

# CRACCUM

magazine 08



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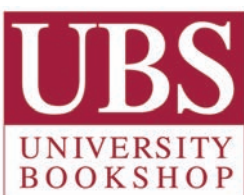
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# romeo, rome-oh no the pop up globe is closing

By the time you read this, the Pop Up Globe will be on its last legs. It will soon cease to be. Before we know it, it will have fucked off into the wherefore.

What will we do now? Where now will we stand for hours listening to children talking about their love lives, without fear of being arrested? And how many terrible Shakespeare puns can we fit into this editorial?

Of course, these queries will all come to nought if a petition on [change.org](http://change.org) succeeds. The petition, which reached the target of 500 signatures and is now on its way to the Council, claims that the Globe is an “amazing educational resource and cultural experience for everyone to enjoy” and begs the Council to “keep this iconic building and make it a permanent part of the Auckland cityscape!”

(We will set aside for a moment the fact that the Pop Up Globe is constructed almost entirely out of scaffolding and corrugated iron, a combination of materials not overly renowned for their permanence and not overly endearing to the minions of resource consent. We will also set aside the fact that the Pop Up Globe currently occupies an entire car park, a resource not exactly in abundance in central Auckland).

The comments on the petition range from the charmingly innocent (“I was never that interested by Shakespeare. I saw Romeo and Juliet

at the pop up globe and now I am interested by Shakespeare”) to the outright depressing – and poorly spelled: “It is the best thing that has ever happened to me in NZ and I feel very privileged to have been part it.”

Not that the admiration of the project was limited to Aucklanders. People from all over the country chimed in, and commenters popped up from all over the globe (lol sorry, couldn’t resist). “I love the pop up,” said Steve from Liverpool. “Keep the POPE UP GLOBE,” implored Katrina from Houston.

Get outta here, ya mongrels.

The general tone of the comments were that there just isn’t enough theatre on offer in Auckland. After all, the Pop Up Globe only lives on the same city block as the Aotea Centre (home to the ASB Theatre and Herald Theatre), the Civic Theatre and the Town Hall and is within a wafting fart of the Q Theatre and the Basement, whom we can only imagine have been muttering ‘get the fuck out of my carpark’ under their exceedingly arty breath ever since the Pop Up Globe popped up in early Feb. There is plenty of theatre in Auckland – you just have to know where to look. Actually, not even that. You just have to look.

(Here we’ll take a break to put in a cheeky plug for Stir Fried, a collection of short plays put on by Stray Theatre (the artists formerly known as Stage II, the university drama club) from 4-7 May at Galatos. Only \$20, v funny, would deffos recommend.)

To be fair, the Pop Up Globe is actually quite fucking cool – if you can ignore the scaffolding. It gives students WITHOUT rich parents the chance to experience Shakespeare in as authentic a way as possible without shell-ing out a few thousand bucks to go over to England. And it’s not really that much of a knock-off, comparatively speaking. After all, the actual Globe theatre was demolished in 1644 by Puritan SCUM, so the one people go to visit in England is itself a reconstruction, opened in 1997 – so really, our pop-up version in the middle of a carpark is just as legitimate. We’ve personally seen more Shakespeare in the past two months than we have in the other twenty years of our lives, and paid \$10 each time. That’s fucking cool. Even the most dull of the Bard’s plays – we’re looking at you, *The Tempest* – have been enjoyable, experienced as groundlings underneath the stars, fooling ourselves that this is how the Elizabethans felt. But it’s just not feasible that it can stay where it is in its current state. (Ham)let it go.

So, yes, the Pop Up Globe is great and no, you can’t keep it. But the [change.org](http://change.org) petition, if nothing else, has proven that the matter of the Pop Up Globe is far bigger than a simple performance venue.

*“The pop up globe is so beautiful.*

*And I believe that if we keep this Shakespeare would be remembered forever.” ■*



## TA-MAKING A LOT OF MONEY

Auckland University has sold Tāmaki Campus, moving into a leasing arrangement with developers in order to continue to operate on the site but taking a large step towards leaving the development behind.

Tāmaki Village Ltd will lease back the central buildings and car parks at the site for up to three and a half years, while the university moves operations currently conducted at Tāmaki to campuses in Grafton and Newmarket. The University sold the 11.9 hectare site to the development

company for an undisclosed amount.

In the early 2000s, the University decided that the land would be best used as the home of a brand new School of Population Health. The University had owned the property for decades by that point. The University had first purchased the land, including the nearby Colin Maiden Park grounds, in 1944, and the site had been left relatively unused up until that point. As such the location was seen as an ideal point of expansion for the University. Construction on the site was completed in 2004.

However the remoteness of the facilities and the degree of disconnect of the location with

the rest of the University meant that the new campus proved to be unpopular with both staff and students. Conjoint students were particularly badly affected, having to travel across town in order to get between classes.

As a result, when the University began property acquisitions in Newmarket at the end of the decade, plans were begun to move operations back to a more central location. It is expected for classes to be fully integrated into those locations before the end of the decade.

The proceeds from the sale will go to refurbishing and improving existing buildings across the remaining campuses. ■

## BEATING OFF

Cuts to the police budget have caused large-scale reductions in foot patrols in Auckland's CBD over the last 12 months. Auckland saw a 13% reduction in police patrols over the last twelve months. Police conducted 10% fewer police patrols nationwide.

At the beginning of last year, the government shut down 28 of the 400 "front facing" properties run by the Police, including one location in

Fort Street. Police assured the public that the closure of these facilities would not affect their ability to manage criminal activity in those areas.

However, the last few weeks have seen a number of increasingly brutal episodes of violence breaking out in and around the CBD – including attacks on two international students in Albert Park, and a mass brawl on Fort Street itself.

Labour's acting Police spokesperson Kelvin

Davis says that having a visible police presence is a vital part of keeping communities safe. "Having cops walking the beat is a key part of keeping our communities safe. It sends a message to criminals and acts as a real deterrent."

"Police budgets have been forced to absorb \$300 million in cost pressures. We are now seeing the results – fewer cops on the beat and more crimes like burglary going unresolved because officers simply don't have the resources they need." ■

## PRISON PROTESTS



Members of No Pride In Prisons (NPIP) marched against Corrections before the break, protesting the reported sexual assault of a transgender woman currently incarcerated in Whanganui Men's Prison.

A report was filed with prison staff, claiming that one of the guards employed by the prison sexually assaulted her in one of the prison stairwells at the beginning of the year. The prisoner in question alleges that she has been the victim of multiple sexual assaults at the prison, and that previous complaints about sexual assault have not been followed through

with by prison staff.

The resulting investigation into the incident, conducted by Corrections, "found no substance to the allegations", and no further action was taken. The staff member at the centre of the dispute is still employed at the site. No Pride In Prisons also claims that Corrections bureaucracy has deliberately withheld information from advocates that are attempting to provide support to the woman at the centre of the case, in order to save themselves from potential liability.

Requests made to move the inmate to another prison have reportedly been ignored. Emmy Rāketē, spokesperson for No Pride In Prisons,

told media that she doesn't believe the complaints raised by the protestors will be given any weight by Corrections staff.

"We're not confident in Corrections' abilities to effectively deal with this and they continue not to take this seriously... Corrections is prioritising due process over prisoners' lives."

In response, Corrections staff have said they "absolutely refute any suggestion that rape is a systemic issue in New Zealand prisons".

The Auckland protest, held outside the Department of Corrections Northern Region Office, was attended by almost one hundred protestors. The parallel Wellington protest was attended by around forty people. ■

## BY-ELECTION SET TO ATTRACT AT LEAST 0.2% OF STUDENT POPULATION

Auckland University's Student Association are running by-elections to find two new members of the Executive team. The positions – Arts and Cultural Officer and International Students Officer – have opened up after the resignation of the officers elected to the positions last year. Elections will be held on May 3-5.

AUSA awards compensation to both roles, based on the performance of the officer in the previous semester, as evaluated by the AUSA executive. That compensation is limited to a maximum of \$350.

According to AUSA's website, the Arts and

Cultural Officer "is responsible for bringing culture to campus". The Officer is expected to "maintain strong links with cultural clubs, organize events throughout the year, and have their finger on the pulse of cultural events around Auckland". The position was revised last year in order to give the position more of a focus on the arts scene in and around the University.

The International Students Officer "is responsible to the Executive for matters concerning international students. They ensure that international students have a voice on campus, representing their constituency to AUSA and to the University. They also work to make campus a better place for international students, hosting events and distributing information targeted at international students."

The two officers collaborate on Cultural

Week each year, as well as putting on their own events and helping support the AUSA executive.

Campaigning begins at 10:15am on the 3rd of May (Tuesday). Candidates are allowed to spend as much as \$300 of their own money supporting their campaign and rallying for votes, and are designated a day in which they're allowed to visit lectures and speak directly to students in order to try and raise support.

Voting will begin on the same day, and continue until the 5th (Thursday). Voting booths will be set up at multiple locations around campus, and any current AUSA member is eligible to vote. Students who are not members of AUSA will be able to sign up during that time.

Information about candidates and where to vote can be found in the AUSA pages I guess? Fuck idk. ■



## NATIONAL LANDS THEMSELVES IN SHIT

The National Party have raised the idea of imposing a “Land Tax” on foreign property owners, pending the result of a report into the causes of the problems facing Auckland’s housing market.

The announcement represents a significant shift in policy for the National Party, who have often criticized Labour and Green party policies restricting the ability of foreign nationals to invest in and purchase local property.

Prime Minister John Key has downplayed the likelihood of any changes, saying his “gut instinct” is that the majority of those previously identified as international investors - including homebuyers with “Chinese sounding names”, named in a report leaked by the Labour party - are actually New Zealand residents, and that the effect of such purchases on the local property market will be much smaller than previously imagined.

The IRD began requiring foreign nationals to

supply their tax details after purchasing property at the beginning of October last year, and the government will make their decision based on that information.

Land Taxes are a low value tax paid on the value of the land owned - not on the property itself, or on the gain made through sale. They are designed to encourage people to sell surplus land that is not in use, and to increase the amount of development on existing land. Land Taxes are distinct from Capital Gains Taxes, which are taken from the profit made upon re-sale of a house, and are designed to limit property speculation.

Any law change would need to comply with the international tax treaties that New Zealand has signed. As a result, the government is restricted from outright banning international purchases. It would most likely have to affect all foreign-based buyers who are tax residents elsewhere, meaning that New Zealand citizens living overseas would be forced to pay the tax as well.

The proposal has been met a mixture of praise and criticism. Labour, the Greens, and New

Zealand First have all criticized National for “flip-flopping” on the issue, with Labour’s Housing Spokesperson Annette King saying that the Government has been “protecting speculators” over the last few years.

Meanwhile, some experts have pushed for the law to be expanded, and that the government should pass a blanket Land Tax affecting all New Zealanders in order to deflate the housing market. Preliminary reports on a 0.5% per annum Land Tax, prepared for the government in 2010, suggested that property values would drop as much as 16.7% - a dangerous decrease.

Act Party Leader David Seymour has condemned the government for “campaigning on the right and governing on the left”. National campaigned on a platform of “no new taxes” in 2014. Since that election, the Government has in fact introduced two new taxes, according to Seymour - a travel levy and a capital gains tax.

The first official data on those purchases will be available to the government some time in the next two weeks, and any reform will be in reaction to that data. ■

## YOUTH CLINIC FACES CLOSURE

Youthline may be forced to shut down a pop-up clinic designed to target at-risk youth if it is unable to find \$50,000 worth of funding over the next two weeks.

Initially funded on the back of a one-off donation from an international investor, the clinic was opened in order to fill a perceived gap in the city’s healthcare system. It served as a specialist space designed to cater for vulnerable young people - in particular, catering to the central city’s homeless population, people from the LGBT community, and those who would otherwise struggle to

access conventional health services.

No similar services exist in central Auckland, meaning that if the centre closes, many of the people who came to rely on it for healthcare will be left completely isolated.

One client of the centre, who asked not to be named, told media that if it weren’t for the service, she would be “a very desperate person probably... probably homeless”

Youthline says that the clinic - which is currently only open three hours a week - has helped over 150 young people since being opened late last year. The agency says that those people may well have fallen through the cracks of the conventional healthcare

system otherwise. Instead, the service has helped put those people in touch with medical specialists who were able to provide them with the help that in some cases they desperately needed.

The agency has applied for funding from the Auckland District Health Board but says that they’re not confident they will be successful. The DHB has called the funding “low priority”.

As a result, the agency has been forced to publicly fundraise, relying on public support to keep the clinic open.

Donations are being accepted through the Youthline website, or a three dollar donation can be made by texting YHS at 4499. ■





## R.I.P.P (REST IN PEACE PRINCE)

PRINCE - THE ARTIST FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE ARTIST FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCE - HAS DIED, AGED 57.

News of his death has brought an international outpouring of grief, as well as commemoration of his life and work.

Events commemorating the musician's life and work have popped up around Auckland. The Sky Tower was lit up in Prince's trademark purple on Friday night, and cinemas around Auckland held screenings of Prince's 1984 rock musical, *Purple Rain*.

Meanwhile, Karangahape Road's memorial mural - fresh from being repainted in response to the death of David Bowie - has been updated over the weekend.

Autopsy results have not yet been formally announced - clinical examiners have warned that a full toxicology screening could take weeks - however, initial reports point to sleep deprivation and painkiller use as potential

factors in the performer's death. Prince was reportedly suffering from "flu-like" symptoms in the weeks coming up to his death.

The singer left no known formal will. It is expected that his sister will gain control of the majority of his assets, while his former musical partners have expressed their intention to have Prince's home and recording studio, Paisley Park, turned into a memorial - similar to Elvis' Graceland.

Prince was well known as a prodigious musical and creative talent. Signed to a major label at just eighteen, Prince released thirty-nine studio albums, five soundtrack albums, four live albums, five compilation albums, seventeen video albums and twelve extended plays over his 39-year long career, famously playing and arranging all 27 instruments on his debut album, *For You*.

However, many also know Prince for the legal battles in which he regularly became embroiled. Most famously, Prince briefly changed

his name to a deliberately unpronounceable symbol - which he called a "love symbol" - in order to protest the terms of his contract with Warner Bros. During this period, he became known as "The Artist Formerly Known As Prince", only returning to his original stage name a number of years later.

He also had a long running contempt for the rise of streaming services and was famously aggressive when it came to protecting studio versions of his music, arguing that such services disrespected artists and their right to earn a living. Ironically, Prince climbed to #6 on the streaming charts for the week of his death.

Prince performed his first New Zealand shows just two months ago, putting on two performances at Auckland's ASB Theatre. He quipped about it at the time.

"First time here huh? Certainly won't be the last". ■

## THE FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

1. Indiana is the new Epsom. In joint statements, John Kasich and Ted Cruz announced that they were coordinating their efforts to stop the GOP front runner Donald Trump from clinching the nomination. It did, however, take less than 24 hours for the message to get muddled, as Kasich went on to say that voters should still vote for him.
2. That we have a 13-week semester. While this is not new information, many were unpleasantly surprised to learn this week that this

semester is a whole three days longer than the equivalent last year.

3. The Warriors really are the perpetual 'next year' team. Despite this being one of the team's worst starts to a season ever, on *The After Match* this week one of the talking heads was already talking up the chances of them making the Top Eight in OVER A YEAR'S TIME.
4. My GOD the NFL draft is boring. American Football may be hard to watch at the best of times, but it can be quite good to have on in the background while studying. Yet the draft seems to capture all the worst parts of NFL coverage: overuse of statistics, an incredible

number of commercial breaks and no actual sport.

