives-New Zealand/Otago-Hospital-Laundry/CC-BY2.0/

Time for an update? Photo of the 'new' hospital laundry facilities, 1930

Even though today it is agreed across the political spectrum that our hospital desperately needs updating, the timeframe for a rebuild keeps getting dragged out, and some argue that the new buildings may deliver fewer services than they currently do.

My position is simple: Dunedin requires a well-served, modern hospital that will serve the future healthcare needs of Dunedin people.

The Dunedin Public Hospital has served generations. The first buildings on the current site were put in place over 150 years ago. The clinical services building that houses Dunedin's infamous leaky operating theatres was built in 1960. It is the part of the hospital that most desperately needs to be replaced.

But delays on the Dunedin hospital rebuild have been costly. These costs have both been direct (\$50 million has been tipped in to keep services functional that will ultimately be replaced) and indirect (some students have been unable to pursue their chosen specialties in Dunedin because the poor buildings have contributed to a loss of training accreditation).

The lack of modern facilities will be of particular concern to those studying medicine, nursing or an Allied Health Profession. Students training to serve in New Zealand hospitals should have access to first world facilities. The current hospital is riddled with asbestos and the operating theatres leak, these conditions make it harder to attract medical staff from overseas, and draws into question the Government's commitment to quality education.

The government's refusal to kick-start the rebuild of our hospital speaks to its priorities. Decent, high quality healthcare should be above party politics – but an independent assessment shows the current government has underfunded the health sector by more than \$1.7 billion since 2008.

A rebuild of the hospital must start without delay. It's about all of us, and the future of health services in our community. The Aussies can build hospitals in 4 years (including planning), and I happen to think we can do just about most things better this side of the ditch.

OPINION

Charlie Hantler Sums Up THE ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON WITH NINE GAMES TO GO

I was searching for inspiration for this week's column, and so I delved into last year's work. Boy oh boy did I find a goodie, with claims that Pep Guardiola, the new Manchester City manager, was making the English Premier League look easy. He was undoubtedly doing so at the time, but the danger of such bold claims is that one can be made to look naïve and foolish as the season advances.

Here we find ourselves, 27 games into the 38 game season, and an intriguing

table has developed. After a record-breaking disappointment of a title defence last season saw Chelsea finish 10th, 31 points behind fairytale winners Leicester, they are now 7 points clear of second placed Tottenham (with a game in hand at the time of writing). The real point of interest is now the race for the remaining three spots in the top four, which brings qualification for Europe's prestigious Champions League. It's a five-horse race, with the table as follows:

With no European football for anyone but the two Manchester teams, this puts Tottenham, Liverpool and Arsenal at a strong advantage. Moreover, Liverpool only play one top ten team (Southampton) in their last eight games; but they're Liverpool and I hate them, so they aren't making it.

Harry Kane has found the form that put him on the map as one of the stars of the league, and has been scoring for fun. However, they have Arsenal and Manchester United in the last four game-weeks of the season, and these could well be the slip-ups that cost them. Besides, they're terrible in European competition, so a spot definitely shouldn't be wasted on them.

Thus leaving us with my predicted top 4: Chelsea, Manchester City, Manchester United and Arsenal. Manchester City have come back strongly from their mid-season struggles under Guardiola, and the young German talent Leroy Sane is beginning to show just why he has such high acclamations from English and German press alike.

Yaya Toure has returned to the mercurial talent who took the Premier League by storm upon his arrival; while his fellow contenders for best Manchester City player of all-time, David Silva and Sergio Aguero, have finally become agreeable to Pep's no cellphones in the changing room policy. Aguero's strike this morning against Sunderland may well be the catalyst for the perennial Fantasy Football favourite to motor on to greater things. Expect them to finish the job against Monaco in Europe this week and take on the Champions League quarterfinals. If their talisman, Kevin De Bruyne, finds his shooting boots, they've a good chance of surprising the masses and going far.

Manchester United look to be finally becoming accustomed to Jose Mourinho's ideology. 35-year-old Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been the poster-boy, still scoring for fun at an age where most are happier watching football on TV. He has 26 goals so far this season for United, and there are no signs of slowing down. The much underpraised Ecuadorian, Antonio Valencia, is having a superb season at right back, and is a major component of this United team along with the attacking trident behind Zlatan of Mkhitarayan, Pogba and Martial. As is tradition with Jose, expect United to finish in the top four this season, before advancing to being fully-fledged contenders for the gong next. There are strong rumours of French superstar Antoine Griezmann

| # | TEAM | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 | Chelsea | 26 | 20 | 3 | 3 | 55 | 19 | 36 | 63 |
| 2 | Tottenham | 27 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 53 | 20 | 33 | 56 |
| 3 | Man. City | 26 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 53 | 29 | 24 | 55 |
| 4 | Liverpool | 27 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 58 | 34 | 24 | 52 |
| 5 | Arsenal | 26 | 15 | 5 | 6 | 55 | 31 | 24 | 50 |
| 6 | Man United | 26 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 39 | 22 | 17 | 49 |

joining his compatriot Paul Pogba at Old Trafford, and this will be the major transfer story of the English summer.

Now we reach Arsenal. French mastermind manager Arsene Wenger looks to be in his final season, and will be seeking a stylish finish, by again providing the London fans with European football. As has become custom, Alexis Sanchez, the Chilean dynamo, will do everything in his power to get the job done. Boy have they missed Santi Cazorla. With the top four established, we turn to the tragedy that is the relegation zone.

Any of these teams could still easily go down. First, I have to discount Bournemouth. Eddie Howe has taken them all the way from League Two of English football to the Premier League, and they play very aesthetically pleasing football. With a capacity of roughly 11,000, they have a tiny stadium at Dean Court by Premier League standings. With Tottenham, Liverpool and Chelsea still on the agenda, they have a tricky run-in, but they have the personnel and style to get through.

Leicester have topped Chelsea's aforementioned

nightmare follow-up, but following the sacking of Ranieri, folklore legend Jamie Vardy looks like a new man. Having come up through the divisions like Howe and Leicester, he's the man for a dogfight and will ease them to safety.

Sunderland are as good as gone, under infamous ex-United manager David Moyes, while Hull aren't looking worth putting your TAB savings on. It will then be the battle of the Spanish strikers, Fernando Llorente and Alvaro Negredo, at Swansea and Middleborough, to determine the final dropper. For my

money, 'Boro' are heading back down right after rising.

Here's how it stands:

| # | TEAM | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|----|----------------|----|---|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 14 | Bournemouth | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 37 | 52 | -15 | 27 |
| 15 | Leicester City | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 30 | 45 | -15 | 27 |
| 16 | Swansea City | 27 | 8 | 3 | 16 | 35 | 59 | -24 | 27 |
| 17 | Crystal Palace | 27 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 35 | 46 | -11 | 25 |
| 18 | Middlesbrough | 27 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 19 | 30 | -11 | 22 |
| 19 | Hull City | 27 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 24 | 53 | -29 | 21 |
| 20 | Sunderland | 27 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 24 | 50 | -26 | 19 |

For what it's worth, here are my awards so far:

BEST MANAGER:

Antonio Conte has swept aside the plethora of top-tier managers (Guardiola, Mourinho, Klopp, Wenger, Pochettino) to steer Chelsea to what now seems an inevitable title.

BEST GOALKEEPER:

Tom Heaton, the Manchester United youth product, has had an outstanding season in goal for Burnley, who are surprising many folk in 11th.

BEST DEFENDER:

While David Luiz and Cesar Azpilicueta have been outstanding for Chelsea, along with Virgil Van Dijk for Southampton, I'll go with the exciting option of Michael Keane at Burnely. Come back to Manchester, Michael.

BEST FORWARD:

Costa, Zlatan, Kane, Lukaku. Take your pick. Costa edges it for me since he's getting a winner's medal.

BEST MIDFIELDER:

N'Golo Kanté without a shadow of a doubt. The man with three lungs was crucial for Leicester and has been again for Chelsea.

DEMOCRACY BEHIND BARS:

How Arthur Taylor is taking on central government from prison and winning

By Joe Higham



One night in late 2006, whilst incarcerated at Mount Eden Prison in Auckland, Arthur Taylor, arguably New Zealand's most famous living prisoner, had a vivid dream. It wasn't quite a Martin Luther King type of dream; those pivotal moments were some time away yet. At the outset of our conversation, Taylor, who currently still has six years left on his prison sentence, began describing how, in the dream, he saw his wife "holding a beautiful little baby in her arms, breastfeeding it, and there was real love in her eyes." Dreaming of your spouse and the life that lies beyond the

thick walls that confine you isn't out of the ordinary for inmates, but conceiving a child whilst you're behind bars presents a difficult task, even for someone with Taylor's skillset. Once he had told his wife about the dream, she told him to find a way of making the dream become a reality, and so he set about planning a way of smuggling his sperm out of prison. When I asked how he actually managed to do it, Taylor responded in a careful, calculated tone: "I was in a unit that had a fridge with a freezer compartment and I had an officer who, ya know?"

If Taylor wants something done, he'll find a way of getting it done, and the conception of his daughter is just one example that can attest to this tenacity. Many years ago, Taylor studied for a legal executive qualification, and, although he passed with flying colours, he "couldn't get out of prison to sit the examinations," so never actually graduated. In saying that, his greatest achievement to date, of which he has had many, has arguably been a legal one. The achievement that stands out, partly because it represents the first time in New Zealand legal history that a court has given a 'declaration of inconsistency' as a judgement, is his recently successful challenge in the High Court to the Government's blanket ban on all prisoners voting in elections, which is contained in

disenfranchisement of prisoners appears to be inconsistent with Section 12 of the Bill of Rights Act and that it cannot be justified." While the High Court's recent judgment signals an increasing hope for the prisoner voting cause (even if the Crown appeal of the case spreads a level of doubt on that hope), the true importance of the judgement could be the doors it opens for other cases. Because the High Court's judgement represents the first ever 'declaration of inconsistency' imposed by a New Zealand court, Taylor says it will "act as a chiller effect on Parliament, who now have to think, 'shit, if we pass this legislation, will someone take us to court for breaching the BORA? (Bill of Rights Act)'" Somewhat unsurprisingly, the Government remained resolute in protecting

Now any person who is in prison on election day cannot vote, creating arbitrary distinctions with potentially enormous consequences.

the Electoral Amendment Act 2010. Prior to this amendment, only inmates serving sentences of imprisonment fewer than three years were given the right to vote. However, now any person who is in prison on election day cannot vote, creating arbitrary distinctions with enormous consequences. For example, two people who commit the same crime in the week leading up to this year's general election could be sentenced very differently; one may receive a month-long prison sentence (and therefore lose their right to vote in that election), while the other may receive a community service sentence lasting a similar period (and therefore retain the right to vote).

