

CRACCUM

magazine 16



losing my religion

SHOULD TERTIARY INTSITUTES BE SECULAR?
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copacabana ain't coping

TEJA APILLA TRACES THE ROCKY ROAD
TO RIO 2016. PAGE 18.

the day my bum went psycho

CRACCUM'S ESTEEMED LITERARY CRITICS DECONSTRUCT
THE GREATEST TRILOGY EVER WRITTEN. PAGE 30.



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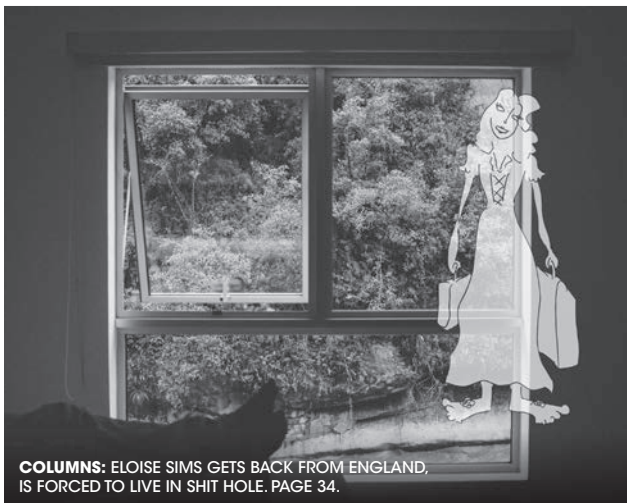
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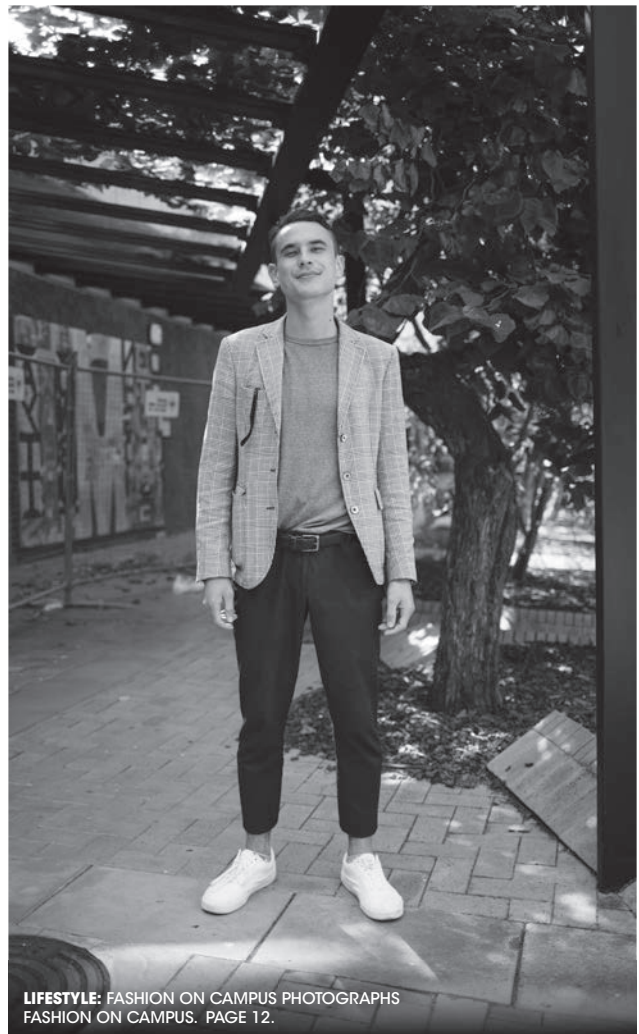




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***THURS DAYS IN BLACK PRESENTS:**

Meet - Greet - Eat!

Want to take a stand against sexual violence?

To kick off the new semester and welcome all new interest Thursdays In Black is having an open meeting/social gathering.

The evening will include an introduction to TIB followed by group discussion concerning how we can address problems of sexual violence on our campus. Home baking will be provided! We will then head to Shadows to continue any conversations and get a chance to get to know each other!

Thursday 11th August

6pm-7pm Womenspace//7pm-8pm Shadows

[Womenspace open to all gender identities after 6pm. Lift access and gender neutral bathrooms available.]

What is Thursdays in Black?

A student led campaign against rape and sexual violence.

We wear black on Thursdays, as a symbol of solidarity and support for those who have experienced sexual violence. The campaign has groups at campuses across Aotearoa. Here at UoA TIB has a stall in the quad on Thursdays, and runs events around sexual violence awareness and prevention. Join us by wearing black on Thursdays!

All new interest welcome!

everything is not as it themes

Fuck. Here we are. Another day, another dollar (barely), and another editorial. Every week it's the same shit. Caitlin begrudgingly leaves the crisp cotton comfort of her psychopathically clean bedroom and rings Mark.

He's usually too busy lurking in his girlfriend's basement (100% literal, not even slightly a metaphor) to pick up, but when Caitlin's texts move from passive aggressive ("hey please answer when you can, I really want to get this sorted") to just plain aggressive ("answer the fucking phone you cum sack") he eventually replies.

M: whatdya want

C: What should I do the editorial on this week

M: fuck knows m8

C: Oh my fucking god what have I done to deserve this kill me you are the worst

M: lol look at this meme

C: Should I shoot you or shoot myself? It's honestly Sophie's fucking Choice at this point, I want both options so badly

And so it goes. Mark remains an infuriating shmuck, and Caitlin continues to be a hysterical harpy. Both of us wonder, do all student magazine editors find writing an editorial this painful? Do the women over at Victoria's *Salient* begin every week crying politically correct tears? Does the dude down at Otago's *Critic* want to put his mullet through a blender? Does the guy over at *Massive* ever take a break from his Press Council hearings and scream into the wind? We're going to guess that they don't. This could be because they're not total creeps – but we think the main reason is because (and here comes the point of this godforsaken editorial) *they theme their magazines*.

M: ketlin i'm reading your editorial on google drive

C: Have I ever told you how much I love Google Drive

M: honestly shut up right this second

C: [GIF of crying labrador]

M: You know only Salient themes their mags, right? the others only have a few themes a year

C: At this point I just don't give a shit

Whether or not the other uni magazines have

themes, the question still remains – why don't we theme ours? Unlike most elements of *Craccum*, it was actually a deliberate decision not to theme our issues. We thought we might as well explain this, not just as an editorial filler but because people do ask – just recently, one of our regular writers asked, "so what's the theme this week?" which was a good question but was mainly just really sad because it showed not even he was reading *Craccum* this year.



Themes seem like a good idea, right? They're gimmicky, and they provide an initial point of interest for people when they pick up the magazine. There are good themes – sex is always a winner, and vices and addiction are solid sellers. A US Election special would probably generate more interest than a standard unthemed issue. They also help give contributors direction when they are stuck on what to write about – a theme narrows down the list of potential topics. It also gives editors something to write their bloody editorials about.

But imagine coming up with a theme for *twenty-four issues a year*. This would be a mammoth task in itself, but you also have to make sure you don't overlap too much with the themes from the previous couple of years either. By the time you get to about issue 10, you're really scraping the bottom of the barrel. That's when you end up with themes like "existence", "time", and "other". Wishy washy bullshit that isn't actually devised to create a punchy, cohesive magazine – the only purpose it serves is to continue the gimmick. The problem with shit themes is they prompt shit content. If writers have ideas outside of the scheduled topics they either have to abandon them altogether or hack away at them until they vaguely fit the desired theme.

