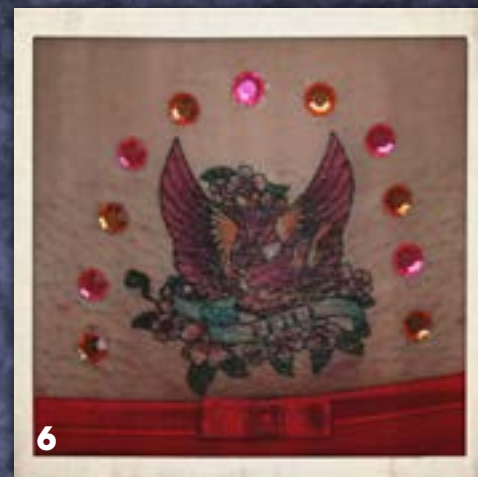


KATE

2012







Well hello. Now that we've lured you in with our brightly-coloured flaps, let us explain what you're holding, because you're probably confused. It's a student magazine, but it's not Crac-cum! There's more wanking than wankery, more dykes than Dykes, and more art than ads!

Relax, kids. It's just the AUSA's annual women's magazine, KATE. It's been going since 2007, the latest in a long line of ladyrags such as *Marte Nostro* (1903), the *Womenspace* journals (1980s), *Six Degrees* (1996), and *Platform* (2000-2004).

KATE was named after Kate Sheppard the suffragette, Kate Edgar who was the first woman to get a degree at this university (and in the British Empire), and Kate Sutton, the last woman AUSA President. We considered renaming it ARENA, but just as it's weird to write a biography while someone's still alive, it's weird to name a student mag after the current student president. We couldn't be blamed for our enthusiasm if we had; AUSA's only had eight woman presidents in 121 years, never two in a row, and one of those was rolled for standing up for Māori rights ('sup Janet!).

Our contributors, proofers, and designer are all amazeballs, and it was an honour to work with them. We hope you enjoy this limited-edition alternative to your lecture slides, and even if you don't, we had a blast putting it together so fuck you.

xoxo

Sophie and Jia,

KATE editors and co-Women's Rights Officers for 2011 and 2012, respectively.



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The articles and opinions contained within this magazine are not necessarily those of the staff, AUSA or printers.



ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE WRIGHT.

Beyond Consent

PRISCILLA PENNIKET and WAI HO

For quite a number of years now, the sex framework being lauded in feminist/activist scenes has been one of *explicit verbal consent* at each stage.

This was developed to counter the cultural narrative where women are assumed to signal willingness and availability for sex through clothing, going out at night, interacting with a man, even declining an advance and, well, pretty much just existing. First came the feminist narrative 'no means no', which was succeeded by 'yes means yes' (because not being able to say 'no' doesn't mean 'yes') and the framework of explicit verbal consent. This framework is well-intentioned, and has been an essential foundation upon which to build.

Striving for ways to challenge heteronormative scripts, resist rape culture, prevent the endemic rape and sexual abuse of children and adults, and combat the over-representation of females as survivors and males as perpetrators is highly essential.

This piece arises from a panel and paper by Tanya Serisier, 'Beyond Consent: Pleasure, Danger and Sex.' Priscilla and Wai also co-ordinated a workshop during Womensfest where participants examined the ideas brought up by quotes pulled from the paper, such as "To make consent the only idea of sexual agreement or value precludes the possibility of desire or pleasure as a judge of sexual value."

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD UNDER ATTACK FOR ABORTION PLAN

ANTONIA VERSTAPPEN - The Southland District Health Board has come under attack for its proposed plan to provide abortion services to women in the region. Under current law, DHB's are required to fund abortion services for women in their jurisdiction; however these services do not have to be available locally.

Southland is currently one of five regions in New Zealand where women do not have access to local abortion services, so are required to travel to Dunedin or Christchurch for treatment. Other regions that do not provide services locally include Tasman, West Coast, Manawatu, and Bay of Plenty.

Invercargill Hospital is currently undergoing the application process to perform the procedure as part of an expansion of clinical services, and in response to current Government policy to provide services closer to people's homes.

Southlanders for Life Chairman Norman McLean has rejected the move, stating that the Southland DHB is under no obligation under national standards to specifically provide abortion services in Southland. The group has led a 30-strong delegation to the Board's monthly meeting in Dunedin to demonstrate local opposition for the move. The group's actions have gained the support of Finance Minister Bill English, stating that the Board should be consulting with people in the district before introducing the proposed service.

The move is also coming against opposition from Southland DHB senior staff, who have informed Southlanders for Life that they would reconsider their ongoing employment with Southland DHB if the service were to go ahead, and would refuse to provide assistance to the service other than dealing with complications.

Meanwhile women's groups and AL-

RANZ are applauding the move, stating that the provision of these services would greatly increase access to termination of pregnancy services that was lacking in the district. The Board currently questions how appropriate it is to be sending women a day's journey away to Dunedin, when services could be provided locally.

Southland DHB is maintaining it will listen to all sides of public opinion on the issue, but that the Board is on the periphery of the issue. Invercargill hospital maintains that this is an operational, clinical matter, and a no-brainer when it comes to service provision in the district.

OLYMPICS 2012
DEBUTS WOMENS BOXING

However, with this particular consent framework - explicit verbal consent for each stage - we've risked selling ourselves short. We cannot simply assume that everything to do with sex will always be happy, comfortable and fun if we just continually ask for and say 'yes' at each stage.

There are a number of reasons the framework is flawed. To begin with, in this society it is not common for people to communicate through plain 'yes' and 'no' - particularly people socialised as women.

"Hey, there's this party on the weekend, you should come."

"Oh yeah, maybe, I've got a bit on this weekend so I'll just see how I go eh."

Communication is something like 60% body language, 33% intonation, and only 7% actual word content. This becomes more evident the more stressful or intense the situation - most people instinctively prevaricate, use qualifiers, and generally try to avoid confrontation or committal. Many people find themselves unable to verbalise at all when pressed. Not to mention that people have always been able to pressure other people into saying "yes", which is another area where the framework fails.

It also relies somewhat on the assumption that there is an active party (usually positioned as masculine) initiating things, and a passive party (seen as feminine), whose role is to verbally consent or resist. While this is better than the assumption that the passive party is always receptive and consenting no matter what they say, it still puts the onus on them to be a gatekeeper by using explicit verbal signals - and, since hardly anyone uses explicit verbal signals, sets them up to fail.

Another reason this framework doesn't work is because even most of the people who advocate it don't have sex like this all the time. This sets us up for feeling like failed feminists if/when we don't conform to the script, which is ironic considering we like to place ourselves on the cutting edge for resisting hegemonic set scripts.

Finally, a major foundational flaw of the explicit verbal consent framework is that it does not recognise that nothing can be completely safe. Sex with other people, like most interpersonal things, will always involve a degree of vulnerability, which involves risk. This means the possibility for danger, harm, and also doing excellent hot stuff you haven't done before. Part of sex is exploration and learning; trying new things. This process cannot by definition be completely safe and predictable. You can't really 'consent' to something if you don't know exactly what it is, what it involves, and what all of the repercussions might be.

We need a new conversation that focuses on *how* we have sex; how we feel talking about it, asking for something, suggesting something, guiding something; how we read bodies, sounds, vibes, and movement. We need to make talking about sex, desire, flirtation, and

pleasure a common conversation, rather than trying to replace the work required of each individual in every interaction with a simplistic explicit verbal framework that isn't working.

Defining sexual abuse and rape involves power and control, but so does a lot of sexy sex. More conversations should be about the realities of power and control in relationships and in sexuality, rather than a narrow focus on the framework of explicit verbal consent. If power and control as flexible and diversely ever-present realities are explored, acknowledged and held, it could create a solid platform to look at sex holistically.

A holistic view of sex includes emotions such as grief, discomfort, and testing of limits, rather than trying to build a bubble around sex to keep those things out. It acknowledges and accepts that unpredictable things might come up for the people involved, because sex can be an emotional, spiritual, psychological thing, as well as a physical thing. The framework of explicit verbal consent is only a foundation, one which we must work to build on and move beyond. The holistic approach is a more realistic way of moving forward with sex.

We need a new conversation that focuses on how we have sex; how we feel talking about it, asking for something, suggesting something, guiding something; how we read bodies, sounds, vibes, and movement.

FEARS FOR AUCKLAND YOUTH AS FREE SEXUAL HEALTH ADVICE CUT

ANTONIA VERSTAPPEN - Many Auckland teenagers and young people are going to face paying for or missing out on previously free sexual health advice services due to cuts in the Government's health budget.

The ProCare PHO group previously provided a free sexual health advice service to all young people in central Auckland under the age of 22. Outside central Auckland these services were technically limited to those in "high needs" groups under the age of 22, which was restricted to Maori, Pacific Islanders and those who lived in areas of highest deprivation (quintile five). While these services were technically only for those in high needs groups, in practice advice was provided free to all young people who sought it.

From this month, sexual health advice services will only be provided to identified high needs groups. This is worrying pub-

lic health authorities who are already concerned with high and increasing levels of STI's in New Zealand. In 2011 15 District Health Boards reported over 25,000 positive tests for chlamydia, which is high by international standards.

ProCare chief executive Ron Hooton stated that the funding for increased coverage was enabled through a top-up of a high needs access fund from the Auckland District Health Board. This scheme was in place to specifically improve access to certain health services for high-needs patients in the central Auckland region. Called "Services to Improve Access", this fund has been receiving diminishing funding which has been attributed to the government's squeeze on health funding. Mr Hooton acknowledges that "it is possible that teen pregnancy, abortion and STI rates could increase" as a result of changes to the scheme.

MORE NEWS!

Abortion stats out: low, analysis pending

RISUG: 100% effective contraception for men

Hall's marriage equality bill drawn from ballot

Man leads lobby to get 25% more women on boards

Many school ball date rules exclude single and queer kids

Vajazzling: A How-To Guide

According to Vajazzling.com (the official vajazzling site!), vajazzling is "the act of applying glitter and jewels to a woman's nether regions for aesthetic purposes". Rhinestones are attached with temporary cosmetics-grade glue to the mons pubis after Brazilian waxing and are supposed to remain intact for at least 5 days when done by a reputable salon. Vajazzling has been a source of controversy, as some feminists accuse it of being infantilising, comparing the visual effect of a hairless, bejewelled vulva to My Little Ponies, Barbie and teenage girls' cell phones. Since those are all things I enjoy greatly, I decided it was time to vajazzle!



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANA DE PONT VAN SHIE

Supplies

- Razor
- Shaving bar/soap
- False eyelash glue
- Sparkles
- Fake tattoo

Step 1: Defoliate

Vajazzling works best on smooth, hairless skin, requiring the whole pubic area to be freshly defoliated. While Vajazzling.com was adamant on the superiority of waxing to shaving, I opted to shave with an old and slightly manky looking razor due to being on a student budget. This resulted in mild razorburn.

Step 2: Choose Your Design

Unless you are using a pre-made vajazzling design, you will need to plan out your vajazzle in advance. Get creative; use unusual materials and novelty themes. I combined rhinestones with temporary tattoos for a more intricate design, opting for a gay pride-themed eagle that bore an uncanny stylistic resemblance to the "safer sex" ads clustered along K'd. Due to having inordinately long hips, I discovered that I am able to accommodate large and complex vajazzles,

much to my excitement.

Step 3: Temporary Tattoo

This step is optional for those who prefer a more traditional vajazzle, but temporary tattoos are a good option if you want a lot of colour and detail without the extra effort. Simply stick the tattoo on and press with a damp towel until the design transfers itself to your mons pubis.

Step 4: Sparkles!

Put a dot of false eyelash glue on the back of each rhinestone, then apply them in the desired position immediately, before the glue dries. Most vajazzlers use the tiny rhinestones normally seen on "body art" stickers and particularly extravagant false lashes, but I chose three dimensional gemstones with an 8mm circumference in a fetching pink and orange colour scheme, because bigger is better.

Step 5: The Wait

It is VERY important to wait for the glue to dry before putting your underwear back on, in order to get your 5 days of vajazzled glory. It should take 10-15 minutes for the glue to be fully

dry. I ate Oreos and listened to the dance music hits of RuPaul while I waited.

The Results

I spent most of the first day basking in the radiance of my vajazzled, My Little Pony-esque pubis. I kept finding opportunities to sneak peeks at it and fondle my oversized sparkles in wonder. By the second day, I had begun shedding gemstones which, due to being XL, made disconcerting pinging noises when they fell on hard surfaces. They also itched like a BITCH. Within 3 days, all of my sparkles had fallen off and the pride eagle was looking the worse for wear.

Conclusion

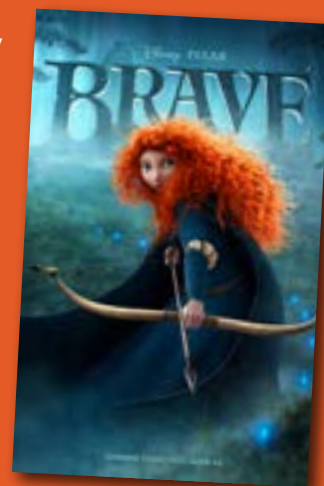
It may be impractical and ridiculous, but vajazzling doesn't deserve its bad reputation. It didn't restrict my freedom of movement or cost a lot of money, unlike many other women's fashion trends. The only real negative effect of vajazzling was the itching that resulted from putting \$2 shop eyelash glue onto razorburn, a small and easily avoidable price to pay for a glorious My Little Pony/Barbie/cell phone cover-themed vulva!

Brave (2012)

Pixar's latest outing, *Brave*, was widely anticipated by fans of the studio as a reinterpretation of the Princess genre of fairytales, showing young girls that they don't have to be defined by their gender and can live their life however they choose. *Brave* stars Pixar's first female protagonist, the Scottish princess Merida, and her quest to change her fate.