Before Parliament even passed the bill, the Attorney-General, Chris Finlayson, wrote in a report to Parliament that "the blanket

the legislation, appealing the case to New Zealand's second most authoritative court, the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal hearing occurred between 25 and 28 October 2016, with the final judgment not yet announced. Taylor claims that the government appealed not necessarily because they think they can win, but in order to "stall the decision beyond the next election," which, strategically, is an astute political move from the National Party considering the might that prisoners could potentially wield in the election if given the vote once again. Were prisoners able to vote in the 2014 General Election, for example, the result could have been significantly different. The Te Tai Tokerau electorate ended up being a two-horse race between Labour's Kelvin Davis and Mana's Hone Harawira (who had

held the seat ever since claiming it in the 2005 General Election). The race came right down to the wire. Davis eventually won the seat by just 743 votes after the 22,000 total votes were counted. The electorate is home to the Northland Regional Corrections Facility (Ngawha), which houses 548 prisoners who Taylor said were almost all "keen on the Mana Party ... simply because they had very prisoner friendly policies." It is likely that the families of those prisoners would have taken some dissuading from rival political parties to vote against the prisoner friendly policies the Mana Party were promising during their campaign. "Imagine if Hone had got in [to Parliament], and he took a Mana

toilet] her boss asked why she had dust all over her. She told him what happened and then he said, 'shit that's why all the armed police are outside on the road. They might be looking for him.'"

On another occasion, Taylor was on the run for nine months, leading to the police creating 'Operation Needle' in order to attempt to locate him. Taylor refers to this operation amusingly as "more like operation needle in a haystack" due to the length of time he was able to evade the authorities. He eventually "leased a camping ground from Kaipara District Council, and lived in the community [Dargaville], just fine." He refers to this period

He sees the protection of prisoners, who are on the bottom of society's hierarchy, as protecting the rest of us further up the chain.

list member," Taylor hypothesised, "that's two votes, that could've been the end of the [National Party] majority, so it could've really had a significant effect!"

The pervading trend in Taylor's life is undoubtedly his recidivist nature, having been imprisoned for 38 of the last 40 years, but another trend that intertwines with this recidivism is his ability to make the authorities look remarkably foolish, something which was present far before his numerous legal challenges ever began. A particularly notable example is his most recent prison escape (the last of his twelve total escapes), where he had "lost all the police, and I was down by the BNZ Bank building running on a roof there and unfortunately the bloody roof gave way and I crashed down onto a poor woman sitting on the toilet. I calmed her and asked if she needed a doctor and hung around, but she was in real shock ... and [when she left the

as a transformative one, believing it to have proved to himself "that I could live without crime ... and so long as you haven't got that stigma of criminality out there with you it's usually fine."

Taylor's metamorphosis from career criminal to prisoners' rights advocate occurred largely during the thirteen months he was interned in 'Siberia' (what New Zealand prisoners call segregation), spanning throughout the large majority of 2011. The Department of Corrections set it up specifically to house Taylor in order to deal with his increasing influence within the prison. Upon his release from segregation, Taylor requested an Ombudsman's report, which described his treatment during that period as "cruel and inhumane for the purposes of the UN Convention Against Torture". Shedding light on the period, he told me that this was due to the Department of Corrections "deliberately leaving lights on and [making sure] I had

Taxpayers fork out thousands for prisoner's legal cases

By Simon Plumb

Two High Court scraps with one of the country's most notorious career criminals, including an unsuccessful attempt to defend a voting ban on prisoners, cost taxpayers \$366,000. Crown Law confirmed it had spent \$366,821.54 to defend actions brought by serial prison litigant Arthur Taylor.

In one case, Taylor, who is serving lengthy sentences for a raft of crimes

involving drugs, firearms and kidnapping, took on Corrections' chief executive Ray Smith who assigned him a "high" security classification. Judge Rebecca Ellis reserved judgment on September 11.

The other case was against Smith and Attorney-General Chris Finlayson. Taylor and four other inmates challenged the voting ban imposed on New Zealand prisoners.

In July last year, the High Court issued a formal "declaration of



Arthur Taylor

inconsistency" with the Bill of Rights Act.

However, that does not mean Parliament has to scrap the ban.

The Government is considering the judgment, but has indicated the Bill of Rights has been taken into consideration when refusing votes to inmates.

Taylor's lawyer, Richard Franco, said at the time he intended to take the case to the United Nations and "point out this is a human rights violation".

Many nations, including Ireland, Spain and Switzerland, allow inmates full voting rights. Others, such as France and Germany, determine voting rights on the nature of an inmates' conviction.

In New Zealand, only prisoners serving terms of more than three

years were prohibited from voting until 2010 when the law changed to cover all prisoners after a member's bill by National's Paul Quinn, who is no longer in Parliament.

Justice Paul Heath said his decision related only to the blanket ban and not the earlier ban.

"There are powerful arguments that the limitations on the prohibition contained in the original Act are justifiable in a free and democratic society."

no power and no water for lengthy periods." In hindsight, Corrections may look at this decision and think they played the wrong hand by segregating Taylor, as it sparked something of a backlash inside him, which turned out to be far more dangerous than what they were attempting to suppress. Ultimately, if they considered his criminal pursuits to be an annoyance, his legal ones have tested them far more.

Unfortunately, it is far more common to find an article berating him for the vast financial burden the taxpayer is left to absorb because of his legal battles, than the importance of the rights he is protecting (see example above). The figure of \$370,000 given in the article by New Zealand Herald journalist Simon Plumb is the cost the Crown (Government) must pay, which would be doubled if Taylor wasn't representing himself in court (the winner of the case generally has their legal costs paid by the loser). Additionally, because the government lost that case, they are the ones who decided to appeal it, and by doing so they increased the price tag, not Taylor as Plumb would want to have you believe. If one side is to be blamed for heaping this legal cost on the taxpayer, it can only logically lie at the Crown's feet, especially considering it was them who set this case in motion by legislating inconsistently with the NZBORA.

Taylor explained that because "[I] can't go out and represent the unemployed or refugees, I represent prisoners ... I have the standing to do that because the courts have said I can," going on to proudly state that he considers his "[legal] work a payback to society." He sees the protection of prisoners, who are

on the bottom of society's hierarchy, as protecting the rest of us further up the chain. It is somewhat surprising that Taylor has been strong enough to not give up on society in the same way much of society has given up on him, and on prisoners more generally. While the rigid rules of the legal profession accommodates Taylor's brazen advocacy, the same does not necessarily extend to the rest of the population, who are quick to lump the burden of the extensive cost of the legal system on the plaintiff (the party who initiates the litigation), despite the almost unanimous agreement in legal circles that the Crown are in the wrong in this case. For Taylor, the fight goes on regardless, because "if you breach the human rights of one person, then you're breaching the human rights of all people. Human rights attach to us simply because we are human beings."

When I spoke to him, his parole hearing was just a few days away. After telling me he was hopeful but cautious of the likelihood of his release, I asked what he would do the day the day he gets released, and he told me, "I'd like to get together with my family and have a good catch up, a really nice meal, and a bottle of very nice wine." He had organised accommodation, employment, and a comprehensive plan his release. His specialist parole lawyer, Sue Earl, thought their presentation to the parole hearing was the best she had ever seen, but for the eighteenth time, his release was once again declined. Nevertheless, Arthur Taylor has shown that whether behind bars or not, he has the influence and intellect to cause the authorities serious problems, and he has fought for too long to give up now.

Evidence of Obstruction

by Wee Doubt



The most astonishing thing about criminal accusations is that, despite the difference between a person being guilty and being innocent being so profound, the arguments either way can often be equally compelling.

Often the best methods we have to assess guilt or innocence is physical evidence. While people can lie, the physical evidence they leave at a crime scene can't: fingerprints, blood spatter, testimony, the marks and bits of ourselves we leave behind us everywhere we go.

However, a report released in 2009 by the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) critiques many of the forensic methods that police and prosecutors rely on, including fingerprinting, firearms identification, analysis of bite marks, bloodstain pattern analysis, hair analysis, and handwriting. The report says that such analyses are often handled by poorly trained technicians who then exaggerate the accuracy of their methods in court.

Eyewitness testimony

Eyewitnesses are generally the most obvious source of evidence for what happened – they were there, they saw it, they can tell you what they saw. Unfortunately, memory recall has recently come under attack as forensics now supports psychologists in their claim that memories can be unreliable, manipulated, and biased. The problem is not simply that people lie; it is that our memories are flawed instruments for documenting reality.

When you remember something, it feels as though you are replaying a factual series of events, like the brain was a video camera recording its observations perfectly and then storing them. But there is no recording device in the brain. Memories are pieced together in a kind of patchwork, created by combinations of associations. Repetitive replaying of a memory in your head is likely to alter it, so sometimes the memories we think we remember best are actually inaccurate.

We are also susceptible to suggestion. In an American experiment on memory fabrication, adults were shown photoshopped pictures of themselves as children, doing things they had never done, such as riding in a hot air balloon or on a sailing ship. 33 percent of people claimed to not only remember the experience, but could add details of their own describing what happened. Memories are incredibly malleable.

In 1979 Cornelius Dupree was charged with the aggravated robbery and rape of a 26-year-old woman during a carjacking. He was sentenced to 75 years in prison, of which he served 30 years.

Eyewitnesses are generally the most obvious source of evidence for what happened.

They were there, they saw it, they can tell you what they saw.

He was later exonerated by the Innocence Project via DNA testing of pubic hair from the rape. Dupree was convicted on the basis of eyewitness identification.

When someone makes an incorrect eyewitness statement, it is likely that a person is not merely lying, but has had their memory altered by the circumstances, the pressure of the investigation, and the desire to remember something useful. Children are particularly vulnerable to memory manipulation, and adults over 65 seem to exhibit memory distortion more than young adults.

The strange practise of regression therapy could hold some insight into how easily manipulated our memories are. The therapy is a process by which people believe they can access memories lost in childhood, drug abuse, through trauma, or even wiped by alien abductors. Regression Therapist Barbara Lamb says: "When we do the regressions, it is like reliving the whole experience that they do not consciously remember." What may actually be happening could be the exact opposite – rather than uncovering memories that have been forgotten, the therapists are implanting new memories that never happened.

Fingerprinting

Fingerprints have been used as evidence in criminal cases since magnifying glasses were high-tech detective equipment. Sir William Herschel was one of the first to advocate the use of fingerprinting in the identification of criminal suspects. While working for the Indian Civil Service in 1858, he began to use thumbprints on documents as a security measure to prevent the then-rampant repudiation of signatures. Francis Galton, another advocate, called fingerprints "the most beautiful and characteristic of all superficial marks" and estimated that the likelihood of one person having identical fingerprints to another was one in 64 billion.

However, Professor Anil K. Jain of Michigan University, who has studied the use of fingerprints as identification, says, "The uniqueness of fingerprints has been believed over time because of lack of contradiction, and relentless repetition".

Also, when you are looking at a little smudge someone left at a crime scene, it's difficult to be accurate. Many fingerprints taken from crime scenes are partial prints, and can come out differently depending on where the pressure was placed and quality of the skin.

In the 2004 Madrid train bombings, American attorney Brandon Mayfield was wrongly linked to the bombings because of his recent conversion to Islam and a single fingerprint found at the crime scene. The FBI described the fingerprint match as "100% verified". Spanish authorities contested the matching of the fingerprint and informed the FBI that they had other suspects in the case, but the FBI disregarded the information. The FBI proceeded to spy on Mayfield and his family, allegedly taking DNA samples from their home to keep in storage. Mayfield was finally released when the FBI conceded that only one of the twenty fingerprints found at the crime scene was a close match to his. The FBI later admitted wrongdoing and apologised for their actions, but denied that Mayfield's recent religious conversion was one of their reasons for suspecting him.