Perhaps a more complicated issue with themes is the potential for tokenism. We are contractually obliged to "do our best" to have a Pride Issue and a Māori issue (this is not a direct quote, our contracts are buried deep under the layer of sticky detritus on Mark's desk and we don't ever expect to find them again). In terms of these "minority" themes, the ideal would be to have Queer and Māori content regularly throughout the year and not have to have a one-off token issue. A number of students have expressed frustration over the fact that we have a Māori Language *Week*, and a Pride *Week*. It can sometimes feel like these events, and their accompanying *Craccum* issues, allow the University, AUSA and *Craccum* to tick off "diversity" on a checklist, meaning they don't push to have LGBT+ and Māori events and content throughout the whole year.

The main question is at what point is our University integrated enough that we no longer need these arguably token issues? Some student magazines still have a "women" issue. Considering 6/9 of our editorial team identify as female and the majority of our writers do too, we tend to have content covering women's issues in every magazine. To be frank, we're probably not at the point where we could honestly say that we have enough LGBT+ and Māori content throughout the year to be able to remove the issues. But we're inclined to think that this is what we should be working towards. Because LGBT+ and Māori issues shouldn't be treated as a gimmick, something done to make our liberal hearts feel warm and fuzzy. It should be published regularly, not confined to one issue a year. As always, we'd be interested in hearing your thoughts about this. What could we be doing better to make sure this content is treated as more than token?

M: are you really going to call the editorial "everything is not as it themes"

C: Last week you literally wrote about not knowing what colour navy blue was, so

M: like that title barely makes sense

C: [GIF of Betty White dabbing]

M: you know i have no reception in this basement right

C: How have you been messaging me this whole time then

M: i haven't...

*C: *explodes in an existential shitstorm*■*



STUDENTS ARE POOR BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE

Child Poverty Action Group released a new report last week, detailing the effects that the Government's current level of financial support for tertiary students has for students studying across the country.

The report – “*Laying Our Future: The State of Student Hardship in New Zealand*” – was written by Max Lin, who is a current Masters student and former AUSA Education Vice-President, and was involved in distributing AUSA Hardship Grants.

The current maximum allowance for students – that is, students outside of a relationship, under the age of twenty four, and who are living away from home – is \$175.10 a week, as well as up to an extra \$40 each week for accommodation costs. Eligibility criteria for that allowance was tightened in 2010. As a result, the total number of students using the Student Allowance dropped from 95,945 in 2010 to 75,051 last year, meaning that the system now only covers one third of all enrolled students. Students ineligible for student allowances can apply for living costs to be added to their Student Debt. Those payments are capped at a maximum of \$176.86 per week.

However, CPAG's report points out that these amounts are inadequate relative to student costs. Even as far back as 2014, the average weekly rent in Auckland was \$218 per week. Lin says that this absence of support means it is impossible for many students to function adequately while at University.

“The issue is not budgeting. Students are forced to be excellent budgeters – there is simply not enough to budget. This leaves no room for students to socialise, which can have a detrimental effect on mental health, as well as denying them a fundamental part of the university experience and the ability to form networks that support them during and after their study.”

In testimony prepared for the report, Michael Lai – a former Engineering student at the University of Auckland – said that he spent most of 2012 living in the living room of a tiny two-bedroom central Auckland apartment. He shared the space with five other students, each paying \$155 a week in rent. During this period, Lai only had \$20 per week to spend on food, meaning that he operated on a diet consisting mostly of kilogram bags of pasta and frozen vegetables. This arrangement was necessary because Lai didn't qualify for a student allowance, and his divorced parents were not in a position to support him.

Other students who offered testimony described various other similar problems – including having to live in rooms with very little to no insulation, having constant issues with leaks and dampness, having to skip class in order to work in order to afford rent or food, consistent overcrowding, and developing mental health issues from the constant stress resulting from their precarious financial situation.

Tertiary Education Minister Steven Joyce says that the National Party has no plan to expand allowances as long as student numbers stay at “near-record highs”.

[news ed: two things.

first, this seems to be despite the massive drop in the number of students accessing student allowances over the last few years.

second: as the report points out, while “equivalent full time student” numbers are stable (and high), there were actually 100,000 fewer actual students enrolled in tertiary education in this country in 2014 compared to 2005]

Labour's Education Spokesperson, Chris Hipkins, says that if elected, Labour would widen Student Allowances, as well as introduce a free tertiary education package and a variety of other education reforms. ■

ALARMING NEWS



A profoundly deaf student who was left completely oblivious to the sound of a fire alarm activated on campus at the beginning of last week has called for the University to improve the accessibility of their fire-prevention systems for disabled people.

The fire alarm sounded last Monday at Kate Edger Information Centre – part of the University's compulsory annual fire drills.

Dean Buckley, a first year student at the University of Auckland, was studying in the building at the time. He did not notice other students leaving the building, and was only made aware that anything was wrong when a Fire Warden asked him why he hadn't left the building.

Buckley says he was "stunned" to learn that the site had been evacuated without anyone warning him to the potential danger.

"It hurts me that I had to learn that I was left behind. No one around me helped alert me. I wouldn't have expected them to be aware of my profound deafness, but I just wish they could've at least alerted each other around them."

In a public letter, posted to *Overheard@UoA*, Buckley urged the University to invest in more accessible safety procedures, so that he wouldn't be put in the same situation ever again. He recommended, in particular, that the University install light-alarms, so that hearing impaired students would have a visual aid that would warn them of the danger.

Other students iterated upon that suggestion, proposing warnings on the monitor screens currently used to show room timetables, or an expansion of Civil Defense's existing text alert system. Currently, the University does offer a text alert system for students, allowing them to opt-in to receiving alerts when particular buildings are on fire.

His post accrued over two thousand likes in less than twelve hours. Buckley says he has been "overwhelmed" by the outpouring of public support.

Speaking to *Craccum*, Buckley said that the University had acknowledged his complaints as legitimate – while also pointing to the emergency wardens as an example of a system in place designed to cater to people who might otherwise miss the alarm.

Buckley said that while he understands that reasoning, he still would rather be able to be

evacuated from the building with everyone else, rather than be dependent on being found by a warden in time.

The *Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations Act 2006* does not require the installation of light-alarms, or of any other form of alarm system designed to cater specifically to disabled people.

Previously, developers and building owners were required to install visual alarm systems, only being able to "opt-out" if they knew no disabled people would be regularly using the building. Under changes to the Building Code made in April 2012, that is no longer the case.

At time of printing, the University has not established any commitment to introducing other safety measures to campus buildings. ■



NIGHTMAYORS OF A NEWS EDITOR PLEASE JUST FUCKING VOTE

week four of the mayoral race and 99% of all the news stories are about the fucking unitary plan i fuuuuuuucking love it

#please #vote

LOCAL POLITICKING

An attempt was made early last week to deprive Auckland's Independent Māori Statutory Board an opportunity to vote on the Unitary Plan, despite the plan changing Maori access to certain culturally important sites. A number of councillors – including Councillor John Watson, Councillor Mike Lee, Councillor Christine Fletcher – backed changes so that the substantive debate and vote for the Unitary Plan would be held in front of the Council's Governing Body, instead of the Auckland Development Committee.