Despite the promising trailers, Pixar fails to deliver to the standard that we've come to expect and *Brave* is, at best, a middling addition to the Pixar library. Instead of the poignant commentary on social forms and complex characterisation of films such as *Up* and *Wall-E*, *Brave* provides fairytale tropes, physical humour, and contrived predictable plot points in abundance. Merida's love of archery and her defiance of conventional femininity seemed to me like a tired rehash of Disney's superior *Mulan* or *Pocahontas*, instead of a striking reconstruction of what it means to be a woman or a princess. By making Merida's impending nuptials the catalyst for her ill-fated rebellion, I felt Pixar missed the opportunity to present a modern heroine who fights to save her people rather than to save herself. The idea of antagonism between mother and daughter is a well-known fairytale trope, though Pixar's portrayal of the relationship lends an air of realism and depth to an otherwise predictable narrative structure. *Brave* was an enjoyable film, and one which will undoubtedly delight children worldwide, but I wonder if Pixar could've pushed the boundaries of the genre just a little more to create a film which presented a 'brave' princess as the norm rather than a social oddity.

- Sheira Cohen



Jade le Grice

PhD, Department of Psychology

POSTGRAD
PROFILES

Growing up in a bicultural family gave Jade le Grice a sense of the commonalities and differences between the ways Māori whanau and Pākehā families do things. When she began progressing through academia, she grew dissatisfied with the way that much academic literature reinforces negative stereotypes about Māori, devalues the rich knowledge base of traditional tikanga Māori frameworks, and leaves no scope for the range of Māori perspectives on any given issue. So for her PhD, Jade is looking at Māori perspectives on fertility, reproduction, and pregnancy.

Through interviews with Māori wahine and tane she hopes to outline the ways society and whanau influence peoples' experiences. Though her work was still in progress at the time KATE talked to her, Jade had already noticed definite links between participant accounts and traditional tikanga (custom). The concept of whanaungatanga (kinship) came up often - the importance of children, the value placed upon mothering

and fathering, and decisions to have children being informed by a deep engagement with the meanings of life.

She also found tensions associated with having children linked to the impacts of colonisation; some were brought about through disempowering intersections with Patriarchal systems of gender (which is antagonistic to the complementarity of mana wahine and mana tane in tikanga Māori), Christian discourses that stigmatise non heterosexual or premarital sexual activity, racial discrimination influencing negative engagement with social or health services, and discourses of Maori as 'over-productive'.

Jade hopes to stimulate korero (conversation) around Māori experiences and tikanga related to fertility and reproduction, and to make recommendations to health services and policy to better serve Māori who have children. Her research will also be a valuable antidote to the current dearth of Māori perspectives on this topic in academia.



MY BODY MY RULES

Annette Nichol

I've made a decision.

I've decided that other people have nothing to do with my body. They don't get to tell me that I'm too fat or thin, too slutty or pure, too straight or gay, too pretty or ugly, too feminine or masculine. They don't get to monitor what I eat, how I move, where I go, how I represent myself, what I do or who I do it with. That stuff is on me; I will do what I like with my body, and if they have something to say about that, then they can go right ahead and kiss my proverbial.

For me, the journey that led to this decision started with a struggle. As a little girl, I noticed that my mother was *always* on a diet. She never said as much, but I understood that she felt there was something *deeply wrong* with her body. I grew to feel the same way about her body. Then I started to feel the same way about *my* body.

Maybe I don't have to tell you, reader, but hating your body *sucks*. It's your own personal slice of hell being trapped inside of something that feels like it's not on your side – this thing is supposed to be your ally, only it has turned into your enemy. A bit like Hal in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, just that it's not passive-aggressively waiting to kill you, it merely wants to make you suffer.

As a teenager, I struggled with what I think was an undiagnosed eating disorder. My parents freaked out when a family friend pointed out that I was getting unnaturally thin, and their 'fix' was to more or less force feed me.

I noticed that when I managed to avoid eating anything, or when I lost a bit of weight, I felt kind of good – but ultimately I didn't really feel any differently about my body. I still hated it. And when I started to put on a bit of weight, the only thing that really changed was that I had a fresh reason to hate my body.

When I stop to think about this, only a part of the message that my body wasn't right came from my mother's behaviour. Magazines and advertising constantly barrage us with 'ideal' bodies that have been Photoshopped to smithereens. We all *know* that they're not real bodies and that they've been altered to high heaven; but these images are so pervasive that they wiggle into our brains when we're not

thinking about them. Once they've latched onto our subconscious minds we don't stand a chance – we start judging ourselves by impossible standards that our conscious minds know full well are unrealistic. Our minds start to engage in civil war – and we're the casualties.

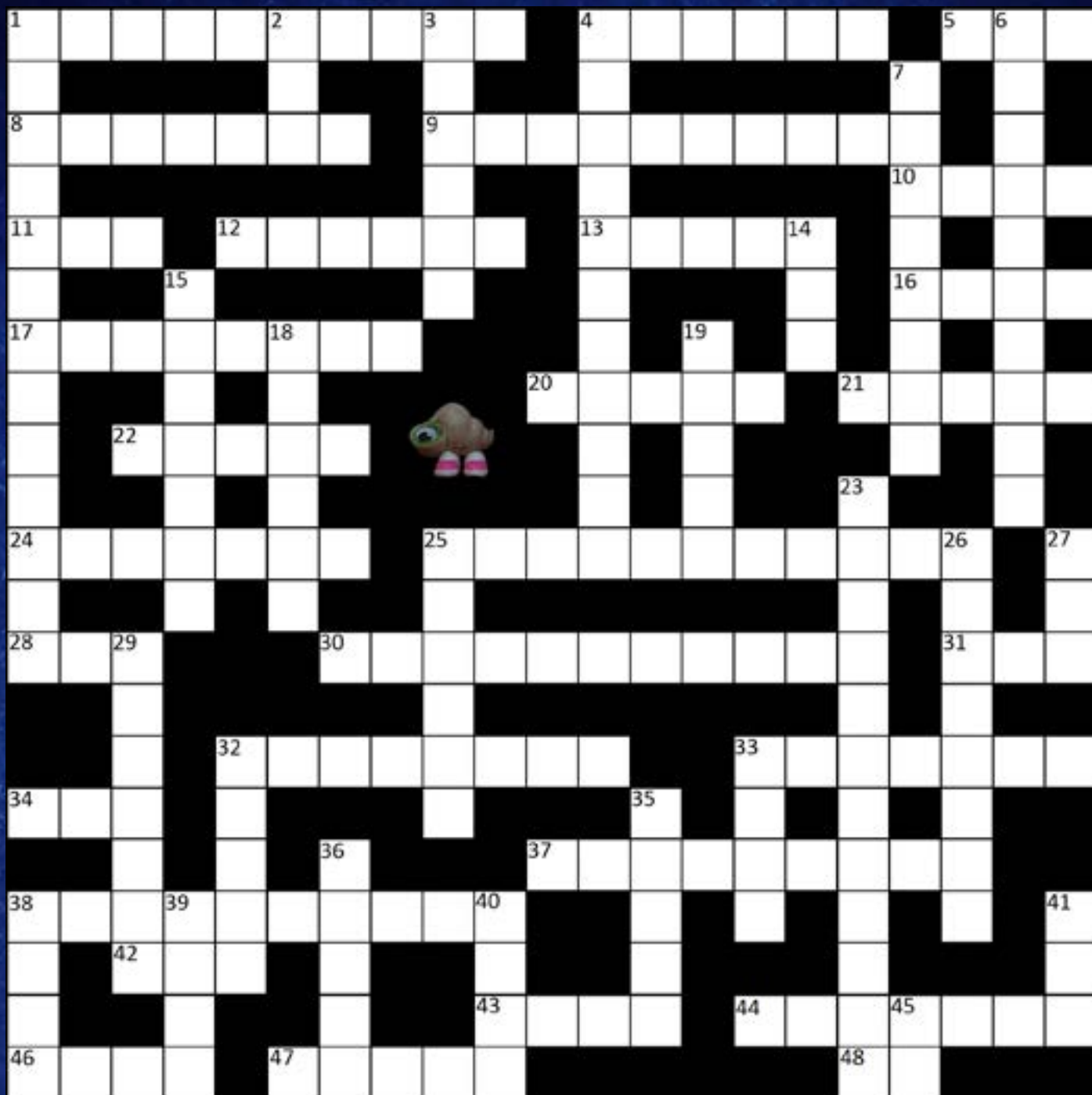
A very real part of the message that we get from all of this is that there *is nothing worse in the whole world than being fat*. People, especially girls and women, are *afraid* of fat, to the point of behaving unhealthily in order to avoid becoming fat. Apparently, fat people are totally miserable all the time, not to mention downright unhealthy, and just kind of failing at being thin. Let's be real for a second here: I don't believe that people are just "worried about the health" of the fat people they see on the street. If you eat nothing but cheeseburgers and you're a 'normal' weight, nobody cares. But if you eat nothing but cheeseburgers and you're fat, a whole lot of people have something to say about how unhealthy you are. Newsflash: they're both unhealthy, it's just that the 'normal' sized person is 'allowed' to be unhealthy (and sometimes is even applauded for their ability to eat rubbish and stay slim!) because *the way they look doesn't offend anyone*.

I think about these issues a lot, and I've come to some conclusions for my own body and my own life. One: I'm going to love the hell out of my body and treat it as well as I can. For me personally, that means eating when I'm hungry, drinking when I'm thirsty, exercising a bit every day, and generally trying to be healthful.

Two: It's not my place to judge other people for whatever they are, or whatever they do with their bodies. Thin? Fat? Gay? Trans? Promiscuous? Virgin? Whatever? It's all good. Other people's bodies are none of my business.

Three: I'm not going to listen to the body-babble directed at me. This part is tricky; every day something or someone tells me in one way or another that my body is not living up to what is expected of it. I don't live in a vacuum and I can't just switch off the stuff that I think is nonsense. But I *can* decide to actively work against it.

That's my decision. To love myself, to love others, to do my thing and let others do theirs – even if they eat nothing but cheeseburgers.



Across

1. Campus Feminist [...] (10)
4. Prejudice or discrimination based on sex (6)
5. Number of WROs there are this year (3)
8. For home vajazzling, use this glue (7)
9. NZ self-defence laws allow "[...] force" (10)
10. Adolescent (4)
11. Classification based on reproductive organs (3)
12. Tool to get gender equity in Parliament (6)
13. In the shape of a vulva (5)
16. To electrocute with a handheld device (4)
17. "The shittiest thing ever created by humankind" (8)
20. Org improving women's status internationally (5)
21. A person of a common gender (5)
22. Current AUSA President: [...] Williams (5)
24. The Auckland Pro-choice club's

mascot (7)

25. In 1897 women could stand for Te [...] (11)
28. Honorific for knighted men, equivalent to 'Dame' (3)
30. Room in AUSA House for people with kids (11)
31. Man who is dishonorable towards women (3)
32. The right to vote (8)
33. To firmly decide (7)
34. What was Hedwig from J. K. Rowling's books? (3)
37. Pepper spray is concentrated [...] (9)
38. Nancy Wake's nickname (5, 5)
42. Title or endearment for a mother (3)
43. Fat-phobia is prejudice based on (4)
44. Silicone menstrual device (7)
46. Slang for an attractive person (4)
47. Sport: Roller [...] (6)
48. Popular consent narrative: "no means [...]" (2)

Down

1. Annette supports your right to eat these (13)
2. To identify as your birth-assigned gender is to be (3)
3. Current feminist sex framework: explicit [...] consent (6)
4. Fear and hatred of effeminate men (11)
6. Women-only room on campus (10)
7. Kate Sheppard's answer to everything (8)
14. Chaotic neutral superhero, [...] woman (3)
15. PCOS involves cysts on what? (7)
18. Legume Cinderella sifted from ash (7)
19. Plural of a synonym for womb (5)
23. Where oppressions meet (12)
25. 1898 campus group, Women's [...] Club (6)
26. Nikki Kaye is the MP for [...] Central (8)
27. Implanted device for contra-

- ception (3)
29. Subversively use a word meant to insult you (7)
32. Site of witch trials in the 1690s (5)
33. Actor turned feminist meme, [...] Gosling (4)
35. Often depicted as Eve's forbidden fruit (5)
36. Traditionally a woman's duty to keep clean (5)
38. Where embryos can implant (4)
39. Passage from ovary to uterus, Fallopian [...] (4)
40. 2010 film starring Emma Stone '[...] A' (4)
41. Acronym for law students' pro-bono advisory group (3)
45. A response in the negative (2)



We Are Not the Same:

Resisting Assimilation and Imperialist Feminisms

• MZ •

There is an assumption in western feminist thought that there is some kind of 'universal womanhood'; that "we" as womyn all have the same experiences of sexism, misogyny and patriarchy. It is a Eurocentric assumption that is hegemonic in my experience of western feminist practice and theory, whether it is directly articulated or not. It seems to operate on a subconscious level for many white feminists. But it is an idea that privileges sex/gender identities above others and makes other forms of oppression nearly invisible. Our experiences are always context-specific and related to our positioning within systems of power/domination. It *does* make a difference if you are not of the dominant ethnicity/"race", class, sexuality, age, body/mental ability.

Even in anarcho-feminist discourse, it seems like there is a silence around issues of racism and class in particular. When they're not talked about, they are de-prioritised and swept under the carpet. There is a real danger in only focusing on single issues or conceptualizing oppressions as separate, for example only naming sexism and patriarchy. First of all, sex/gender is not the only aspect of identity that involves hierarchical relationships of power in western capitalist colonial state societies. There is a range of oppressions which are all interconnected to make up experiences of being subjugated, dominated or oppressed. Because the sexism that middle-class Pakeha womyn experience is not the same - even within this category - there would be variation, but speaking for myself, my experiences of sexism have often been racist and ageist as well. Racist sexism or sexist racism is when both oppressions happen together and the shit flinging at you multiplies accordingly.