Bloodstain pattern analysis

Bloodstain pattern analysis (BPA) is the observation of bloodstains at crime scenes with the goal of helping investigators draw conclusions about the crime. The opening scene in Hannibal has Criminal Profiler Will Graham quickly scanning the scene of a murder and being able to recreate the exact series of events from the bloodstains and inanimate objects around him.

Modern technology is making BPA more reliable, particularly with advances in DNA analysis. However, a 2014 study by scientists from New Zealand and North America found blood spatter analysts to be highly susceptible to confirmation bias.

Human skin is not a good medium to capture dental imprints.

The mark can be distorted with movement and time.

A panel of experienced bloodstain pattern analysts looked at 730 patterns on various surfaces. On certain materials misclassification rates were as high as 59 percent. However, when the analysts were deliberately pointed towards the correct classification, the misclassification rates plummeted. This suggests that bloodstain pattern analysts are susceptible to cognitive bias. When the guilt or innocence of a person is at stake, even a slight bias could destroy someone's life.

The NAS report concluded that BPA had "some support in research" but "the uncertainties associated with bloodstain pattern analysis are enormous."

In 2000 David Camm was convicted of murdering his wife Kim and their two children and was sentenced to life in prison. He had served 13 years of his sentence before it was discovered that the key prosecution witnesses, a blood spatter analyst whose findings had triggered the arrest, had falsified his credentials. He had claimed to be a university lecturer and PhD candidate. He actually

had no affiliation to the university, had no training in blood spatter or crime scene analysis, and had never worked a single case prior to the Camm family murders. The defence demanded that the DNA evidence found at the crime scene be tested a second time. It turned out that the DNA was never tested, despite assurance that it had been, and returned no matches. Found at the crime scene was a sweatshirt containing the DNA, prison nickname, and department of corrections number of Charles Boney, a convicted felon with a history of stalking and attacking women.

Forensic Odontology

We may all be unique in our own way, but we can't always be reliably told apart by the marks we leave at a crime scene. Forensic odontology is the practise of comparing people's teeth to human bite marks. The NAS report concludes that while it is reasonable to assume that the process can sometimes reliably exclude subjects, matching a person to their bite is very difficult. The report says "In numerous instances, experts diverge widely in their evaluations of the same bite mark evidence." Human skin is not a good medium to capture dental imprints. The mark can be distorted with movement and time.

Forensic Odontology has bitten off more than it can chew in its usefulness as evidence. Ray Krone was found guilty of killing a woman in 1991 in Phoenix, Arizona. He spent ten years in prison, including two years on death row. He was given the unfortunate nickname "The Snaggletooth Killer" because of his crooked teeth, which implicated him in the murder as they appeared to match the bite marks left on the victim's body. He was released in 2002 when DNA evidence revealed that the real killer was Kenneth Phillips, a violent repeat sexual offender. Then, in 2005, Krone was a contestant on Extreme Makeover where he had his teeth straightened.

Pretty much everything else

The NAS report also stated that handwriting comparisons, like the one seen in *The Jinx*, "May be of some value" and studies suggest that there "may be a scientific basis" to the procedure. Analysis of hair evidence has "no scientific support for solo use". Comparing and matching hairs on a microscopic level is highly subjective and "no scientifically accepted statistics exist about the frequency with which particular characteristics of hair are distributed in the population." And even DNA testing, the gold standard of crime-scene evidence, isn't foolproof. Samples can be mixed up, false evidence can be fairly easily planted, and laboratory scientists can be biased.

All of these forensic techniques can help to build a case against someone to convict them beyond reasonable doubt. They can also

What may actually be happening could be the exact opposite:

Rather than uncovering memories that have been forgotten, the therapists are implanting new memories that never happened.

be used to confuse jurors, witnesses, and defendants into believing something they didn't believe before. While it is difficult to imagine an ideal forensic procedure, we need to keep in mind that there are an unknown number of wrongly convicted people sitting in our prisons right now ■

THE CHEAPEST ALCOHOL IN DUNEDIN: A CRITIC INVESTIGATION

BY SWILLIAM
SHAKESBEER



When you're a student expected to live on \$176 a week from Studylink, every dollar counts. It's a constant struggle to balance those optional extras, like rent and food, with the essentials, like coffee and alcohol. Getting a buzz on a budget is a delicate art – you want to drink to forget your financial woes, not create new ones.

THE GOLDEN RATIO

If you're wanting to get your money's worth of alcohol, any self-respecting student needs to have an experienced grasp on the magic 'dollar per standard' formula. The 'Golden Ratio' of one dollar per standard is fast escaping us, being washed away by the rising tide of inflation and taxes.

The hunt for cheap alcohol is becoming more and more intense, as the golden ratio is becoming more and more rare. For this reason, we at Critic are launching the most important piece of investigative journalism in our history. A quest to discover, once and for all, the cheapest alcohol in Dunedin.

THE RULES

Let's set some ground rules. Firstly, this is solely about price, taste is totally irrelevant. It can taste like ethanol and farts put through a soda stream provided its dollars per standard ratio pays off. Secondly, we are only counting standard Recommended Retail Price (RRP). You may occasionally find deals better than RRP on special, and if you do you should absolutely take full advantage of them, but for the purposes of this investigation we are only considering the RRP of products that are consistently stocked and available. Thirdly, the beverage must be sold at a liquor store, supermarket or other off-license outlet within the Dunedin City Limits. Lastly, while we have done our absolute best to scour the city for the best deals possible (and are quite confident in declaring our winner), anyone who thinks they can top us is encouraged to write in.

BEER

The first stop on our intrepid journey is Super Liquor, home of the legendary Southern Gold. As the distinctive sign out the front proudly proclaims, it costs \$27.99 for a tray of 24, putting its dollars per standard (D/S) at 1.16, an impressive figure. Swap-a-Grates seems like a contender, but they are surprisingly dear. Even when you include the discount for returning your bottles, it would need to cost less than \$32.50 to beat Southern Gold's D/S. Both Flame and Haagen come in just over, and will often put up a good fight at sales time. However, based on regular retail pricing, SoGo reigns supreme as the cheapest beer in the city. Beer snobs be damned, this weird-tasting frothy excuse for a lager will save you stacks in the long run.

It can taste
like ethanol
and farts put
through a soda
stream provided
its dollars per
standard ratio
pays off



RTDS

But, as most drinkers will know, beer is not your go-to option for a cheap night on the piss. It's time to explore the wondrous world of RTDs. Diesels are a solid option. At 330mls, this mixture of sugar and motor oil offers a bigger punch than most RTDs. At 7% and \$14 for six cans it offers 10.5 standard drinks and a D/S of 1.33. Not bad by any means but certainly beatable. In reality, any chance a canned RTD had of hitting the golden ration died out when the government outlawed 8% beverages. While Cody's, KGB and Cruisers all offer an easy path to diabetes, none of them are a particularly good deal on the alcohol front anymore.

RIGGERS

But there is one outlet in Dunedin that blows them all away. At Meenan's Bottle Store on Great King St, the oldest liquor store in Dunedin, you can fill your own rigger with a variety of alcohol. Among them is their own brand of 'Vodka Ice', a slightly cheaper knockoff of the famous Icebreaker from McDuffs Brewery (RIP). Provided you bring your own bottle, Vodka Ice is 4% and costs just \$3.10 per litre. That's a D/S of 1.03, tantalisingly close to the Golden Ratio. That's so close it's almost teasing us. But you can get there, thanks to economies of scale. If you splash out for an entire keg, you'll get a total of 150 standard drinks for \$150 (not including the keg deposit), giving us our first taste of the glorious Golden Ratio

But it's not always practical to buy a whole keg for a night (and you'll have to end up sharing it anyway). Surely we can reach the Golden Ratio without having to shell out for 50 litres at a time.

THE HARD STUFF

Our next move was to explore the world of hard liquor. A standard bottle of name brand 40% vodka will run you about \$40 at most liquor stores and contains 32 standards. Still has a cheeky tendency to fool you into thinking it's a lot cheaper than it is by dropping its strength to 37%. From our findings, if you want to find the best D/S on spirits at local liquor stores, you've got to drop into truly disgusting territory. Thanks to the government offering massive tax breaks to protect the wine industry, anything between 9% and 14% normally has an excellent D/S. Taking full advantage of this is a range of watered down vodka and other spirits coming in at precisely 13.9%. Kristov Raspberry is the best known and costs \$12 for 11 standards, a D/S of 1.09. It tastes like the sewage runoff from a Real Fruit Ice Cream shop, but it's a great deal.



GETTING CLOSER


So is that the answer? In order to buy the cheapest spirits you have to go for watered down, flavoured, industrial ethanol? Well, no, you just have to travel a bit farther out to beat it. Any deal-hunter will know that McDuffs Brewery (RIP) used to sell fill-your-own bottles of spirits for around \$30–\$32 a litre, depending on flavour, right bang on the Golden Ratio. With the closure of that great establishment, it seemed like truly cheap spirits would be a thing of the past in North Dunedin. However, through our committed hunting, we managed to find one other outlet way out in the depths of South D, unbeknownst to most students. The Dunedin Malthouse, supplier of all your homebrewing needs, sells vodka and gin at \$31 a litre and whisky, rum and brandy at \$31.50 snaking past the Golden Ratio with a D/S of 0.97. It is worth noting that if you go to the Dunedin Malthouse and pick up some homebrewing or distilling equipment, with a bit of practice you can start making decent alcohol for way less than anything in this article.

Anytime you can beat the Golden Ratio, you know you've got a great deal. But a great deal isn't enough, we're looking for the best deal. Let's move on to the wine – a drink which is simultaneously the classiest and least classy way to get pissed, depending on whether you're drinking from a glass or a bottle.

WINE

Fat Bird and Little Penguin are perennial BYO favourites, perfect for choking down alongside your Butter Chicken Mild. Red wines are usually your best shot when it comes to D/S. As far as we could find there are no bottled wines that beat the golden ration at RRP. Honestly, the range of wines at most supermarkets is so large that basing any decision on standard pricing is almost impossible – you should just grab whatever is on special.

Glass bottles are a major expense for producers. It's tough to make the margins meet with added expense. That's why bottle wines are never going to beat the real heroes of budget alcoholics: the goon.



Goon is the
sweet, sweet
nectar that
binds the
Australasian
continent
together



GOD BLESS GOON

Goon is the sweet, sweet nectar that binds the Australasian continent together. It's delicious and nutritious, and the goon sack can easily be turned into a makeshift pillow when you inevitably pass out after finishing it.

By far the best tasting wine good is the iconic Blenheim. Available at Countdown for \$22, it contains a very respectable 25 standard drinks, putting its D/S at a very healthy 0.88. It's light and fruity and very drinkable. The secret to the taste is that at 11% it's much lower on ethanol than your ordinary bottle wine, drastically reducing the harsh feeling at the back of your throat.