The Committee and the Governing Body do not meaningfully differ in composition, aside from the absence of members of the Independent Māori Statutory Board on the latter. The Independent Māori Statutory Board has been contributing to the Unitary Plan during the entirety of the four-year-long planning process – including often having members sitting in for Councillors during development meetings.

Councillor John Watson supported skipping the Committee stage, arguing that discussions of the Unitary Plan ought to only be held at the “highest level” – and that the current plan

risked turning the Governing Body into a “rubber stamp”. Meanwhile, Councillor Mike Lee was worried that, because members of the Independent Māori Statutory Board had made submissions to the Independent Hearings Panel that drew up the proposed plan, they would be “conflicted” in their decisionmaking. Councillor Linda Cooper argued in favour of maintaining the little diversity created by the Independent Board's presence, telling councillors that, looking around the table, “we are pretty European, aren't we?”

Councillor Alf Filipaina, who is one of only two non-white members of Auckland Council, argued that changing the process at such a late stage would be flouting the established rules of the Council.

“The Māori Statutory Board have been legislated to be part of this Auckland Council whether we like it or not.”

After some debate, the vote on the motion was settled, 13 against 8.

HOUSING-MATES

The Coalition For Better Houses launched last week – a union between a diverse number of organisations, dedicated to seeing the Council follow through with the Independent Hearings Panel's proposed Unitary Plan. In an open letter to the Council, the group – comprised of organisations as diverse as Generation Zero, Unitec, the Property Council, Habitat for Humanity, The Salvation Army and Ockham Residential – stressed the importance of passing the

Unitary Plan quickly and with as little political infighting as possible.

“Across the board, everyone is forced to spend too much on housing. It doesn't have to be this way. Auckland's culture and quality of life is being threatened by the high cost of housing. There is a growing divide between homeowners and those now locked out of the housing market.”

“Unless we do something, we will lose our teachers, our new residents and our young people. Even middle-income families will be forced out, except for those lucky enough to already own their own home.”

The Coalition For Better Houses is not the only notable group attempting to influence the political calculus surrounding Auckland's Unitary Plan. Auckland 2040, an anti-intensification lobby, have openly suggested they may take the Council to court over the plan, while the popular media commentary blog *The Spinoff* has dedicated a section of their blog to advocating for pro-intensification, pro-Unitary Plan, candidates.

MASS-DEBATE

The first televised debate of the election season took place last week hosted by TV33, a free-to-air Chinese-English language, Auckland based, TV station. The debate was attended by a number of the major candidates running for the Mayoralty, including Vic Crone, Phil Goff, Mark Thomas and Penny Bright. ■

STEPHEN JOYCE CONTINUES TO NURSE HARD-ON FOR STEM SUBJECTS



Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce has announced a new \$35 million dollar “Entrepreneurial Universities” fund, designed to attract internationally renowned academics and entrepreneurs to New Zealand.

The initiative – modelled off similar programmes launched in the United States and the United Kingdom – has the government entering into “50:50” partnerships with universities across the country, offering direct incentives to “highly sought after” international

innovators. The universities in question will then work with those innovators and their teams, funding high-level research in their respective fields.

The Government hopes that as many as twenty teams of applicants will take up the offer over the next three years, with the Government paying out as much as one million dollars in funding to each team each year. A trial run of the New Zealand form of the programme was conducted earlier this year at the University of Auckland, and has been declared a success by the National Government. Joyce has described the fund as “unashamedly elite”, saying that successful applicants will need to be highly skilled, and to be successful in their application

they must have experience in innovation and entrepreneurship in a valuable sector, such as biotechnology or computer science.

As part of the 2016 Budget, the National Party has committed over \$760 million to innovation in New Zealand’s tertiary institutions – \$410 million of that money being committed to science funding in particular.

“It’s a very competitive world out there”, Mr Joyce says. “We need to keep challenging ourselves and keep adding to our hi-tech sector. Entrepreneurial Universities will strengthen our research and start-up capabilities and add to the learning opportunities for our undergraduates.” ■

THE TOP FIVE CRAZY THINGS THAT DONALD TRUMP HAS SAID

1. **John McCain isn’t a war hero.** Many in the media thought that the Donald’s campaign was over almost as it began. While insulting past party nominees is not unheard of (just ask Bob Dole), questioning whether or not someone who was a prisoner of war for over five years is a true hero was thought to be a step too far for most in the mainstream. Yet it barely hurt Trump’s numbers, and his campaign went on regardless.
2. **Muslims should be banned.** Republicans are generally considered to be big fans of the Constitution. Just look at their comments

around gun control. The First Amendment however, being the separation of church and state, is seemingly not nearly as important. This is the article which was designed to allow any American the freedom to choose and practise whichever religion they want. After announcing this plan however, despite universal condemnation, Trump continued to gain ground in the polls.

3. **Mexicans are criminals and rapists.** This was the announcement that both kicked off his campaign and which many thought would be the end of it. Yet the idea behind it became the centrepiece of his primary campaign, leading to his general election focus “make America great again”. He even went as far to suggest a deportation force, to clear out the “unwanted” that were already in the country.

4. **Putin.** Trump has praised, condemned and said he did not know who Vladimir Putin is, all in the last fortnight. The most questionable moment of the general election campaign so far has to be when he asked the Russian government to hack into Hillary’s emails, even after they had already released the DNC’s internal messages.

5. **Everything else.** The most incredible stat of the campaign so far has to have come from Politifact, the non-partisan website that rates politicians on how truthful they are being. Last year 76% of statements made by Donald Trump have been false, misrepresentations, or just plain made up. His average so far this year is looking the same and is by far the worst that the site has ever seen. ■



JAYWALKING: A NECESSARY THRILL

I'm not going to lie, there are days when the thought of rushing hurriedly across a road, avoiding the odd bus, cyclist or car really gets me going. It's the same thrill people get when crossing the grand canyon on a tightrope, or skydiving out of a plane, or texting under the table during a lecture without being caught when your lecturer has made it very clear that you're not meant to be texting.

Jaywalking comes in different forms; for some it is motivated by chronic lateness, for others it is simply the joy of getting to the other side of the road in one piece without being herded by the little green man. Something of a questionable celebration of personal autonomy.

The casual jaywalker crosses out of convenience. Their aim is to cross before those at the pedestrian crossing do. They would much rather wait an extra few minutes and cross of their own accord than walk an extra ten meters to the pedestrian crossing.

The chronic jaywalker takes the law into their own hands. Suppressing a deeply rooted fear of pedestrian crossings they will walk an extra ten meters further than necessary to avoid the little green man. If forced to wait at a pedestrian crossing, they will stop when the green light says go and wait until it goes red to cross. The chronic jaywalker has much in common with the non biting midge; it doesn't wait for the light to go green, it goes three at a time.

The accidental jaywalker seriously overestimates the speed at which they can cross a stretch of land. Not outwardly seeking to jaywalk, they simply pick an inopportune moment to begin road crossing (just before the light turns red). Perhaps even sneakier than the rest, a lack of forward planning often forces the accidental jaywalker to run across the road to avoid being hit. They've missed the boat, but that's not stopping them from trying to get on it.