A silence on difference or assumption of sameness is oppressive in that it masks really important aspects of people's subjectiv-

ities and experience of oppression. It doesn't integrate a holistic analysis of power and it privileges some forms of oppression above others. Difference shouldn't be seen as divisive in the way unity shouldn't be based on sameness. Instead, it should be acknowledged and accepted. Not all womyn experience sexism in the same way as middle-class white womyn. We have different life histories, different cultural backgrounds, different customs and ways of relating to each other. Being a feminist shouldn't have to mean assimilation into what white womyn think is 'feminist'. To impose one theory of feminism, or one strategy of feminist revolution on all contexts, based on Eurocentric understandings of the world, is imperialist, paternalistic and fucked up. There may be similarities and common experiences,

In many situations when I am the only non-white/Asian person in an activist meeting, it is really hard to challenge and resist homogenising attitudes on my own. Racism in radical groups and scenes is slightly different to racism in wider society, where it is much more blatant and noticeable; you can identify it really easily as being racist. When racism works on a level that is taken-for-granted, it is harder to demonstrate how behaviours, comments or attitudes can be racist, especially when it often isn't based on hatred, but ethnocentric cultural ignorance and colour-blindness, which means you are treated as an 'honorary white'. When you are on your own, there is nobody else who can attest and validate your feelings of alienation and social isolation.

There is a real danger in only focusing on single issues or conceptualizing oppressions as separate, for example only naming sexism and patriarchy.

but to ignore difference and only emphasise sameness is homogenising and insulting. It gives an underlying message that difference is not okay; "you're only okay if you're like us."

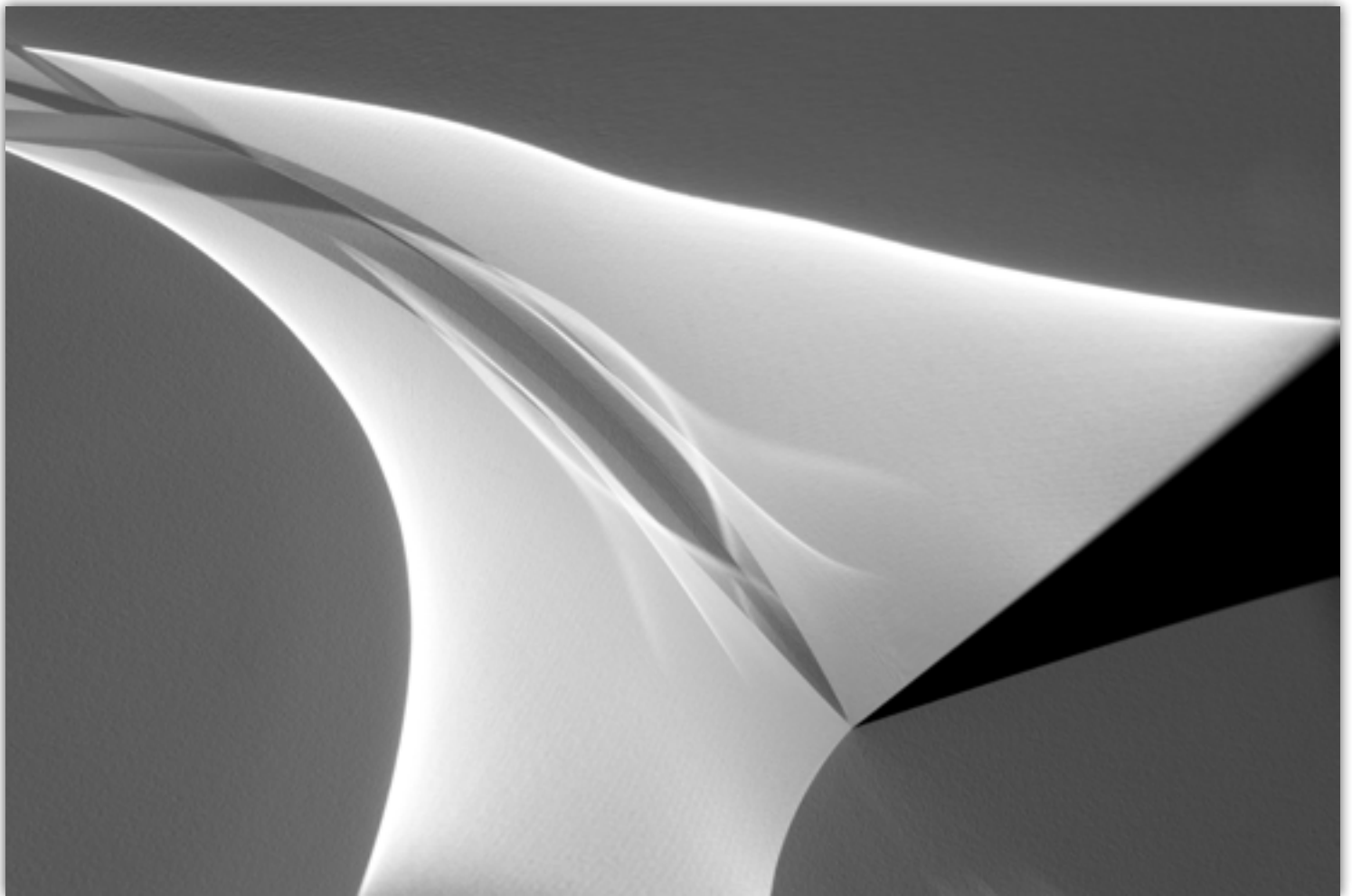
Take, for example, the situation of apartheid in South Africa when the All Blacks were touring there. The South African government first denied Māori rugby players the right to play. Then they adopted a policy deeming them "honorary whites" so they could play 'legitimately'. They couldn't just be accepted as Māori players. This is exactly how some white feminists treat some of us non-white womyn. By subtly ignoring difference, being 'colourblind', by assuming sameness, by not challenging white privilege collectively, white feminists render central aspects of our identity meaningless and invisible.

So I think it is really important to have these conversations with other non-white feminists and activists and draw inspiration from grassroots writings and media created by non-white feminists that speak to us and are relevant to our specific experiences and reclaim visibility. We have to support each other, to decolonise and rethink all the colonial white supremacist patriarchal capitalist ideologies forced down our throats and ears as a result of growing up in this system. I'd also love to see these discussions going on outside of activist ghettos and ivory towers, and reconnect with our sisters, mothers and aunts bearing the brunt of multiple oppressions at the lowest of the low, organising collectively to destroy this silence.

To read more discussions on intersectionalities from Asian Feminist perspectives in NZ, visit Mellowyellow-aotearoa.blogspot.co.nz



TOP: PAULINE YIU
RIGHT: MINKYEONG KIM
BOTTOM: REBECCA FROGLEY



THE BEST

IS THAT PEPPER SPRAY IN YOUR PO

Recently my mother presented me with a bright pink, polka-dotted keychain ornament. This wasn't a mistimed gift more suitable for my Spice Girls phase (circa 1998); it was a personal alarm. As much as I appreciated the thought, I was dubious about its usefulness. Its sole purpose is to shriek at high decibels when activated. I can do that, with the added charm of obscenities, and if I can't then it's a good bet I'm not in a position to reach a device to do it for me. So I decided to look into my options re: self-defence, and this, *KATE* readers, is what I've found:



Reasonable Force

The laws about protecting yourself in New Zealand are a grey area. You're allowed to use "reasonable force" in order to extract yourself from danger, and then you're supposed to run away and get the police. If you go all Frigga One-Eye on your attacker it can technically turn from self-defence into assault, but the police will err on the side of the victim for obvious reasons, so do what you must to protect yourself. Of course, this assumes that you manage to get one up on your attacker, which is easier with some of the following.

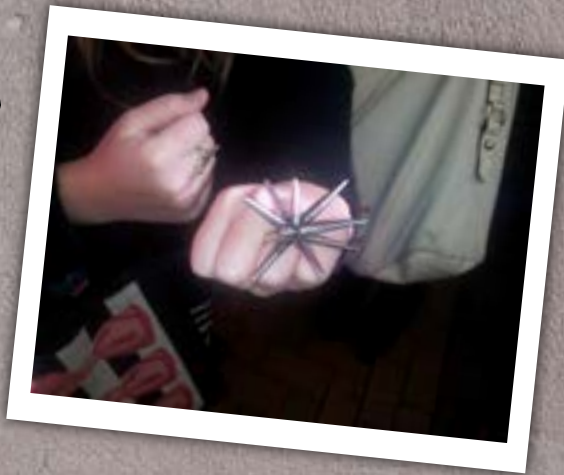
Self-defence Classes

Self-defence classes in New Zealand, such as the ones run by the Auckland Women's Centre a couple of times a year, tend to focus on teaching you to evade an attacker and get to safety using only your own body. They'll show you how to dodge and escape holds, hit and kick properly, find all the lovely soft places on an attacker's body and rip them to shreds, and even have you practice yelling and kicking up a fuss if you feel threatened.

Such lessons can be great for your confidence, and useful for many situations. However, they don't help people who are incapacitated, or who are in complicated positions where fighting may be more dangerous than the alternatives. Moreover there are six physiological responses to attack: fight, flight, freeze, collapse, disassociate, and hypervigilance; until you're attacked you don't know which you'll do. Your average self-defence class is a safe environment where any violence is simulated in slow motion with other learners. Since you feel pretty safe, you don't get to test your reaction to fear-adrenaline. One way to overcome this is to practice regularly and develop muscle memory so that even if your brain freezes, your body can fight for you. Another is the Impact style of self defence training, which involves actually fighting in a semi-uncontrolled environment until you've conquered your physiological responses.

T DEFENCE

CKET OR ARE YOU JUST HAPPY TO AAAAARGH



Personal alarms, whistles

In the pro column, these make a lot of noise which could spook an attacker and potentially cause them ear damage. In the con column, people ignore loud noises like yells and car alarms all the time, and if it causes ear damage to your attacker it's likely that it will also cause ear damage to you.

Fashion

You can wear weapons in plain sight if you do it with style. Stiletto heels or heavy boots can cause a lot of damage, as can rings with rough/raw cut stones or other sharp edges, hair picks, etc. Everyone knows the trick of carrying keys points-out between your fingers, but you can also load up your key chain with heavy and/or spiky things which can cause superficial damage and leave identifying marks.

Pepper spray

This is a spray made from chilli pepper concentrate which causes a burning sensation sort of like having a Roman Candle lit in your face. It's considered by police to be an offensive weapon and therefore restricted (meaning you need a license to carry it). Though it's easy to make at home and the ingredients are widely available, if you're caught carrying it around it's unlikely that the police will believe that you just like your food so spicy that it causes nausea, difficulty breathing, temporary blindness and a burning sensation.

How to concentrate capsaicin, which has nothing to do with anything else pepper-related on this page, lolala

1. Grind up some dried chilli peppers

2. Put the powder in a glass cup

3. Liberally cover powder with acetone*

4. Drain off acetone onto a glass evaporating dish/plate

5. When acetone evaporates, you'll be left with nearly pure capsaicin

*You can buy small bottles of pure acetone from pharmacies, or at Mitre 10 near the turpentine and methylated spirits.

Mace

Also known as 'tear gas', this is a chemical compound which is milder than pepper spray but still nasty if you get an eyeful or a mouthful. It's restricted, and hard to make, but easy to fake - some spray deodorants can get a similar effect, and you can't be prosecuted for carrying those around in your bag.

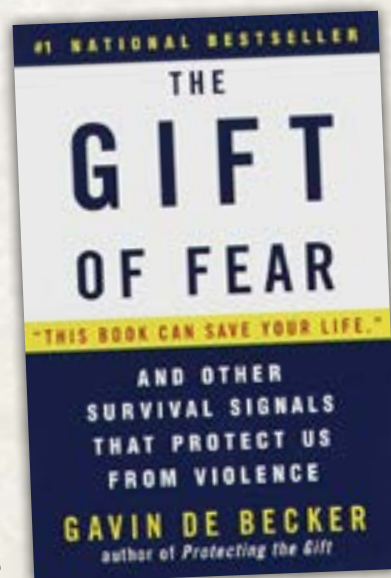
Tasers

You've probably seen these on American television, but they're not really an option here. Essentially they electrocute people, so they're dangerous - potentially lethal - and therefore restricted weapons in New Zealand. If you're found carrying a taser you'll face charges for unlawful possession, and it's pretty hard to get your hands on one anyway. Shops don't sell them, cops won't share, and if you order one online, you probably won't get it through Customs.

So those are some options for defending yourself, if it comes to that. Of course, the only 100% way to stay safe from attack is for no one to attack you - but either way, knuckle dusters are totally in right now.

The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals That Protect Us from Violence, By Gavin de Becker.

Trigger warning for accounts of rape within the book. Don't be put off by its categorisation as a self-help book because, trust me, you probably need the help. Touted as "the book that could save your life" and written by an industry specialist in the field of security, *The Gift of Fear* is an indispensable manual on how to take advantage of your gut feelings as a way to keep you from being harmed by violence. Rather than incite paranoia, this book will actually teach you how to accurately assess the risks within potentially dangerous but not uncommon situations and respond to them in ways that will keep you safe. De Becker pays a great deal of attention to women's experiences and treats the topic in a balanced and respectful manner. Some of the scenarios addressed include harassment, stalking, encounters with strangers, and date rape. Nice Guy™ also gets a thorough examination. It's admirable that the author never once resorts to victim-blaming and makes it clear early on that no one should ever be blamed for their own assault. Everyone, especially at-risk demographics such as women, should read this book at least once.