But, while Blenheim is a deal for the ages and super duper yummy, it's not the best deal in Dunedin. Drumroll please...

HALLELUJAH

The moment is here, we can finally announce the winner, the best deal in the whole city, the champ of champs, the drink of drinks, the hero of students everywhere. The award goes to...



Mystic Ridge
SOFT RED WINE

MYSTIC RIDGE WINE GOON FROM PAK N SAVE

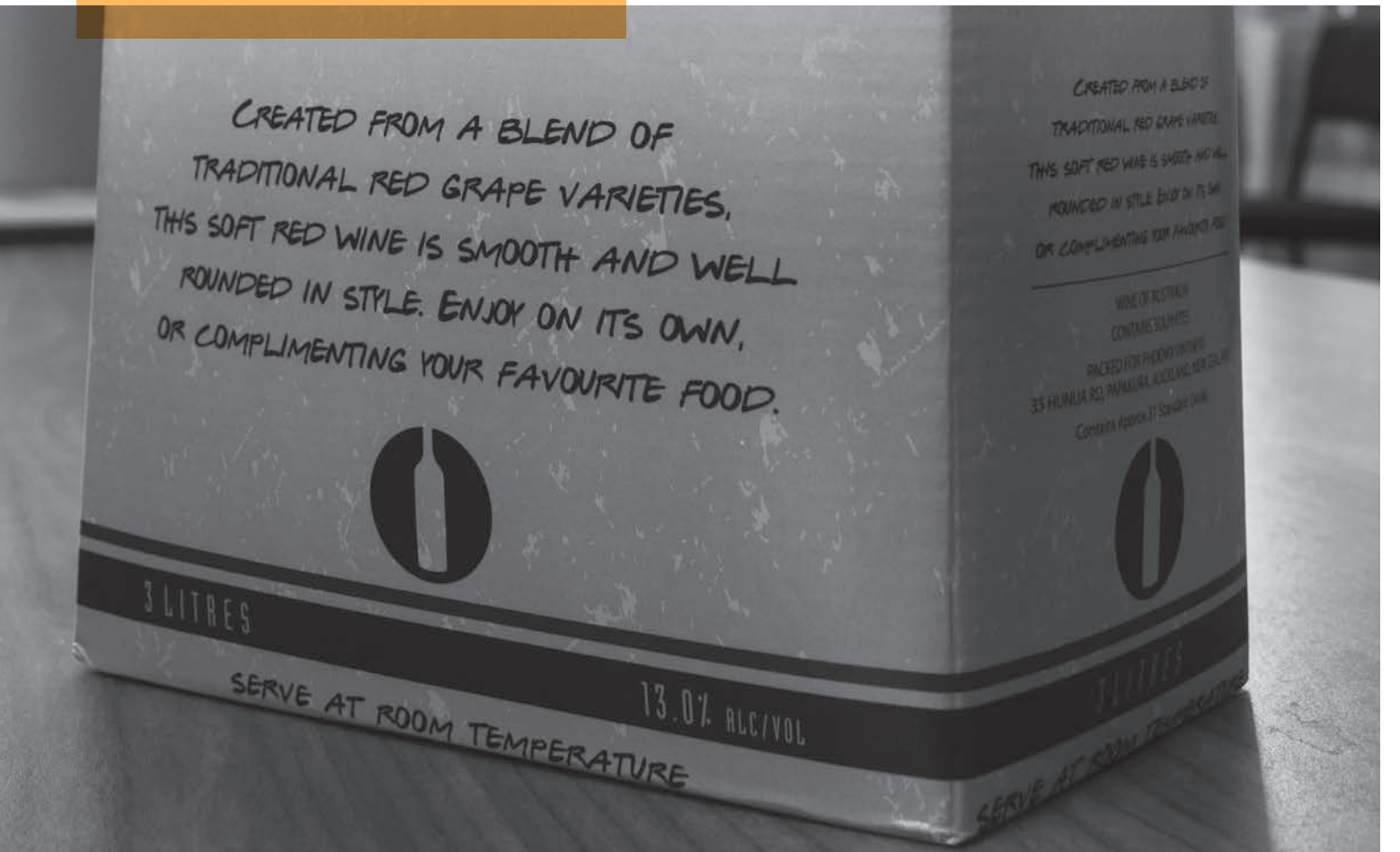
(Cheers and applause erupts from the crowd of broke scarfies)

Coming in at 12.5% and served in a full 3 litre goon sack, Mystic Ridge comes in hot with 30 standards and costs an unbeatable \$22.95.

That's a D/S ratio of 0.765, almost unheard of in this day and age. It tastes like absolute fucking dirt. Imagine a cocktail of paint thinner and that liquid that collects at the bottom of the veggie drawer in your fridge. But with a price like that you can afford to buy a few mixers to help you sink it down. If you buy five of them you can make a massive batch of jungle juice, mix it with \$35 worth of soda and juice and still come out better off than any keg.

a toast!

So let's all have a toast for the undisputed Dunedin alcohol champ, Mystic Ridge!



CREATED FROM A BLEND OF
TRADITIONAL RED GRAPE VARIETIES,
THIS SOFT RED WINE IS SMOOTH AND WELL
ROUNDED IN STYLE. ENJOY ON ITS OWN,
OR COMPLEMENTING YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD.

CREATED FROM A BLEND OF
TRADITIONAL RED GRAPE VARIETIES,
THIS SOFT RED WINE IS SMOOTH AND WELL
ROUNDED IN STYLE. ENJOY ON ITS OWN,
OR COMPLEMENTING YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD.

WINE OF AUSTRALIA
CONTAINS 30 STANDARDS
PACKED FOR PHEDRA THORNTON
35 HUNTER RD, PAKAPAKA, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
Contains Alcohol 12.5% Alc/Vol

3 LITRES

SERVE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

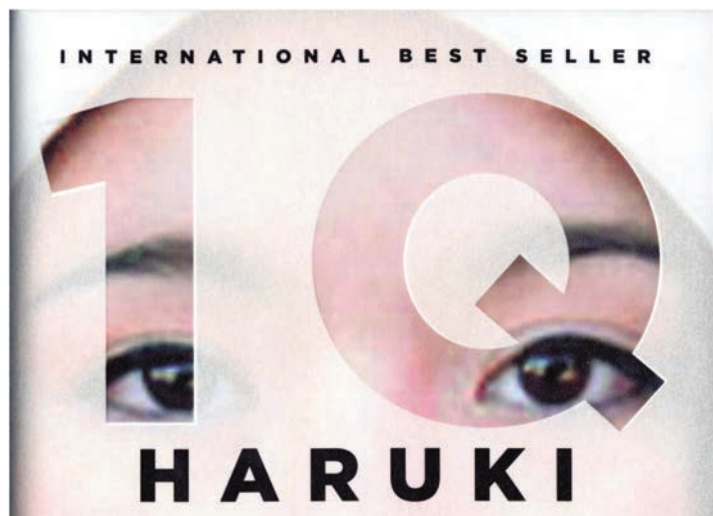
13.0% ALC/VOL

SERVE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

BOOKS

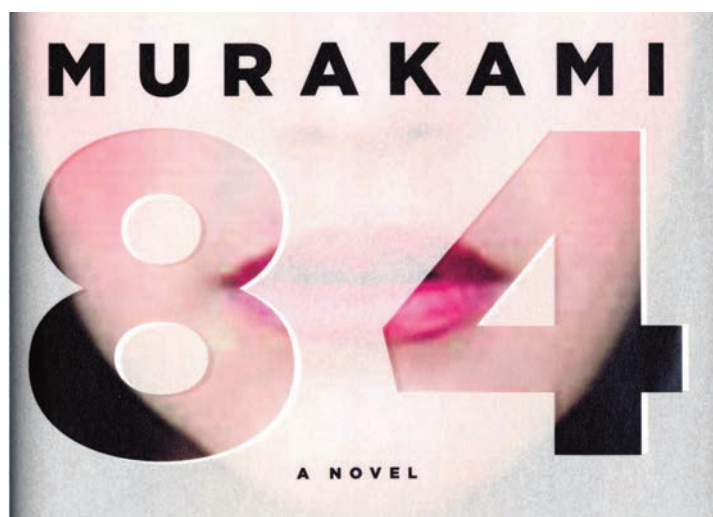
1Q84

—Haruki Murakami



Review by Zoe Taptiklis

Murakami is known for writing more similar to a corporealized acid trip than contemporary fiction. In 1Q84 (one-q-eighty-four) surrealism and dystopia combine to fuel a fustiercluck equal parts modern love and old-fashioned vengeance set against the backdrop of Tokyo. In maintaining the thematic precedent set by his previous works, supernatural and religious themes dominate what could otherwise be a dull *Fifty Shades* of Grey without the bondage.



Told via the perspective of two characters—Aomame and Tengo, and through three volumes framed by the seasons, the complexity of the book is easily overlooked in the escapism of the delicately intertwining plot of a female assassin and math-prodigy-turned-literary-fraud. Promiscuity and frigidity are juxtaposed as a mystical cult and Orwellian themes nestle in metafiction so Joycean your high school English teacher would make it an unfamiliar text practice exam.

Originally published in Japanese, and translated into English by individually accomplished authors Jay Rubin and Philip Gabriel, the novel finds its brilliance in concept rather than language. This is reflected in the classical music that frequents 1Q84, composers giving meaning to the abstract rather than lyrical. As the writer himself states: "It is not that the meaning cannot be explained. But there are certain meanings that are lost forever the moment they are explained in words."

A book as metaphorical as Wes Anderson's films are symmetrical, 1Q84 seems to change the way the reader views reality—just as the characters themselves begin to see two moons in Jovian hypnosis. Murakami examines the human condition through both the ridiculous and mundane. Hallucinogenic in its distortion of the ordinary, this is Chance the Rapper's Acid Rap in literary form. Finding heavier relevance in a world facing the populist leadership of Trump, cultural relativist prose delivers a new 1984. Numerous characters feature within the connected storylines that serve as both protagonist and antagonist of their own fates, and the author captures their essence so well that the supporting characters hold their own as complex personalities.

If you are a bookworm, you will know the pain of finishing a truly great novel. Finishing 1Q84 was like the pain of saying goodbye to a friend who is graduating, but, as Aomame says, "I can bear any pain as long as it has meaning," and this novel contains nothing if not meaning.

FILM

T2: Trainspotting

Director:
Danny Boyle

Reviewer:
Siany O'Brien

★★★★★

T2: Trainspotting is everything a sequel should be. It has the original cast and director (Danny Boyle), and is a continuation of the original story set 20 years later, but it still has the same charm as its predecessor. For all you who were scarred by the first film, fear not! T2 is not nearly as disturbing; instead a comedic, thrilling and poignant epilogue on the characters from Trainspotting.

Ewan McGregor returns as a, now clean, Mark Renton and perhaps the best-aged junkie you've ever seen. The rest of the original cast including Jonny Lee Miller as Simon/Sick Boy, Ewen Bremner as Spud, Robert Carlyle as Begbie and a few other minor characters who cameo. All seem to effortlessly step back into their roles, as if they have all been living their characters' lives for the past 20 years.