Some would consider the jaywalkers the free walkers of society, the ultimate 'would-be-if-they-could-be's of social activism. It's probably a bit like wearing denim on denim, cool some of the time, but not all of the time. ■ UMA TUFFNELL

AGONY AUNTIES

Dear Aunties,

I'm trying to get good grades. I want to get into the ever-elusive School of Medicine. After what seemed like a successful semester, I fucked up my exams real bad, dropping my grades down to B's. How should I prep for exams this time, and avoid this situation? Please help!

Struggling.

Dear *Struggling*,

We've asked a couple of fellow aunties to help us out with this one, here are their pearls of wisdom...

Aunty Agnes

- It's all about active learning: don't just read over notes or your textbooks because you won't be processing the information. You need to commit a lot to memory through repetition and testing yourself. Some tried and true active learning techniques are doing past tests (resources are online), making and using flashcards and flowcharts.
- Make a friend listen to you recite a topic from memory. They probably won't understand much but they will smile and nod along!
- Be diligent with making notes in lectures, then

actually go over them. This way you either keep stuff in your long term memory, or at least you will have nice notes when it comes to study for exams.

- Focus on the things that you're getting right, but don't avoid what's hard because that will probably be what you're tested on!
- If you don't make it into med, do a complementary degree and get a good GPA. At the end of the two years, try again or in Australia – the extra maturity can help (got some rejection under the belt).
- Keep in mind – it is really competitive, don't freak out and practise active learning.

Aunty Ethel

First of all, don't panic. There is time to redeem yourself. It sounds like you're great at learning but not at examming (you are not alone in this – the whole principle of exams is quite frankly ridiculous!) They are annoying but they are not impossible. The trick is to know how you learn and to know (as much as possible) what is required. There are several things you can do:

- Find out what you are going to be tested on and organise your notes in a way that will

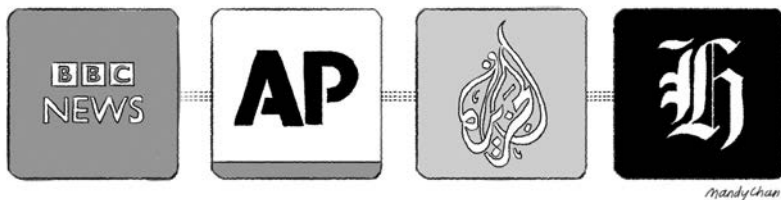
mimic this exam structure e.g. around key topics / questions / lectures / concepts.

- Determine whether you learn best by hearing things, writing things down, reading them or saying them, studying on your own or in a group, and design a study method that is tailored to your learning style. If you can't cram, you'll need to study as you go throughout the semester. If you're a Crammer, still allow yourself enough time because all nighters are a myth.
- Condense your notes down 3 times over e.g. 1) write out notes from book 2) write notes from those notes 3) write notes from those notes!
- If you don't know something, learn it. Don't ignore it and pretend that it doesn't matter.
- Seek help if you need it – from peers, lecturers, tutors.
- On the day: don't stress. Easier said than done but helpful methods are to not look at your notes 30 mins before the test and tell yourself it's just a test. You got dis!

Hope that helps and good luck!

The Agony Aunties xoxo ■

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



Mandy Chan

SIMPLE APPS FOR OVERWHELMING WORLD NEWS

The world has been chaotic in recent weeks and months with events in France, Germany, Sudan, Turkey, and the seemingly endless violence in Iraq and Syria, to name just a few.

Keeping up with current events seems overwhelming and frankly, depressing. The selective and unreliable nature of New Zealand's news reporting means that living on a small island on the bottom of the globe is really like living in a bubble. Ignorance is a dangerous thing and is best avoided, and reading a headline a friend of a friend liked on Facebook doesn't count as being informed. We, both as New Zealanders and students, are privileged and have the potential to be an influential part of the international community, and as a result have a responsibility to be informed and to care about the struggles of those less fortunate than us. But it doesn't all have to be about political and economic struggles and violence; every discipline has its headlines and developments, from health and science, to the environment, business, entertainment and technology. The most efficient and straightforward way to keep up is news apps, so download the three below (available for both android and iPhone), switch on notifications, and keep up with the things that really matter from high quality and reliable news sources.

BBC News – Simple and well written articles with links to deeper analysis or related news items for areas of interest to you. The app opens to a collection of the top stories under various topics including health, science, environment, entertainment, art, and all regions of the world. Notifications are an option and they only send them for really important events so they won't clog up your lock screen. You also have the opportunity to personalize the topics that are important to you.

Associated Press Mobile – The most simple

news app, click a region of the world or top news and it provides you with a collection of simple reports and facts and no fluffy filling. Also has sections on business, sports, technology, and entertainment, and a range of incredible photography. At the end of each article there is a range of related articles if the particular topic has caught your interest. This app is great for quickly becoming informed on a particular event or issue because each report is short, sweet and to the point and leads onto the next related article with ease. Has the option of notifications.

Al Jazeera English – This app is particularly relevant given the situation in Syria and Iraq as it focuses strongly on in-depth, on the ground reporting from the Middle East and Asia. It does provide news from all round the world and like AP and BBC provides short and to the point reports on their app while offering more analysis and opinion pieces from reporters all over the world than AP and BBC. This app also has a section on video reports and investigations and provides a rare insight into communities, issues and events in the Middle East and Asia and it is a rare gift to be given such intelligent insight and footage so easily to places we never see and this should not be ignored. It does have sections on health, arts, environment, business etc. and the option for notifications.

Please avoid:

NZ Herald News – if you want local news then by all means this is a source but for our purposes do not use this app to inform your understanding of world events. It is selective in its reporting and most of its articles appear to be taken from other news sources and sections are cut and pasted. If you like soap opera style reporting and weekly updates and opinion pieces on *The Bachelor* and *Married at First Sight* then by all means download this one but do not use it to engage with events happening beyond our borders.

■ STEPHANIE GRACE

WHAT'S ON 8 – 14 AUGUST

Auckland War Memorial Museum's LATE series continues with **He Mana, He Wahine** this Tuesday from 6pm. An impressive panel will discuss the everyday reality of feminism and equality in Aotearoa, with a focus on the concept of mana wahine. The event also includes a performance of Mana Wahine by Okareka Dance Company, and the exhibition Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu will be open late for viewing. Student tickets are \$10.

The Basement Theatre has your Friday night sorted with a thought-provoking piece around exchange and economy, **Free Happiness**. You pay \$20 for your ticket into the show, which is then exchanged, upon entry, for 21 \$1 coins. The two performers will then spend the duration of the show doing everything they can to win back, value, de-value, re-circulate and waste your money. From 6.30pm. See the Basement's website for further dates.

The epic annual design symposium **Semi-Permanent** is on this Friday and Saturday. The event features workshops and discussions with renowned speakers both local and international, as well as satellite events, art and networking opportunities. At \$230 for a day pass, this event is *not* cheap, but it's worth going to if "fresh design-thinking" is your thing!

This Saturday at 10.30am, Aotea Centre's Lower NZI Room will transform into another world at the hands and creative minds of **Te Rehia Theatre**. Te Haerenga o Hoiho is an enchanting story of friendship and adventure, for the young and young at heart, and is a fun and inventive chance to expand your Te Reo Māori. The performance will be followed by a workshop at 11.30am, with drama games and basic Te Reo. As part of Pick & Mix 2016, entry is free. ■

FASHION ON CAMPUS



Interview with Anoushka (CAO)

WHY DID YOU RUN FOR CAO?