THIS PAGE -
TOP LEFT: JUNIA MOUNGBOON
TOP RIGHT: BRITT MANNING
BOTTOM: JUNIA MOUNGBOON

NEXT PAGE
TOP LEFT: JUNIA MOUNGBOON
TOP RIGHT: GRACE WRIGHT
BOTTOM: MINKYEONG KIM



FASHION & GENDER

• AYCH MCARDLE •

I was asked in a recent

interview to explain the relationship between gender and the fashion industry. What a gem of a question!

Before understanding the way that we create and consume clothing we need to start to engage with our bodies in a fresh way. As a young child I thought about my gender presentation based on x characteristics of my body - biological markers of difference and sameness. Realising that gender identity often walks in a vastly opposite direction to biological markers or in different rhythms to our physical assignments was a huge moment in understanding my diverse gender identity.

Call me a dreamer but I get excited when garments are created for people rather than genders. I love clothes that explore form, function and sentiment rather than reinforcing binary gender, and with it binary privilege. It baffles me that within patternmaking at different levels of the fashion industry, from home sewing to

production floor, blocks and patterns are labelled menswear or women's wear. What about the bodies that don't fit this divide?

I acknowledge the differences that biology dictates across some human forms (for example menswear traditionally caters for broad shoulders and sloped chests), but these strict gender categories become the building blocks for garment design and construction. Because a piece of clothing is crafted from a men's block, does this mean that it must be sold in the menswear market?

The regulation of gender through fashion exists within the current binary gender construct. Menswear that is advertised in a way that reinforces sex appeal via heteronormative channels and women's wear that marks the female body as one to be enjoyed rather than lived in are clear indicators of these destructive attitudes.

All of these struggles point to an overwhelming gender normative attitude in our communities. Our expression and



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMMA GLEASON.

exploration of gender identity is policed at every billboard, in every bus stop and at the family dinner table.

How do we put aside the rules we subscribe to around bodies and their coverings and create space to reflect on garments in a new way? I think the answer lies in a determination to live in our bodies rather than within the boundaries we are surrounded by. How do we step outside of our own constructed walls? Singular bold strides that start to crack those fortresses of negative gender attitudes in our world! Do one thing that scares you in the way you approach garments to express your identity. It might just be the beginning of a pretty revolutionary conversation.

Aych McArdle is 24 years old and currently studying towards their honours year at the School of Art & Design at AUT.



LEGO INVADES THE GIRL'S AISLE

N. CLENDINNING

Earlier this year a new line of Lego

was introduced called *Lego Friends*, which is explicitly targeted towards girls. This stirred up a fair amount of controversy amongst parents and Lego fans. Lego began as a gender neutral toy, manufacturing simple bricks that any child could play with. Since the late 70s, however, The Lego Group have been introducing more boy-oriented themes, starting with *Castles*, *Space*, *Pirates*, and more recently, lines such as *Ninjago*, *Dino*, and licensed sets such as *Star Wars* and *Super Heroes*.

The *Friends* controversy comes from the fact that the sets have been "pink-ified". That is, the bricks come in various pastel colours, the sets tend to focus on domestic and leisure activities (kitchens, spa pools, bakeries and beauty shops), and the figures themselves have had a complete revamp; no longer are they the iconic blocky minifigs, but a much more human-shaped "mini-doll". *Friends* focuses on five ethnically-diverse young women living in Heartlake City – meaning black, white, white, white and Asian (or possibly Latina). The mini-doll characters are not compatible with standard Lego minifigs, nor do they have the same level of articulation – their wrists don't pivot, and their legs cannot move independently from each other. This restricts what each figure can do.

By creating a specifically girl-oriented city in the Lego world, it means that all other lines are by default for boys. It's an implicit exclusion of girls from other Lego lines, where the minifig gender imbalance can be as high as 18:1 male to female. This creates an environment of tokenism with regard to a female presence in Lego City. Many critics of the *Friends* series say that all girls really needed in order to be included in Lego's consumer base was an increase in female representation in regular Lego, along with sets that are not as conflict-driven as they currently are.

The Lego Group spent four years asking young girls what they wanted in their Lego. Apparently that answer was "pink". The issue with this is that by the time girls reach the age of five, they have already been socialised by the media, peers or their parents into the pink princess culture. The last time I talked to a group of five year old girls, they told me I was wrong for liking pirates, because pirates are only for boys. And then they punched me. In the boob.

The Lego Group already attempted to create girl-oriented



sets in 1971, 1991, 1994 and 1997 after realising that they had pretty much excluded half of their potential consumer base. These included *Homemaker* (Lego furniture for dolls), *Paradisa* (a resort-style subtheme of Lego City), *Scala* (jewellery-making), *Clickits* (jewellery-making Lego which is seemingly incompatible with any other Lego set) and *Belville* (the shittiest thing ever created by humankind). All of these lines were discontinued as they proved unsuccessful.

The Lego Group is ready to release its second wave of *Friends* sets later this year in time for Christmas. If these preliminary sets sell well, which they have been doing so far, Lego will continue to create more. The more they do so, the more ambitious, creative and non-gender stereotypical the set designs will become. Already we can see this occurring in the next wave, which includes a drum kit in one of the bedroom sets. With girls having more socially sanctioned access to Lego sets, it may encourage them to develop an interest in construction toys, leading them to bigger and more complex builds, and thus an improved relationship with spatial reasoning – an aspect of educational play that has always been subtly denied to girls. So, even though the current *Friends* line is not impressive in terms of the Lego Group's approach to their female consumer base, it still has a huge amount of potential for the future, and they could have made it a whole lot worse. *Belville* is a testament to this.

Fucking *Belville*.



CHERRY RAYMOND AWARD

The Zonta Club of Auckland offers this \$2,000 annual award to a woman living or working in the Auckland area for a project which demonstrates her commitment to the objectives of Zonta International.

These objectives are to improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Apply by Friday 17th August 2012 - aucklandzonta@gmail.com

PCOS

ALICE JACQUES

Not many people have heard of PCOS, but it's common enough that anyone who has ovaries, or knows someone with ovaries, ought to learn about it. PCOS or Polycystic Ovary Syndrome is a hormone disorder that affects around 5 - 10% of women of reproductive age. It's thought to be hereditary, but environmental factors may also contribute to its onset. No cure exists, but with treatment this condition can be managed effectively. Thanks, science!

Individuals vary in their experience of symptoms, but the most common are lack of ovulation, missed periods, insulin resistance, weight gain, fertility problems and high levels of testosterone. Excess testosterone causes more visible symptoms such as acne, facial and body hair growth, and possibly hair loss.

Hormonal birth control is capable of masking these

symptoms, and many women don't find out they have PCOS until they either stop birth control after having taken it for a while, or run into trouble trying to get pregnant.

An ultrasound can show if your ovaries have cysts, which are actually

immature egg follicles, and if the ovaries themselves are enlarged. The doctors will also order blood tests for your hormone levels, so it's not all hanging blurry ultrasound prints of your wonderful insides on the wall and calling it abstract art - you'll have to get used to needles.

Initially diagnosis can be confusing, frightening and saddening. (Goddamn it, ovaries. What next?) If you're

diagnosed, your GP may refer you to an endocrinologist, or suggest various treatments and changes in lifestyle and diet to best manage the symptoms.

Medications range from hormonal birth control such as Yasmin or Cyproterone acetate, to antiandrogens such

as Spironolactone, which tastes like a combination of peppermint and ash (nom!). Metformin can be used to manage insulin resistance and prevent the onset of diabetes. Women who experience difficulty conceiving may choose to undergo IVF treatment.

Of course, all drugs and treatments have side effects and risks. Ask doctors many questions about PCOS, symptoms, and medications. To

make informed choices, do your own research (use the Uni databases!) and ask for a second opinion if you are unsure about what your doctor is telling you.

A number of websites in various shades of pink offer information and support for women with PCOS. Online forums are filled with anecdotal stories that should not be treated as directly applicable, but if you are looking for general support and camaraderie they're a good place to start. A lot of these forums mainly focus on fertility treatments, so if you're not particularly interested in trying to become pregnant, you might have to shop around before finding the right fit. The largest PCOS support forum I have found is the soulcysters.com messageboard.

PCOS is not the end of the world. The sooner you get a diagnosis, treatment, and support, the sooner you can get on with getting on with your life.

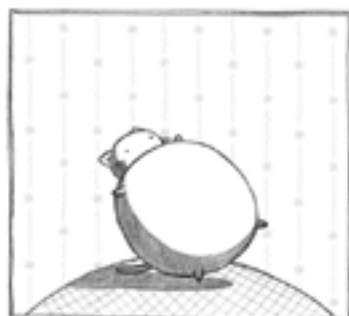
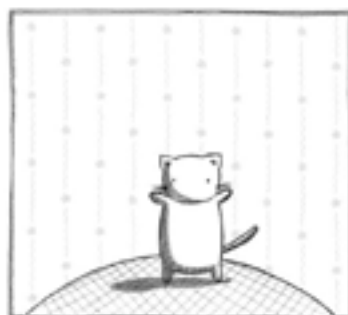
If you think you may be experiencing the symptoms described in this article, please consult your GP.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALICE JACQUES.



SU DO KU

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LADY TODAY: SEASONAL INJUSTICE

SUMMER



WINTER





Dear Kate Sheppard...

DEAR KATE SHEPPARD,

I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THE PERSON I'VE BEEN SEEING FOR 3 MONTHS, WHO HAD ASKED FOR US TO BE EXCLUSIVE, HAS BEEN GOING OUT WITH TWO OTHER PEOPLE, WHO ALSO THOUGHT THEY WERE IN EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS. OBVIOUSLY I'VE ENDED IT, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS SHIT, WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?

J. 'TRIPLE-CROSSED AND ANNOYED' B.

Dear J.T.A.B.,

That is quite outrageous! What nerve your former paramour has. I am very glad that you have ended the relationship as you certainly should not have to put up with deceit and unfairness. These days adultery is not illegal, and in any case that law only applied to marriages, so there is no legal recourse for you. I take it on trust that you have already blackened their name through the half-bowed channels of gossip to warn others of their tricks. So I assume you are asking for another way to confront them with their wrongdoing and ask for penitence; I have just the thing.

I am a great believer in the power of the petition. Like a single wool fibre, a lone voice is easily overlooked and broken; but a number of fibres together are sturdier and more useful. Just so, a petition combines a number of voices in a single unified plea. My idea is this: talk to your two fellow deceived lovers, and any others you can find, and collectively present the cad with a document signed by all which details the harm they do by their actions and requests their immediate cessation. They may see the light and, even if not, your endeavour shall have the dual purpose of bringing at least three people with much in common together. Perhaps you can all have tea!

Kind regards,
Katherine Sheppard.



DEAR KATE,

I HAVE THIS PROF, RIGHT, WHO HAS THE MOST ANNOYING HABIT OF CHEWING GUM WHILE HE'S LECTURING. YOU CAN SORT OF HEAR THE SMACKING SOUNDS HIS MOUTH MAKES FROM THE FRONT ROW. I THINK IT'S QUITE RUDE AND ALSO PRETTY GROSS, AND IT'S SUPER DISTRACTING WHEN I'M JUST TRYING TO TAKE NOTES AND PASS HIS STUPID CLASS. WHAT SHOULD I DO, SHORT OF GOING ALL CELLBLOCK TANGO ON HIS ASS? 'LIZ' (HE HAD IT COMING)

Dear L.H.H.I.C.

What a dilemma! Professors are deserving of respect and a little leeway for their eccentricities, yet students are undertaking a journey of learning which should also be respected. I certainly hope your professor is not yet aware of how vexatious and rude his habit appears to his class. My advice in this case is that you talk to your classmates; if you find that your annoyance is shared, you can see about putting together a petition to have a gum-chewing ban for the duration of the lecture. Because it is helpful to present a problem with a solution, perhaps you could also propose to your prof that he take up a different habit to satisfy his oral fixation, something quiet, dignified and harmless to himself and others, such as pipe smoking.

Warm regards,
Katherine Sheppard.



DEAR KATE,

I HAVE ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS. I'M REGISTERED WITH THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTRE AS MY GP, BUT RECENTLY THEY'VE STARTED CHARGING CONSULTATION FEES WHERE THERE WERE NONE BEFORE, WHICH ADDS UP TO A BRUTAL SUM IF YOU HAVE REGULAR APPOINTMENTS. I REALLY LIKE MY DOCTOR AT STUDENT HEALTH, AND SHE'S ANGRY ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS TOO,

BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN AFFORD TO KEEP PAYING FOR ALL OF MY APPOINTMENTS THERE, AND THE ALTERNATIVES ARE BLEAK. HELP?

SICK BROKE STUDENT

Dear S.B.S.,

Charging sick, poor students for ongoing care is certainly in bad taste, especially if your doctor agrees that it is unnecessary. If the Student Health Centre is to be truly for the benefit of all students, those in charge should look for ways to allow students inexpensive healthcare. I suspect that if you set a petition in motion to ask that the charges be rolled back, you could get quite a few signatures.

I hope that your health problems and money troubles are relieved, and wish you all the best in your studies.

Best regards,
Katherine Sheppard.



DEAR KATE,

THIS WOMAN HAS STARTED AGGRESSIVELY HITTING ON MY BF HE'S REALLY SHY AND HE GENUINELY DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT. HE'S TOLD HER THAT SHE IS RUNNING ALL OF HIS RED LIGHTS (HE'S DONE A COURSE IN WORK-PLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT, IDEK). I RUN INTERFERENCE WHEN I CAN BUT I CAN'T ALWAYS BE THERE AND SHE POPS UP EVERYWHERE NOW. SHOULD I PRESENT HER WITH A PETITION TELLING HER TO STEP OFF?

XO

Dear X.D.

No, dear, don't bother. Present her with a Protection Order. Or a shank.

Fond regards,
Katherine Sheppard.