Throughout the film, nostalgia is a drug for both the characters and the audience. T2: Trainspotting makes several references and quick flashbacks to Trainspotting, but the film stands on its own just fine. It doesn't rely on the success of the original to make it interesting or watchable.

The soundtrack is a perfect blending of old and new songs. Favourites from Trainspotting reappear as newly remixed versions: Lust for Life by Iggy Pop and Born Slippy by Underworld. I highly recommend a listen to Silk by Wolf Alice, a modern song included in the soundtrack.

This film totally reignited my love for Trainspotting, while still making me appreciate the sequel as its own different film. I believe even people who haven't seen the original film will enjoy T2: Trainspotting, although this film is clearly designed as a nostalgic hit for people who have loved Trainspotting for years.

Choose life, choose T2: Trainspotting.



FILM

iBoy

Director:
Adam Randall

Reviewer:
Laura Starling

★★★★★

I don't know about you, but when a Netflix original rolls my way, I tend to get pretty excited. Netflix has a habit of picking up cool, interesting shows and movies that wouldn't necessarily get funding from conventional studios. I trust Netflix with my viewing pleasure. So, when I saw the Netflix original iBoy pop up in my 'Recommended for Laura' category, I ignored the terrible title. I even looked past the film's concept: a boy has his phone shot into his head and gets magical tech powers. I thought to myself "hey, it's Netflix! I'm sure it'll be great. Also, it has Arya Stark in it! Awesome!"

I was wrong.

Tom (Bill Milner) is an awkward teen living with his grandmother in a crappy apartment. Tom ignores the crime around him, but is obviously uncomfortable,

there's lots of crime in this area and Tom can't really do anything to help. Excitingly for Tom, Lucy (Maisie Williams)—his crush—invites him to her house to study. When he arrives, he finds a group of men in masks violently assaulting Lucy. Tom runs away while calling the police. One of the men shoots him as he runs. Later, he wakes in hospital with a doctor explaining to him how he has parts of his phone scattered through his brain. Quickly, we realise that Tom has magical tech powers.

iBoy consistently sticks to being so unforgivingly grim and dark that it's nigh impossible to enjoy any of it. It doesn't really matter that the acting is fine—Maisie Williams offers a strong performance with what she's given, or that the film is quite visually appealing with impressive special effects. iBoy drags along the dirty crime filled gutter anyway, taking itself far more seriously than it has any right to. This could have been a fun movie with a few moments of levity, but the soundtrack, the script, and the blue tone of the entire thing don't allow for it.

I'm sorry iBoy, but you can't have a vigilante superhero made of a boy who hacks the planet with his phone brain and make it gritty and dark at the same time.



FILM

Logan

Director:
James Mangold

Reviewer:
Brandon Johnstone

★★★★★

Set in the year 2029, years after the events of 2014's *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, Logan brings the story of Hugh Jackman's Wolverine (AKA Logan AKA James Howlett) to its logical conclusion. Fully embracing the ever-deepening growling bitterness in Jackman's portrayal, Logan sees a time-worn, worse-for-wear Wolverine driving a limo for cash. Taking it upon himself to provide medication and care for a mentally-degenerating, elderly Charles Xavier, while suffering from worsening adamantium poisoning himself. There's plenty of pain to go around. Logan becomes responsible for escorting a young mutant, Laura (or X-23), with mysterious ties to the near extinction of the mutant race, across America. The film transforms into a full neo-Western road trip, to the point where the phrase

'superhero movie' is inapplicable, and the Logan-Laura relationship falls squarely in expected 'begrudging lone wolf and his cub' territory. This relationship is extremely reminiscent of Joel and Ellie in *Last of Us*, so much so that a couple of shots are clearly lifted directly from the game. The difference here is that Laura gives Logan a run for his money in terms of physical brutality.

Despite a healthy smattering of very dry humour and bright visuals, Logan takes itself quite seriously, avoiding the trappings of past *X-Men* films by intentionally excluding cartoonish villains (no Mister Sinister, sorry comics fans) and spectacle heavy story resolution, and is all the more entertaining for it. That's not to say that there are no superpowers present, but they feel more organic than before, and are often more of a product of a character's desperation than a blatant effort to entertain the viewer with bombastic special effects.

It's worth mentioning that Logan is incredibly brutal and the R16 rating is well earned. No more bloodless stabbings from

Wolverine, fight scenes result in bloody wounds and decapitations. Hugh Jackman has proclaimed this his final outing as Wolverine. Thankfully, before Jackman hangs up his claws for the last time, we get to see him fully embody Wolverine's signature berserker rage in a way never seen on screen before. His swan song couldn't have been any more fitting or satisfying.



FILM

Manchester by the Sea

Director:
Kenneth Lonergan

Reviewer:
Jaxon Langley

★★★★★

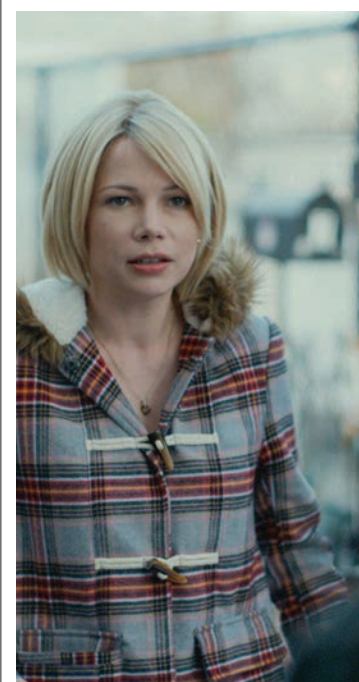
Kenneth Lonergan is famed for exploring grief in his films. His previous film, *Margaret*, was a character study of a high school girl who is traumatised after witnessing a woman hit by a bus. She begins to over-involve herself in the case as she can't comprehend why no one is willing to investigate whether or not it was intentional, as she herself is never quite sure. In a way, *Manchester by the Sea* is a spiritual successor to *Margaret*, but instead the character grows in response to the events of the film.

Lee (Casey Affleck) returns to his hometown of Manchester after he learns of his brother's death. Sorting out his will, it's revealed that his brother left Lee full custody of his teenage son. Although he's not obligated to stay, he decides to try and make things work and moves from

Boston to Manchester. During his adjustment, he's faced with the judgement of the people who have lived in the town their whole lives. The audience is also shown why he's such a broken man.

Casey Affleck proves his acting ability as Lee struggles with speaking to women because of his history with his ex-wife, and disapproves of his brother's son having two girlfriends, which is ironic considering that in real life he can't seem to contain himself around women and has been through several sexual harassment lawsuits. Michelle Williams gives a great performance as Lee's ex-wife Randy; it's disappointing that she only appears in a handful of scenes.

Although I would have appreciated it if the film's women weren't sidelined, I can't demerit most of what Lonergan has to offer here. It's absurdly funny and often heart-breaking, but above all *Manchester by the Sea* is a deeply human story of men, their pain and how they handle it.



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MUSIC REVIEW

'Beautiful Mire' -The River Jesters



A Review by Reg Norris

I had to throw away the bean metaphor. It wasn't working. I was trying to say something about the bleak future of modern rock. Can anything really exciting and new come out of this genre? And by saying new I don't mean NEW NEW because rock 'n' roll is locked down to conventions and if it breaks away from these it becomes, well, something else—like 'brunchcore' for instance. I made that up but you can imagine what it might be and, let me tell you, it's awful.

I can't remember the last time I heard a rock band and BAM it immediately had my full attention. That's what rock 'n' roll is right? Immediacy! POW! That direct address! WHAM! I don't want something to plead for my interest, like a toddler having a tantrum; there's plenty of that to go around, like this album.

The River Jesters are a local band and, for the most part, I support local music. In return I want that band to offer something back, something that they can call their own. But to create something new the mimetic process has got stop, unless you're a cover band, then you need

it, but the River Jesters haven't quite broken that mold. They can all strum, pluck, whack, and sing in a very conventional manner, as if they've learned to play their songs from an online instruction video in preparation for an audition on X factor NZ. Sure, they've got nine original songs on 'Beautiful Mire' but they sound bogged down in endless renditions of Mustang Sally, perfected renditions of John Butler Trio hits, Red Hot Chili Peppers, wordless choruses consisting of vocal noises like their song 'La Ba Da'. Generic guitar music made by men (needs an acronym), the wankery, that brand of composing when a three minute pop song can't be locked down and in a mad panic it jumps from one cliché to another. It's a self-conscious defence mechanism, trying not to be boring, as is the case on the unfortunately titled 'Dream Burlesque,' which I will admit has an OKAY Sabbath chorus, but it's in sour conflict with the waltzing verses.

The thing I can't get past is the vocal gymnastics. The delivery of the vocal melodies, yes all of it, it's not my bag, sorry. It's too desperate, too strained, too cocky, as if their primary function is to disguise how awful the lyrics are. Obviously on the funky ridiculous 'Lost in Translation' (yes it's about Bill Murray), there's no point trying to hide them, but on the rock ballad 'Take Me Down' repeating that line so many times over the course of seven minutes with that hideously affected vocal is unforgivable. Thematically it doesn't get much worse than the album's six pack faux glam can opener about clothing items and not dressing like a man on 'Saturday Night'. It's a parody, just some confused superficial masculine drama, as are most of the other tracks here. It might explain their shared love of Bill Murray. It does not explain the song about a truck driver.

I can't stand vile exhibitions of musical prowess. I do care about how that skill is applied to the songwriting process. Taming egos, discarding slabs of convention if need be. Unlearning. If songwriting is the River Jesters' thing they should get down to writing a song. If it doesn't need a guitar solo, don't squeeze one in. Let it go. We need more good songs, not parading exhibitionists. It's glaringly obvious that the River Jesters are seeking the attention of mainstream audiences and if they want to make a little money, that's fine too. But they need to write some coherent lyrics. It really wouldn't hurt their prospects, neither would a name change. So please, the River Jesters and all those with similar musical inclinations, give something back to rock 'n' roll. You've taken heaps away. You owe it.

TRACK OF THE WEEK

'Ex' by The Foxy Morons from their self-titled debut. No explanation needed; just listen. Available through Wrong Place Records. Listen at wrongplace.bandcamp.com

STUFF AT FRINGE

If you thought the Fringe Festival is expensive and does not include music, you couldn't be more wrong! Fringe 2017 is on this week until Sunday 19th March and includes several musical delights for free (and even more bloody close to free!)

Amped Music Project celebrates the Amped class of 2016. Gigs starts at 5pm and 7pm Saturday 18 March (free).

Eight J.S. Bach Masterpieces performed by some real music maestros at the old Monkey Bar (on Hanover St) on Sunday afternoon at 3pm (Koha).

Festival Club Nights will be held on Friday and Saturday at 10pm. Club Night on Friday is 'Nocturne', by Radio One's Music Director Erin Broughton.

On Saturday electronica band Synthesize Me, will be delivering a sensory path of sequence, beats, samples, decks, wave, and apparitions. Dancing shoes optional, but recommended (\$5).