I was looking through the AUSA newsletter and they had advertised that there was a vacancy, and I was at the point where I was really wanting to get more involved in university life. I thought Culture and Arts Officer would be a super cool job to have because it incorporates all the stuff I'm interested in, and a good way to get into AUSA – so that I could eventually overthrow Will and become President.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT CULTURAL WEEK?

Well, I'm not a very fun person naturally, so getting to organize fun events and tricking people into coming to them is a cool aspect that I am looking forward to. And hanging out with all the different groups that I normally wouldn't get to meet!

WHAT IS THE MOST SURPRISING THING YOU'VE FOUND ABOUT BEING

ON THE AUSA EXECUTIVE?

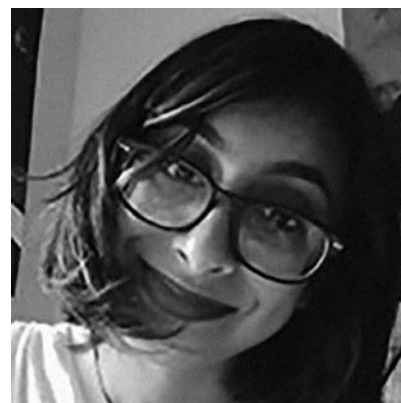
The most surprising thing I've found is that everyone is odd in a very specific and wonderful way. Like, I knew that you'd have to be a little bit quirky to be involved in student politics, but it's been a genuine pleasure to find a group of young people who are this passionate and also so outrageously fun and interesting. Aw. Warm fuzzies.

ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LABOUR PARTY?

Uh. I've voted for them, and I love them with all my heart, but I don't think I'm an actual member of the Labour Party.

THOUGHTS ON THE POKÉMON YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED?

I'm very flattered. Apparently, Milotic has been depicted in many paintings and statues, so we



have that in common.

AND HAVE YOU CAUGHT THIS POKÉMON YET?

No, I haven't. I'm pretty shit at Pokémon, to be honest. ■

Notice is hereby given of an
AUSA WINTER GENERAL
MEETING

to be held

WEDNESDAY, 24
AUGUST 2016

or (if the meeting
was inquorate)

THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 2016

at 1.00 pm

Student Union Quad

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Deadline for constitutional changes: Noon,
Tuesday, 9 August 2016.

Deadline for other agenda items: Noon,
Tuesday, 16 August 2016.

Association Secretary

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IS NEW ZEALAND DOING ENOUGH FOR REFUGEES?

COME ALONG TO SHADOWS GARDEN ROOM
ON THE 10TH AUGUST AT 6PM
TO LISTEN AND DEBATE WITH YOUR SPEAKERS
ABOUT NEW ZEALAND'S RESPONSE TO REFUGEES

THURSDAY
AUG

11

FROM
7PM

SCARED
OF GIRLS,
PAPRIKA
& JONES
& LILY
JACKSON

LIVE MUSIC AT SHADOWS BAR

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Cultural
WEEK



copacabana ain't coping

teja appilla says it's not all fun and games in the olympic city

Gunfire, sirens and screams spread across the busy and bustling streets of Rio de Janeiro, as the city hosts the biggest sporting event across the globe. As travellers and athletes embark on a journey to represent their respective nations in the Summer Olympics, Rio is in a state of political turmoil.

The situation that Brazil has paved for itself is one that needs to be solved by bold leadership and political stability. Although the city is already reputed to be violent and prone to corruption by corporates and drug cartels, the current state of affairs is the snowballed result of the Petrobras scandal. On top of that, the mosquito-borne Zika virus adds an extra layer to the list of troubles faced by the government.

It has been nearly 10 years since the process of bidding to host the Games in 2016 began. Rio was competing against Chicago, Madrid and Tokyo to book the hosting spot this year. These four cities were evaluated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in early 2009, with the final report released later in the year. Rio

de Janeiro won the bid through an exhaustive ballot voting system, where the candidate with the least votes is eliminated and another round of votes commences with the remaining candidates. As a result, it is the first South American city to host the Summer Olympics.

With Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (also known as Lula) acting as the President of Brazil, the country was looking promising, with controlled structural reform. His campaigns with the Worker's Party involved managing various social programmes, such as reducing hunger in poverty-stricken regions, increasing education in the favelas (the colourful slums in the hills), budgeting a minimum cash distribution for the poor and helping build Brazil's reputation through solid foreign policies. Despite accusations of corruption, Lula is regarded as one of the most popular presidents of Brazil and was presented in *Time* magazine's "The 100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2010.

Following the end of his second term, Lula's successor Dilma Rousseff took up office. The popularity for her election in 2011 revolved around continuing with Lula's campaigns. Her candidacy was also strengthened with the support of international figures such as Benicio del Toro and Rage Against the Machine guitar-

ist Tom Morello. With a high approval rating during her first term, Rousseff was re-elected for a second term in the office. However, her reputation began to diminish. Since the beginning of 2015, protests have taken place against corruption, condemning Rousseff's government (Worker's Party) for accepting bribes from the multinational corporation, Petrobras. Millions of protesters have gathered across various cities following allegations of Lula's involvement in money laundering.

Petrobras is a semi-state-owned enterprise and the largest player in Brazil's oil industry, which holds roughly eighty-thousand employees. With several politicians from the left-wing Worker's Party being entrusted as the company's Board of Directors, almost USD\$3 billion has been covertly diverted to the party and its coalition partners. Enraged by the revelation, millions of Brazilians took a stand against the government, demanding the impeachment of Rousseff. The timing of this revelation, in the midst of the worst recession in recent Brazilian history, has stirred chaos and disorder across the country. People from all backgrounds, teachers to businessmen, lawyers to farmers, have become predisposed to support the opposition.

Violent scenes are omnipresent in the Olympic city now more than ever. Riot police clashing with protesters has become a routine occurrence. The government's concern is currently centred on the safety of citizens, tourists and athletes during the major event. Violence has streamed out of the favelas onto Rio's main highway, The Red Line, which has seen gunfire emerge during broad daylight. What's so special about this road? This is the only road that connects fans and athletes from the main city to the Olympic village. Just over a month ago, in mid-June, an image of a gunman taking aim on the Red Line surfaced in the media, haunting government officials with the dangers the city faces that could tarnish its international reputation.

On top of this, the Zika virus, transferable through mosquitos, looms across the towns and cities of Brazil. Recent history shows that viruses are a common drawback at major events and mass gatherings. Measles were reported in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and Norovirus (vomiting and diarrhoea) during the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. However, the threat that Zika poses is the lack of symptoms during early stages of contraction. This makes it difficult to survey statistics based on past similarities, and there is no evidence of the true number of cases that exist.

Many have called for the IOC to cancel this year's Games as it would be reckless to hold a major event while the country is battling an epidemic. In a recent poll, only 40 percent of all Brazilians approved hosting the Games, a drastic change from the 64 percent three years ago. On the contrary, some experts claim that the Games are in safe hands as winter approaches, which should reduce the risk of the virus due to cold temperatures. The best advice doctors are giving attendees is to minimise exposure to mosquito bites for at least two weeks after returning home. Only time will tell if Brazil has made the right decision to remain as the hosts.