Jennifer's Body (2009)

Jennifer's Body can claim the distinction of bringing us Seth from *The OC* wearing eyeliner and playing in a band, sounding exactly how Seth from *The OC* wearing eyeliner and playing in a band would sound. The alt indie soundtrack is inextricable from the script and set, and you could play a drinking game with the music references. *Juno* writer Diablo Cody brings her trademark hit and miss invented teen lingo to the script, and in this one she hits more than she misses - the winning combination of murder gore and menstrual humour isn't explored often enough in our opinion. Megan Fox's somewhat stilted acting lends itself well to playing a self-conscious and insecure teenaged girl, and her portrayal of a nervously intrepid groupie is either adorable or affecting, depending on whether you ever knew, or were, that kid. A lot of significance is attached to intense adolescent female friendship, and the film explores the sublimated sexual tension such friendships can contain. Jennifer Check's body is the titular and main character - she is unashamedly sexualised and demonised in equal parts - whereas the costume department somehow manages to make Amanda Seyfried look almost plain as Jennifer's nerdy BFF Anita 'Needy' Lesnicki. The film gets points for not giving in to cliché and making Needy Jennifer's celibate foil and, where horror movies often sexualise violence towards women, *Jennifer's Body* sexualises violence towards men (which is no better, but a refreshing change of pace nonetheless). Overall the movie doesn't shake the genre to its rafters, but it tweaks and subverts convention just enough to assert itself as an individual.

- The Guardian Building Movie Night Club



Natasha Taneka, BA(Hons)

MA, Department of Political Studies

POSTGRAD
PROFILES

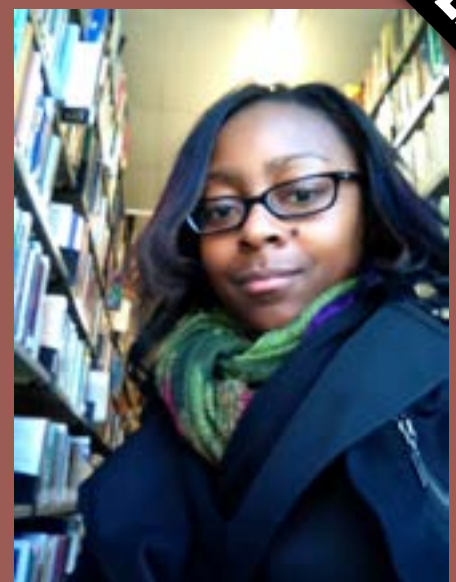
From a very early age migration, politics and the pursuit of education have impacted Natasha Taneka's life. At one year old she left her birthplace of Zimbabwe so that her mother could pursue her MA in Canada, and has continued to travel the world since. Natasha got a first-hand look at the intricacies of world politics and conflicting viewpoints when she lived in the USA during 9/11, then moved to the Middle East during high school. This prompted her to select Political Science with a concentration on International Relations for her undergrad in Ottawa, Canada. Now Natasha is living in New Zealand, studying towards her MA by looking at our recently introduced Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme.

Under the RSE Scheme, adopted by the NZ government in the late 2000s, horticulture companies can register to bring in people, mainly from the Pacific Islands, to grow or pick fruit and vegetables for a season before sending them home. The NZ employers get flexible labour, the workers take home money (remittances), and the send-

ing countries get a cash injection without losing workers permanently; proponents of the system call this the 'triple win'. Natasha is interested in what lies behind the decision to switch from permanent to temporary labour migration, and whether or not it reflects a backlash against multiculturalism.

"Right now I'm digging through my literature review," Natasha told KATE. "So far it's been a process of trying to figure out which lens I'm going to use to critique the scheme." She has looked at ideas from Edward Said's *Orientalism* to bell hooks' "white-supremacist-capitalist-patriarchy". Currently she is trying on Hardt and Negri's theory of the Multitude, and using an understanding of Nationalism from Benedict Anderson's book on *Imagined Communities*.

Natasha also wants to figure out how the RSE Scheme's policy can be improved to best protect the workers' human rights and maximise the positive impact of the scheme on developing their home countries. Although it is a business policy with the aim of making money, she believes



that New Zealand has the responsibility and the opportunity to do right by temporary labour migrants. She suggests this might be achieved through overview, regulation, and understanding that labour cannot be commodified.

Porn In Defence of

AREOLA PALOOZA

make better porn."

Though it is homogenised to suit the tastes of heterosexual white men, mainstream western pornography is consumed by numerous other demographics. Fun fact: women enjoy sex and watch porn too! We contribute to about one third of online porn consumption and that number is steadily rising. Even in light of this, the industry is still reluctant to address the major problems that alienate its female consumers.

The first of those issues is low production quality which gives rise to unattractive sets, horrible camera angles, cheesy dialogue, exaggerated acting and slap bass. Hilarious, except when you have to stop mid-wank because wait, wha... that was only three seconds of foreplay! Three. Seconds. Or when your vagina tells you to get the hell out because it's had enough of the obviously disinterested actors.

More serious than poor execution is the oppressiveness and lack of diverse representation in mainstream porn. Degradation and humiliation of women is normalised. Women don't actively have sex, they get fucked instead. Differences in ethnicity, age, and body type are fetishised, and ejaculation on women's bodies is the inevitable conclusion. The actors are usually hyper-feminine or masculine, hairless and toned. The range of body language and facial expressions is equally limited and dictated by strict gender binaries.

Some people have responded to these shortcomings of porn by making their own "feminist" versions.

The focus tends to be on female sexual agency, capturing "real" pleasure and individuality, ethical production and worker's rights, and undermining the dominance and privileging of straight white men's experiences by offering a platform for different and non-fetishised identities and sexual experiences to be represented. Despite such efforts, a lot of feminist porn still falls into the trap of objectifying women only, thus failing to address the needs of a substantive number of female audience members who would rather watch porn that showcased hot straight men.

However, in the wake of shifting discourse around sex and porn (to which I hope everyone feels empowered to contribute), and the influx of intelligent and radical producers and actors including Tristan Taormino, Erika Lust and Stoya, the industry proves full of revolutionary potential.

Below are some recommendations for relatively less problematic smut. It'll save you the trouble of wading through the shittest that is the "feminist" tag on youporn.com, which will invariably be inaccurate and overloaded with strap-ons. This list is not exhaustive;

Porn has always been a controversial subject in feminist discourse.

Older generations of feminists tend to oppose it while younger feminists seem more comfortable with the idea. Most anti-porn activists will tell you that porn is inherently misogynist and harmful to women, whereas the pro-porn faction is likely to assert that porn can inspire women to discover and realise their desires and enhance their sexual experiences. I'm a firm believer in the latter and would argue that despite being promoted by a severely lacking industry, porn as a concept in itself, like sex, is fabulous and should be openly embraced and explored instead of severed from our general lives as a taboo. Feminist porn pioneer Nina Hartley points out, "The answer to bad porn isn't no porn, it's to try and

it is intended as a starting point for your own personal exploration. The content has been chosen with intersectional feminist criteria in mind, but very few if any are without flaws. Each recommendation has its merits, such as excellent cinematography, women producers, representation of genuine sexual pleasure, or the inclusion of diverse identities and sexualities. If there's something you'd like to see more of in porn, get in touch with the directors. Ultimately, it's up to you, if necessary, to negotiate a compromise between what you find hot and what you consider oppressive. By the time you get to the bottom of the list, the fast-forward function will have become your new best friend.

BOOKS

Smart Girl's Guide to Porn – Violet Blue

Good Porn: A Woman's Guide – Erika Lust

ONLINE COMMENTARY ON SEX AND PORN

General news and reviews of porn from radical perspectives.

www.tinynibbles.com

www.goodforher.com/feminist_porn_awards

www.honestpornreviews.com

<http://ourpornourselves.org/>

FREE USER-UPLOAD WEBSITES THAT MAY OR MAY NOT GIVE YOUR COMPUTER STDs

If you don't think paying for porn is worth it then your most obvious choices would be to use these sites or to torrent (not endorsing the latter, but merely informing you that the option is there, *whistles sweetly*). The level of variety for all of the sites is acceptable but they could do with more content geared towards users situated outside of the "16-35 year-old straight white guy" demographic. As with all free stuff, these sites come with fuck-ups; they're ugly as hell, messy to navigate and contain a shitload of language that's misogynistic, slut-shaming, fat-phobic, racist and more.

www.redtube.com

www.pornhub.com

www.youporn.com

www.pornotube.com

www.extremetube.com

PAID SITES

Many of them offer HD videos shot with an artistic eye. Some will periodically post low-res previews or full-length versions of their original content onto user-upload sites, which is helpful for those who prefer to sample their porn before paying for it.

www.x-art.com

www.andrewblake.com

www.crashpadseries.com (Feminist Porn Awards 2012 - Honoured Website, made by women of colour)

www.danejones.com (Feminist Porn Awards 2012 - Honoured Website)

www.explicite-art.com

www.forthegirls.com (erotic fiction + naked men and more. YAY)

www.girlfriendandjobs.com (hot men aplenty - racially diverse!)

www.gooddykeporn.com

<http://vod.hotmoviesforher.com/index.php>

www.ifeelmyself.com

www.ishotmyself.com

www.indiepornrevolution.com

www.kink.com

www.lustfilms.com

www.met-art.com

www.orgasms.xxx

www.purecfnm.com

www.vividalt.com



Nancy Wake (30 August 1912 - 7 August 2011) served as a courier, saboteur, and guerilla agent for the Allies in World War II.

Nancy was born in Wellington and raised in Australia. She ran away from home at 16 and worked as a nurse, then travelled to New York, London and Paris where she became a self-taught journalist.

In 1939 she was living in Marseille when the Nazis invaded. After the fall of France in 1940, Nancy became a French Resistance courier and earned the nickname the 'White Mouse' from the Gestapo for her ability to elude capture. By 1943, she was the Gestapo's most wanted person, with 5 million francs on her head. She sabotaged German installations and set up escape networks for Jews and stranded Allies, saving around 2000. When her escape network was betrayed, she fled to Britain and joined the Special Operations Executive. In April 1944 she was parachuted back into France to work with a French guerilla group, which she helped expand into a 7,000-strong force which fought tens of thousands of SS soldiers with only 100 casualties.

On one occasion Nancy killed a female German spy in cold blood because her men could not bring themselves to do it; another time she killed an SS sentry with her bare hands during a raid to stop him from raising the alarm. She also led attacks on German installations and the local Gestapo headquarters. She believed the most useful thing she did was cycling for 500km through German checkpoints to retrieve vital codes for orders and supply drops, a torturous journey which left her in tears and unable to sit or stand.

After the war, Nancy worked as a British intelligence officer. She lived in a retirement home for veterans in her later years and died in August 2011, aged 98.

The Joy of Sex

30th Anniversary Edition, by Alex Comfort

Jasmine Aoki-Woodruffe

On reading this classic 1970s sex manual, the first thing that strikes me is that *The Joy of Hetero Sex* would be a more accurate title.

The advice it contains is a mixture of common sense, slightly odd and straight up ridiculous. The text is largely unchanged from the original 1972 edition, with the exception of an incredibly out-dated discussion of HIV/AIDS which describes group sex as “suicidal”, while the original line drawings, complete with female body hair, have been awkwardly juxtaposed with cheesy 1990s soft-porn photography.

It is hard to adequately convey the most striking aspect of *The Joy of Sex*, which is an almost uncomfortable fascination with the minutiae of sexual activity combined with a distinctly florid writing style (“arm-pit – a classical site for perfumed kisses”). Comfort uses a multitude of confusing French words (“souixante-neuf” instead of “sixty nine”, “postillionage” instead of “sticking your finger up someone’s ass”) and inane yet cryptic remarks (“the natural perfume of a woman is her greatest sexual asset after her beauty”). He also insists that saliva makes the best lubricant and that homosexuals have “some kind of turn-off toward the opposite sex”. In short, it’s exactly what you would expect from a 1970s manual on “advanced lovemaking”. I can’t quite shake off visions of someone’s very middle class, very straight parents reading it together to feel risqué without having any of their preconceptions about sexuality challenged.

As befits a “menu” for “Cordon Bleu sex”, sexual acts and techniques are classified as ingredients, appetizers, main courses or sauces. Although the definition of “main courses” was expanded to include “mouth music” (gag) as well as the usual penis-in-vagina intercourse, the division of sexual acts into “real sex” versus extras is problematic and undermines Comfort’s claim that “it’s a menu, not

a rulebook”. Treatment of BDSM sexualities was mixed, as the use of certain associated activities or techniques are described positively and differentiated from real violence, but the author insists on drawing a false division between those who engage in milder forms of BDSM (“sex-with-love”) and those who are interested in more extreme acts (“[not] really love or even sex in our sense of the word”), and there is no mention of the use of safewords, even when bondage or consensual non-consent scenarios are discussed. The “Sauces” section is also blatantly racist, as the erotic traditions of various non-Anglo American cultures are stereotyped and presented to the (white) reader as “exotic” novelties. Apparently “South Slav style” sex has an “emphasis on the importance of genital perfume as a stimulus” and “Chinese style” sex is “remarkably like uninhibited European sex”.

My feelings on the drawings were mixed, as they are both incredibly sweet and incredibly normative. They have a very intimate, realistic quality, depicting a real life couple having playful, loving and uninhibited sex in a variety of positions, very effectively conveying enthusiastic consent and a respectful, shame-free attitude to sexuality. With the exception of the photographic inserts, the same couple were used as models for all the drawings, meaning that there is a serious lack of diversity in race, body type, age and gender identity. The models are both white, slim, able-bodied and look to be in their late 20s. While the woman has full underarm and pubic hair, they are otherwise both very conventionally gendered, with the man being larger, significantly more muscular and masculine, the woman being smaller, having long hair and being very definitely feminine, which is not necessarily problematic in itself but implicitly excludes a world of other possibilities even within an exclusively heterosexual context.