5. That the Australians are set to give political junkies their fix. For those who are already sick of the US election, look away now as the Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's line has been crossed and there will now be a double dissolution election on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. This puts it just after the Brexit vote on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June and just before the true US election starts with the Republican convention on the 18<sup>th</sup>. With the US primaries ending on June 7<sup>th</sup> the gaps on the political calendar are filling up fast. ■

## WHAT'S ON 2 – 8 MAY

Catch **Doprah and Yumi Zouma's** Auckland show, part of their New Zealand Tour, this Friday 6 May with support from Soccer Practise – a rare opportunity to catch these jet setters in the same city, as the band's members live in Auckland, Paris and New York. See them at the Crystal Palace in Mt Eden – an experience in itself. \$25 plus booking fee.

Anyone still clinging to the idea that chicks ain't funny? Well, Alice, Donna and Brynley are about to rock your world in their show **Snedden, Brookbanks and Stent Ltd.** On at the Basement Theatre from 4-7 May, student tickets \$15 (or save a sweet 60 cents on Cheap Wednesday: tickets \$14.40)

Head down to Mirage Gallery, 93-95 The Strand, Parnell (walking distance from uni!) to see art exhibition **Fake Newbie**. You may have missed out on the fake champagne at the opening event, but there's still a chance to check out this "boot-leg" art show put together by up-and-coming NZ artists. Exhibition closes Saturday.

To end the week on some good vibes check out the **Queens Wharf Block Party**. It's a free art and music festival Sunday from 12-6 pm which promises a great local music line up and amazing visual art – not to mention workshops, the usual drawing club and surprises! ■

## AGONY AUNTS

Dear Agony Aunts, I've been having this problem lately. How do I get them to message me back? I've contacted them four times with no response and I don't want to seem desperate... But our oven isn't working, the washing machine keeps flooding, and there's a giant hole in the living room floor! Please help,  
*Feeling Desperate.*



Dear *Feeling Desperate*, Property managers and crushes aren't too dissimilar, although are not to be confused. It sounds like you're in a bit of hot water... Or an ever growing cold puddle. We would recommend doing a little research into your rights under the Tenancy Tribunal. If you haven't tried calling your property manager's office, do. If you have and had no luck, visit their office in person. They can't ignore you sitting in their meeting room or hallway. Be persistent.

*Aunt Phryne and Aunt Wilhelmina xxx* ■

PLEASE SEND YOUR PROBLEM IN 50 WORDS OR LESS TO LIFESTYLE@CRACCUM.CO.NZ, ANONYMITY GUARANTEED.



## NATURE CALLS

Nature is good for you and there's a lot of it in Auckland, so while the weather's still nice get out to a green space.

### Central City

#### 1) Cornwall park

Cornwall Park is Auckland's inner-city English countryside; rolling hills, quaint cottages, grassy meadows, cows and sheep.

#### 2) Mt Eden Domain

Climb to the summit, but follow one of the many dirt tracks instead of the main road. It's a steep climb but the view at the top is always worth the effort, and you might even see some historic kumara pits!

#### 3) The Parnell Rose Gardens

A tad posh, so be on your best behaviour. Follow the path through the gardens and walk down to Judge's Bay.

#### 4) North Head, Devonport

Explore the complex of WWII caves and take in the panoramic view of the city and harbour.

#### 5) Sentinel Rd Beach and Home Bay

Do this walk at low tide, starting at Sentinel Bay and following the coast around to Home Bay. It's fun to explore the rock pools and climb the trees.

#### 6) Three Kings Domain

Feels very secluded, and if you don't mind lots of dogs, it's a lovely stroll around the silos.

### Further Out

#### 7) Auckland Botanical Gardens - Manurewa

About 25km south of the central city, this is a huge park (64 acres) with spectacular sculpture trails, bush walks and over 10,000 flower varieties, so they say.

#### 8) Manakau Heads

A bit of a drive – about an hour out of Auckland on the Southern Motorway. Exit at Drury (State Highway 22), and drive to the Manakau Heads lighthouse. This is a stunning and lesser known part of Auckland that is well worth a day trip.

#### 9) Waitakere Ranges bush walks

Another long drive (40-50 mins) but you'll get some serious nature: trees, birds, beaches, the works. Walks range anywhere between ½ an hour to 3 hours long.

#### 10) Bethell's Beach/sand dunes

This one's a day trip, so pack a picnic. Get on the North Western motorway, exit at Lincoln Rd and head West along Universal Drive and Swanson Rd. You can turn left at Lake Wainamu and do the sand dunes trail, or follow the road to Bethell's Beach. ■

## AUCKLAND POWDER ROOM SOCIETY'S TOILET REVIEW

The Student Union Building Complex was built during a University building boom (possibly similar to what is going on at the moment). Shadows Bar triumphantly resides inside the Student Union Building Complex up too many flights of stairs. After Shadows was closed in 2012 due to AUSA financial trouble, it rose again like the beautiful phoenix that it is in 2013 and has stood strong ever since.

The Shadows toilets are my lowest ranked toilets so far. It is completely possible that this review has been tainted by the fact that the last time I visited these toilets I was in a grumpy state at the end of a painfully long pub quiz. There are some wooden elements in the cubicles and the mirror which give the toilets an organic feel. While I'm unsure whether this is a positive thing or not in a toilet, it's

certainly rare amongst the University's toilets which makes for a welcome change. Any other points for aesthetics are saved purely by the kitschy décor of the fake ivy which lines the mirror. The lighting in here fits the vibe nicely – it's incredibly artificial, and that along with the ivy and red walls, brings to mind Poison Ivy's lair from the 1997 Batman movie. This would be cool if it wasn't so nauseating when you're drinking. The toilet includes both a condom and tampon dispenser which is very practical and sensible. However, I didn't splurge the \$2 it cost to test these out and they looked a little dated but I'm going to give Shadz the benefit of the doubt and assume they're in working order. The ground is extremely standard. I'm honestly starting to feel a little woozy recounting these toilets so I'm cutting my review short. ■



### GENERAL INFORMATION

CONSTRUCTED: **BETWEEN 1965 – 1973**

ARCHITECTS: **WARREN & MAHONEY**

TIPS: **TAKE A SELFIE IN THE MIRROR. THE LIGHTING MAKES YOU LOOK TANNED AND IF YOU CATCH A HINT OF THE IVY, RED WALLS AND WOODEN ACCENTS PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY THINK YOU'RE SOMEWHERE EXOTIC. PROBABLY NOT.**

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE: **YES**

BAG HOOKS: **YES**

X-FACTOR: **NO**

AESTHETICS: **4/10**

PRACTICALITY: **7/10**

OVERALL: **5/10**

AUPRS ON

FACEBOOK: **AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY POWDER**

ROOM SOCIETY

TUMBLR: **HTTP://AUPRS.TUMBLR.COM**

INSTAGRAM: **@AUPRS**

## COPING WITH ANXIETY

These days, being a student is not simple. We have to worry about university, fees, finding a job to pay for those fees, as well as a place to live, bills, transport, not to mention feeding ourselves! Therefore stress and anxiety is increasingly common. As someone who has experienced anxiety and counselling, I've learnt that there are simple things we can do to not only relax but to change our perspective on the things we find stressful. It is important to break this cycle of stress otherwise each thing continues to pile on top of us until we are too weighed down to function. Here are 5 tips for dealing with anxiety:

**1. Don't take on more than you can manage.** Sometimes life requires us to extend ourselves beyond the time or energy we have. In situations like this you need to prioritize what is most important as of right now. Your health and happiness should always come first.

**2. Some form of exercise.** Exercise releases endorphins, which trigger positive feelings in the body. It is also a good distraction and way of releasing built up tension

**3. Think about everything you have already overcome and achieved.** Recognizing your successes, no matter how small, helps give confidence to overcome current obstacles.

**4. Focus on the relaxation and relief you will experience after the event.** By focusing on how we feel before and after something that we are anxious about or have been affected by in the past, takes some power away from it and allows us to see that it is just



one small task or event amidst many other more pleasant ones. If you're anxious about an assignment for example, then begin to break down your task into manageable parts so you have a sense of accomplishment once you've completed part of it.

**5. Realize that one thing will not determine the rest of your life.** Try and put into perspective how small and short that test or performance or interview is in comparison with your whole life. If you fail or mess up, there is **always** another opportunity.

■ KEELEY LASH

IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE THAT IS CAUSING YOU ANXIETY, SEND YOUR PROBLEM IN 50 WORDS OR LESS TO THE AGONY AUNTIES, LIFESTYLE@CRACCUM.CO.NZ. ANONYMITY GUARANTEED, AND YOU WILL GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN A GORGEOUS COLOURED POSTER PRINT OF THE ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY KEELEY LASH, PICTURED!

## FASHION ON CAMPUS

**Judy Darragh, Fine Arts Lecturer and Artist:** *"I make it up in the moment. It's just what my hand goes towards. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't."* ■





## FROM THE MEDIA OFFICER

There is no caffeine high to write from this week. Instead, I'm sitting in the low sag of the leather couch in the President's office asking why assignment hand-in was before 12 PM when my first and only class for the day is at 4 PM... the things we do for grades... But there are some awesome things that we don't do for grades, like the AUSA Pages in Craccum. In this edition President Will Matthews follows up on the NZ Natural saga, it's my turn to get interviewed and we explain why you should vote in the upcoming by-elections. ■



## AUSA NEWS

### NZ NATURAL TRUTH UNCOVERED

### ROGUE STAFF MEMBER TO BLAME?

Last week, we commented on the shocking revelation that long-time well-loved ice cream, pie and V-slusky vendors NZ Natural were to be removed from the Quad. In that story, we claimed that the owners of NZ Natural were initially given notice, but were then told verbally that there was some potential for their lease to be renegotiated if they were to make certain concessions, such as reducing their stock to just ice cream.

Following this, AUSA met with Ian Crowe, the General Manager for Event Services at Campus Life. As part of Ian's role, he manages retail on campus and was therefore the man at the top of the NZ Natural Saga. In this meeting, we heard the Campus Life side of the story and have a number of points to report on.

- NZ Natural, like many other vendors in the Quad, was on a long term lease (6-9 years). NZ Natural's lease was due to expire in late April, and in mid 2015 they were reminded of this.
- A number of other vendors on campus have had their leases changed to to short term (eg. three month) rolling leases which are regularly renewed. This was not the case with NZ Natural.
- At the beginning of this year, NZ Natural was once again reminded that their lease was due to expire and that they needed to move their business off campus.
- Some vendors in similar situations have had extensions added to their leases in return for concessions, such as improving the quality of their product, branding etc. This was never offered to NZ Natural.
- There were never any official discussions or plans to extend NZ Natural's lease beyond the end of April 2016.

It seems clear from this that any indication given to NZ Natural that there was some potential to

extend their lease did not reflect the official line, or the intentions of those making the decisions. However, the fact still remains that in verbal communication between the owners of NZ Natural and a staff member, it was indicated that this potential existed, in exchange for concessions on product. From this, it appears that a staff member with peripheral or no involvement in the decision making, but with knowledge of similar decisions that had been made for other vendors, has led the owners of NZ Natural astray, giving them hope that their lease may be renewed where there was none.

We'd like to thank Ian Crowe for giving us the full story. It is now apparent that at an official level, the treatment of NZ Natural and its lease has been fully transparent and fair. However, we urge Campus Life and the University to ensure that their staff are either aware of such situations or know not to speak with vendors about business matters unless they are qualified to do so.

We bid a fond farewell to NZ Natural, and thank them for the many years that they have spent providing friendly service and delicious ice cream to the students at this University. ■

## AUSA NOTICEBOARD

### DISCOUNT LOCKERS

WE'RE SHAVING A BIT OFF THE PRICE OF OUR LOCKERS FOR ALL YOU WHO HAVE REALISED THAT YOUR TEXTBOOKS ARE REALLY HEAVY. COME INTO AUSA RECEPTION TO GET A TOP LOCKER FOR \$50, OR A BOTTOM LOCKER FOR \$45.

### STUDENT JOB SEARCH

HAVE YOU HEARD OF STUDENT JOB SEARCH? DID YOU KNOW THAT AUSA IS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS AND A FUNDER OF THE COMPANY? THAT'S RIGHT - WE PAY SO YOU CAN GET PAID! IT'S COMPLETELY FREE TO SIGN UP TO STUDENT JOB SEARCH, AND YOU CAN BROWSE HUNDREDS OF JOBS ALL AROUND AUCKLAND TO FIND THE RIGHT ONE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOURSELF WHILE YOU STUDY. IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT AN ACCOUNT YET - WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? HEAD TO SJS. CO.NZ TO GET STARTED

### THE AUSA BALL IS COMING

JOIN US FOR A MESMERISING NIGHT UNDER THE STARS AT THIS YEAR'S AUSA BALL! THIS IS NO CONSTELLATION PRIZE, SO EXPECT A LUMINOUS EVENING OF FIREFLIES, TWINKLE LIGHTS AND DANCING UNDER THE STARS, HELD AT THE SKYCITY CONVENTION CENTRE! YOU CAN GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FROM AUSA RECEPTION OR GO TO EVENT FINDER TO GET THEM ONLINE. TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST SO DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS ASTRONOMICAL EXPERIENCE! SEARCH 'A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS' ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### GET SET WITH THE NEW EVALUATIONS TOOL!

FROM THIS SEMESTER ONWARDS, ALL EVALUATIONS FOR YOUR COURSES AND YOUR TEACHERS

WILL BE COMPLETED ONLINE! STARTING FROM THE 9TH MAY, YOU MAY BE INVITED TO DO YOUR FIRST SET EVALUATION ONLINE - THIS CAN BE DONE ON ANY DEVICE. YOUR FEEDBACK WILL BE KEPT SECURE AND ANONYMOUS, BUT NOW LECTURERS AND COURSE CO-ORDINATORS CAN GET AGGREGATED DATA AND START ACTING ON IT SOONER! GO TO [WWW.AUCKLAND.AC.NZ/EVALUATE](http://WWW.AUCKLAND.AC.NZ/EVALUATE) FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR CONTACT YOUR CLASS REP.

### SOMSA HOSTED POST-CONCERT MEET-UP - NEW ZEALAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AOTEAROA PLUS

JOIN US SATURDAY 7TH MAY FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL OF MUSIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION HOSTED POST-CONCERT MEETUP! MEET US AT CITIZEN Q (Q THEATRE BAR

RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THE TOWN HALL!) AFTER NZSO'S PERFORMANCE OF AOTEAROA PLUS TO HAVE A DRINK, SOCIALIZE WITH FELLOW MUSIC LOVERS, DISCUSS THE CONCERT, AND NETWORK. NOT TO MENTION YOU GET 10% OFF DRINKS WITH STUDENT ID. DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN PAY YOUR AGE FOR NZSO TICKETS? BUT GET IN QUICK AS THEY'RE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY! CHECK OUT THE NZSO WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK. WANT TO WIN A DOUBLE PASS TO THE CONCERT? EASY - JUST HEAD OVER TO THE SOMSA FB PAGE, LIKE THE POST AND TAG THE FRIEND\* YOU'D LIKE WITH YOU TO BE IN TO WIN! \*YOU AND YOUR FRIEND MUST BE UNDER 35 ;)

WANT YOUR CLUB FEATURED HERE? EMAIL [CSO@AUSA.ORG.NZ](mailto:CSO@AUSA.ORG.NZ)

# INTERVIEW WITH THE MEDIA OFFICER - ZAVARA FARQUHAR

The sight of Zavara approaching with her computer has struck dread into the heart of Executive members, afraid to be made accountable to the students that they serve. Always on the lookout for the next big scoop or scandal - what secrets would President Will Matthews uncover when Zavara herself was in the hot-seat?