☛ There are heaps more events we didn't list here, check them out at dunedinfringe.nz



GAMES

Final Fantasy XV

Review by Chris Lam

Xbox One
Developed by:
Square Enix Business
Division 2

Published by:
Square Enix

★★★★★



For thirteen hours, I have watched four cosmopolitan titans of men slide through the air like greasy hamburgers. Ignis clicks his gloved fingers and a meal of bacon and eggs materialises. He sits silently as Noctis picks at it with a fork. Prompto proceeds to writhe on the ground. In the morning, Gladiolus screams "You're on fire, today" three times in a row to nobody in particular, before stepping awkwardly close to Noctis. Noctis turns his head away, but the tension only grows.

There is an existential terror that cannot be escaped in Final Fantasy XV. After thirteen hours, I have come to realise that the banal foreign-invasion-as-analogy-for-puberty narrative is simply a backdrop. The characters have the emotive capacities of lemons. They lack all definition, formed into shape by a narrative Deus that has granted sexy haircuts and coats in place of souls; they are a hollow exterior surrounding a hollow core.

Final Fantasy XV is, at its core, a road-trip simulator. You drive along highways, stop at gas stations, explore nature, hunt animals and camp beneath the stars. Of course, these bonding activities do not connect one with nature, but with one's onii-chan buddies. There is no ecosystem in the world precisely because the animals are simply toys for the manchildren. All seems to fade in the wake of the interactions of these awful characters.

The journey began when I forced my flatmates to purchase the game with me. Perhaps that was a projection of my own expectation of phony in-game

camaraderie. "We'll play it together," I said, "it'll be awful." What I received, however, was truly profound. On the surface the game is as predicted. The characters crack awful jokes, bond over their hobbies and fist-bump after successful fights. Broody-Chan grunts strangely when he interacts with people; Macho-Chan yells at Broody-Chan to punch harder; Library-Chan is Wikipedia in its pubescent anal-retentive stage; and Kooky-Chan talks about getting with some of those women things. I initially felt nauseated, awash in a sea where the only way out was to drown, but then I began to see a depth to their shallow interactions.

The deepest and most harrowing hollow of Final Fantasy XV is its unfettered masculinity. Let's be honest, masculine bonding sublimates the erotic into the higher arts of driving cars, hunting animals and devouring flesh. These acts are a substitute for a pleasure that is denied by existence itself. To exist like this is to be divorced from others and limited in expression by one's own imperfect language. One can never fully understand the Other. Loneliness, then, is a condition none can escape. Rather than rebel against this absurdity, masculinity castrates thought and emotion entirely, until only action is desirable. One reaches not for an idealised Other, but for reaching itself.

The characters in Final Fantasy XV know this all too well. Though they may act like a businessman's attempt to write teenage characters, in truth they are the

most profound embodiment of the human condition since Neon Genesis Evangelion. Sentences are forced, scattered and unfocused. Lines repeat over and over again during battles and car rides. Prompto hands you photos of Gladiolus's ass after dramatic story events. Interactions begin to merge into one long, terrible cry of despair. One begins to see the awkwardness as intentional. It is an imitation of connection, of masculine revelry, of purposeless horror. The characters don't want masculinity, but they have pretended for so long that they can't connect in any other way anymore. The very artifice of their relationship is the only genuine thing in existence. They are a modern-day Sisyphus; eternally rolling their totally sick rims up highways, only to be towed back to Cid's when they eventually run out of fuel.

This lurid celebration of masculinity is uncanny and frightening. Bodies twist into erotic postures; weaponised phalluses slam down on flesh under the heaving sun. The protagonists sneak sultry peeks at one another. One of them screams "No mercy!" at the thought of his own painful existence. He yells it again ten minutes later. Nobody comments. There is no need. Hell is known, but cannot be voiced. If the eroticism underlying their masculine bond were ever unleashed, despair would froth over and consume them. These sexy models are not allowed to overcome their impotent language through the sordid pleasure of consummation, as it would be too real to be genuine.

FOOD



Sweet & Sour Pork

by Kirsten Garcia

My SO repeatedly went out for takeaway over the summer break when he was too tired to cook from work. The ridiculous thing is that every time he would get exactly the same thing, from the same place: Sweet and Sour Pork. Seriously, the restaurant probably knows it's him by his voice when he rings to place his order.

Hoping to make him more self-sufficient, save him from heart disease from too much grease, and add more vegetables to the meal, I made this recipe for him. It's really easy to make from scratch and, for how much you make, it's so much cheaper than ordering out.

What you need:

500-800g pork tenderloin or sirloin
1 onion, thin sliced
1 carrot, thin sliced
1 red pepper, thin sliced
1 can of pineapple chunks in juice (save the juice)

Batter

1 egg
1/2 cup Asian Cooking Wine
Pinch of Salt
8 tablespoons cornstarch

Sweet & Sour Sauce

Juice from can of pineapple
3 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon white sugar
1 teaspoon of salt
3 tablespoons of tomato sauce
4 tablespoons of vinegar
1 Tablespoons corn-starch

Here's how:

- 1 Cut meat into thin slices around 1 inch long and 0.8cm thick.
- 2 In a medium bowl, whisk together the batter ingredients until smooth, then soak pork pieces in batter, coating each piece. Leave to sit while you make the sweet and sour sauce.
- 3 In a separate bowl, make the sauce by whisking all the sauce ingredients together until smooth.
- 4 In a large wok on low heat, heat oil and shallow fry pork, placing pork in the oil one piece at a time, and frying them in small batches, so that they don't cook and stick together. Take pork pieces out of oil once the outside is golden and crisp.
- 5 Once all the pork done, drain some oil from the wok, leaving enough to stir fry onion, carrot and pepper.
- 6 Once veggies are cooked, add sweet and sour sauce to the wok (and, if desired, the pineapple chunks). Stir to thicken and ensure there are no clumps of cornflour
- 7 Once sauce has thickened, add fried pork pieces to coat them in sauce and to reach desired temperature.
- 8 Serve with rice.

10 Quick Questions with

Flavia Rose

Flavia Rose is an emerging artist and creative raised in Dunedin and based in Wellington. She sat down with *Critic's* Art Editor, *Monique Hodgkinson*, for ten quick questions about all things whimsical and lovely.



Describe your artistic style in three words.
Delicate, whimsical, curious.

What different mediums have you worked in so far?

I started out in photography and cinematography while working at Dunedin's local news studio in high school, and learnt cane sculpture while volunteering at the Dunedin Midwinter Carnival. During university I dabbled in theatre, film, animation, jewellery, 3D printing, wearable art and wearable technology. My first job out of university was as a model maker for Weta Workshops. Now, I work as an animation tutor and graphic designer and make embroidery in my free time.

And which have you enjoyed the most?

All of them! I like to be a creative generalist and pick up new skills as I go. Currently, I'm enjoying the challenge of making garments for the World of Wearable Art – making art that can be worn on the body is so hard, but so fulfilling.

Tell us about your favourite art project so far.

I am most proud of the work I did on Ghost in the Shell while I was at Weta Workshop. The geisha masks I helped make are so beautiful and eerie at the same time. I'm really excited for the film to come out at the end of March!

What do you love the most about creating art?

I think it's a powerful thing to be able to create rather than just consume. It is such a great feeling to make something instead of buying it.

What artists or creatives do you look to for inspiration?

Anyone who is better than me at anything. In my studies, I'd see who was the smartest or best in the class and then slowly sidle up to them and try to figure out what made them so good. I've always liked to surround myself with clever, creative people and quietly take notes on what makes them so special.

Your embroidered necklaces are super adorable. Where did you get the idea?

Thank you! I stumbled across some tiny embroidery on Etsy one day and desperately wanted one, but couldn't afford the exorbitant shipping costs to New Zealand. So I taught myself how to make them instead.

Have you found much of a difference between the art scenes in Dunedin and Wellington?

I think Wellington's art scene is much more hyped than Dunedin's, yet Dunedin's creative people have a wealth of knowledge that makes it a fantastic place to learn. However, I've found that Wellington has more opportunities to actually earn.

Do you have any advice for young'uns starting out in a creative career?

If you're freelancing or working for yourself, give your creative life structure by establishing



Clockwise from far left:

Still of costuming & props from **Ghost in the Shell** film (2017), **Necklace & brooch** hand-embroidered over an afternoon, inspired by Japanese cherry blossoms, **'Garden of Love'** a hand-stitched hoop embroidery that took over a month of evenings to stitch, **'Ester'** Wearable Technology Garment Winner of the World of Wearable Arts People's Choice Award, & the Visual Effects Society Award for Creativity in Media Design.

a routine to make the most of your time and energy. Enthusiasm and adaptability will take you far. Only work for free if it's something you truly believe in.

What do you see yourself doing sixteen years from now?

Getting paid to make really cool stuff!

You can check out more of Flavia's work at cargocollective.com/flaviarose or [@flavi_rose](https://www.instagram.com/flavi_rose) on Instagram. She also takes custom embroidery orders at flavia.yellow@gmail.com.



IMPROV THEATRE

I don't understand how Improv theatre works, how can you show up to perform a show where noone knows what's going to happen? Somehow Improsaurus knows how it works. And they can pull it off. They kicked off the first show of 2017 last Friday. What a **SPOOKY** start to the year, not a single dry seat in the house with the totally dark Stranger Things themed performance. Things certainly got strange...



That moment last week on



Where...You're a failed math teacher who has reserected the dead and found your vampire bride, only she can't really get over Jeremy who she like totally broke up with like last week...Luckily, a 1950s cookbook solves all

Next performance is Austen themed!

Austen & Austen-dacity

Catch you there, Friday 31 March at 10:30pm at the Fortune Theatre



Otago's premiere
improvized comedy
troupe

Have something you need to get off your chest? Think we done messed up? Let us know, write to:

letters@critic.co.nz

TELL ME ABOUT THIS "WHEEL" YOU SPEAK OF

I am pleased to see the library has fully embraced the luddite movement.

No more dangerously fast browsers with devilishly accurate search engines for us; only the sweet archaic bliss of Internet Explorer and the delightfully mandatory Bing.

I look forward with great anticipation to the library's future campaigns against stone tools, the printing press, and the wheel.

William Horsfall

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Dear Critic,

I am getting pretty fucking sick of your bullshit. When are you going to stop with the innocent act and declassify the files relating to Area 51?

I know that you were first on the scene in 1947 and I know that you were hushed into silence by the US government. But it's time, Critic. It's time you alerted the public to what you learned on that fateful night. Quit being such a stack of yellow-bellied pancakes and pony up the dossiers. I know you have them.

Sincerely,

A vigilant citizen.

UNIVERSITY RENOVATIONS

I can't believe I finally get to walk through campus after I swear a solid 6 years of renovations. I've been studying that long and have never seen the campus free of cordoned-off areas and bulldozers. What a relief.

KEEP THE PANDA OUT OF IT

An advert in The Star from the 2nd March caught my eye last week. It was titled, "No More Pandering" and had a panda licking its lips above as if at the funniest fucking joke on earth. It was from the 'Hobson's Pledge' movement, and listed off six things the group are sick of 'radical's promoting, including, favourable treatment based on imagined treaty principles and separate Maori representation in government, either centrally or local.