While the advice on sexual techniques is hit-and-miss and extremely dated, the emphasis on sex as a form of play and the importance of mutuality (“[N]o body can possibly be a good lover without regarding their partner as a person and an equal”) remain pertinent, and Comfort’s enthusiasm for body hair and “natural perfume” are a sharp break from the porn-perfect sexual ideal that has become so prevalent.





BLADE RUNNER

AN INTRODUCTION TO ROLLER DERBY



The only sport I've ever been interested in involved some kind of gymnastics or shiny appealing uniforms. In recent years, however, roller derby has been gaining notoriety as not only a valid form of entertainment but as a sport in its own right - and an unusual one at that. Firstly, it's not just for lean athletic types that wear a lot of Adidas; even people like me are permitted to train - tattoo bearing, unfit, out of shape, traditionally un-sporty women (and sometimes men too, in mixed teams). Secondly, it's not boring, because you are actually permitted to be quite physical (i.e. pulling and tugging) where in other sports this kind of behaviour is usually discouraged.

Originating in Britain in the late 1800s, roller derby has experienced a resurgence of popularity in the 21st century. In its early days, this exhilarating sport was a form of entertainment or side attraction performed predominantly by women. Nowadays it is considered an official sport that requires skill and athleticism, although there is some debate over the scanty attire, heavy make-up and witty pseudonyms that are popular. It definitely feels tactical to attract an audience by means of dress, but rather than being yet another gimmick that belittles women, roller derby takes more of a riot grrrl stance. It uses these tools to communicate the unique voices of those who wish to partake in the physicality of roller derby, but are also interested in the expression of their personalities through its aesthetics.

You can participate in derby as a spectator, referee or athlete; all are equally entertaining and fulfilling. The most appealing aspect of roller derby is that it is accessible and accommodating to many body types and experiences. Most teams have intensive training starting from pre-beginners, meaning that even if you can't skate they'll attempt to train you. All you need is willingness and desire to be there. Leagues have several intakes per year and cost approximately \$10-15 a week to train and hire equipment. Eventually you might feel that you're committed enough to buy your own.

Despite the aggressive demeanour that you might encounter during the game, everyone involved in roller derby that I've been in contact with is really friendly, helpful and lovely. The members are very welcoming to new or aspiring members and will probably offer you a ride in their carpool if you ask nicely via email or on their Facebook pages.

There are currently 21 roller derby leagues throughout New Zealand, and if you're keen enough you can even start your own league. You'll find a league near you, links to their Facebook pages and websites and the basic rundown on www.rollerderby.co.nz.

As the season is currently winding down towards the end of the year, if you're thinking of getting involved you might want to get a pair of skates or go to your local rink (which would be Papatoetoe or Mt Wellington in Auckland) and practice your moves in the off season. There are also gazillions of Youtube tutorials available online.

• **Natasha Matila-Smith**

Minecraft (Xbox 360 Edition)

After much build up and many version releases over the past few years, the full version of Minecraft was released on PC late last year. Not long after, the console version was released exclusively for the Xbox 360. This little sandbox game has become a hit for good reason. With its focus on creativity and building, and touch of adventure, you can get lost in the game whether you are a casual or hardcore gamer. Though the graphics are blocky (being made up of textured cubes for a lo-fi 3D effect), it's all part of the charm and lends a sense of nostalgia for those who grew up gaming in the 80s and 90s.

You wake up stranded in the middle of a randomly generated world of 3D textured blocks that represent a landscape and animals. With only your fists to mine and harvest, you need to gather whatever materials you can to build shelter and torches before night falls. Night is when zombies, spiders, and creepers come out and try to kill you if they get close. They spawn in the absence of light, and if you haven't built yourself a house with some torches, there is a good chance they will spawn right next you in complete darkness. In order to survive, you craft tools and armour to mine further into the depths of the earth for better treasure, build extensive minetracks to get you there and back faster, and build elaborate castles and other structures just because you can.

Fans of the original PC version may be disappointed by the lack of different modes, as the latest reiteration of the hit leaves you with just one basic mode - survival. The map size is also limited, but there have been a number of improvements on the original, such as the much streamlined crafting system and the ability to play with friends online through Xbox LIVE. The new tutorial mode is more comprehensive, but still allows enough mystery for you to discover things on your own, and there are 4 playable settings - easy (no zombies and monsters), normal, hard, and super hard.

The ability of friends to join and leave your world as you go, or to play split screen with up to 4 people, may be one of the biggest draws for old and new players alike. Even the least experienced gamers can join in and not have to worry about committing to anything other than a few hours of fun. All in all, Minecraft: Xbox 360 edition is a great addition to any gaming



Ravishka Arthur

MSc, Forensic Science

Ravishka Arthur describes her field of study as one of the most fascinating existing today. And it's not hard to imagine – an average day sees her analysing high speed video footage of blood spatter. She is studying bloodstain pattern analysis, an aspect of forensic science which can provide critical clues in investigations of violent crimes. Blood tells a story, and Ravishka is working on methods of getting that story right every time.

As with many KATE readers, Ravishka grew up as part of the 'CSI generation', which saw television shows portraying forensic science in glamorous but slightly misguided ways. She went into forensic science because she has a passion for justice in a society where crime appears to be on the rise and

incorrect interpretation of evidence has sometimes led to false convictions. She is looking at ways of consistently identifying and classifying bloodstain patterns so that bloodstain pattern analysts' conclusions are more reliable as evidence in criminal cases.

Ravishka has found researching within the Institute of Environmental Science and Research to be incredibly rewarding, and she gets to be in close contact with some of the greatest minds in forensic science. Her ambition is to make positive contributions with her research to the field and become an expert.

Upon our inevitably gory demise, KATE would be honoured to have this future leading forensic scientist analysing our bloodstains.



POSTGRAD
PROFILES



Ladies of No

Azealia Banks

Have you been out clubbing lately? Then I'm sure you've heard '212' blare through the speakers as one of the hottest new anthems out. And there's a reason you'll only hear it there - probably because C4's censorship would render half the song inaudible. I'm convinced that there haven't been so many expletives from a face so cute since Will Ferrell's Baby Landlord. I've never before heard the phrase "I'ma ruin you cunt" come across in a manner both adorable and endearing. She's fresh, playfully foul-mouthed and swaps between accents, singing and rap with flawless steeze. Definitely worth a go.

NEWEST RELEASE: **FANTASEA (MIXTAPE)**

Marina and the Diamonds

I'm not quite sure how else to put it: Marina is amazing. *Electra Heart* has seen a departure from her previously playful indie-pop, moving towards a mix of heavy piano ballads and some New Wave/Synthtronica sounds. Hell, every so often she pulls out a dirty breakdown so filthy it'd put Skrillex to shame (sans the wob-wob, thankfully). She's well on her way to becoming pop's new sweetheart, is a real woman and sings about real, significant topics (ranging from disbelief in media hype to female body image) but still knows how to put on a cheeky tune and set up the soundtrack for a good time.

NEWEST RELEASE: **ELECTRA HEART**

Grimes

If you haven't quite made your way into dream-pop/indietronica territory, I can't blame you. It's a little far out of the regular listening comfort zone, but dear god it's delightful. Why didn't anyone tell me about this sooner? Then again, you'll probably catch 'Oblivion' playing on C4 these days, so it's all fair game. Give tracks like 'Genesis' and 'Nightmusic' a go if you're down for a trip to an ethereal plane of tripped-out sounds, layered with hauntingly alluring vocals. Plus I'm pretty sure you get hipster cred for this one.

NEWEST RELEASE: **VISIONS**

Alex Winston

It's nice that we're in a musical age where acts with actual talent like Florence and the Machine can reach the summit of the pop scene. Miss Winston is up a similar alley: well trained, has a magnificent voice alongside originality and authenticity that the genre's been bleeding for since the advent of mass-manufactured artists I'm sure you can't wait to name. With a classical opera background, even her peripheral 'ohs' resound with enough skill and euphony to lift your heart aflutter. If stuff like this starts getting more airtime, I might consider listening to the radio again.

NEWEST RELEASE: **KING CON**



ote

JOSH LING

Kreayshawn

In her own words, she's "got the swag and it's pumping out [her] ovaries." She's turned white girl rap into a real thing, and whether you hate or love her, she's still gearing up to hit the scene. Hard. 'Gucci Gucci' became an internet phenomenon almost overnight, she's been on the cover of Complex magazine, hosted the MTV VMAs Red Carpet, and got into a publicised diss war with Rick Ross. Not bad for any music career, and this was just within the last year. Oh, and her first album hasn't even dropped yet. I'd say keep an eye out, but she'll be a tough one to miss.

NEWEST RELEASE: **SOMETHIN' BOUT KREAY**
(AUGUST THIS YEAR)

Kittie

Let's get one thing straight. Kittie isn't a girl band that plays metal; they're a metal band with a full-female line-up. It's a subtle difference in wording, but it means that these lasses are the real deal. They've been in the game for close to two decades now, and it shows. Each member is as skilled as the next, from Tara McLeod's face-melting shred solos right to Morgan Lander's screams and growls that cause ballsacks to shrink back into bodies. If you like your music brutal and heavy, I get the feeling that this is something you'll dig.

NEWEST RELEASE: **I'VE FAILED YOU**



Meri Te Tai Mangakahia (22 May 1868 - 10 October 1920) was a campaigner for women's suffrage and Te Kotahitanga (the Māori Parliament movement). She was also involved in Nga Komiti Wāhine, a forerunner of the Māori Women's Welfare League which dealt with issues from women's and children's health to political fundraising.

On 13 May 1893 Meri was chosen by the women involved in kotahitanga to represent them in a suffrage bid. She moved before the Māori Parliament assembly in Hawke's Bay that women should be allowed to participate in the selection of members. She spoke persuasively of the many Māori women who owned and managed lands, because there were no men in the family or because the women were more competent. Meri also went one better than the Pākehā suffragettes' ambitions and proposed that women sit in the Māori Parliament as members.

Although the suffrage bid was delayed, the women persisted, and four years later in 1897 Māori women gained the right to vote and stand for Te Kotahitanga.

Pornogami - How to Make an Origami Vulva

Alice Jacques, design by 'Master Sugoi'

Please note: This model is for decoration purposes only.



Step 1: Start with a square piece of paper, coloured side facing up. Fold one corner to the opposite corner, creating a diagonal crease.



Step 2: Fold a thin strip along the folded edge.



Step 3: Unfold the thin strip, and open the paper along the folded edge.



Step 4: Fold back and forth as if making a fan, until there are three triangles as shown. Repeat on other side.



Step 5: Fold flap to edge, repeat on other side.



Step 6: Fold other side of flap. Repeat on other side.



Step 7: Fold flap up, open model to reveal three lines.



Step 8: Fold top back in line with the top of the flaps.



Fold tip as shown, then unfold.



Step 9: Fold sides into a point as if making a paper plane.



Step 10: Take point and fold back along triangle.



Step 11: Take a small part of the top edge, sharply crease it behind the model, and unfold.



Step 12: Fold sides along the center. They should overlap like so.



Step 13: Use the crease you made in step 11 to fold top behind the model.

Step 14: From the first triangle, fold the bottom behind model.



Step 15: Fold entire model backwards in half, freeing the labia.



Step 16: Fold back the outer labia.



Step 17: Lift the clitoris out and back. Fold away the pointy end, and shape into your desired form.



Step 18: Here's the most fiddly part! Gently pull open the folds of the inner labia and flatten them slightly, shaping as you go. Don't worry if the small fold you made in step 13 opens; simply fold it back into place. Don't be a perfectionist! Origami may often be symmetrical, but human beings are not. Each model you fold will be organically unique.



Step 19: Finally, make a small overlapping fold towards the bottom as shown. Your vulva is finished and ready to proudly display on your wall.

You can make vulvas in any colour or pattern you like, so have fun!

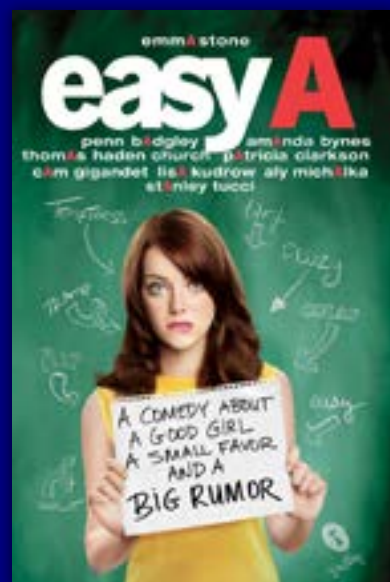


You may prefer to use a Youtube tutorial: see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Co2JESBEc0>.

easy A (2010)

In the tradition of *Mean Girls*, *Clueless*, and *Bring it On*, *easy A* is in the better class of mainstream teen comedy. The film acknowledges its place in the canon with a protagonist well-versed in John Hughes' classics, and even dips a toe in literature by framing itself as a retelling of *The Scarlet Letter*. Emma Stone is charming as Olive, a high school girl with a sense of humour who finds out first-hand the effects of slut-shaming rumours on a woman's reputation. The movie shows itself more enlightened than most of its teenaged characters and comfortably acknowledges sex – the teachers have it, the parents have it, and although the students lie about it more often than they have it, it still happens. *easy A* even acknowledges the sex life and agency of the inevitable 'gay friend' character, whose usual role in teen comedies is to be a desexualised crutch for the straight protagonist. This film gets a lot right, from its love interest being sidelined in favour of the heroine's personal journey to the hilarious portrayal of earnest teen evangelism; but it does fall short in some respects. The message that the main character takes away from events is that lying about sex leads to slut-shaming and worse things, when the main message should have been that slut-shaming is awful. There was also a scene outside a restaurant where a character's rapey actions really weren't addressed by the other characters or the movie. But overall *easy A* is clever, funny, and has just the right amount of on-point social commentary to merit a rewatch or three.