**Why do you like asking people about their lives so much? Are you trying to live vicariously through them to fill some kind of void in your own life?**

*That's one way of putting it... It's also a good opportunity to get to know people outside of the AUSA sphere, but it gives me significantly more to experience by living vicariously through others.*

**You usually take minutes and follow up on action points on Executive meetings, and do a number of other routine administrative tasks around AUSA. Is this in preparation for the years you will have to spend photocopying and fetching coffee as a recent Law graduate?**

*The reality is, I already spend a lot of time photocopying and fetching coffee for myself. Either I'll be a law graduate or I'll become an academic sitting in my office, typing and hoping to write something that will make money.*

**So at least you don't pretend that you're doing law "for the community"?**

*I have no idea what law I'm interested in yet... I read an article in Craccum about how you had to sell your soul in law. I like that law makes you think completely differently, and how you get challenged to solve problems in new ways.*

**Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Labour Party?**

*No. But I have been a member of Internet-Mana*

**Really. Why.**

*I liked their initial move to crowdsource ideas and have a good online presence. Although they didn't pull it off, it was a really good move to participatory democracy.*

**Shoot, Shag, Marry - Kim Dotcom, Laila Harre, Hone Harawira**

*Oh god. \*long pause\* Shoot Hone, Shag Laila, Marry Kim*

**So you're a racist gold-digger**

*I knew that you would say that. No, I'm just looking after my wellbeing.*

**What's your stance on the US Presidential Election? Hillary or Bernie? Donald or Ted? Who's going to win in November?**

*I feel the Bern, but I think it's likely to end up between Hillary and Trump at this stage, because of the way the primaries are set up to work.*

**Would you rather have as President of the United States? Donald Trump or Joseph Kony?**

*I'm wondering which one would be easier to overthrow. We've already tried to get rid of Kony and failed, but Trump has already character assassinated himself so that would be difficult... I'd go for Trump but ban him from going to any other country and isolate him until he steps down.*

**What do you think of the Pokemon I've assigned you?**

*I like Eevee, she's my favourite Pokemon! I'm very happy with it because I have lots of scarves and Eevee looks like she's wearing a scarf. \*puts on scarf\**

**What has been the most rewarding part of being on the AUSA Executive so far?**

*The most rewarding part has been getting to learn so much. How to take minutes, how to chair a meeting, but also how to lead and govern*



SHOWING SNOOP HOW IT'S DONE SINCE 1996

*organisations, and how I can make a difference in my organisation. It's learning and doing at the same time. ■*

GOT QUESTIONS FOR ZAVARA OR ANY OF THE OTHER EXEC? EMAIL [MO@AUSA.ORG.NZ](mailto:MO@AUSA.ORG.NZ)



# WHY SHOULD I VOTE IN THE AUSA BY-ELECTION?

Usually, each position on the AUSA Executive is filled in the elections held the year before the Executive takes up their positions (e.g. the Political Engagement Officer for 2016 was elected in August 2015). However, if a position isn't filled in these general elections because no one runs for a position, or if the position is filled but this Executive member resigns, a by-election is held.

There are currently vacancies in the Culture and Arts Officer and International Students Officer positions, hence the by-election! A by-election is run like any other election, except that there are fewer positions up for grabs and the Executive members that are elected in a by-election will have a shorter term, as they are joining the Executive later on in the game.

The reasons that we need people in these positions are fairly obvious. Since the majority of AUSA Executive members are full-time students and have jobs, the expectation is that each of the Portfolio Executive members (everyone who is not the President, Vice-Presidents or Treasurer) should only be working 10 hours a week. With two Portfolio Executive members down, AUSA is effectively missing

out on the contributions of a part-time worker every week that these positions remain vacant. This means that the general responsibilities of Portfolio Executive members (helping with regular AUSA events such as the AUSA Ball, Student Fora, Orientation Week, Re-O Week or End of Daze) are having to be spread across fewer people or not being fulfilled as much as they could be with a full Executive.

More specifically (and obviously, from the titles of the positions alone), there are events relating directly to each position which may never happen if each specific position isn't filled. The International Students' Officer has the capacity to organise employment advice events for international students, rallies about refugee crises or awareness campaigns about the safety of international students on campus. Equally, they are an important point of contact for the Equity Office and the International Committee (although they do not necessarily sit on this committee). With the numbers of international students at the University increasing by roughly 6% this year and more refugee students being welcomed into the University community, it is imperative that we have a student on the Executive whose specific role can cover these needs.

The Culture and Arts Officer also has scope to organise events specific to their role, such as Cultural Week, more regular concerts or Talent Quests and collaborations with cultural and arts clubs on campus. Fostering the artistic

talents and/or cultural links that students have (but don't necessarily get to put to use in their studies) is an important part of life on campus and the Culture and Arts Officer needs to show that these skills and groups are respected and give them a platform to share with the rest of the student body. More generally, a University lacking in cultural and artistic appreciation isn't much of a University at all. As it becomes increasingly easier to focus purely on grades and having enough money to feed oneself, making sure that student life has an aspect of entertainment and extra-curricular engagement.

Besides what having these positions filled could bring in terms of a more efficient Executive, advocacy for specific groups and a more diverse range of events on campus, it's really important that you vote for who makes decisions in AUSA. Although the President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer take care of the administrative day-to-day running of AUSA, major strategic decisions have to be passed by the Executive as a whole. Who you vote for in each and every position has an impact on how discussions around AUSA strategy for events, budgeting and advocacy go. With fewer positions being elected in a by-election, all voters have a real chance to focus on the specific needs of these roles and the people that they want to see filling them. ■

## Notice of Polling Booth Times for 2016 Culture & Arts Officer & 2016 International Students' Officer By-Election

By-Election will be held on Tuesday-Thursday (3-5 May 2016)

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>QUAD</b>	11-4	11-4	11-4
<b>KATE EDGER / INFORMATION COMMONS</b>	11-3	11-6	11-3
<b>OGG</b>	11.30-1.30		11.30-1.30
<b>LAW SCHOOL</b>		11.30-2	

Only current AUSA Members may vote.

You must present your Student ID card (with 2016 sticker on) to the polling staff when you vote.

You must be an AUSA Member as of 3pm, 29 April 2016 to be on the roll of members for voting.

DANIEL HAINES  
AUSA RETURNING OFFICER





# ausa by-election blurbs

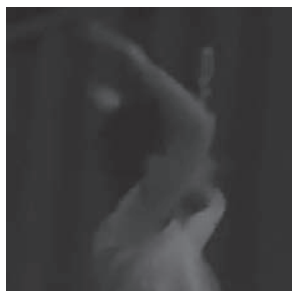
## CULTURE & ARTS OFFICER



### MAHARAJ, Anoushka

NOMINATOR: LISA DICK  
SECONDER: DANIEL FRENCH, GEORGIA HARRIS

Hey pals, my name is Anoushka, and I am running for the position of Culture and Arts Officer for this year. I'm a third year Politics student, so I am equal parts passionate, dedicated and looking for ways to improve the little world around us – which, right now, is UoA. Our community, made up of you and your peers, is passionate and tenacious, and it is my top priority to reflect your energy as an executive in your student association. I will aim to represent what is important to you, be it through cultural events, club and society events, and the things that reflect what this university means to you. I will work hard for you, listen to you, advocate for you, and hopefully, with your many different voices and ideas, we can make the university experience as fulfilling as it can, and should, be. ■



### WINSTANLEY, Andrew

NOMINATOR: CAITLIN LYNCH  
SECONDER: COURTNEY DAVIS, JEMIMA PINEDA

hell yea b\*\*\*\* dis go hard as hell flocka i will suck big dick team s\*\*\* all day and week month year and century i love big naps D I C K S Q U A D ■



### WANG, Yilong

NOMINATOR: PAHT SATJIPANON  
SECONDER: GRISELDA NATHALIA, SAM HAMBLING

Kia ora, I'm Yilong Wang and I'm running for International Students' Officer. I am outgoing, reliable and committed to ensuring international students get the support, resources and equal opportunities we need. I believe such a position in the AUSA is extremely important.

International students are not treated as equals and face discriminatory practices in job applications, safety issues and lack of support and other unique challenges. An international student is just another student at the University of Auckland and yet we are not eligible to apply for Microsoft internships in New Zealand because of our birthplace. We have become targets for attack in Albert Park because of negative stereotyping.

While the international student office does help us apply for student visas we receive little support, outside of that, from the University of Auckland. I would raise the issue of discriminatory hiring practices with the University of Auckland directly and encourage them to advocate on our behalf. You would have the chance to participate in UoA student accommodation events, giving you the opportunity to make friends on campus. I will also help foster event collaboration involving the various international students' groups.

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi ■

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICER

### ZHANG, Peigen

NOMINATOR: RITHIKA PANDYA  
SECONDER: HANNA AUNG, STEVEN MORGAN

Hi all, I'm Peigen and I am stoked about running to be your AUSA International student officer for 2016.

It is no secret that studying and living in an unfamiliar country can be extremely daunting. You have to deal with everything on your own, from seeking medical help to moving into your new home, or simply doing an assignment (It's actually harder than it sounds). After been living at Auckland for 5 years, I understand everything an international students can come across.

AUSA provides all sorts of services to all students and campaigns for your benefits and interests. As an international student officer, I'd love to be the bridge between you and AUSA, thinking in your perspective and being the rock that you can lean on 24/7. ■





# gag order

jack adams explores the dangers  
of stifling debate at university

University has been a bit of a shit experience. Confrontation is an integral part of academic development, yet all of the experiences I have at university are intellectual stand-offs or the eventual token nod – signalling that the opponent accepts that they don't agree, but is unwilling to put a case forward. There are many positive and socially constructive elements to university discourse, but the mass of the student body align themselves without critique, and without reason.

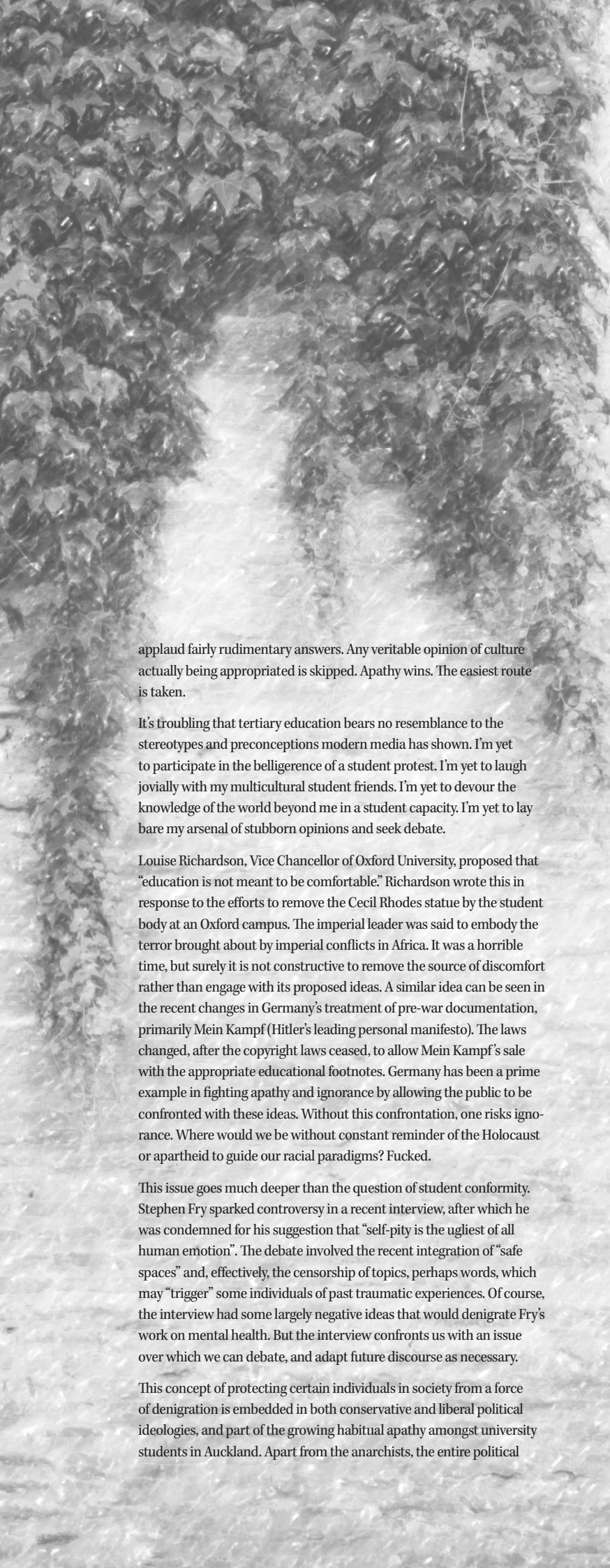
Of course, advocating women's rights through being pro-choice is something that should become widespread. But merely wiping away any debate from the neat chalk patterns on the footpath is not part of a debate, just ignoring someone's confrontation. Tutorials are an arena of insistent nods and conformist thoughts. Through marking, lecturers and tutors assert their opinions as fact. Hesitant eye-contact and quivering smiles accompany those afraid of confronting the conflict at hand. University has become a place of opinionated stand-offs and it is harming the state of academia and social discourse – we've come to a sort of halt. Views have been stifled en masse in an effort to encourage any provocation. Quite often views are brought into line, with anyone not complying shot on sight without trial (or debate). No student dare discuss their reasoning behind opinions, leaving the campus as washed up as the Pro-Life movement and their dastardly chalk. When views are considered axiomatic, discussion narrows.

Negotiating conflict is a key part of intellectual engagement at university. Mixing idealistic youth and the wisdom, knowledge, and guidance of our academic forefathers creates an enlightened culture. It is this activism and knowledge that has caused historic

social upheaval. Without this academic culture, we would never have had the likes of Lenin to capture the contempt of the proletariat and bathe in the bourgeois blood. Korea would never have seen its nineteenth century nationalistic movement in Pagoda Park.

Student apathy has grown out of this fear of confrontation, and it is leading to a conformist, easily-manipulated student body. We seek sedation instead of activism. There is nothing more frightening than a youth that doesn't want change. This student apathy is well observed, too. This magazine's readership consists almost exclusively of the writers' friends and families. All too often, one makes the comment that *Craccum* is merely a shit magazine with poor content, but few are willing to engage with the issue and actually say what is shit about it. The more one delves into university culture, the more apparent this becomes. Conversations are framed around the assumption that the topic at hand ought to be axiomatic. In tutorials, those who consider themselves insightful reply to a question by mentioning a term like "cultural appropriation", then proceed to repeat the same sentence multiple times with a varied order. Discussion is shoved aside in favour of students' self-serving attempts to appear academic. Classmates





applaud fairly rudimentary answers. Any veritable opinion of culture actually being appropriated is skipped. Apathy wins. The easiest route is taken.

It's troubling that tertiary education bears no resemblance to the stereotypes and preconceptions modern media has shown. I'm yet to participate in the belligerence of a student protest. I'm yet to laugh jovially with my multicultural student friends. I'm yet to devour the knowledge of the world beyond me in a student capacity. I'm yet to lay bare my arsenal of stubborn opinions and seek debate.