Don Brash and his old white (mostly) male friends are behind this Hobson's Pledge bullshit, and it's clearly just a desperate attempt to become noticed again. If you want an increasingly racist society, Don, head over to the USA, UK or France and enjoy your white privilege. You can't just simply ignore history and then have an equal playing field alongside ethnic minorities... Saying you "don't like being called racist" and quoting Dr Martin Luther King does not mean you are not racist.

Yours,
White boy with compassion

ODOUR NOT KNOW

Dear Critic,

Can you catch bad breath off someone? I got cornered by a tall guy at a bar and he was breathing all over me with the worst breath I've ever smelt. It was hot and I could feel it hitting my face like a blow heater. The next day I woke up with a horrible taste in my throat and I swear his breath got in my mouth and now I have his breath. It's fucked.

-Breathy

ARCH WHICH WAY?

Can anyone explain the design of Archway lecture theatre to me? It is fucking ugly and no matter how hard I try to keep oriented in space, I never know where I am when I leave it. It is four identical theatres in a cross shape with 8 doors leading outside to identical boring patches of ground and I always have to walk right round it at least once before I find myself walking in the right direction. What a waste of time.

-Cross

COOKIN' UP NOTHIN'

Dear Critic,

How do I get to go on the Blind Date? I've been emailing you for 3 years and you've never replied to me. Do you have something against me? I am still single and it's all your fault.

-Lonely man

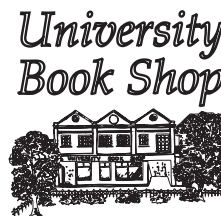
CRITC: START HORSEING AROUND

Hi,

I would like some photos or articles of dressage or other horse-related activities, particularly show-horses, to appear in Critic. As a horse enthusiast, my interests have long been shoved into the fringes of media. My school only had one equestrian club, not even a separate society for dressage, and horses were banned from the school estate. Just because equestrianism has historically been associated with the upper classes, modern audiences are totally biased towards the art form. Horses are for poor people too.

Content related to bridles, saddles, or grooming would also be acceptable.

Sincerely,
Owning Horses Doesn't Mean You're Rich.



LETTER OF THE WEEK

MEMES COULD BE THE NEW PICKETS

I agree that our generation is disillusioned, but disinterested. I think it's a bit more complex than that. People our age definitely don't think about politics the way Hobbes, Locke and Hume did. I used to think of politics as the boring news segment that comes on about 6.27pm that I'd watch only in anticipation to switch channels to Friends. Today that boredom has been morphed into a dissatisfaction with the political system. As one of those 15 protesters outside the Hunter Centre last week and an organiser of the divestment protests last semester, I too have nostalgia for the radical activism of the past. But am I in an echo chamber? To a certain extent yes. But then again I think our generation still cares and is still interested, but expresses it in different ways. For example, take memes; at face value they are these pointless, prolific jokes running around our newsfeeds, part of what some call the 'big distraction' of the internet. However, memes always have layers of social commentary and irony. Humour is often a mechanism for expressing things that are uncomfortable to say. In the context of the internet-age, this is one way by which our generation articulates their opinions. But is a meme about Steven Joyce going to be enough to make satisfactory systematic change that is meaningful to us? Nah, probably not. Perhaps the question is not 'how do we get back to the 90s?'. But how do we merge those movements with the context we are in? How can we use the double-edged sword that is the internet, to proactively shape our future?

Claudia Palmer

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

POSTGRAD



Whānau Fit

Kia Ora whānau! Ko Terina Raureti tōku ingoa, ko Ngāti Raukawa tōku iwi, nō Otaki ahau.

I started my postgrad journey last year when I discovered my passion in Māori Physical Education and Health and working within our Māori

communities. To be honest, when I came to Otago as a PE fresher, I did not think for one second that I would make it through to doing a masters. However, that 'C's get degrees' attitude goes away pretty quickly once you find something you love.

Prior to taking up the challenge, I was told that it was hard. And yes, yes it was hard, I even cried sometimes. Assignment after assignment, client after client, just to turn around and realise that it was now June and I still hadn't done ethics. After coming to the conclusion that it was time to quit, I was gifted with wise words from my supervisor (supervisor of the year), who said, "It's all part of the journey".

This resulted in a trip to find some hauora (the gym and my Te Reo class), which is where I decided it was time to start walking the talk. Why not combine my three favourite things and have some fun? Māori PE and Health, the gym and Te Reo Māori all mashed together to create Whānau Fit. Obviously, being my fifth year at uni, I only had three mates, but they were all there ready to go on that first week (shout outs, you know who you are). But, perks, this gave me a week to sort out what I was doing. From there we started advertising and numbers started to grow.

The kaupapa of Whānau Fit is to get people active as a collective under the Māori Worldview, using as much Te Reo as we can. It opens up a space for people of all ages, to revitalise our language and culture and have fun being active amongst friends. All in all, it's basically the space that got me through my final semester of assignments, exams and submitting my dissertation.

Nō reira whānau, nau mai haere mai. Everyone is welcome! When times get tough, there's a family here to help you get through, every Thursday at 12 o'clock. See you there!

Ngā mihi,
Terina Raureti

School of Physical Education,
Sport and Exercise

For more information contact
terinaraureti@gmail.com



SCIENCE, BITCHES

The Placebo Effect

By Wee Doubt



A placebo is anything that seems to be a "real" medical treatment, but isn't. It could be a pill, a shot, a spell, a potion; anything a person is told will make them feel better. What all placebos have in common

is that they do not contain an active substance that demonstrably affects health.

But they can affect health. Placebos are effective in a large enough percentage of people that doctors routinely prescribe them to patients.

Placebos aren't necessarily cheaper than 'real' medicine. This is because your brain is a snob that wants you to spend money on it to make it heal you. A sugar pill you are told costs 10c is not as effective as one you are told costs \$5. Coloured, fancy looking placebo pills may be more effective than dowdy little white ones. If you get a top-of-the-range \$25 placebo injection of saline solution, hot dang, your body will get onto that healing shit right away.

An explanation for why placebos work could be that, if you are sick or hurt, it takes a lot of energy to get better or heal. Taking a placebo could trick your brain into thinking your body is getting help with the healing process when it is not, so that it will put extra effort into healing, believing it is receiving energy from an outside source.

The immune system is affected by stress. If you are taking something that makes you feel like you're doing something to help yourself, thus reducing stress, your immune system can be boosted as a response.

It gets weirder; the placebo effect can work even if you know it is a placebo. You may know that

lighting an essential oil burner will not cure your cold, but it could make you feel better anyway.

Even more extraordinary, the placebo effect has increased over time. As medicines have become more effective, people's expectations have also increased. A sugar pill taken today may be far more effective than one taken a hundred years ago.

The placebo effect is an example of how freakin' weird our brains are. We all know that our brains mess us around from time to time. It's nice to know you can sometimes trick your brain into healing you with something that should have no effect on your health.

Critic BOOZE REVIEWS

2016 ASPA Award
Winning Column

DRINKING

Diesel Yard Glass

by Swilliam Shakesbeer

Diesel is a foul, horrific, gross, horrendous, revolting, evil, nasty, blasphemous, putrid offense to the senses and all sense of moral righteousness. Whoever invented it has done more damage to New Zealand than the Christchurch Earthquake and Max Key's musical career combined. It's no coincidence that the first three letters spell "Die". It is the alcohol equivalent of Kim Dotcom. Many have tried, but contrary to popular belief you cannot run a truck on it.

A standard 21st Birthday calls for a full Yard Glass, but a 21st on the Saturday of O Week deserves

something more. So, out of pure love for the loyal readers of Critic we opted for a full Diesel Yardie, something that epitomises the North Dunedin attitude of self destruction. The glass in question was poured at 12pm the day prior to ensure it was as warm as Archway 4 in a full lecture and as flat as Kim Kardashian's personality.

It started like a First Year Health Sci student trying to get into Med – full of hope and ambition, but just like the unfortunate freshers, it quickly deteriorated into a punishing and wounding experience of depression and pain. The middle got slower and it continued to drag on. The target of sub-1 minute was well and truly out of the question.

Any self respecting person would have given up by now, but luckily I don't respect myself at all. My heart was heavy, my knees were weak, my palms were sweaty. There was vomit on my sweater already. But I only had one shot, one opportunity, so I pushed on. The sweet sticky nectar continued to force itself down my throat. About two thirds of the way through the adrenaline kicked in, which was essential to finishing off the last few drops.

Overall it was a terrible experience and I hated every moment of it, but I had fun and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to try it.

Taste Rating: Pretty Yum/10

Froth Level: Minimal

Time: 1 Minute 22 Seconds

Tasting Notes: Woody undertones, smoky finish, sits heavy on the palate with hints of citrus.

Vomit Contents: Mostly Diesel with a few corn chips.

Price: Unleaded 91 \$2.08/ Litre, Unleaded 95 \$2.15/ Litre Diesel \$1.36



ECONOMICS EVERYWHERE

College Shouldn't Be Free

by Danni Pintacasi

This is a controversial statement to make at a university. For a long time I saw education as a human right, something that should be universally accessible to all those seeking it. Sure, it might be a drag on the taxpayer, but investing in educating a population helps keeps the likes of Trump out of office and the economy competitive.

But during one ECON112 lecture last semester Mr Terry Kerr declared quite the opposite: "university shouldn't be free". He cited the story of one chap who spent six years at Otago without graduating, back when tertiary education in New Zealand was close to free. Mr Kerr asserted free education meant that the only cost of failing classes was time and there was no monetary incentive to try.

Currently, New Zealand citizens and permanent residents pay a subsidised tuition while

international students pay full tuition. Historical data is limited, so we aren't fully able to compare



17th-year Otago Student in Bontany/
Tourism/Music/Psychology/Theology
Studies

graduation rates pre-reform. However, there are some countries that have been able to provide

tertiary education at no cost to the student including Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and Argentina. While Denmark has an above average graduation rate, Germany, Sweden and Argentina are all below average. In fact, Argentina has the worst graduation rate in the world, at only 27% in 2013. Germany and Sweden have closer to a 50% graduation rate, still below the average of 70% for OECD countries. New Zealand stands at about 74%, still behind our neighbours in Australia with 81%.

Obviously there are many factors at work incentivising students to either study or slack off, but one thing can be observed: when students don't have a financial stake in their education, failure is an option. I talked to an international student in the dentistry programme here at Otago; tuition fees for him were just north of \$80,000. In his words, "I can't fail".

Of course, all this is not to say high fees don't negatively impact those with less financially stable backgrounds. Student life isn't easy when you are trying to balance part time work with studying and having a social life. For example, in the USA, notorious for the steep price for college education, the graduation rate sits at 60%. University needs to be affordable, perhaps not free. University isn't cheap to provide, and the government investing thousands into students not willing to put effort into completing their course would simply be wasteful.

ETHEL & HYDE



Stuck with flatties!

I'm a second-year student and it's my first time flatting. I'm flatting with people from my hall from first-year but I actually fucking hate their guts. They have parties at my house and don't invite me. I've signed a full-year lease.