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A fortnight prior to the commencement of the Games, the Australian team boycotted the Olympic village due to poor infrastructure and hazardous conditions – blocked toilets, leaking pipes and exposed wiring were found in the Australian camp. The Italian Olympic Committee had already taken construction matters into its own hands by contracting out the development of their camp. Furthermore, an Australian paralympian, Liesl Tesch, was held at gunpoint in the city by petty thieves, who fortunately only stole her bike. Jason Lee, a Kiwi Jiu-Jitsu athlete, was escorted into a car by people in police uniforms who led him to two ATMs to forcefully withdraw cash “as a bribe”. Crime and violence have tainted Brazil's reputation over time, with cartels controlling drug movement and human trafficking in the backdrop.

The country generated various controversies two years ago, prior to hosting the FIFA World Cup. Mass protests were held by the general public primarily over the issue of unnecessary government spending. These protests foreshadowed today's public outcry. Before the World Cup, some Brazilians, including former national football player Romario, claimed the Worker's Party were stealing a large share of government revenue, investing little into preparations. Nonetheless, the tournament turned out to exceed expectations.

Brazil's obvious and immediate solution is to increase security measures for the Olympics. However, there is only a certain share of the forces that the country can designate toward the Games. The conundrum lies in how Brazil can get itself out of this mess *in the long-run*. The government needs to start by building the people's trust again through developing infrastructure and education systems in the poverty-stricken regions. We witnessed the country head towards positive change until 2013, which had taken several years to facilitate. But now that the situation has spiralled out of control, the debate lies in how much longer it will continue. ■

8 - 11 AUGUST | SHADOWS BAR | THE QUAD



AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION PRESENTS...

Cultural WEEK

MONDAY AUGUST 8TH

Poetry night

-line-up of poets to read with
an open mic after this
Shadows from 6.30pm

TUESDAY AUGUST 9TH

Cultures day

featuring food vendors and
cultural performances
The Quad from 12.30

TUESDAY AUGUST 9TH

Afro Beat Nite

with the Auckland University
African Society
Shadows from 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10TH

Student Forum

with Cultural Performances
Quad from 1pm

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10TH

'The Flat'

Is NZ doing enough for refugees?
Shadows Garden room from
6pm

THURSDAY AUGUST 11

Music Nite

with Scared of Girls, Paprika
Jones and Lily Jackson
Shadows from 7pm

this house believes that all tertiary institutions should be secular

the debating society has been around since 1887
and meets every thursday to discuss issues both
topical and whimsical. www.debating.co.nz



AFFIRMATIVE

The biggest point of opposition to religiously affiliated tertiary institutions is the way a belief system is weaved into their curriculum and governance. It compromises a student's ability to learn and on a principled level contravenes core principles we ought to envision in education institutions. Our case is a world where tertiary education providers are all secular, a world where the state requires publicly funded institutions to remove any religious mandate or obligation from their institution, and where government funds provided via loans or support grants are not provided to private religious institutions. This doesn't mean cracking down on religious groups inside campuses in the form of clubs – only that the state should tolerate a diversity of values and not overtly promote a value system.

The first issue to explore is what tertiary institutions ought to look like. For research institutions, their value is both personal, in the personal enlightenment they provide, and communal in the way their research facilitates discourse and understanding in the community at large. In providing this good, the aim isn't to prioritise subjective beliefs like religion, but to understand the world objectively and teach methods to engage with the world. The good they can provide isn't by itself a justification though – that would seem to be a matter of reliance. A society without any conscience would seem to be undesirable. We ought to value this conception of education given a world with stagnant values and beliefs seems to be one we should avoid. Religious institutions promote stagnation to some extent. At universities like Baylor in the United States, they mandate religious education; the value to the individual would seem muddled by the fact that their value system is now under assault or only further reinforced. To society at large, however, the benefit they may provide in discourse would seem unclear given the lens of religion is always applied to whatever works they produce.

While there is value in being cautious about promoting secularism as an alternative, given how it can mask alternative value systems, secular tertiary institutions tend to be divorced from any incentive to maintain or proliferate any particular value system.

The second issue to explore is more pragmatic, looking at how tertiary institutions contribute to more basic forms of public good like jobs and economic growth. It would be misleading to suggest that tertiary institutions can't provide qualifications that provide employment, but for some smaller religious institutions their ability to find professors and educators that can teach a wide variety of subjects is limited by the number of educators they can find that conform to their religious world view. On a pragmatic level, many religious institutions in the US fail their students because they cannot do such a thing. Their qualification is then viewed in a negative light because it's not as rigorous as comparatively secular institutions.

Finally, people have a sense of reliance towards the works of education institutions to provide understanding about the world itself. Within research institutions there is some consensus on scientific claims about the nature of the universe and to the humanities, claims about metaphysics and ethics are largely perceived as unresolved and don't bind a community's values to the point there is no consensus. At the point a religious university exists, it operates in the same way a church does as a symbol for religion as a value system, but for larger institutions it has the perceived credibility of being a source of objective claims about the nature of the universe. This may seem a minor harm, but it would still seem preferable that a university eschews truth claims or any overarching ethic when it can't find definitive evidence and instead remain secular and diverse. ■

A society without any conscience would seem to be undesirable. We ought to value this conception of education given a world with stagnant values and beliefs seems to be one we should avoid. Religious institutions promote stagnation to some extent.

NEGATIVE

Despite their obvious civic value, tertiary institutions are not the bland consequence of a homogeneously secular society. A religious institution can easily be recognised by the state, without taking taxpayer money or told that the state explicitly endorses their world view. The state should be secular, but higher learning is not always a secular pursuit; people find meaning in a broad range of different environments, and there is no good reason to deny competent adults the right to collectivise around that religious identity for the purpose of education. Unfortunately for the affirmative, whether or not the state should fund and support these institutions is a separate question. The deeper discussion is whether faith can coexist with learning.

Firstly, the proper function of religion requires a significant amount of religious scholarship and learning. New Zealand is a highly secular society, yet we still have a need for tertiary institutions like The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand to produce the next generation of religious leaders. Secularity doesn't diminish the contribution and relevance of religion in the lives of ordinary citizens. Rather, it protects the right of each person to practice their own faith, without persecution or favouritism by the state. Religious communities have a right to shape the development of their religious institutions, and non-secular tertiary education is a vital component of that purpose.

Secondly, people often find meaning while learning about the world through a particular subjective lens, and religious people should be able to congregate in communities of learning to share their world view. You do not need to be studying theology in order to allow religion to have a deep impact on your lives, behaviour, and career decisions. Religious tertiary institutions allow people to connect with others who are guided by the same foundation. Furthermore, secular liberal arts colleges like Sarah Lawrence do not pretend that they lack a world view and set of values. In fact, it is particularly important to their appeal! The humanities are defined by subjective experience, and it would be inconsistent to condemn one, and not the other.

Finally, religious tertiary institutions contribute immensely to society. Institutions like Notre Dame University and the International Islamic University of Malaysia don't just produce excellent priests and imams, they produce scientists, poets and teachers. If religion motivates these incredible individuals, then whatever costs that are raised on the affirmative can be traded off by the enormous societal advances generated

by religious tertiary institutions.