Louise Richardson, Vice Chancellor of Oxford University, proposed that "education is not meant to be comfortable." Richardson wrote this in response to the efforts to remove the Cecil Rhodes statue by the student body at an Oxford campus. The imperial leader was said to embody the terror brought about by imperial conflicts in Africa. It was a horrible time, but surely it is not constructive to remove the source of discomfort rather than engage with its proposed ideas. A similar idea can be seen in the recent changes in Germany's treatment of pre-war documentation, primarily *Mein Kampf* (Hitler's leading personal manifesto). The laws changed, after the copyright laws ceased, to allow *Mein Kampf*'s sale with the appropriate educational footnotes. Germany has been a prime example in fighting apathy and ignorance by allowing the public to be confronted with these ideas. Without this confrontation, one risks ignorance. Where would we be without constant reminder of the Holocaust or apartheid to guide our racial paradigms? Fucked.

This issue goes much deeper than the question of student conformity. Stephen Fry sparked controversy in a recent interview, after which he was condemned for his suggestion that "self-pity is the ugliest of all human emotion". The debate involved the recent integration of "safe spaces" and, effectively, the censorship of topics, perhaps words, which may "trigger" some individuals of past traumatic experiences. Of course, the interview had some largely negative ideas that would denigrate Fry's work on mental health. But the interview confronts us with an issue over which we can debate, and adapt future discourse as necessary.

This concept of protecting certain individuals in society from a force of denigration is embedded in both conservative and liberal political ideologies, and part of the growing habitual apathy amongst university students in Auckland. Apart from the anarchists, the entire political

spectrum seeks protection of someone. National have actively sought to create "an investment for the future" in tax policies. Labour has historically fought for worker's rights. By no means are we discussing new matters; simply, we are experiencing them in the wake of social media and the artificial representation of oneself. This protection is not inherently bad, though to the extreme it presents a culture of comfort, and thus unwillingness to face the harsh and undistinguished world of social morality and so forth.

This comfort is rooted in what many people refer to as "political correctness". As we aim to negate any opinion perceived as wrong, we are demolishing the very values we are aiming to protect – the intellectual freedom of individuals.

The idea of political correctness is seen in early studies on Stalinist politics. It holds that certain views are politically "correct" and align with the governing power's manifesto. A pejorative then. A pejorative now. The term was, albeit tenuous, gentrified in the 1970s onwards when the "New Left" adopted it across various liberal academia and factions. This New Left is known in New Zealand as the changing face of the Labour Party, in which members increasingly came from professional backgrounds instead of the traditionally oppressed working-class. Political correctness grew into a greater awareness of LGBT rights and other controversial contemporary issues. Disparaging opinions on individual freedoms churned social norms and strived towards the egalitarian society each generation of student has aimed towards.

The modern pejorative of political correctness is very much the same now, but to the point that it deprecates any individual freedom. Of course, we must keep striving for the equality that is natural. In the 1970s, same-sex marriage was not only illegal, but so was even having the attraction to the person. Now, this is very much changing in both social paradigms and the law itself. This has occurred through protest, debate and acceptance of what it means to be human. This did not come along easily. It was actively fought in intellectual forums, notably universities, where social liberalism is expected of us. As many fight the horrific experiences of their lives, to change things, we must discuss and rally for social change – we all must fight by the tongue, not by shutting off the world around us. Change comes not from ignorance of reality, but from distending societal fabric. With this new sense of comfort, these groups are not necessarily gaining the same sense of equality as there is no conflicting force driving change forward.

Stephen Fry envisioned a world authored by Orwell in the interview. Hysterical? Perhaps so, but it is a comment that must be faced. Confront it. This self-censorship amongst the student body is a destructive force to the academic potential of student activism. He held that considering safe spaces in the realm of academia and intellectual thought was counterintuitive. It is this form of censorship that is disruptive, especially in the arts, where plays often involve rape, suicide, homicide, and language considered otherwise inappropriate, potentially to the reader's revisited trauma. Shakespeare delved into poetry involving rape. Even insincere works such as Chaucer proposed the vulgarity of female genitalia. This is not the case in our university, but it could easily occur if we refrain from confronting the uncomfortable. Womenspace and Queerspace are two brilliant examples of AUSA pushing for acceptance and student satisfaction. However, it's the unwillingness to debate them that can be dangerous when it comes to future matters.

If you don't allow counter-opinions to be heard, your intentions can become as destructive as that which you are attempting to prevent. Student apathy has led to academic conformity and a "going with the flow" mentality which prevents full discourse from occurring. And perhaps the results will be Orwellian. ■







# i bless the children down in africa

julia wiener sheds light on voluntourism  
and who really benefits from it

As our semester has been sliced into three portions by the chocolate-drenched awkwardness of Easter, and we're robbed of a fortnight of slobbering out in exchange for two doses of half-way-relaxation, the mind turns to holidays.

The poorer among us, who didn't go backpacking in Thailand or spend a week on the Gold Coast, promised ourselves that we'd catch up on those readings we've been neglecting since week two, write all our assignments, go to the gym and investigate the source of that weird smell emanating from the bathroom cupboard. For most of us, that is enough. Some people, though, go a step further: those virtuous super-humans who decide to spend their holiday helping others, who pour their spare time into bettering the lot of the disadvantaged. It's a trend that's been growing since the mid-2000s: affluent, usually young, usually white people from first world countries spend their holidays volunteering in the third world – where they spend a week teaching English, building a school or constructing a well, only to return with a tan and a newfound appreciation for indoor toilets. They're absolute saints. While the road to hell is paved with good intentions, in this case it's the other way around: skewed intentions can nevertheless lead to positive results.

There are benefits of the exercise. If you go to the Dominican Republic to teach some kids English for a week, at the end of the week there will be a classroom full of kids who now know how to count to ten. It's the same with any charitable exercise – be it entrepreneurial advice or manual labour – most volunteer support will see positive results. And sometimes this benefit is life-changing in magnitude: the structures volunteers build can mean the difference between a daily two-hour trek to water and a shot at a primary education. Further, the money spent on the holiday parts of the trip alone brings cash into local economies – about \$2 billion a year is spent by the annual 1.6 million volunteers who decide to embark on this type of holiday. In more ways than one, then, these people do good. So why does it still carry a tinge of disingenuousness?

Well, it's relatively ineffective. Ever heard of effective altruism? If you're trying to make the world a better place, you shouldn't be directing your resources in the way that gives you the warmest fuzzies, but rather in the direction that will do the maximum good. If your aim is to improve the lot of those less fortunate than you, there are infinitely more effective ways to spend thousands of dollars and a week of your life than by flying away on holiday to Bamako or Santo Domingo.

If you really wanted to maximise the effectiveness of your charity, it'd be much better to work for that week and donate the money you

earn to an organisation that will employ local people to do the job better than any undergrad ever could. For every hut you build and post on your Facebook profile, there is a construction worker who needed only the concrete and steel to build it himself. The very lack of specialised skills necessary which allows twenty-year-old Tiffany to go and build a classroom in Sierra Leone means that, provided with the right materials, a local could have done it too, and probably better. This has the added advantage of putting wealth back into the local economy. The money and planning spent on plane tickets and travel agencies surely would be better spent employing a local to build the thing you flew thousands of miles to construct.

In the United States, a university offered students the opportunity to teach English to schoolchildren in the Dominican Republic during their spring break. For \$13,000 a head, the university pushed its students into the world of international altruism: they were to become leaders, global citizens, masters of foreign affairs. The dozen 19-year olds, who didn't speak a word of Spanish, were to teach poor Dominican schoolchildren for a week, growing in both their personal appreciation for their own privilege and their capability in passing along hard-earned knowledge. The school at which they taught was the target of many of these types of voluntourist escapades, with different troops of WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants) coming in to teach every week. With the pedagogical capabilities of college

freshmen, this meant that the kids probably learned about one noun per month.

Very often these volunteers, though well intentioned, lack the skills to do the job properly. A first-year university student who dropped \$13k to spend a week teaching English, despite an utter lack of pedagogical training, undoubtedly would have spent that money better by donating to a charity that employed actual teachers who could impart knowledge for more than just a week at a time. Sometimes the cash volunteers drop on a single trip is enough to employ several local, trained people who would do it infinitely better, and for a longer period of time.

*If you're trying to make the world a better place, you shouldn't be directing your resources in the way that gives you the warmest fuzzies, but rather in the direction that will do the maximum good.*

In some extreme cases, the trips even do harm. "AIDS orphan tourism" has become a thing in South Africa, where volunteers temporarily care for children who have lost their parents to the virus. Noble as this seems, the kind of intermittent visits voluntourism inevitably entails have left many of these children with attachment disorders. Adding insult to the injury of orphanhood, the blossoming of this industry has encouraged some orphanages to keep children in poor conditions in order to attract more volunteers. Cases like this are rare, but they do raise a moral eyebrow around turning charity into a destination.

The intention hidden behind voluntourism is its biggest problem. Although some people genuinely think they're the best person to nail timber together in Timbuktu, most people with rational sense know that the money is more effectively spent on an organisation that can make positive change happen more efficiently and sustainably. The reason this trend continues, then, is because people do it for *themselves*. Although voluntourism may have a net positive outcome, the motivations driving it are fundamentally selfish.

Whether it's seeking personal growth or simply a desire to have the feeling of giving back, going on holiday on a quest to discharge the moral burden placed on you by virtue of living in the first world isn't the same thing as pursuing effective altruism. In volunteering on a planta-

tion in Guatemala, holidaymakers may well hone their empathy along with their Spanish. Understanding some degree of South American culture is undoubtedly a less shallow holiday pursuit than the beaches and beer sought by most other tourists in the region. At the same time, if self-discovery and learning how to roll one's "r"'s is the main reason people choose to undertake this kind of volunteering, it's a bit rich to claim that they're doing it out of anything but self-interest.

After a couple of weeks of unreliable electricity, ubiquitous cockroaches and suffocating public transport, voluntourists can fly home to show their Facebook friends the beautiful slum they graced with their Western presence and reminisce about how life-changing it was to teach English to brown kids and conquer their fear of squat toilets. Feeling like they've grown as a person and are now an expert on pan-African politics after a week of sweating in khakis, they return fulfilled and triumphant. A spring break helping the disadvantaged has become a marketable, boastable trip: you can now put your holiday on your job application.

The key issue with voluntourism as an industry is that it looks inwards, not forward: whatever gains may be made, they are driven by a selfish rather than charitable interest. Does it matter, though? Even if it's shoddy and has ethically questionable origins, by the end of the week there's a well, a school or a marginal gain in vocabulary where there wasn't one before. Volunteering isn't a zero-sum game and the fact that volunteers benefit from the exercise doesn't detract from the gains communities themselves make.

*If you really wanted to maximise the effectiveness of your charity, it'd be much better to work for that week and donate the money you earn to an organisation that will employ local people to do the job better than any undergrad ever could.*

In the end, how are we to judge our actions? It's solipsistic at best and arrogant at worst to assume that our internal motivations are the pre-eminent metric of "The Good". At the same time, can charity for the sake of the self really be regarded as charitable? The spirit of the builder may not really matter so long as the school gets built. ■



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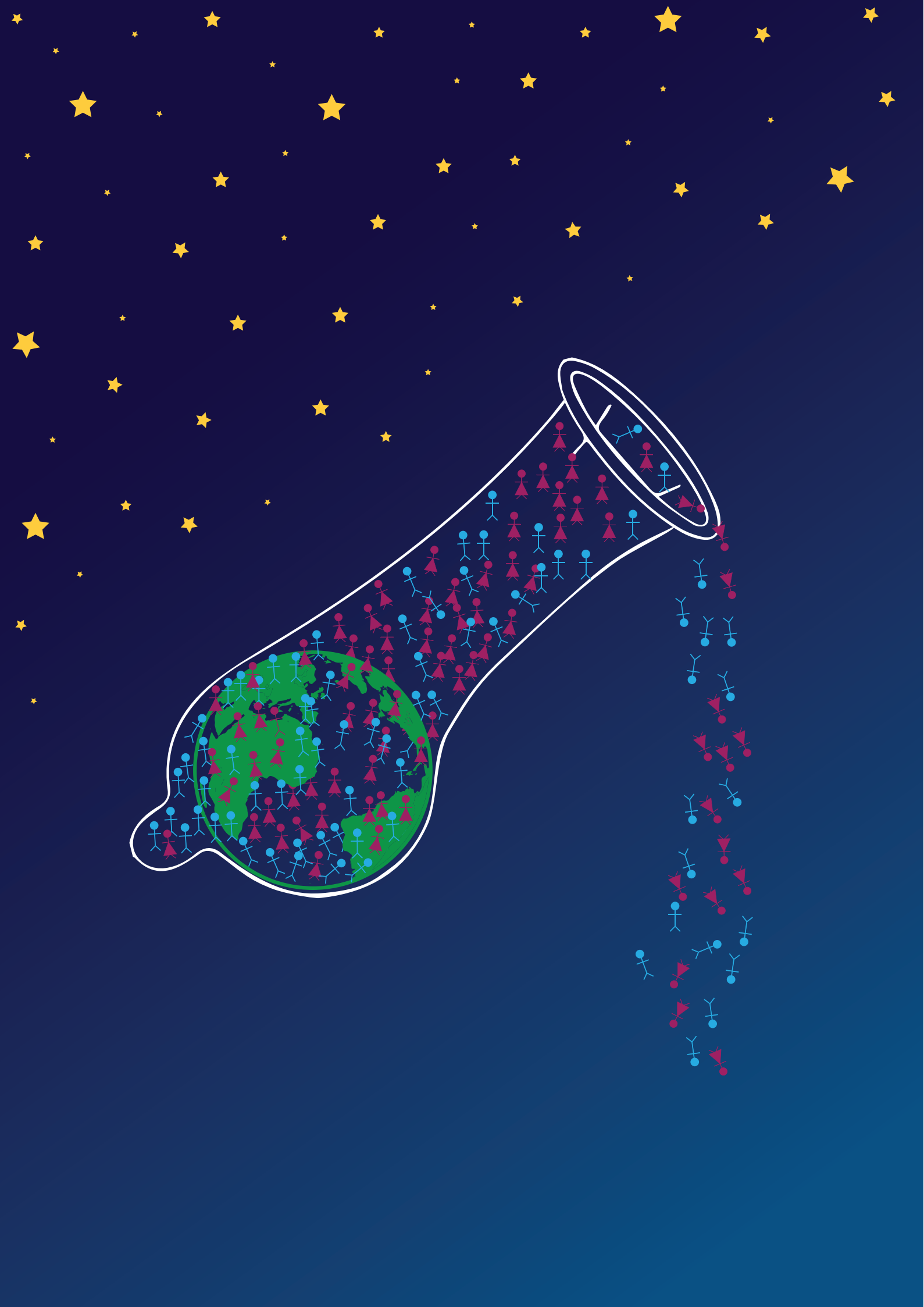
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# overpopulation from over-copulation

daniel meech wants you to invest in a box of condoms so you don't fuck over the world

Mother Nature is one hell of a moody bitch. If the last few decades have taught us anything, it's that. Global warming, deforestation, massive wildlife extinction – the message sent in from the news stations has been clear. Either we learn to stay on her good side, or we prepare to get fucked.

As a result, we've spent millions of dollars and billions of man hours cleaning up our act. We put our trash in the bin, we wheel out our recyclables every Tuesday, we wind down the car windows instead of turning on the air-con. We feel pretty good about ourselves. And yet, despite that feel-good boner we get every time we stoop to pick up litter, nothing we do will ever make a difference. Not to anything. The earth will go on heating up, the trees will keep falling over, and those poor little Maui dolphins swimming off the Eastern coast will slowly cease to exist. Why?