-The Guardian Building Movie Night Club





Womensfest is a week long event organised by the AUSA Women's Rights Officer each year. It consists of a series of social and educational events spotlighting women's issues and celebrating women's achievements.

DO IT YOURSELF

CUT YOUR OWN HAIR, BUFF YOUR OWN NAILS, AND STITCH YOUR OWN WOUNDS. THERE ARE TUTORIALS ONLINE FOR EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT TO DO TO YOURSELF, AND IF YOU CAN'T REACH A SPOT THROW A REACH-A-SPOT PARTY AND INVITE YOUR OTHER HARD-UP STUDENT FRIENDS. THE ONLY THING YOU MIGHT NEED TO PAY A PROFESSIONAL TO DO TO YOU IS OPEN HEART SURGERY, AND YOU CAN PROBABLY FIND A DECENT TUTORIAL FOR THAT ONLINE TOO.

DISPOSE OF DISPOSABLES

CUT DOWN ON DISPOSABLE EVERYTHING. 'DISPOSABLE' MEANS YOU BUY IT, USE IT, THEN THROW IT AWAY, AND THERE IS SOME DEFINITE WASTAGE GOING ON IN THAT EQUATION. TRADE IN YOUR MONTHLY SUPERMARKET CROTCH 'EM AND DROP 'EMS FOR REUSABLE CLOTH PADS AND TAMPONS, OR INVEST IN A MENSTRUAL CUP (SEE OUR HANDY MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS CHART ON PAGE XX). IF YOU SHAVE YOUR BODY HAIR ON THE REGULAR, INVEST IN A STRAIGHT RAZOR -- YOU CAN SHARPEN IT IF IT GOES DULL, AND USING IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A BADASS, WHAT WITH ALL THE BLOOD. DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT BUYING BOTTLED WATER, UNLESS YOU'RE INVESTING IN A SINGLE BOTTLE WHICH YOU INTEND TO REFILL FROM THE TAP UNTIL IT SPRINGS 20 LEAKS AND STARTS TO GIVE YOU PLASTIC POISONING. THE ONLY CONCESSION WE'LL MAKE ON DISPOSABLES IS CONDOMS, BECAUSE REUSING THOSE DOESN'T WORK OUT SO WELL FOR THE BUDGET IN THE LONG RUN.

\$O YOU'RE A \$TUDENT

\$EVEN WAYS TO \$AVE \$\$



CHEAP SOAP OR NOTHING

LIQUID HANDSOAP WILL DO IF YOU'RE OUT OF DISHWASHING LIQUID, LAUNDRY POWDER, OR SHAMPOO; AND IF YOU'RE OUT OF ALL OF THOSE THINGS, THEN NEITHER PLATES, SOCKS NOR HAIR WILL SUFFER UNDULY FOR A WASH IN PLAIN WATER. WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, BUY THE CHEAP STUFF, BECAUSE PAYING EVEN TEN BUCKS EXTRA FOR A PRETTILY-PACKAGED PRODUCT THAT "NOURISHES" OR "TENDERLY CARESSES" OR "MAKES SWEET LOVE TO" YOUR FACE OR COUNTERTOP OR WHATEVER YOU'RE SLOUGHING GREASE OFF IS RIDICULOUS BECAUSE THAT SHIT ENDS UP DOWN THE DRAIN ANYWAY.

EAT PAPER

CONSUME ONLY PASTA, RICE, THINGS FROM CANS SO CHEAP THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE PICTURES ON THEM, THE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES YOU CAN GROW OR STEAL FROM OTHERS' GARDENS, AND ROADKILL. INVEST IN HERBS AND SPICES. A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY TO MAKING THE BLANDEST OF CARBOHYDRATES APETISING. DON'T EAT OUT, ALWAYS PACK A LUNCH, AND IF YOU INSIST ON VARIETY THEN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BOTH THE VEGAN AND MEAT CLUBS ON CAMPUS -- THE VEGAN CLUBS HOLD KOHA LUNCHES ON MONDAYS IN CAP&GOWN AND ON THURSDAYS IN CLUBSPACE, AND IF YOU SIGN UP TO THE MEAT CLUB FOR TEN BUCKS YOU GET MEAT IN THE QUAD EVERY SECOND TUESDAY. THE CAMPUS FEMINIST COLLECTIVE'S THURSDAYS IN BLACK STALL IS ALSO USUALLY AROUND THE QUAD ON THURSDAYS, EXCHANGING SWEET BAKED GOODS FOR COIN DONATIONS TO WOMEN'S REFUGE.

EAT YOUR FRIENDS

CANNIBALISM IS NOT A VALID LIFESTYLE CHOICE, BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP THE OPTION OPEN. FIRST-YEARS ARE COMPLACENT BY THE SECOND SEMESTER AND SO EASILY CORNERED, BUT GAMEY AND BEERY; POST-GRADS ARE HARD TO TRACK AND EATING THEM WILL LEAVE YOU FEELING INEXPLICABLY STRESSED. SOCIOLOGY LECTURERS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, TASTE DELICIOUS.

STAY IN

BOYCOTT GIGS, BARS, RESTAURANTS - ANYTHING THAT ASKS YOU TO HAND OVER MONEY. TRADE IN LIVE MUSIC FOR RECORDINGS OF LIVE MUSIC, PUB BEER FOR YOUR HOME-BREWED MOONSHINE, AND GOURMET DINING FOR COLOURFUL PICTURES OF BEAUTIFULLY MADE FOOD RIPPED FROM THE RECIPE SECTIONS OF MAGAZINES, SHREDDED, AND MIXED IN WITH YOUR PASTA OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY FOR FIBRE AND THE ILLUSION OF LUXURY.

BECOME A PIRATE

SINCE YOU CAN'T GO OUT, AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE SPENDING ALL THAT SPARE TIME STUDYING, YOU'LL NEED CHEAP ENTERTAINMENT AT HOME. IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT LAW CHANGES, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE LEGALLY DUBIOUS FOR KATE TO TELL YOU TO PIRATE MOVIES AND TUNES. SO WE'RE NOT SAYING YOU SHOULD DO THAT... BUT WE'RE NOT NOT SAYING IT EITHER. WE'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING AT ALL.

Guide to Alternative **MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS**



Cloth Pads

WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK? Cloth pads come in the same shapes and sizes usually available to disposable pads. They come in several kinds of material too. They are often made out of soft cotton or other washable, organic fabric and are lined with thin waterproof material on the inside. They can be secured onto your undies with buttons or safety pins. Some cloth pads are designed to be worn interlabially (placed snugly between the labia).

PROS

- Reusable, ecofriendly, cheap.
- Reduced risk of allergic reactions compared to disposables.
- Easy to make for yourself to ensure a better fit.
- Potential for awesome designs.

CONS

- Need a place to store back-up and used pads when you're out and about.
- Discomfort due to thickness.



Menstrual Cups

WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK? These are soft cups made out of silicone designed to fit inside the vagina to catch the blood directly coming from the cervix. They have tiny suction holes at the opening to keep them in place during use. They also come with a guiding tab to help with locating the base of the cup for removal (this can be trimmed for comfort). Menstrual cups come in many different shapes and sizes so it helps to do some research online before you try one out. Check out the links in the resource section.

PROS

- Reusable for up to 10 years – ecofriendly and cheap!
- Lightweight, durable and portable – since you need only one.
- Allows you to track the changes in the colour, volume and texture of your blood.
- Can be worn up to 8 hours without needing to be emptied.
- Comfort – feel nothing once it's put in properly.
- Can be used overnight.
- Lets you participate in vigorous physical activities including swimming while on your period.
- No health risks associated, no reported cases of TSS (toxic shock syndrome).

CONS

- Insertion and removal can be a bit tricky at first – but it gets better with practice.
- Getting blood on your fingers – again, you get used to it.
- Can leak due to improper insertion, improper fit, when the cup is full or when suction is broken.



Sea Sponges and Synthetic Sponges

WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK? Sea sponges are naturally occurring sponges that can be used like tampons. Synthetic options also exist. They come in different shapes and sizes and densities.

PROS

- Reusable for 6 months.
- Comfortable.
- Can be trimmed to fit your vagina.
- You can go swimming with it in.
- You can have leak-free sex while on your period.
- Can double as contraception when used in conjunction with spermicide.

CONS

- Chemical pollutants and fungi can be present.
- Risk of TSS.
- Difficult to remove, and can leak in the process – but you can tie a string to it.
- Removal in public bathrooms could be awkward if you plan to wash the sponge before you put it back in.
- Can leak when full.
- Synthetic sponges are non-reuseable.



Freebleeding

WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK? Freebleeding is menstruation without the intention of stopping the blood flow with sanitary products. You essentially bleed into your undies and outer clothing.

PROS

- Some people like to do this for their whole cycle while others prefer to freebleed only on their lighter days.
- Free, safe and doesn't contribute to landfill.
- Don't have to run to the toilets for leak-checks because you don't give a fuck.

CONS

- Bear attacks.
- You stain everything that isn't dark-coloured or black, although this may have its advantages in certain situations. Muahaha.

Resources:

<http://bit.ly/N1a5Wd>
menstrualcupinfo.wordpress.com

Retailers:

www.poppypads.co.nz
www.environmentmenstruals.co.nz
www.ecomoon.co.nz

The Manic Pixie Dream Girl & Zooey Deschanel's New Girl (2011)

Sheira Cohen

Many of you are no doubt familiar with the television and movie trope of the Manic Pixie Dream Girl (MPDG) as embodied most recently by Zooey Deschanel in the show *New Girl*. The

term was first coined in 2005 after the release of *Elizabethtown*, by Nathan Rabin of *avclub.com*. He defined a Manic Pixie Dream Girl as "the bubbly shallow cinematic creature that exists solely in the fevered imaginations of sensitive writer-directors to teach broodingly soulful young men to embrace life and its infinite mysteries and adventures."

The MPDG has been derided by discerning moviegoers as a clichéd stock character that holds no other purpose than as a plot device – a childish spirit guide to the emotional awakenings of straight white male protagonists. While the serious employment of the MPDG trope in shows seems to me to be a sign of poor characterisation and a degrading portrayal of women, the trope has profound implications beyond the realm of TV and film.

Quirky women have to deal with the misguided fantasies of men who look to them for the life-changing revelations they have come to expect from film. They simultaneously have to defend their girlish interests from cynical women who blame them for retarding the progress of feminism by deliberately pandering to the pseudo-pedophilic desires of some men. Neither of



these approaches to the MPDG is productive and as women we need to defend our right to rock polka dots and pink cupcakes without being sucked into the degrading characterisation that is the classic MPDG trope.

These 'muses' can be part of amazing comedy and drama, but the rise of the adorkable is becoming increasingly prevalent in cinema, to the point where I've personally developed a love-hate relationship with Zooey Deschanel and her quirky friends. Her latest endeavour, *New Girl*, follows the life of Jess, a MPDG who finds herself single and living in a loft with three very different men. By placing a MPDG in the lead role, writer Elizabeth Meriwether explores some of the consequences of being the quirky fun-loving dream girl and, in doing so, creates a sense of depth to Jess that somewhat counteracts the trope.

Additionally, Deschanel's character Jess shows a certain awareness of her ridiculousness but is determined to embrace it regardless of society's expectations, and for that I can do nothing but applaud her. It is unfortunate that many of Jess' interactions with her male flatmates fall into that MPDG trope with no hint of subtext – the transformation of her male flatmate Schmidt from OCD metrosexual to rugged hippie pushes that fine line between amusing and insulting and the Christmas episode bordered on nauseating cuteness. What saves *New Girl* for me is the awareness of the trope and the subtle subversion of it in the context of such an obviously larger-than-life bubblegum comedy. I think I can freely admit to looking forward to the next season without having to hand in my feminist membership card.

DEAR KATE,

I CAN'T GET OVER HOW AMAZING OUR AUSA PRESIDENT IS. LIKE, AMAZING. PROBABLY THE MOST KICKASS WOMAN I HAVE EVER MET.

ARENA WILLIAMS IS ONLY AUSA'S SECOND MAORI WOMAN PRESIDENT. AND AUSA HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 121 YEARS. I THINK THAT WOULD MAKE YOU ANGRY, KATE. IT'S NOT EASY BEING A WOMAN, EVEN IN 2012. BUT ARENA IS SO STRONG, INTELLIGENT, AND QUITE FRANKLY BEAUTIFUL, THAT SHE COULD OVERCOME ANY BARRIER, STRUCTURAL OR PHYSICAL.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR HER TO BE OUR PRIME MINISTER. AS AUSA PRESIDENT, SHE HAS DONE SO MANY COOL THINGS, LIKE BRINGING KIMBRA TO STUDENTS. FRIGGIN' KIM-

BRA. I'M EXCITED. SHE'S BUILT AN AWESOME RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY, AND BEEN A GREAT VOICE FOR STUDENTS IN AUCKLAND AND NATIONALLY. SHE'S THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S UNION OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS, A BOARD MEMBER OF STUDENT JOB SEARCH, A MEMBER OF TWO MAYORAL BOARDS, AND SITS ON THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL AND SENATE. THAT'S PROBABLY WHY ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS ARE CHASING.

YOU CAN FIND HER IN HER OFFICE AT AUSA, WORKING LATE INTO THE NIGHT. SHE SPENDS ALL HER TIME WORKING FOR STUDENTS, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHE CARES ABOUT. MORE THAN ANYTHING. IT'S CRAZY.

WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE ARENA WILLIAMS. I THINK YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF HER, KATE.

YOURS SINCERELY
FANBOY

KATE TALK



Julie Anne Genter MP
(based in Auckland)

What challenges have you faced as a female politician? Before entering politics I worked in a highly male-dominated field of transport planning and traffic engineering. I was the first (and only for a long time) female shareholder in my consultancy, and I regularly presented to conferences that were mostly men. I never, ever perceived my gender to hold me back in this field. In fact, at times I thought I was given more opportunities because they were so happy to have a confident woman interested in the role.