This is not to justify the excesses of certain religious groups and leaders, nor to accept discrimination and hatred. Religiously influenced education should be bound by the same rules and standards of behaviour as secular institutions. However, when a group of people wants to join our collective endeavour for progress and knowledge, their contributions are not limited by the cultural and religious lens by which they have chosen to live their lives. It is part of who they are and they have every right to build their own places of learning that can be voluntarily joined by other like-minded adults. We abandon secular values when we ask that their faith be excluded from all education. ■

When a group of people wants to join our collective endeavour for progress and knowledge, their contributions are not limited by the cultural and religious lens by which they have chosen to live their lives.



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**THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY
AFRICAN SOCIETY PRESENTS...**

TUESDAY AUGUST 9TH

AFRO BEAT NITE

SHADOWS | FROM 6.30PM

AUSA
SERVING STUDENTS

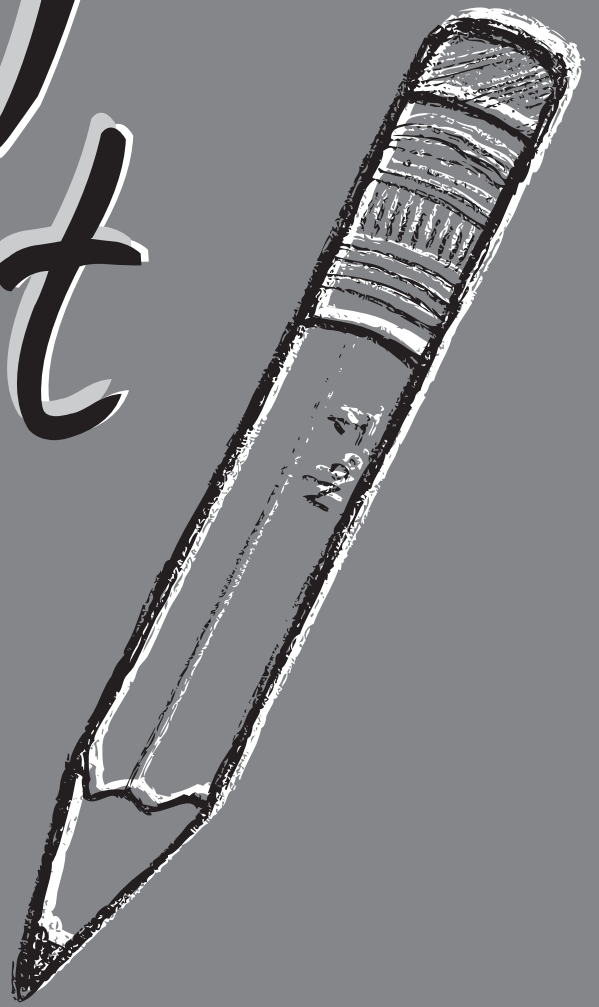
SHADOWS
YOUR STUDENT BAR

**Cultural
WEEK**

FREE ENTRY | OPEN MIC | SHADOWS BAR



Poetry Night



MONDAY AUGUST 8TH

FROM 6.30PM

AUSA
SERVING STUDENTS

SHADOWS
YOUR STUDENT BAR

Cultural
WEEK



Take it t-easy

ARTS EDITORIAL BY SAMANTHA GIANOTTI

Some people know wine and food. I know tea, I pretend that I know movies, and I know that there is nothing better while watching a doozie of a film than a steaming mug of your favourite brew. Try these on for size, eh?

Peppermint tea with *The King's Speech*

Tom Hooper's Oscar winner is a lot like a steaming cup of pepp - inoffensive, delightful to some, and pretty bland to others. A mug of minty freshness will help you really get amongst; even if you don't really want to drink a peppermint tea, George VI didn't really want to be a king, so that works out fairly bloody well doesn't it?

A chai latte with *The Holiday*

The Holiday is a triumph of modern filmmaking, straddling two continents and four individuals' romantic pursuits in a flurry of friendship, gumption, and Hans Zimmer bangers. A chai encompasses the vibe of *The Holiday's* transatlantic storytelling, with a spiced cinnamon flavour to remind you of a snowy Christmas in Surrey, but all the trappings of a latte to help you feel like the LA-based trailer cutting movie mogul that, deep down, you really want to be.

English breakfast tea with *Crazy, Stupid, Love*

English breakfast is your standard crowd-pleaser, and anyone that doesn't like *Crazy, Stupid, Love* is absolutely not to be trusted. An English

brekkie comes in handy when you need to get yourself warm; Ryan Gosling's shirtless *Dirty Dancing* scene comes in handy when you need to get yourself hot.

Black coffee with *Spotlight*

Funneling a mug of black coffee will give you the air of being an investigative journalist, chasing down a story into the wee hours of the morning, generally feeling a little despondent at the dismal state of the ~~Catholic archdiocese of Boston~~ world. Would recommend bookending this beverage with a warm brownie - *Spotlight* and its subject may seem a little bitter and bleak on the surface, but by the time you get to the end you're an emotional, uplifted mess, your heart warmed and your fists a-pumpin' as the Boston Globe Spotlight team take names and TAKES DOWN THE SYSTEM.

Green tea with *Se7en*

This combination results entirely from the fact that you're going to want to detox your mind, body and soul after watching David Fincher's gnarly 1995 thriller.

A hot toddy with *Inside Llewyn Davis*

A jaded, wearied (beautiful) folk singer navigating the unwelcoming music scene of 1960s New York will make you want to throw back a finger or two of strong Irish whiskey. Throw in some honey and hot water, and you have a drink way more appropriate for a Tuesday night.

Chamomile tea with *Pride & Prejudice*

Mark is demanding that Beatrix Potter's novel *Peter Rabbit* be the only appropriate match

for a cheeky cup of chamo ("he literally drinks chamomile tea after he gets chased by the farmer! She puts him in bed and gives him fucking chamomile!"). But just because Mark has no respect for rules doesn't mean we're going to throw this movie-tea mandate out the window. I submit Joe Wright's Austenian adaptation for your consideration. This calming number will pair well with the film's wide shots of the English countryside, fancy as fuck drawing rooms, and Matthew Macfadyen strolling through a dewy field at dawn in riding boots and an unbuttoned shirt.

A hot chocolate with *Jurassic Park*

Sam Neill's character arc from a belligerent anti-baby big ol' baby, to an emotionally vulnerable pseudo-father figure is a brimming beaker of hot chocolate for the heart.

Mulled wine with *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* at the end of a LOTR marathon

Mulled wine is not technically a tea. But it is a comforting warm beverage, so I'll allow it [Mark's note: *where's your movie-tea mandate now, ya fuck #bringbackpeterrabbit*]. This sweet, spiced number would be fit for any wearied traveller taking pause at The Prancing Pony, and if you've made it all the way to *Return of the King*, withstanding the emotional trauma of Boromir's death, Aragorn's identity crisis, and Samwise Gamgee's general heart-wrenching goodness, you're probably going to need to hit the hooch.

Watch a banger of a film, drink a banger of a brew (and don't read *Peter Rabbit*). ■



Jason Bourne

FILM REVIEW BY JAMES HALPIN

Jason Bourne is the realist's James Bond; after Brosnan's fanciful version of the spy, Craig and his directors have tried to emulate the realism of the *Bourne* series. *Jason Bourne* is no exception. Matt Damon is back as Bourne who is trying to dig deeper into Treadstone and the CIA's illegal activities. Interestingly Jason Bourne doesn't feel like the central character in the film - much of the film's runtime is given to Alicia Vikander, who plays the CIA's cyber head. She must stop Bourne after a leak of classified information comparable with Snowden.