Because of a problem hardly anyone seems to be talking about: overpopulation. It's a relatively simple concept, really: we get more people, we need more things, we slowly bleed the earth dry. In terms of wildlife, this means slowly concreting over natural habitats as we expand gradually outwards in search of land. In terms of the Amazon, cutting our way through swathes of trees to provide for ever-increasing paper demands. The fish suffer when we trawl for more food. The polar bears fall off ice-caps because more people continue to pump more fuel into the atmosphere.

The demand created by our ever-burgeoning global population is the driving force behind whaling, global warming, deforestation and wildlife extinction. Studies conducted by the United Nations even point towards it as a major contributor to world hunger. And yet,

for a problem so ubiquitous, it receives very little attention. We'll all get up in arms over increased greenhouse emissions, but when it comes to admitting that we're the problem (not our actions, or even our politics, but the very fact of our existence) we get a little more evasive. No one wants to talk about the issue for the same reason Ted Bundy doesn't feature in party ice-breakers: it's all a little bit too depressing.

Unsurprising, then, that we tend to focus on the smaller picture: how we can combat climate change by turning off the heater, or reduce waste by feeding scraps to worm farms. We come up with a hundred different cute initiatives, all aimed at mitigating the impact we have on our environment. Unfortunately for us, it's all a load of pointless bullshit. Taking out the trash while continuing to pump out kiddies is a little like offering a band-aid to the splattered remains of a hit-and-run victim. A nice gesture, maybe, but not nearly enough to save the poor bastard.

And don't just take my (admittedly fairly dubious) word for it: a 2009 Oregon State University study showed that the average woman, already working as hard as she possibly could to reduce her carbon footprint, would see it increase 40 times over with the addition of a single child to the equation. How much extra emission is that exactly? Oh, only around 9,500 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide. You could drive to uni in a fleet of oil-leaking tanks, hanging out the top-hatch and firing plastic bags out of a t-shirt cannon while you smashed your way through a forest full of native Kauri, and you'd still be doing less damage to the environment than a single night of unprotected sex. Makes you wonder if that Starbucks cup you put in the trash really will go on to make a difference.

Now, don't get me wrong. We shouldn't just throw our hands up in the air and give in. I'm a terrible greenie (the closest I've ever come to saving the earth was a drunken piss in a pot

plant during St Paddy's day) but even I know we're doubly fucked if we stop trying altogether. If we want to make a real change, to really clean up our act, then it's time we examined the root cause of all these environmental issues: the incredible rate at which we're consuming natural resources. Because, unfortunately for us, while there's an infinite supply of barely-functioning morons (just look through the comments section of any website ever), there's only a finite number of resources.

It's time we started cutting down on our population. Not what we want to hear, probably, but the raw, harsh truth. Time we started wearing condoms, or, at the very least, smothering our children before they're big enough to have their own. (For all of you offended: of course I didn't mean that last part. Although, you have to admit, watching that "Here's a tip" wanker telling parents how to hold the pillow would make for a pretty interesting PSA). The alternative is waiting until the governments do it for us: ushering in a whole new era of legislation-controlled birth rights 1980s China-style. Personally, I'm going celibate – not out of choice, mind you, but because my face looks like a bruised arse that's fallen backwards down a concrete stairwell. In that regard, I'm kind of glad for the excuse overpopulation gives. I'm not an unattractive dickhead – I'm just doing my bit to save the planet.

So if you're not too keen to see the end of the world just yet, follow suit and crack down on baby-making. No one cares how you do it, as long as it's done – sandals and socks, a WoW subscription. The important thing is that you're doing it for the (non-existent) future generation. Invest in a box of condoms. Ironically enough, it's the one non-degradable plastic bag that's guaranteed to save the planet. Or, at the very least, pick up a bottle of sunscreen. You're gonna need it for the upcoming global warming apocalypse. ■



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## This is Arts related, I promise

ARTS EDITORIAL WITH SAMANTHA GIANOTTI

Mark often offers me rides to places. As a floundering learner driver, this gesture is much appreciated. Last week, Mark picked me up bare-chested and sweaty from the indoor soccer game he had just finished. (Or more accurately, the indoor soccer game he had just absented himself from with ten minutes to go in order to make it to a dumpling dinner at New Flavour.) This was less appreciated.

A woman in the car next to us at the red light glanced over at Mark in all his sweaty, bare-chested glory. "I'm not a piece of meat!" he shrieked as he careened around the corner in his Hyundai Getz.

Mark would like to suggest that this ogling was the result of his black mane wafting sexily in the breeze from the air conditioning vent. To be fair, his hair is pretty fucking luscious. No, it is more likely that this woman was wondering why the kid from *The Jungle Book* was driving a car in Mt Eden; you see, Mark is limber and long-limbed like the mancub himself, and regularly wears pink booty shorts that more than slightly resemble Mowgli's red loincloth.

Both the editors of *Craccum* are very attractive individuals. This has absolutely no bearing upon their editorial ability (except, I suppose, the fact that they use their wives and attractive faces to convince a bunch of people to help them make a magazine for free). Caitlin and

Mark have facial features ripe for comparison with celebrities, fictional characters, and members of the animal kingdom. This is actually why they won the *Craccum* election last year; ecstatic voters could be seen streaming through the quad shouting that they couldn't wait for Sirius Black and Lily Potter to run their student mag in 2016.

Allow me to itemise.

### **Mark "the Mancub" Fullerton:**

#### A lithe Jon Snow

Kit Harington may be handy with a blade, but Mark could use his pointy knees or razor sharp chin to disembowel a White Walker.

#### The black stilt bird species

As I write this, Mark is sitting two metres away, fossicking through a small Tupperware container filled with sundry seeds. His foraging fingers are remarkably similar to the creepily long beak of the native black stilt bird that, just like Mark, has a body that is two-thirds skinny legs. (I don't know if black stilts actually eat seeds, I'm not a fucking bird scientist).

#### A hairstyle that toes the line between Jim Morrison and Anton Chigurh from *No Country for Old Men*

Mark's angular cheeks are framed by long black hair (unless he has tied it up in a half bun while he pretends he is furiously working on an editorial but is instead watching *Pingu* videos on Facebook). Mostly, Mark looks like he could bust out a one-man rendition of The Doors' discography, but on the odd occasion he does look like he might murder me with a cattle gun.

### **Caitlin "Babs the chicken from *Chicken Run*" Abley:**

#### Judy Garland (feat. dog in picnic basket)

Just like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, Caitlin is a redhead with a beautiful face and a heart of gold. And just like Dorothy, Caitlin's best friend is her dog, and she too would carry him round in a picnic basket were he not a 35kg Border Collie/Labrador cross.

I cannot confirm that Caitlin has never tried.

#### Sansa Stark in the streets, Khaleesi in the sheets

Caitlin's auburn hair and milky skin (ironically, dairy products make her vomit) make her visage a shoo-in for comparisons with the eldest Stark daughter. However, her Irish swear words and lack of tolerance for dickheads make comparisons with Daenerys circa season three far more fitting. This is a little bit to do with the fact that she is a fiery lass who also mothers each of us even when we're being really fucking whiney, and a lot to do with the fact that she would bang Jorah Mormont given half a chance.

#### *The Birth of Venus* by Sandro Botticelli

Caitlin does not often prance around in a giant shell nude, but should the day come, her long silken hair would certainly be of a suitable length to drape modestly over her crotch.

Someone once told me that I "reminded them of someone from *High School Musical* – the fat one that dances on the table during 'Stick to the Status Quo'." So I guess we're all winners here. ■



## good night, sweet prince

In the five weeks following David Bowie's death I was in a glum funk. A sweaty pallor had draped itself upon me. All I listened to was Bowie. I was unable to maintain a drive to work, communicate, or look after myself. In late February I received a text from a recent friend. "I asked my assistant to try and get Prince tickets. She got two." It took about half an hour of flirtatious nonsense until I could ascertain the reason he was telling me this: I was being invited to see Prince.

For a moment, Bowie was pushed to the back of my mind. I was going to get to see Prince! I adore his music, but even if I didn't. He's The Purple One, the Sultry Sultan, Joey Coco and Jamie Starr. Even excluding the most famous AKA, who else has that many pseudonyms? Prince was directly responsible for the development of the parental advisory sticker on CDs. He could play seventeen instruments. He had a vault filled with unreleased albums. These little nuggets have been swirling around in article-upon-article since his death, but they were also key attempts to summarise him during his life. Dedicated to controlling his distribution, he was private, secretive, eccentric, and unrelentingly ambiguous.

Because he took such a dictatorial stance towards the internet, his significance to a younger audience has been stymied. Of course, not everything has to belong to the youth - when I was about nine I found a copy of *Prince Interactive* amongst my mother's possessions, but our Windows 98 was too sophisticated to run the program. This techno-generational slippage may be why the demographic at the Prince concert in February skewed even older than the audiences at Fleetwood Mac or Bruce Springsteen; but the the lack of youth did nothing to limit the energetic tension bubbling across the thousands decked out in purple and raspberry. Screaming and singing and dancing jolted across the entire show from the moment he, Prince Rogers Nelson, *the Prince Rogers Nelson*, appeared as a gold-tinged silhouette. And he played to it. The house lights were raised midway through the show to guilt attendees into standing up, and when a singalong didn't happen when it should've Prince would go back and try, try, try again. Prince deserves a reaction, and he was going to get it even if he had to ask. His sensuous melodies are catalysts for movement. To reject one is to reject the body.

The highlight of the show came during one of his mid-song interludes. Partway into "Cream" he delivered a short sermon on "self-preservation". As I said before, throughout my mourning this concept had disappeared and insistence that I "get over it" from family and friends went uncomprehended. The message

*had* to come from Prince. It did, multiple times that night, again and again for the rest of the show. He'd lean into the microphone and gruffly whisper "self-preservation". Electric, a shot shared by all.

After the show ended my friend and I took our complementary copies of the new album, *Hit n Run Phase Two*, and went to dinner. Throughout the meal the endorsement, "self-preservation," cycled through me. The term "Sh-Boogie-Bop" did too, but that was probably unrelated. We went to his place to have a drink and listen to the album, but my mind continued ticking. How could Prince, a singular vision holding such energy, such eclectic skill, be able to share himself so widely? My friend asked if I wanted to stay the night, and as much as I might have liked the guy I declined. Bigger fish to fry. "Self-preservation." He didn't call me again after that. I can't blame him.

Prince was canonically ambiguous regarding sexuality. However, once he became a Jehovah's Witness his hetero-powers increased and he said some unambiguously homophobic shit. I suspect he would have disapproved of the reason I was able to go to the concert (although perhaps capitalism trumps all), but what he might have believed doesn't change an iota of what he meant to his fans, and how he made me feel three months ago. "Partyman," "Controversy," an impossible number of hits, are part of a collective memory, defining sex and gender as free for all. ■ THEO MACDONALD





## Trágame Tierra

Big Black Delta

ALBUM REVIEW BY CATRIONA BRITTON

Sometimes you just feel like a boogie. Sometimes you just need to get that goddamn two-step out of your system and thrash your arms about like you're at some dirty, sweaty, underground rave. I'm not talking about a tween rave here. I'm talking about a real, suffocating rave restricted by a small space where noise bounces off the walls and from which you emerge into the quietness of open air. *Trágame Tierra* can offer you this.

Big Black Delta (solo-project of Mellowdrones' Jonathan Bates) has produced synth-heavy, multi-layered tracks that make full use of almost otherworldly electronica, with a clear nod to the 80s. The tracks are sonically diverse, most driven by pop-heavy beats. They contain sounds and melodies you cannot possibly fathom, stratospheric almost, and deep, pulsing bass lines that struggle to break the surface. The album builds up to a dizzying climax with "Let's Go Home", only to sigh with relief on "It's OK" as it begins its descent to earth.

This album features vocals by Debbie Gibson on "RCVR", Kimbra on "Bitten by the Apple" and Susanne Sundfør on "Overload". "RCVR" in particular is the most 80s of the lot. It's vibrant and serves a catchy hook that will get you singing along. "It's OK" also offers an uplifting anthem for those who feel a little melancholy. Perhaps it's difficult to get a strong emotional connection from some of these songs, as when Bates attempts to croon on "Well My Heart", it's a bit cheesy and insincere.

But the brilliance of this album is in its sonic experimentation. Bates just needs to find the balance with equally captivating lyrics that don't get lost behind the noise. ■



## Overwatch

GAME REVIEW BY EUGENIA WOO

I'm Blizzard trash. I've played every Blizzard game, and I consider my tenure as the main tank for a progression raiding guild in World of Warcraft way above getting into law school in terms of lifelong achievements. I'm Blizzard trash so it pains me to say this, but *Overwatch* isn't as great as I thought it would be.

*Overwatch* is Blizzard's first proper attempt at making a first-person shooter game, and it definitely shows. The game has all the bells and whistles, polished maps, efficient match-making, and commendable voice-acting. The downside? A UI with barely-visible skillshot indicators, a lack of balance between playable characters, and a number of classes who play like repackaged extras conceived by the costume designer of *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

*Overwatch* has done a stellar job of creating engaging backstories for every character, and that's to be expected; Blizzard has always been good at crafting lore when it counts. However, beyond the few who get all the screentime in Blizzard's cinematically-impressive trailers, the skills available to the rest don't necessarily sync up with their roles in this Blade Runner-esque universe populated by superheroes. A character who can blink back and forth through time and space after being subjected to a top-secret military test program? Cool, fun, fitting. A gunslinger armed with a six-shooter standing up against undead assassins and cyborg monks with psychic powers? Ill-conceived, clunky, out of place.

*Overwatch* has a lot of good things going for it, despite my disappointment. The beta had frequent quality of life updates, and notoriously hard-to-please critics haven't lambasted the devs for everything yet. There's still scope for development and balancing before the game's official release, so I'm valiantly holding on to the hope that when the 24th of May rolls around, *Overwatch* will be more than just an afterthought in Blizzard's box of toys. ■



## Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise

FILM REVIEW BY NIKKI ADDISON

This documentary is the first about the iconic African American poet, author and performer, who passed away in 2014 at 86 years of age. Directors Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whack seamlessly blend together filmed footage, rare photos and commentaries from those who had known Angelou to create a documentary that follows her life chronologically. *And Still I Rise* differs from other docos in that the subject is the central voice. Angelou was able to tell her life story on camera before her death, and so much of what we hear is in her words. Other speakers include Bill Clinton, for whom Angelou wrote and performed an inauguration poem, philanthropist Oprah Winfrey, hip hop artist Common and more.

Angelou's life and legacy are inimitable. Her first autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, was published a year after Martin Luther King's assassination, a continuation of her role as an activist for the causes of King and Malcolm X. She was the first female African American to write about her traumatic upbringing, and she opened the door on previously unspoken issues such as childhood sexual abuse. She went on to write many more books and poems, and continued acting, singing and directing.

Angelou's death impacted everyone who had met her, heard her and seen her. Hercules and Coburn Whack assert that there was nobody quite like Angelou, who was not just loved for her literary achievements, but her calm demeanour and steady vision of peace and equality. Actress and old friend of Angelou, Alfre Woodard, closes the documentary by declaring that "nobody is gonna talk like she talked, and nobody is gonna walk like she walked." Do yourself a favour and watch this film so you can understand why. ■

THE FILM IS SHOWING AT THE 11TH DOCEDGE FESTIVAL IN AUCKLAND 18TH-29TH MAY.

## Stream Team

Going to the movies means putting on pants and leaving your house. For the times you're just not feeling up to it, here's a rundown of the streaming services available, a breakdown of the cost, and a lowdown on the shows you can enjoy in your pants-optional stupor.

### NETFLIX NZ

**Cost:** After a thirty-day free trial (winner winner chicken dinner), subscription prices range from \$9.99 to \$15.99 depending on the amount of devices you want to use and how HD you want your streaming to be.