Since moving to politics I have perceived some sexism, especially from Government MPs, even in Select Committee. I have also experienced it more on the street. Being young and female, no matter how confident, means that some older men treat me with an unbelievable amount of condescension. I suppose the biggest challenge for me is not to react with anger – I am simply not accustomed to sexism, so when I encounter it, I am usually unpleasantly surprised. We still have work to do to achieve an environment that is open to everyone, where we are all treated with respect, but I believe we will get there.

Do you feel that women in New Zealand politics are judged more harshly than male politicians by the public? There's no question that there is more scrutiny of what we wear and how we look. Certain types of behaviour that are praised by men are sometimes unfairly criticised in women. But, overall, I think New Zealand is light

years ahead of many other countries, including the United States.

Currently New Zealand is only ranked at 24 in the world in terms of the percentage of women we have in parliament (32%). Why do you think there is such a low percentage? We had more women enter Parliament, thanks to MMP, but it is disturbing that the ratio has fallen so low. We need other parties to prioritise gender balance in their list ranking.

The Green Party advocate using a quota system to address the lack of female MPs, do you feel this structure could be adopted by all political parties? The Green Party doesn't have an exact quota; we have an adjustment rule that says the list may be adjusted so there is not more or less than 60% and 40% of either gender. In 2011, our party produced a list that resulted in 8 of our 14 MPs being women, without need



Carmel Sepuloni MP
(based in Waitakere)

What challenges have you faced as a female politician? The biggest challenge would be with respect to motherhood. When I didn't get re-elected in 2011 my teenage son was the first to say that he was happy I wasn't going back in. I spent a great deal of time away from home and emotionally as well as practically this could be testing at times (for both me and my son). Being a single parent makes things even more difficult. Over the course of the three years I was in Parliament, I had three different childcare arrangements. Fortunately the last one was my father who turned 65 and came back from Auz to live with us, to help me out with raising my

son - this made life so much easier. Women with children can be parliamentarians but support is key to making it work.

Do you feel that women in New Zealand politics are judged more harshly than male politicians by the public? I've had my fair share of criticism but I really do think that all MPs are targeted in this way. The majority of criticism I received always came from right wing bloggers - but I take that as meaning I must have been doing something well. The general public were actually really supportive.

Currently New Zealand is only ranked at 24 in the world in terms of the percentage of women we have in parliament (32%). Why do you think there is such a low percentage? I think we've become complacent. Compared to many of our neighbouring countries we have higher female representation and unfortunately this may feed in to a perception that this isn't an issue.

The reality is that we have remained stagnant around the 30-33% mark for years and it's not acceptable. There needs to be a heightened sense of urgency in responding to this issue amongst all political parties. There has been growing momentum to address this within the Labour Party over the past three years - I have no doubt that this will increase.

The Green Party advocate using a quota system to address the lack of female MPs, do you feel this structure could be adopted by all political parties? It's definitely something to think about. The critics of quotas say that "it should be the best person for the job" but I refuse to believe that only 30% of the female population want to, or are good enough to be, politicians. All the international evidence shows that a party or parliament cannot get above 35% female without quotas or rules and that's not because women are not good enough to be MPs, it's because of the way the system works



Nikki Kaye MP
(Auckland Central)

What challenges have you faced as a female politician? Generally, I don't think I have faced many problems that my male colleagues have not also faced. In fact I would argue that I experienced more discrimination because of my gender when I worked in the corporate world. I

think that leadership is very important in terms of ensuring gender equality, and I believe that our Prime Minister, John Key, has done a great deal to help progress women in the National Party, and in senior positions in Parliament.

Do you feel that women in New Zealand politics are judged more harshly than male politicians by the public? I began my political career ten years ago when I worked as a researcher for the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. Since that time, I think things have changed quite dramatically - as a female MP I have encountered only a few people who have focused on the fact that I am a woman. Where I have possibly experienced more discrimination,

however, is on the grounds of my age.

Currently New Zealand is only ranked at 24 in the world in terms of the percentage of women we have in parliament (32%). Why do you think there is such a low percentage? I think we do need to do a lot better. In my view, part of the reason for the low percentage of female Members of Parliament is that not enough women put themselves forward for selection by their parties, particularly in safe seats where the selections are always more competitive. I think women in Parliament need to be active in supporting other women candidates and prospective candidates.

S POLITICS

for a quota or adjustment, though certainly the fact that we prioritise gender balance probably played a role in how members ranked candidates.

David Farrar says that, "I'm not one of those who advocates that Parliament must or should exactly match the population in gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, left-handedness and so on." (Stuff.co.nz, 2011). He goes on to suggest that the lack of female MPs stems from lack of female interest. How would you respond to this? David Farrar and others on the right should read the latest research on subconscious bias (such as described in Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink*). Sexism and racism can operate at a subconscious level and affect how people vote and make choices. I am sure it is playing a role in limiting the number of women in Parliament. There may also not be as much interest from women because Parliament

is already perceived to be an old boy's club, or because it would be difficult and challenging to be a young mother in Parliament as it currently operates. Certainly, if we want robust decision making in Parliament, we need greater and fairer representation of the population, and we should change Parliament if necessary to enable that. Seeing more women in Parliament may generate more interest from women, and reduce the subconscious expectation that a politician should have certain "male" qualities. The job description in Parliament is to represent – so the claim we shouldn't prioritise women or minorities when their CV's aren't as suitable as a white male is mistaken, I believe. Just having a different perspective is necessary so we have complete representation.

How does your party engage and support young women who are thinking of a career in politics? The Green Party has gender balance

in all leadership roles, not only to encourage and enable women to have an equal voice, but also because it's good practice and allows people to share the load. Again, we think this results in more robust leadership and decision-making, because it facilitates all styles. We also have a women's caucus, and prioritise gender balance in our list ranking, our hiring of staff, and appointments to internal committees, etc.

What is the best advice you would give to young New Zealand women? Don't be intimidated by the old boy's club. Follow your passion and your convictions, and while retaining a sense of healthy self-awareness, don't let your inner critic hold you back. If you are direct, friendly, committed, and confident, people (even older men) will usually treat you with respect. And when they don't, ignore them. We need more voices, not fewer, so don't shy away from putting yours out there.

against women. Given that quotas have been proven to help the system work better for women, then I'm supportive.

David Farrar says that, "I'm not one of those who advocates that Parliament must or should exactly match the population in gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, left-handedness and so on." (Stuff.co.nz, 2011). He goes on to suggest that the lack of female MPs stems from lack of female interest. How would you respond to this? How can we have a true democracy if our parliament isn't reflective of what our society looks like? From my experience women are often less inclined than men to put themselves forward for leadership positions, so we do need to have mechanisms in place to recruit and mentor women in to politics. We know that women are interested in politics. There is roughly the same number of Labour party members who are women and men, women just are not making it "up the food chain" as often and that's because they don't push themselves as much, meetings

are often on at times when women are at home with the kids (let's face it, women still do more of this than men), women are judged more harshly for their appearance and their age than men and that can put them off politics. And the unfortunate reality is that many people, without even realising it, have a picture in their head of a politician being a white male in a suit. It all adds up so we have to be proactive and do something about it.

How does your party engage and support young women who are thinking of a career in politics? We have a variety of ways that women get supported. We have a women's sector who work hard to promote women, run training for women and mentor women. Young Labour has a focus on women's only activities to help women grow their confidence. In the Pacific sector we work hard to mentor and promote good Pasifika women into leadership roles and also individual MPs play a big role in promoting good women to their colleagues and across the party. Labour

is currently mid-way through an organisational review and promoting more women is a key part of the review, the party is exploring better ways to promote women and get more of our fantastic female candidates into electorate seats.

What is the best advice you would give to young New Zealand women? We are more than capable of leading within any context but all too often it's not only others that we have a hard time convincing - it's also ourselves. Self belief, hard work and integrity are key to making things happen. It won't always be smooth sailing but the truth is you may go years without hitting any glass ceilings and then all of a sudden - bang, it appears out of nowhere. Be prepared for that moment. Finally it's really important that you recognise when barriers are being laid down in front of other women - we have power in numbers and if we're to expect the support from women, then we need to provide support to women.

The Green Party advocate using a quota system to address the lack of female MPs, do you feel this structure could be adopted by all political parties? I don't agree with the use of a quota system. The problem with quotas is that while they can serve to ensure that a minimum number of a certain demographic or gender are represented, they can also act as a ceiling. They can also serve to erode confidence in a person's competency - for example, a female MP, or an MP from a certain ethnicity, could be viewed as being in Parliament because they fill a quota slot, and that they hold their role ahead of other, more qualified, candidates.

David Farrar says that, "I'm not one of those who advocates that Parliament must or should exactly match the population in gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, left-handedness and so on." (Stuff.co.nz, 2011). He goes on to suggest that the lack of female MPs stems from lack of female interest. How would you respond to this? My personal opinion is that it stems less from a lack of interest, and more from a lack of confidence to put oneself forward for selection.

How does your party engage and support young women who are thinking of a career in politics? The National Party runs a candidates college for individuals who are interested in

standing for selection. Through these colleges, I often have the opportunity to meet with prospective young female candidates. Our youth wing of the party, the Young Nats are also starting to have a stronger level of female involvement than in the past, and we also have a women's advisory group that contributes to the party.

What is the best advice you would give to young New Zealand women? Put yourself forward and have the courage to take a risk and step out from beyond your safety net. Very few people in my view can be successful unless they are prepared to fail along the way. My advice is very simple: if you have a goal, a project, a big dream - go for it.

Campus Women's Groups and Networks

Some currently active groups are:

CAMPUS FEMINIST COLLECTIVE (CFC)

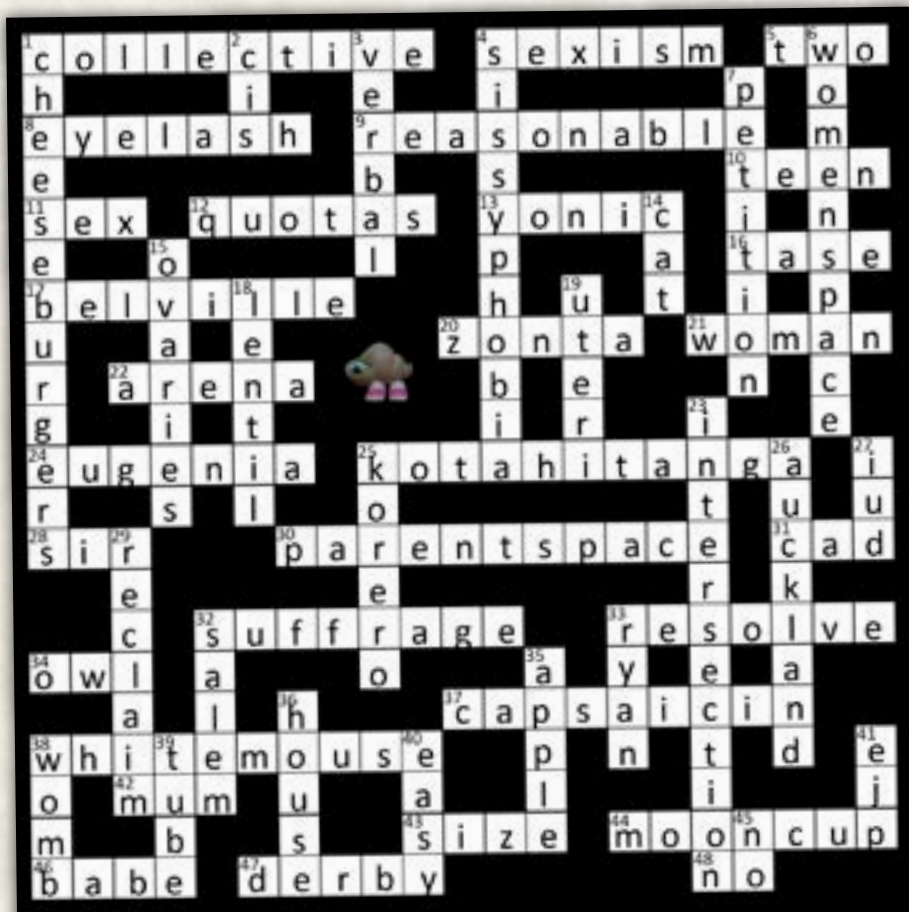
An AUSA-affiliated feminist club which has events such as movie viewings, debates, marches (like Take Back the Night), and a weekly stall in the Quad promoting the Thursdays in Black campaign against violence and raising funds for Women's Refuge. They are open to all gender identities. Search their name on Facebook to find their group page.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING NETWORK (WEN)

A forum for female engineering students to meet and support each other, put on events, and work to increase their numbers and status. Look up their Facebook group - search 'Women in Engineering Network (WEN) UoA' - or contact the Women in Engineering Equity Advisor at r.macleod@auckland.ac.nz

EQUAL JUSTICE PROJECT (EJP)

A student-run pro bono legal advisory organisation within the Law School that seeks to advance awareness of women's rights issues at university and within the wider community. Look out for their newsletter, *Femme lex*, around the Uni; search them on Facebook under 'Equal Justice Project - Women and the Law'; or email womenandthelaw@equaljustice.co.nz



Previous women's clubs at UoA included:

WOMEN'S KORERO CLUB (1898)

WOMEN'S COMMON ROOM CLUB (1901)

WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR FREEDOM (1970)

WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRONT (1970)

FEMINISTS ON CAMPUS (1970S)

UNIVERSITY FEMINISTS AKA 'UNIFEM' (MID-70S TO LATE 80S),

THE WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE (90S)

RAVING FEMINIST WITCHES (90S)

FEMINIST ACTION (90S)



ART BY HAEDEUM NOH AND MINKYEONG KIM



2012

KATE