Disclaimer: Student Support advises you to take Ethel's advice.

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



Ethel says

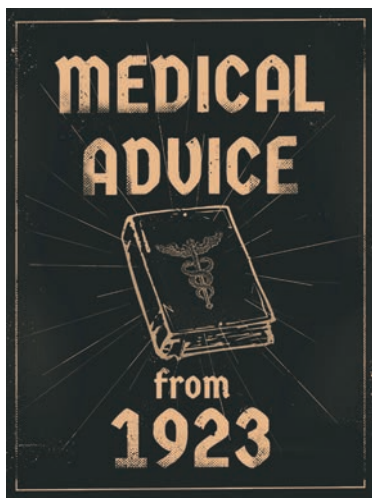
What a conundrum! There is a way around this. You rightly seem to be aware that abandoning your flat or stopping paying rent is not an option legally. You can tell the flat-mates that you want to move and are looking for someone to take over your lease, they might help you and could know someone keen to move in already. You can advertise your room on easyroommates.co.nz, trademe, or the Otago Flatting Goods Facebook group if word of mouth does not work. You must be selective and have the agreement of both the flat-mates and the landlord, who must be reasonable. They cannot say no to everyone to make things difficult for you. Once you've found someone, get your name signed off the lease and the new name on, fill in a Bond Transfer Form to transfer your bond to them (the landlord must sign this too). The newbie just pays you the money directly. Good luck, I hope you can find someone soon!



Hyde says

Time to bring those fuckers down. Important supplies to have ready for the next party are: a mask, a plastic full-body suit (rubbish bags will do) and a big bottle of olive oil. Late afternoon of party night, eat as much as possible and drink at least two litres of red juice. When guests start arriving, go into your room, with at least one flatty as witness. Once you hear the party is in full swing, climb out the window in your plastic coverall and mask, with the oil in a wine bottle. Enter through the front door making your way to the hub of the party and neck the bottle of oil in record time. Before long projectile puking will begin, make sure to spin a 360 to get the maximum coverage of guests. This will create a chain vomiting session, leading to a mass exodus. Ditch your suit a block away, climb back in your window, and relish the thought of your flat-mates cleaning up after their party.

VITALOGY



Asthma*

Asthma is a spasmodic disease, characterised by paroxysms of difficult breathing, with great wheezing, and a dreadful sense of constriction across the chest; each paroxysm terminates by the expectoration of a more or less abundant of mucus. It is now considered a

mucus disease dependant upon some hereditary taint or condition of the mucus system.

Asthma is caused by irritation of the nerves of respiration, resulting, in most cases, in deranged digestion, especially after late dinners and suppers. Excessive exertion and mental emotion frequently bring on a paroxysm. Mountain air will bring it on in some people.

Soak the feet in warm water, and endeavor to get up a perspiration by drinking warm herb-tea. As soon as you get your feet out of the bath, wipe them dry, and put on good, warm, woolen stockings, and commence walking around the room.

Smoking the leaves of the blue gum, four or five times a day, has proved an effective remedy in this disease, and performed some remarkable cures.

Another remedy, that has been used with success and produced unexpected cures in desperate cases, is the *lemon*. The patient should eat two or three of them daily.

Take saltpetre, dissolve it in water, and wet a piece of brown paper in this solution. Let the paper dry, and then wet it with origanum oil. Cut the paper into long strips. When you feel a fit of asthma coming on, burn a few of these strips, and hold them so that you can inhale the smoke. Take long breaths during this time. Even while the fit is on, great relief will be obtained in this way.

Soak some blotting paper in the strong solution of it; dry it, take a piece about the size of your hand, and on going to bed, light it, and lay it upon a plate in your bedroom. By doing so, persons, however badly afflicted with asthma, will be able to sleep almost as well as in health.

Beet-root juice in tablespoonful doses is highly recommended by European physicians, for asthma.

*This information was taken from Vitalogy, a real medical book published in 1923. This column is for entertainment only and should not be taken as advice by anyone, ever.

THE HELL HOLE

THE BUTTERFLY Room

By JESSICA Thompson

I was baby-sitting my little sister that afternoon and we decided to go to Discovery World. She loved the giant piano but got pretty bored with everything else so we paid to visit the Butterfly room. There was no one inside. My sister ran off to gawk at the glass boxes containing caterpillars and chrysalis while I wandered over the bridge and looked at the turtles in the pond. It was muggy and the sound of falling water and scratchy leaves filled my ears so that I couldn't hear a thing.

I was beginning to feel so relaxed when through the noise I heard a shout. Whipping round I saw my sister standing stiff as a tree, arms out, balancing several butterflies, a few on her head. I laughed and she smiled. "I've never seen so many on one person before!"

They were lovely, blue and red wings, beating gently up and down.

"They tickle." I walked over to her and tried to edge my hand under one of the bugs, but quickly jumped back when I felt a sharp stab on my finger.

"Ow!"

"Whats wrong?"

"I think... did it just bite me?"

My sister moved forward to check the mark on my hand but when she did she screamed. Even though it was happening right in front of me I couldn't really understand what was going on. The pretty bugs began to crawl so quickly over her skin, up her arms. Some seemed to be grating their legs and mouths against her, drawing blood immediately, while others made straight for her head, hastily digging into her ears, scarping at her mouth, trying to get in, while she just screamed and danced about. I tried to bat them away but more flew in from the wet plants around us and soon my sister was covered head to foot in butterflies, writhing on the floor, blood pooling around her body.

I dragged her to the waterfall and while the water shoed most of them away, a few kept gnawing at her. She was still, covered in pink and red bites like pin pricks, her face twitched because some of the bugs remained inside it. I stood beneath the wall of water peering out, shaking. It was loud, but I swore I could hear the heavy beating of wings.

Can't live without my cell pho

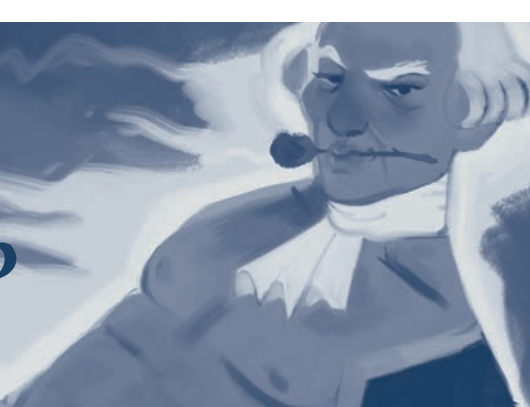
**LOOK UP BEFORE YOU
CROSS THE ROAD**


Safer Journeys

Each week, we lure two singletons to The Captain Cook Hotel, 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. But be warned--if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a Critic writer will write one under your name.

And that won't end well for you.

Cookin' Up Love



Ryan

When I got the email from Critic saying that I was selected for the Blind Date, my heart started to race, but I didn't hesitate; I emailed back saying that I was keen and free to do it. As Eminem said: "You only get one shot and one opportunity," and as Alexander Hamilton said: "I am not going to throw away my shot". Well, as you can imagine, I was super nervous about who I could meet, so to calm my nerves on my walk to the Cook, I played and sung along to songs from Oscar Best Picture (for 8 seconds) La La Land. When I got there, I sat down in the booth and waited for what seemed like forever and I started to get worried as it was almost 7:30 and she hadn't turned up. I had my phone on silent and in my pocket as to not have people messaging me distracting me. Then, as soon as I thought that she had stood me up, this Gorgeous Women (who was a 10) stepped into the booth and sat down opposite me and I knew that the date had started. We got our first drink and started chatting about what we do, our likes and interests, all the usual conversation topics. Our food turned up and I let her steal some of my chips. I couldn't help letting my mind drift and I found myself wanting to ask for her number because I started thinking that I really liked this girl and wanted to ask her for a second date, but then my shyness hit everytime and I talked myself out of it. Then the time came for her to leave, as she wanted to get up early to go to the gym, and keep her gorgeous body in shape. In my mind I wanted to wrap her in a hug and walk her to her flat and possibly end the date with a kiss and maybe wake up in the morning beside her. But none of that happened. All that happened was a handshake and I was left sitting at the booth cursing my shyness and left with major regrets about not getting her number. But now I just have to hope that I see her again, a time in which I won't be shy and actually ask her for her number. Cheers for the date Critic, I just wish I wasn't a shy fool.

Emma

Two hours before my blind date I found myself fretting about what I was going to wear and nervously sinking long whites. Rocking up fashionably late, as is the tradition for these things, I arrived to hear from the bartender that my date was already waiting for me. Worried about the impeccably timed man, the bartender led me over to my booth, where I was surprised to see a well presented, older man.

My date couldn't keep his eyes off me as I slipped into my seat. He did not have the looks I was seeking and nor did he have the chat. One way conversation isn't something I drive on, and we seemed to lack anything in common, except our meal choices - thanks to the Cook for the meal, it was bloody fantastic. Realising the yarns weren't spinning as well as I had hoped they would, the bartender hooked me up with a few extra drinks to try make something of the night. Turns out that alcohol only improves your own chat - not the people who you have to talk to. The chat continued to struggle, but luckily for me I got to polish off his plate for him (nervous fella lost his appetite).



President's Column

My name is James, the Colleges Officer from the OUSA Exec, and I'm looking after Hugh's column this week. For those of you who aren't in a college anymore, take this as a chance to reminisce about the days of old - warm rooms, warmer food, hot chocolate, and that fiery inter-floor fling - when readings were actually read and everything seemed that little bit more fresh(er).

Dear College Students,

First up, welcome to University. High school (or your Gap Year for the lucky few) is now behind you and it's time to start the next chapter of your life. There are going to be some lows, hopefully more highs, and, by the end of it all, there's not a chance in the world you'll be the same person you are right now. Nothing can and nothing will compare to your first year of University.

If you want some advice - remember perspective. Memorising that "gait cycle" for First Year Health Sci might seem like the most important thing in world at the time, but, the honest truth is, it's not. Go on a random adventure to St Clair beach with your floor, check out one of the 150 or so OUSA affiliated clubs and

societies for an evening or just take a moment to grab some hot chocolate and toast with your mates. You're at University to study, sure, but that doesn't mean you can't have a good time while doing so.

As Colleges Officer it's my job to act as your voice on campus, help fight your fights, and make sure you're looked after. If you have any issues with the University, your College, or even OUSA, please don't hesitate to contact me - nothing is too big or too small. You can flick me an email at colleges@ousa.org.nz or pop into the OUSA Main Office.

You'll probably see me around your College or Campus sometime in the coming weeks, so feel free to introduce yourself and say hi. Best of luck for the year ahead - study hard, have a good time, & don't forget to write home to mum. Cheers,



James Heath - james@colleges@ousa.org.nz

DIVERSITY WEEK · APRIL 3-9

Join us in celebrating, raising awareness and visibility of sex, sexuality and gender diversity on campus *this April!*

Brought to you by the OUSA Queer Support Coordinator and UniQ - the 2017 Diversity week is looking bigger and better than ever. From swing dancing to beers and board games, SPACE workshops to the famous Queerest Tea party - make sure you have April 3rd to 7th locked into your calendar!



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