**Compatible devices:** Smart TVs, gaming consoles, Blu-ray players, Apple TVs, smart phones, laptops, PCs.

**What's on:** Netflix Originals available here include *Daredevil*, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *House of Cards*, *Jessica Jones* (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED GUYS), *Orange is the New Black*, and *Narcos*.

### LIGHTBOX

**Cost:** \$12.99 monthly payment after your thirty-day free trial.

**Compatible devices:** TV, Google Chromecast, Playstation, Apple TVs, ya laptop and ya desktop computer, and iPhone, iPads, and Androids.

**What's on:** New show *The Path*, *Outlander*, *Transparent*, *Suits*, *Vikings*, *Mr Robot* to name a few.

### NEON

**Cost:** \$20 a month (u wot m8?!) after a thirty-day free trial.

**Compatible devices:** Samsung Smart TV, Google Chromecast, Xbox 360, Androids, desktops, laptops, iPads and iPhones.

**What's on:** *Game of Thrones*, *Reign*, *Fear the Walking Dead* and Ariana Grande's *iCarly* spin-off/*Victorious* crossover *Sam & Cat* (lol).

**Special shout-out to the WWE Network for hosting hours upon hours of sweaty pay-per-view live events, original content, and wrestling footage going back to the 60s. ■**



## Black Forest: Hansel and Gretel and the 420 Witch

FILM REVIEW BY CHRISTY BURROWS

From Duane Journey, the prestigious 'dolly grip: second unit' we know and love from the set of *Men in Black*, comes something... marginally less impressive. Stepping into the director's chair this time, Journey takes us on quite the trip. HAHHAHA. *Black Forest: Hansel and Gretel and the 420 Witch* is a stoner horror/comedy/parody which bases its story on the original fairytale by Hans Christian Anderson. It features youthful stoners seeking to acquire a special strain of marijuana from the aptly named 420 Witch, only to be either eaten by her, zombified, or used as compost for her magically seductive marijuana plants.

Highlights include a labyrinthine marijuana plant maze that Gretel navigates using Skittles instead of breadcrumbs, and a weird make-out scene between the 420 Witch as a middle aged woman and a young female Latina victim in a racy leopard print bra.

Lowlights are definately the 420 Witch killing a drug overlord by sticking a spigot into his stomach and draining his blood into a bucket, and Hansel popping a zombie's head off deftly with a spade, leaving a pulsing mess and visible spinal cord in his severed neck.

Best line: "Maybe she can spit her dentures out and suck my dick"

Worst line: "Maybe she can spit her dentures out and suck my dick"

I give this movie a 4 out of 20 and implore everybody to watch it on Netflix. The fact that movies like this exist is a testament to the weirdness of the world, which means that its existence (in theory) can only be a great thing. ■



## Nish Kumar

COMEDY REVIEW BY CAITLIN ABLEY

Nish Kumar describes himself as a "critically acclaimed comedian" – which, he says, means that critics love him, he uses long words, and his ticket sales are abysmal. Perhaps New Zealanders are more discerning than our British counterparts (unlikely) or perhaps we are just starved of international comedy, but the Comedy Classic was packed when we went to see him.

After the show, I heard someone next to me say "yeah nah, not laugh out loud funny aye but he was very witty". This is BULLSHIT, he was fucking hilarious, and I laughed the whole time. The show's content was an Arts student's wet dream – Nish also did an English/History degree, we r soulmates – with segments on gentrification, colonialism, neo-liberalism, and the general shitness of Rich White Men. Jizz, is all I can say. Perhaps it's not doubled-over-laughing, help-I-can't-breathe, fetch-my-smelling-salts sort of stuff but he manages to blend actual smart political commentary with enough silliness and exaggerated outrage that hearty chuckles abound.

About two-thirds of the way through the show he stopped and admitted that he had forgotten an integral part of his set, one that would set up his closing line. He then bashfully inserted the segment and was very self-deprecating about the whole thing. To be honest I was in love with him from the moment I realised he sounded like John Oliver (sex god), so I was very willing to think the best, but I reckon this was totally endearing and made him seem very approachable. As in, I will approach him. Marry me Nish.

Usually comedy reviews seem totally futile because by the time they go to print, the show has been and gone. However, Nish is performing for fucking ages – eleven shows at the Classic, finishing up on Saturday 7 May. If you want to tickle your little liberal pickle, check him out. ■



# Coac-hella Fashionable

ARTS COMMENT BY DANA TETENBURG

It's not music festival season here during our little old New Zealand autumn. It's not even music festival season when we're in summer – compared to the number of festivals the United States and the United Kingdom have in their summer, RnV, Northern Bass and Laneway don't really cut it for a thriving party term.

Luckily, we have celebrities' Instagrams to live through vicariously, longingly following the high life parties and better weather while we drown in assignments.

Coachella is an event likely to be on everyone's bucket list. Californian desert, art installations, beautiful sunsets, and A-listers from a variety of genres make for a great way to kick off the summer season. It's a music and art festival, but the music and art more or less act as a photo backdrop. Forget about who's actually on the stage – the Coachella vibes form a focus on the



fashion. The festival's hippie aesthetic attracts thousands of teenage girls dressed in bohemian florals, fringes, and face gems from Forever 21. The reported highlights of the festival are the fashion trends (chokers...shocker), and Taylor Swift and Kylie Jenner's new hairstyles. Kendall Jenner's Instagram photo was awarded most liked post of the Coachella season, even though the black hat, rounded sunglasses, lace bra and tanned skin are no stranger to the festival aesthetic. Even though everyone kind of looks the same, festivals are a chance to dress up. Fun in the sun makes for fun in the wardrobe. But when thousands of people all try to show off in the same theme, then the fashion becomes the topic to explore, targeting who amongst the crowd is actually standing out and culturally appropriating the most. With around 200 performers and 100,000 attendees, it makes sense that the camera has turned from the stage to the crowd.

Maybe this has become too much of a focus. There are more articles and reviews on the fashion than on the actual performances. Sia's

set and Kanye West's surprise stage attendance brought a little attention to the music of the music festival, but what the performers wore was just as important as what they actually performed. Some artists have attempted to get the tables turned back the other way, accentuating the hippie fringe and bare skin of festival wear to make headlines. But unless they decide to be super drastic, the performances at Coachella are just not that big of a deal anymore.

Everyone's a performer at Coachella, just on different platforms. Artists perform talent on the stage, attendees perform trend on the ground, sponsors perform attention on the side, and non-attendees perform reception on the Internet. A festival is defined as a period of celebration, and Coachella celebrates the action and reaction of fashion and style. It paints a portrait of America without apology, expressing a divide between the penniless and privileged, the music and the art. It's all just one big performance, and it's definitely one to keep an eye on. ■



# Avatar: HOW MANY SEQUELS???

ARTS COMMENT WITH JACK CALDWELL

We all remember James Cameron's 2009 blockbuster hit, *Avatar*. Blue people, incredible 3D visuals and a massive \$500 million budget (including marketing) that returned \$2.7 billion worldwide. Actually, that's probably all you remember.

Virtually none of the internet can remember the name of a single character from the film,

even though almost everybody watched it. Combine that with the white saviour plot that has been accused of ripping off everything from *Dances With Wolves* to *Pocahontas*, and we begin to wonder what was so great about *Avatar*.

In a word, it was probably "hype" that made *Avatar* blow up. James Cameron was to make a follow up to *Titanic*, the Best Picture winner and previous holder of the #1 Box Office spot. Much was made of the motion capture and the 3D, with the belief that some sort of visual revolution was to be inspired by the film, and you just had to see this thing to stay "with the times". Now that we're beyond it, what became of this 'revolution'?

Sadly, as pretty as *Avatar* was, we now associate its visual achievements with better movies. The current CGI benchmark is *The Jungle Book*. The latest *Planet of the Apes* films had much better motion capture. 3D is associated with either Scorsese's *Hugo*, *The Hobbit* or sore eyes.

For all the memorable films in Cameron's career like *Aliens* and the first two *Terminator* films (the good ones), it's clear that *Avatar*, while making the most money, is a movie we'd rather forget. So of course, he's making four *Avatar* sequels. Yes, four. The lead up to the *Avatar* sequels has been a saga of its own. Cameron originally promised back in 2011 that both

*Avatar 2* and *Avatar 3* would be out by 2015. Delays (including the tragic death of would-be composer James Horner in a plane crash) and extra films later, the current promise is four sequels to be released in December of 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023 respectively.

The whole idea of making four sequels to a seven-year-old movie stinks of cash grabbing and oversaturation. Marvel Studios could easily be accused of the same thing, but they've been consistently pumping out two or three quality works a year. As a collective audience, we can be reasonably certain that the next twenty-odd films Marvel have slated are going to be mostly enjoyable, given the success of their more outlandish and out-of-left-field adaptations such as *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Ant-Man*.

That same audience has left *Avatar* long ago. At its initial release it was well-received by critics and even received a Best Picture nod at the Academy Awards, but the backlash and harsh criticism came soon after, much like Disney's billion dollar hit, *Frozen*. We can only speculate on whether any of these four sequels will deliver, or if they'll even happen at all, but it's clear that some marketing schemes of *Titanic* proportions will be required to bring back the hype and excitement that made *Avatar* such a hit. ■



## Rose Matafeo and Nish Kumar

A COUPLE OF INTERVIEWS WITH A PAIR OF FLAT-MATES BY WEN-JUEN LEE

The NZ Comedy Festival is coming this April, so prepare yourself for the banter, the laffs and the all-round good craic. Two of the comedians that are performing this year are Rose Matafeo and Nish Kumar (they're flatmates actually; when Rose found out I was calling Nish after, she asked 'Can you tell him I say he sucks?') who have brand new shows for the fest. First, I talked to Rose Matafeo, New Zealand's comedian and television presenter, well-known for writing and performing in comedy sketch shows *Jono and Ben at Ten* and *Funny Girls*.

### Hey there! How are you?

I'm good! I'm walking down to Poppa Rich now. Have you heard of it? It's a Malaysian place, I love it.

### Yeah I'm from Wellington, so I'm not very good with these places.

I'm going to do a show in Wellington, actually, I love the cafes there, I love Fidel's.

### For this year's Comedy Fest you're performing "Valley of the LOLs", is that right?

Yeah it's a new show, with a mishmash of sketches and stand-up. It is a lot about being a 24 year old woman in that really weird age. I have a lot of anxieties about being a 24 year old. It's not so much about marriage and stuff, it's more anxieties about looking back being like, man, I was a fucking idiot.

### So your demographic audience is 24 year old women with anxieties.

(Laughs) Pretty much. My demographic audience is the 24 year old rambling woman. Definitely. Or maybe women with glasses.

### So what have you learnt as a 24 year old woman?

Nothing (laughs). Absolutely nothing.

### Any shows you're especially keen to see?

Nic Sampson, Laura Daniel and Hamish Parkin-

son, I'm actually performing a show with them called "Snort". Felicity Ward, yeah, those are a few. That's my cracking recommendation!

### I just spent the entire morning watching sketches from *Funny Girls*... How do you come up with an idea for a sketch?

Oh thank you! You're in the wormhole now. I think I get my sketches from observations that we all think about, experiences that we all have. Like stand-up, observations make connections with your audience. Just being frustrated with things. I'm like ugh, I'm angry. I'll do a sketch about it. Pretty much my inspiration is being pissed off.

### So is *Funny Girls* coming back?

We're working on a second season right now! It's quite hectic, with the writers doing the festival, but yeah, there'll be a new season.

### Have you been watching *The Bachelor NZ*?

Ooh, ish, I mean I watched the first season, but I've fallen out of the wormhole. You see, Art is quite good looking. But I know Jordan through friends of friends. It kind of ruins the allure if you know him, or remember him at high school. Also I saw Art somewhere and I was like nah. Not having any fun with that.

### Do you still keep in contact with Tim, Matt and Connor from *U Live*?

Yes, absolutely! I'm very close with Eli. Matt is in Australia, Tim is all over the place doing crazy things all over the world. Connor's doing amazing stuff setting up cafés in Auckland.

### Have you had any awkward meetings with famous people?

Yeah, I had to interview a fair number of people for *Jono and Ben*. Some I did as characters, and some I did as myself. Those ones are the most embarrassing, I think. I can't hide behind a character, I'm just me. And I'm most embarrassing when I'm me.

### I loved the interview with you and Amy Poehler.

Yes! Amy Poehler was lovely. She kept on saying my name, which I realise in hindsight is kinda psychopathic? New Zealanders don't really like saying each other's name. But back then, I was like "we have a connection."

*And then it was time to chat with Nish Kumar. Nish Kumar is making waves. The British stand-up comedian, actor and radio presenter was voted Best International Show at the 2015 NZ Comedy Fest, and now he's come back to perform more.*

### This is your second time coming to New Zealand, right? So what have you learnt about New Zealanders?

Yeah, I came to perform a show last year. I love it here. You all behave with a lot of decorum, it's not even necessary. No one knows what you're doing here. It's like there's the world; and then there's you.

### Now what can we expect for your show at this year's Comedy Fest?

The show I'm doing this year I wanted to call "New Zealand Debut 2," because the show I did last year was called "New Zealand Debut." (Laughs) But no, they're calling it "Back with a New Show." It's pretty similar to the last show. It's about politics and economics, with a bit more of history hopefully. I need to use my degree. I studied English Literature and History, you see.

### Your face was used for the Internet Meme 'Confused Muslim,' what was that like?

It was really weird! I wasn't even consulted with it, my friend was on quickmeme.com. and that's when I found it! I mean, I got a show out of it; I did a show in Melbourne and Edinburgh about being an Internet Meme.

### Did you get people coming up to you like "Oh you're that internet meme" and you were like "Noooo... I'm a comedian..."

No, not even! I mean, I made the meme more famous than it actually was.

### In your stand-up, you talk a lot about your experiences as a British Asian. Do you use stand-up as a platform to discuss race?

Yeah I think stand-up is a good forum to discuss race, it allows complexities. You're talking for an hour, which means you can get into in-depth, complicated discussions, while on social media there is a limited amount of space. People who are going to comedy shows, like in Edinburgh and New Zealand, are also more willing to listen to you talk about race.

### Following that thread, do you think there is a line between humour and political correctness?

No you can talk about anything you want I think. I mean if it's high risk, if you're talking about contentious subjects like religion or politics, you need to be careful. And if you don't get it 100% right, you need to know people have the right to be offended.

### Do you think being British Asian also influenced the humour you have now?

Yeah, I always talk about race and race issues, but there was no pressure for me to do so. Everyone's experiences with race are always interesting. I think it used to be if you were a non-white comedian, you had to talk about it, but now it's changed.

### And have you got any plans for exploring Auckland?

Yeah definitely! Well last year I was on a convoy with Rose and Guy Montgomery so we got to tour around New Zealand and see really cool places. Hobbiton is pretty cool. And I love Christchurch. Christchurch is amazing, the architecture, the people... Yeah I love the people. New Zealand's generally got some cool people in it. ■



## HOBBIT ON TOUR

## Europe – Fear Culture and the Far Right in 2016

Tubes are never a pleasant experience.

They reek, for one thing, of B.O and overpriced cologne. They're cramped. They're crowded. The seats are uncomfortable. The experience of rushing through dark tunnels at high speed is often downright alarming. And tube stations themselves are nearly always havens of grime, graffiti, and irritated commuters, no matter how much the cleaners loyally march around with their plastic trash collectors.

However, they tend to be an even more unpleasant experience when you have armed guards holding AK-47s standing by the turnstiles.

Welcome to Europe, in 2016.

No, this is not a joke, as I stupidly thought upon entering Rome and seeing such guards. They're not extras in a bizarre movie, or even a special anti-pickpocketing squad.

They are there, scowling, to shoot on sight anyone who attempts to blow themselves up in rush-hour traffic.

They are there to prevent the daily threat of terrorism that now permeates so many aspects of Europeans' lives.

In Europe, terrorism is a new political reality. The language of fear, of "us and them", of "fighting back", is couched in every news reel, in every political statement.

Yet for some, "fighting back" has begun to involve adherence to radically far-right agendas.

Just look at the rise of the German right-wing party, Pegida (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West). Since their founding in October 2014, they've shot to a frightening and dizzying level of popularity in Germany, mainly due to their rallying demonstrations.

These demonstrations typically feature the chanting of anti-immigration and anti-Muslim slogans, one particular chestnut being "Germany is not a Muslim garbage dump!"

In 2015, their founder Lutz Bachmann was forced to resign after criminal allegations of hate speech, due to Facebook posts praising the KKK, and calling immigrants "animals".

Yet a recent survey found that, in total, 53% of East Germans, and 48% of West Germans showed sympathy for Pegida demonstrations.

This is 2016. This is real, and it is happening, right now. While you might have thought that the popularity of right-wing fascist movements

in Europe would have died with the uncomfortable memory of the Nazis, it appears that a long-dreaded resurgence is emerging.

I've never been a person to pay attention to the hype press – where dramatic headlines of racial attacks are flung around so often, one experiences an utterly depressing desensitization to the notion of race-based hatred.

Yet while travelling around Italy and Amsterdam these holidays, I've begun to realize how close anti-Muslim fears now reside under the surface of the modern European psyche.

In Exeter, the worst I'd witnessed is a man flinching when a Muslim woman in a *niqab* reached into her bag to pay for her Tesco shopping – and he'd been unequivocally dismissed as an Islamophobe by everyone in the store. In Italy, the intensity of feeling took me by surprise.

While enjoying the scenic ride from Milan to Verona (the city of Romeo and Juliet, if NCEA Level 1 English served you accordingly), it's hard not to notice fascist slogans scrawled on buildings. They rear their nightmarish heads on the walls outside churches, shopping centers, and schools.

"Kill All Muslims," one proclaimed with savage enthusiasm. "Prevent the Alien Invasion," cried another. "Italy is Next."

Horribly, most are accompanied by black swastikas.

It's easy to stand here and say that those are the thoughts of radical right-wingers, a tiny minority of the Italian population. Surely not, we say. People are more reasonable than that. Surely not.

But we forget, in a liberal and isolated New Zealand context, that this is the nation whose previous President, Silvio Berlusconi, provoked international outrage after concluding Mussolini "did a lot right".

That's not to say I haven't enjoyed my Italian trip. It's a gorgeous country – from the beautiful redbrick buildings of Tuscany, to Venice's grand canals, to the sweeping ancient splendor of Rome.

But it's made me deeply reflective as to how much we take political stability in New Zealand for granted.

I recalled fondly as to the incident in Wadestown (the safe, quiet Wellington neighborhood I grew up in), where "Bush did 9/11" was absentmindedly scrawled on a signpost one

day. Two days later, it was scribbled out by an outraged local. Trust me, it was a major scandal.

Now, I'm not even trying to say that New Zealand is an absolute safe haven, or that nothing bad ever happens to Muslims in New Zealand. Maybe our relative security is something that only comes from our geographical isolation in terms of immigration. We don't experience immigration to the European degree, especially of Syrian refugees, that has encouraged the rise of a lot of anti-Muslim groups.

Indeed, a New Zealand mindset definitely makes understanding the renewed rise of these fascist groups difficult. When I read about the rise of these fascist anti-Muslim groups, while living in O'Rorke Hall last year, I found it easy to decry them as racist idiots who were the "one-offs" of a population (one I imagined to be as generally liberal and mellow as New Zealand's).

Yet without understanding this specific culture of fear, it's easy to pass judgment without realizing how bad things are actually getting in Europe.

Maybe anti-Muslim fears, violence, and hatred will be the issue that defines our generation. Maybe it will be what our grandchildren turn to us and ask us about.

And if that day comes, I want to tell them about how easily this culture of fear began again, in a society still bearing the scars of WWII. And I want to tell them to look for the warning signs.

Because in Europe, in 2016, those warning signs are there. And they're only going to get worse. ■ ELOISE SIMS





# Reflections of a BA veteran

Student magazines have published many an article defending the BA. Understandably so, since the New Zealand populace (government included) is increasingly unconvinced that a humanities-focused education is valuable for its own sake. Meanwhile, the only thing university marketing departments seem to know about arts degrees is that they provide 'transferable skills' – at least according to all undergrad prospectuses ever written.

Conversations about the BA are either dominated by those giving the middle finger to the Steven Joyces of the world by majoring in Latin and Ancient History, or myopic pessimists who insist such subjects are too pointless to exist. Not much time is spent musing on the arts student experience, or how to make the most of it – partly because there are simply too many of us to create a shared 'culture' outside of Debsoc or the *Craccum* office.

With roughly 8,000 enrollments each year, Arts is UoA's second biggest department (overtaken by the BSc in 2013, reflecting growing disapproval of 'unproductive' degrees). I joined that number in 2012 with little to no understanding of what I wanted to major in, let alone do for the rest of my life. If I could start over I'd do a

asks about the conspicuous blot on your academic transcript. But it's not all about grades. At \$720 a paper, making the most of the resources available and doing essays properly gives us something to show for \$20,000 worth of debt – doing only the bare minimum amount of work required to scrape a B+ is a waste of money and mental exertion.

It's also easy to take the BA too seriously at times. With all the hysteria around careers, a vast quantity of time is spent freaking out about the future and what arts degrees *don't* offer. Part of the value of a BA is its breadth. When else in life do we get to devote three years to learning for the sake of personal interests, or increasing our understanding of a totally new subject? A relatively manageable undergrad workload also allows us to make the most of student life by joining clubs, or drinking on a Tuesday night just because we can.

The beauty of a generalist degree like the BA is that it gives us the space to figure ourselves out. The prevalence of careers counselors in high school can place an unrealistic amount of pressure on seventeen year olds to decide *NOW* exactly what they want to do for the rest of their lives. Most people are much better equipped to make long-term decisions about their future three years out of school. Undergrad arts isn't supposed to offer a specific skill set geared towards a particular job, so we shouldn't get caught up in trying to determine exactly how ANTHRO106 will make us a more appealing candidate in a job interview. With yearly funding cuts, arts departments may no longer exist in ten years time. Those who are passionate need to take advantage of the opportunity to study classics or art history while they still can.

Although not everyone wants to spend upwards of six years at uni, it might make sense to do a relaxed, broad degree first to have a bit of fun and get more educated. Pursuing a 'career focused' degree is easier after three years spent becoming a little older and wiser. Obviously this is a lot easier for students with plenty of family support than those whose only assistance is the measly \$179 per week from Studylink. Personality is also a significant factor – some people simply enjoy having a specific goal to work towards.

Although making inflexible life plans in first year may be unwise, being mindful of your individual priorities is useful. For example: how long would I ideally like to spend studying? Am I more motivated by a structured environment? Do I care about external notions of 'success'? How important is a secure income once I graduate? are all questions that might have led to a less haphazard and anxiety-ridden time at university had I asked them earlier.

If you haven't had the pleasure of being introduced to the world of the BA, you too can enjoy one today for the price of \$17,301.60. Be sure to get in quick while stocks last. ■ ANA HARRIS

*Conversations about the BA are either dominated by those giving the middle finger to the Steven Joyces of the world by majoring in Latin and Ancient History, or myopic pessimists who insist such subjects are too pointless to exist.*

number of things differently. Hindsight is frustrating because the most helpful lessons are often learned too late to be of any real use.

Plenty of people don't take their BA seriously enough. With thousands of applicants vying for a small-ish pool of interesting grad jobs, grades are one of the most obvious filtration mechanisms for recruiters. Staying in bed on a Saturday morning in exchange for a 'DNS' in PHIL101 might be appealing at the time, but it's difficult to explain away when a prospective employer



# BLACKFACE

The 20<sup>th</sup> of April, or '4/20,' is a popular day for people who like marijuana. 4:20pm is, in stoner culture, Weed O'Clock. 4:20pm on 4/20 is Weed Coachella – the equinox; the lunar eclipse; the Haley's Comet of weed. I do not really understand why the numbers 4 and 20 are so special, but they are. It's a big deal – if you walked through Albert Park on 4/20 (and especially at 4:20pm), it is likely that you are about to fail a drug test.

Snapchat is the Hot New social media app. It allows users to send photos to one another that self-destruct after ten seconds (except, of course, if the recipient decides to screenshot them. For an app essentially built for people to covertly stoke the fires of affairs everywhere, this is a pretty crucial failing. But I digress). One of Snapchat's best features is the filters it creates to commemorate particular occasions. On Christmas, for example, you might be able to put a filter of holly and mistletoe over the selfie you took with your new bike. To celebrate 4/20, Snapchat created a Bob Marley filter with the support of the late icon's estate. The filter made the user look like Bob Marley. One of the ways it did this was by making the user appear as though they had brown skin, even if they didn't.

This prompted international outcry – Snapchat had essentially given every user the chance to appear in blackface on the app. This is interesting because recently, the idea that blackface is bad has been a popular topic of media discussion.

Blackface is the act of artificially darkening one's skin to mimic the complexion of people with brown skin. Its origins lie in minstrelsy, a form of entertainment popular in the USA in the 1800s where white performers would dress up as black people (by painting their faces black) and acting out then-standard tropes of black behaviour: that black people were dumb, lazy, ineffectual and worthy of widespread ridicule. Today, blackface is less commonly used to overtly ridicule black people, but is still a way for non-black people to 'act like' black people for a specific purpose – usually a comedic one, or as a novelty. This is why we see white people paint their face brown and go as Kanye West for Halloween, and why we saw our ex-Bachelor Art Green black himself up for an Indian-themed party hosted by Indian person Colin Mathura-Jeffree. Today, blackface is about cultural appropriation.

Cultural appropriation is basically when people who do not belong to a specific ethnic, racial, or cultural group make themselves *look* like they are part of that group through wearing particular clothes, colouring their skin, doing their hair a particular way, or speaking in a particular way. It reduces an entire group's cultural identity and artefacts to cheap *costumes*. It renders cultural dress and iconography as disposable as the cheap polyester banana outfit you bought from Look Sharp

during O-Week in First Year.

At the root of the fundamental *wrongness* of cultural appropriation are the concepts of suffering and power. The kinds of cultural groups whose 'look' is appropriated are most often minority ones. Many of these groups have historically faced the oppression of colonisation and slavery, and today feel the lingering effects of white supremacy through everyday bigotry, discrimination and racism. Members of these groups are 'othered' constantly by the white majorities of their hometowns – they face surprise when the white store clerk hears how 'well' they speak English; they experience disappointment when they aren't good at something that 'their people' are supposed to be good at – for example, an Indian kid like me being a terrible cricket player. They have suffered, and they still suffer.

*The world we live in precariously  
perched atop crisscrossing  
racial fault-lines, and we are  
due for an earthquake.*

In contrast, the people appropriating their 'look' have historically been wielding the power that *contributed* to the suffering. Cultural appropriation sees the oppressor take the culture that *survived* in the face of their oppression, and claim it for themselves because it 'looks cool' for the purpose of 'looking cool.' The appropriator hasn't earned the right to look like that. They take it. Native American headdresses dot the Coachella crowds because they make for cool-looking hats. Bindis are affixed to the foreheads of hipsters because they just *love* the third eye, man.

The world we live in precariously perched atop crisscrossing racial fault-lines, and we are due for an earthquake. The idea that ours is a multicultural, post-racial society is a thin veneer plastered atop the yawning chasms that separate different groups. Difference isn't bad, and homogeneity shouldn't be our goal. But cultural appropriation is the *worst* kind of post-racialism: one that ignores the fundamental differences that make us who we are. ■ RAYHAN LANGDANA



## Tax The Bastards

There's an industry out there in the New Zealand economy which seems to inevitably make its cash by befouling the environment it operates in.

Continuously milking those whom they almost jokingly claim to look after, and sending their pernicious poison on downstream to pollute the wider commons enjoyed and inhabited by other New Zealanders. Meanwhile, escaping substantial regulatory attention for the costs of their activity because they're so large and so integral to our economy that we dare not think about doing without them or reining in their excesses.

Now you could be forgiven for thinking I'm talking about dairy farmers. And it's true, they bear all the hallmarks of the above characterization – by virtue of being 'too big to fail' for our economy, and enjoying a positive relationship with the 'powers that be' which prevents their serious externalities of environmental pollution from being properly restrained.

But I'm not. Instead, the portion of the Kiwi dream machine I wish to draw your attention to today is none other than the Dairy Farmers' own present-day bete-noir.

The Australian-owned banking sector.

Let's get into some facts.

There are five major banks presently operating in New Zealand. Four of these are foreign – and more specifically, Australian – owned. The fifth one, as you may have guessed, is the Government-backed Kiwibank. It is undoubtedly significant that the only way a true New Zealand Bank has been able to rise to the size and scale of the 'Big Four' foreigners, is through tacit and tangible government backing and support.

Between them, the 'Big Four' (made up of ASB, ANZ, the oxymoronically named 'Bank of New Zealand', and Westpac) raked in almost five billion dollars worth of profit last year after tax. That's more than one thousand dollars for every man, woman and child presently domiciled in New Zealand. It's about the same figure as the combined total profits of all companies presently traded on the NZ Stock Exchange.

Considering our own GNP (that is to say, the actual national income of New Zealand as a nation) is a mere \$58 billion or thereabouts, this effectively means these Aussie banks are making almost a tenth of what our entire nation does.

And they're doing it off our backs.

So how are they managing this? What kind of con or international best business practice are they pulling to generate a truly astounding twenty two

percent return on equity.

The answer's simple in generalities, but complex in detail (these things often are).

Basically, the 'Big Four' banks have somewhere around 87% of the New Zealand market between them. Kiwibank, while a valiant and vigorous new-entrant competitor (relatively speaking), barely cracks ten percent (with less optimistic figures having them between four and eight percent).

This wouldn't, in and of itself, be a problem (even though my ardent Nationalist proclivities would dearly love for an arm of the NZ Government to become a powerhouse majority mainstay of our financial markets) but the Oz banks themselves have a nasty proclivity towards what you might term anti-competitive styles of operation.

This isn't just me, a lowly magazine columnist and occasional political iconoclast saying this – world-renowned ratings agency Standard & Poors quite literally stated that the "nature of the [NZ Banking] system" is outright "oligopolistic". Other political luminaries have previously drawn attention to specific issues like the vastly inflated credit card rates we pay compared to people over the ditch using exactly the same service, bankers' resistance to debt-mediation processes with struggling farmers, illegitimate collusion over inter-bank lending rates that produced a dividend of up to 1.5 million dollars a day while the scam was running for the banks in question, and far higher fees generally for NZ customers (a main source of Aussie bank profitability here) as compared to their Australian equivalents.

Clearly this lack of competition, regulation and oversight is providing some prime pickings for the financial institutions of New Zealand's 'rich cousins' across the Tasman – at our quite literal expense.

Kiwibank's previously been in a position to throw a competitive spanner in the works by offering cut-price rates to consumers thanks to the New Zealand Government forgoing the option to take dividends and pouring capital into its new pet financial wrangling house. Unfortunately, as you may have seen recently, NZ Post's financial position appears to be deteriorating and our present Government is somewhat averse to spending money, meaning we're left high and dry when it comes to serious tools to try and influence the domestic banking market in order to get a better deal for our own people.

The closest we've had to "Government Intervention" with the banking sector recently is the vague suggestion of the Government holding personal meetings with foreign banks in order to urge them not to screw over struggling dairy farmers \*too\* heavily during a time of arguable economic crisis.

Despite the existence of a Treasury report which clearly states that these offshore banks are quite probably using a "lower level of [government] scrutiny surrounding fees to extract uncompetitive profits", there would appear to be no serious appetite on the part of our Government to actually take the matter in hand in a way similar to what the Reserve Bank of Australia did when confronted with an arguably equivalent situation.

As far as the relevant Minister – Epsom's perennial also-ran, Paul Goldsmith – is concerned, there's no sign of a problem worth investigating.

Meanwhile, New Zealand consumers continue to be wildly overcharged and exploited; and as a result, Australian financial institutions are able to quite literally laugh all the way to the bank to the tune of five billion dollars a year.

Something must be done.

But what?

Well, given that the issue at hand is a coterie of foreign-owned banks 'earning' supernormal profits at the direct expense of ordinary New Zealanders, I should like to propose a 'super-tax' on the revenues of these offshore-owned finance houses.

Depending upon the level at which this is set, such a levy would stand to raise a very substantial amount for the nation's coffers. Perhaps even enough to plug the hole Bill English put in New Zealand's books by doling out tax cuts for the (domestically) wealthy in 2010.

But the real economic justice of such a super-tax is not simply in how much cash it can raise for the state.

No, it's in the fact that it puts money BACK into OUR economy for the explicit benefit of the people it was fleeced off and extorted from in the first place. This is what you might term a 'restoration of balance', and why I'm inclined to call it a 'social dividend'.

There are numerous and exciting uses such money could be put to, ranging from large-scale make-work schemes through to the construction of sufficient homes to help deflate our housing bubble, and many other suggestions besides.

But speculation as to usage is of arguable secondary importance to the fundamental necessity of restoring distributive justice to the situation, and ensuring that the Government doesn't sit idly by while a large and appreciable chunk of our GNP disappears offshore.

Because when it comes to looking after the interests of Kiwis banking with the foreign-owned banks it would appear that our present Government, somewhat ironically, has low interest.

■ CURWEN ARES ROLINSON





# Caught Up on Canon

If you're someone who likes to read books but also has a job or goes to university, the perennial problem is what to read next. It may seem odd that I'm narrowing this to so-called busy people, rather than just addressing all readers; but, for them, the conundrum isn't quite so severe.

The reason is this: when you're busy every decision feels like an unbearable opportunity cost. It could be put to better use, more enjoyable use, more *productive* use, because that's the aim of the game. Inevitably, the result of this is that you end up either reading what's easy or, if you want to feel like a literary sort, what's canon.

Deciding whether something is old enough or poncy enough to be canon is like telling the difference between an open sandwich and a salad. The line's not entirely clear, but you know it when you see it. Dickens and Dostoevsky: definitely canon. The Brontës: maybe Emily (just kidding you sweltering nineteenth-century literature students; probably all three). Austen, Shakespeare, Tolstoy, Milton and so on: without question. They're often white authors,

often (though not always) male authors, and often hideously dated.

None of this is to say that some of my favourite works don't find themselves in this category of canonical literature. It contains some incomparable feats of storytelling. The question, though, relates to when that pesky opportunity cost comes knocking: should it be second nature to prioritise canonical works when deciding what to do next as a reader?

My answer is no. It's better to understand the present through things people are saying and doing in the present. You're more likely to get subtle commentaries on race and gender in contemporary novels. You're more likely to gain an understanding of life as a second generation immigrant in contemporary novels. You're more likely, on the whole, to get a picture of the world we live in that you can bring to bear on your own life. There was a recent article on *Vox* arguing that historical analogies in political discourse are generally misguided attempts to compare genuinely different phenomena. When comparing Hitler to every random political figure with a slightly fascist or racist bent we probably undervalue the past and mischaracterize the present. My reason to push canon down the list of priorities is similarly motivated.

Focusing on recent releases doesn't mean you think the past isn't important. The unfolding of history's dominoes towards the present means that modern works contain traces of the past. New books have historical tropes, ideas and plots built into them. They will allude to, quote from, and otherwise rely on things that we do consider canon. Those classics can still capture our imaginations because they *do* have some really universal themes; but they *don't* have contextual details about the here and now that will stir a relevant and useful kind of empathy. Before you tell me I'm being one-sided or short-sighted, let me say this: I'm not asking you to throw out the kitchen sink. Go back to the classics every now and then. Just tip the scales in favour of contemporary work. On the plus side, at least it'll mean some great authors can be recognized *before* they die.

■ ADITYA VASUDEVAN



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# The Charity Game

This column is about giving money to developmental aid – that is, first world people like us giving money to third world people (the kids in World Vision ads) so they can catch up. A column talking about charity in general would be a totally pointless exercise given the very different constraints on non-developmental charities, breast cancer and the like.

In 2014, I read a fantastic essay in *Foreign Affairs* titled “Show them the money – Why giving cash helps alleviate poverty” by Christopher Blattman and Paul Neihaus. My thoughts on charity are heavily borrowed from that essay. The premise was very simple, people in rich countries give lots of aid to people in poor countries. This aid is in the form of a myriad of schemes (buying livestock, microloans, apprenticeship programmes). Blattman and Neihaus argue that aid in the form of a simple cash transfer is a far more cost effective way of alleviating poverty, than the methods currently employed.

Cash transfers are generally frowned upon when it comes to charitable giving. The old saying goes give a man to fish blah blah blah. Over the last decade however, cash transfers have shown to be more cost effective at elevating poverty than buying livestock or providing microloans and apprenticeship programmes.

In West Bengal the non-profit Bandhan spent \$331 to get \$166 worth of cattle and other assets to the poor. Heifer International – a charity working in Uganda – spent \$3000 in de-

livering a pregnant cow, and providing support services. For context, the per capita income of Rwanda at the time was \$600. Giving livestock as aid isn't bad, but it is inefficient use of money. There are overheads costs that seem unjustifiable. For the cost of one cow, Heifer Int. could have provided five families the average income of Uganda. Secondly such policies are extremely paternalistic. What if those villagers didn't want livestock, but instead wanted to invest in a pump to irrigate the farm? Unlike things, cash can mould to its owner's needs. What's worse is that Animal Aid and World Land Trust claimed that Oxfam's and World Vision's buy a goat/chicken/cow programmes have led to desertification, spread disease and damaged the local environment.

So how effective are cash grants at alleviating poverty? Cash grants or microloans were popularised by Muhammad Yunus's Grameen Bank – culminating in a Nobel Peace Prize for the charitable institution. Given microcredit's popularity amongst NGO's for over two decades, we finally have data to be able to see how effective they were at alleviating poverty in the long run. In 2015 Banerjee, Karlan and Zinman published in the American Economic Journal six randomised evaluations of microcredit. Each of the six studies took place individually and independently between 2003-2012 spanning five countries – Bosnia, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Morocco, and Mongolia. Their conclusion was that there *“is the lack of evidence of transformative effects on the average borrower... the lack of transformative effects does not seem to be for lack of trying in the sense of investment in business growth.”* Microcredit is not as effective as we initially hoped at combatting poverty. Give-Well\* – an organisation dedicated to evaluating charities – also doesn't recommend giving to microcredit charities. On their website their blog post *“discusses and debunks myths including microfinance has been shown to reduce poverty, microfinance has been shown to work best when targeting women, and microfinance donations get lent out again and again, and thus leveraged far more than other donations.”* Although I feel that the impact of microcredit cannot be normalised to an average, given the diverse types of lenders and borrowers at play, microcredit isn't as transformative as we thought it would be twenty years ago.

How about apprenticeship programmes? Again there is little empirical evidence suggesting that these programmes work. David McKenzie and Christopher Woodruff concluded after analysis of over a dozen randomised trials that training business owners has minimal impact on sales or profit. Blattman, Fiala and Martinez

found that the key investment that prospective entrepreneurs wanted to make was not “training” but acquiring tools and materials. When given the funds to procure those products participants were able to increase their income by over 40%.

The primary concern that stems from cash transfers relate to moral harm. Now that the poor have free money they will stop working. Happily there's little evidence to suggest that. Banerjee, Hanna, Kreindler and Olken analysed seven government run cash transfer programmes and found no evidence that such policy had an impact on labour supply. Skoufias and Maro made the same conclusion when analysing Mexico's cash transfer scheme “PROGRESA”. There were similar findings in Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ghana and Kenya. There could be a million reasons for why cash transfers don't disincentivise work, but the vast majority of literature concludes that the poor do not stop working when supported financially through cash transfers.

So what do people spend their money on? It really depends on who they are and what they need. Some people invest in small businesses, some buy more food, but largely the money is better spent. I am not claiming that microcredits or apprenticeship programmes don't help alleviate poverty, but they are not cost effective.

Cash transfer also has not been tried on a macro-scale and we don't fully understand the impact it will have on inflation within the economies of developing world countries. But I would encourage anyone who's read this article to donate to a charity like Give Directly. I think that it provides broad overarching benefits to the communities it sponsors. That the communities that end up with that money spend it more wisely and spend it better than I could for them.

Of course I haven't analysed every given charity that tries to solve the problem of poverty in the third world. But what I'm saying is that as a scalable, transferrable methodology, cash transfers are *more* effective when it comes to alleviating poverty than any alternative I've come across. Given that the debate should be about how to best give our money to aid, there is a pretty good argument to say that cash transfer charities are the way forward. Such charities don't do much good when it comes to public infrastructure or the like, which is obviously important. But in the kind of sums of money you or I might give, you do more good donating to these cash transfer charities than the big names like World Vision, Unicef or Oxfam.

■ ADEEL MALIK





## LIFE IS TOO LONG

## The Art of the Bantz (UoA Edition)

*Banter, n. "The exchange of entertaining anecdotes or the hilarious behaviour of lads and their associates"*

*Banter, v. "The exchange of bantz"*

*Banter, adj. "Of a banterous nature, or that which is characterised by bantz"*

There is good bantz, when Flame beer is present at any occasion. There is bad bantz, for instance getting caught staring at a bus driver's breasts, or being called sexist for screaming "tits" in a crowded elevator, or that time I was fingered while sleeping. Everything else is just plain bantz, the term is generally used as a place filler simply to remind one's friends and colleagues that banter is present.

2015 was a tragic year for bantz. The candidate for *Craccum* running on an explicit "lads" platform lost dismally to a pair of hipsters running on an explicitly "toilet" policy. Several media outlets, no doubt run by aggressive lesbians, penned articles critical of the "dangerous banter culture" tried to ban "lads chat". A group of hysterical trans-folk attacked the actual WROs for making cupcakes. And Shadows spent a billion dollars on astro-turf and bumped up their beer prices.

The state of the bantz in the year of our lord 2016 is no better. Stephen Fry was ruthlessly savaged for making perfectly hilarious jokes about child rape. Keisha is being a real stickler about her manager's penis banter. A spastic self-published semi-literate drivel about how much he hates trannos and distributed it across the greater Auckland region. And Pro Life tried to abort *Craccum* for rightly pointing out the fact that they're really just a group of emotionally stunted mongoloids with a baby fetish.

#### A Bantz Guide to Campus:

**UN Youth:** A club for virgins who like to wear suits, pretend they go to conferences, spend too much money on laptop cases and staple their CV's to their foreheads. It seems to be run by chrizzos and trannies. In a recent press release (found on Facebook) UNY released the following advertisement:

*"Ever thought about what it looks like to work behind the scenes in the United Nations?"*

*Now UN Youth is excited to announce that we will be giving 2016 students the opportunity to act out one of the most necessary practices in New York – preparing and serving food to all the world's important diplomats. Sign up now and prepare to be taught how to use a cooking board, a ladle, and wear an apron all for \$189 NZD per person."*

Avoid at all costs.

**Debsoc:** Formerly known for a love of drinking, a healthy lad culture, and an obsession with "breaking", the shadow of Hamish Saunders (who graduated fifty years ago and is struggling to let go) hangs long over the society. This geriatric micromanagement went well for decades, ritually torturing first years with bizarre

initiations and sexual misadventures. While this might sound like heaven to some... Psychotic teetotaling chrizzos and trannies have started invading the management. Banning anyone slightly offensive. Imposing drinking limits. Plumping their CV's, and generally just looking like massive cunts. Approach with trepidation kids, or you might get an equity complaint.

**Craccum:** The glory days of 2015 are behind us. The magazine was described as "embarrassing" by Stuart McCutcheon, a "wasted opportunity" by former editor Kit Haines, and "a waste of my life" by the two editors. *Craccum* was once a banterous lads club run by and for bantz. Now it's all gone. The cigarettes, the alcohol, the depression, all gone. Cartz is gone. Now of course it's run by chrizzos and hookers with their cafe reviews and boring creative writing. Do not read *Craccum*. Do not write for *Craccum*. Do not pick up *Craccum*.

**Pro Life:** They hate women, love babies, and have a combined IQ of 6. A gang of drooling spastics escaped the mental home and converged on the university, hanging around complaining. All the time. Complaining about women controlling their own bodies, about *Craccum* rightly telling them to fuck off, and especially about the lack of what they describe as "prime fresh baby puss to plunder" at parent's space. Officially run by mongoloids. An unnamed source has told me that PL is actually run by trannies in an attempt to covertly discredit chrizzos by making them look stupid (we promise to write a full investigative feature on this in the next month). Avoid, or bottle, at all costs.

**AUSA:** A melancholy stench pervades the student executive this year. They do a lot but change little. They keep trying to molest the *Craccum* editors. Three of their executive have quit (I think). All of their O-Week parties fucking sucked. And they keep trying to prove how liberal they are, not liberal enough to bring back beer-horn in the quad though eh. Run exclusively by monstrous bull dykes. Avoid at all costs. Never vote in AUSA elections.

**AULSS:** These guys are fucking hilarious. So they club, props. They organise road-trips, props. They even organise a yearly camp where they ritually molest and objectify women and make men put on dresses. Very lads. My only critique is the humourless pomposity. One wrote in a hysterical letter claiming he was poor and threatening to kill himself because a couple columnists mocked him. A couple of them insist on going on cruises to third world countries. And one bush pig tried to sue this very magazine because it's mates were ugly, stupid and uncool (also, if you want to sue me, email [fatylitigious@gmail.com](mailto:fatylitigious@gmail.com)). Run by whores. Avoid unless you're good looking or very funny.

Obviously there are good seeds and bad in any group. To distinguish between these walk up to a woman in any gathering and loudly scream "bush pig" over and over again. Banter will occur.

*Column, n. - "a vehicle for bantz"*

■ SHMULY LEOPOLD



the people to blame.

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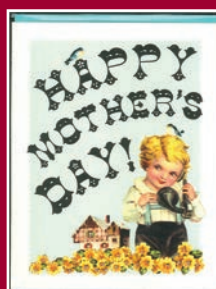
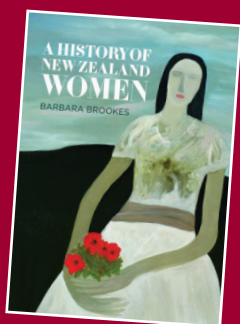
# Free Tea Tasting!

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> May  
 from 12.00 - 1.30 pm

Get a free Harney Tagalong  
 with every 2 Harney Classic,  
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\*While Stocks Last

# Mother's Day 8<sup>th</sup> of May



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