Paul Greengrass is back at the helm after directing *Supremacy* and *Ultimatum*, and *Jason Bourne* dishes out one action packed ride. Proof: shooting a Vegas car chase scene wrecked 170 cars. Vincent Cassel, Tommy Lee Jones, and Julia Stiles (reprising her role as Nicky Parsons), are all embroiled in the mayhem as well. Highlights of the action sequences include Bourne falling off a building, fighting big Russian dudes in an underground fight ring, and the chaotic scene of protests in Greece.

The film has an intriguing subplot which explores the relationship between social media companies and intelligence services. Deep Dream and its enigmatic CEO Aaron Kalloor (reflective of Zuckerberg and Facebook) are releasing a new social media service which promises to bring all social media under one roof and revolutionise the experience. The CIA are keen to have back door entry into it so they can monitor targets' actions. The security versus privacy argument is a welcome arc, as compared to a *Bond* film, it feels far more relevant.

If you're sceptical about this being nothing more than another flawed Hollywood reboot, then go just to hear Moby's "Extreme Ways" over the credits. Fantastic stuff. ■



The Rehearsal

FILM REVIEW BY MICHAEL CLARK

Alison Maclean's film adaptation of Eleanor Catton's *The Rehearsal* strays a great deal from its source material - which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Often times it's difficult to transmute novels onto the screen and Catton's *The Rehearsal* more so than most, but this rendition manages to more or less keep the novel's composed yet playful spirit.

The story follows eighteen-year-old Stanley, a first year drama student who is eager to please Hannah, his stern but nurturing drama teacher, while forming a romantic relationship with Isolde, a fifteen-year-old girl he strikes up a conversation with on a bus. As it comes to pass, Isolde happens to be the sister of Victoria, who is locally known for having a scandalous relationship with her married, much older tennis coach. Stanley uses this story as inspiration for his end of year drama performance without telling Isolde and he finds himself making decisions that test his relationship with Isolde and his respect for both Hannah and drama.

The film works best if you view it outside the context of a film adaptation. Viewing it for the first time, I often compared it to its source material, interested in screenwriter Emily Perkins' decision to cut or change certain scenes, but the fact is that the film stands up on its own. Each scene is littered with colour and vigour whether it be the brilliant performance of James Rolleston (Stanley), Kerry Fox (Hannah), and my favourite Kieran Charnock (William, Stanley's roommate), or the film's stellar cinematography, which is particularly on-point at times.

Above all, the film was able to capture the self-possessive, colourful essence of the novel despite its divergence, and hold it tight all the way to the very end. ■



Hooligan Sparrow

FILM REVIEW BY GEORGIA HARRIS

Smuggled out of China to shine a light on women's rights abuses, *Hooligan Sparrow* was always going to be an important documentary. Filmed guerrilla-style with hidden cameras, digital voice recorders, cell-phones and micro-cameras hidden in eyeglasses that 10 year-old spy-obsessed me would have loved, the movie was intense throughout. The covert way in which *Hooligan Sparrow* was filmed told almost as much as the documentary itself; this film is as much about journalistic freedom as it is about women's rights.

The initial spark for *Hooligan Sparrow* was activist Ye Haiyan (known as Hooligan Sparrow), her protest of a principal's sexual abuse of six young girls, and the Chinese government's inadequate response. Although this protest was simply a few people holding placards, the protest went viral, and Sparrow found herself under government investigation. The government's overblown reactions to this small stand forms the main substance of this documentary.

Hooligan Sparrow was the charismatic centre of the documentary, but without filmmaker Wang Nanfu, and Sparrow's lawyer Wang Yu, her voice would not have been heard by the world. These women, along with an entourage of other supportive activists, were with Sparrow from her initial protest, through to the public and governmental backlash. Through their involvement with Ye Haiyan, the activists have faced hired thugs, physical threats, and imprisonment. Sparrow's lawyer Wang Yu has been detained since 2015, and has been given no trial date.

Although there were a few moments of comic gold between Sparrow and her daughter, the documentary was not made to entertain viewers, but rather to inform about the crises of women's rights and freedom of speech in China. Because of the ongoing nature of the documentary, there was no clear-cut beginning, middle or end - but the courage of these activists is a topic we should follow closely. ■



The BFG

FILM REVIEW BY JACK CALDWELL

The BFG follows young Sophie living in an orphanage in London, a girl often awake at the “witching hour” of 3am due to her insomnia. One night, the “boogeyman” (later revealed to be the BFG) locks eyes with Sophie and is forced to take her away to Giant Country, an island far north of the UK, so that humans don’t find out about the existence of giants. The BFG is tiny in comparison to the other giants, who bully him and have a strong appetite for “human beans”.

The turn of phrase “human bean” is one of many in this film used by the BFG and other giants. Roald Dahl’s source material is the inventor of the well-known term “scrumdiddlyumptious”, and phrases like these gave both the book and the film a sweet and juvenile charm.

Steven Spielberg knows how to approach even the darkest subjects in his family films without alienating children, and critics have found many connections in the tone of *The BFG* with his earlier work, *E.T.* *The BFG* isn’t quite as moving as *E.T.* proved to be back in 1982, but it certainly does justice to one of Dahl’s most beloved books. There are fart jokes in here which don’t quite land, but otherwise, *The BFG* is classic family fare.

The visual storytelling is another winner, in particular the BFG’s impressive travel speed across the UK, and his room full of jars of glowing “dreams” that he catches for a job. One scene attempts to utilise these colourful dreams for a Disney-esque “pretty” moment, but much like Pixar’s *Good Dinosaur*, there’s no substance or emotion added by such a scene.

The BFG works despite these flaws because Sophie and the BFG complement each other so well, making this movie worth a watch, and perhaps one to be remembered. ■



Stranger Things

TELEVISION REVIEW BY JACK STEPHENS

If you are a fan of 1980s’ nostalgia, supernatural mysteries, and you’re interested in seeing what Winona Ryder is up to these days, then Netflix’s new show *Stranger Things* is the perfect new binge for you. The Duffy Brothers take you back in time, paying homage to classic movies of the past, teasing their audience with numerous pop culture references (we’re talking *E.T.*, *Star Trek*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*), to welcome you to Hawkins, a small unpretentious town in Indiana, where a series of strange and mysterious events occur, climaxing in the disappearance of a young boy.

The show centres on a group of kids trying to uncover the mystery behind the unexplained disappearance of their friend. Ryder plays the missing child’s mother, who goes to drastic lengths to discover what happened to her beloved son. Does the suspicious military laboratory, the young girl wandering the woods in a hospital gown, or the weird dark shadow have anything to do with the show’s evolution? You better believe it!

The child cast in this show is incredible, carrying the show for its eight episodes. The cast as a whole is outstanding, with interweaving stories cementing the audience’s emotional attachment to the characters as they attempt to solve this mystery. The soundtrack is the perfect mix of 80’s science fiction, and captures and complements every scene perfectly.

Stranger Things has struck the perfect balance: a homage to sci-fi movie greats within an original show full of substance - the perfect blend of 1980s nostalgia in our 2016 world. Stop what you’re doing and enjoy being taken back in time, to discover for yourself the reason for the strange and mysterious events occurring within the little old town of Hawkins. ■

Elevate your mood, dude

Have the winter blues been compounded by uni stress and sundry woes? Do you find yourself routinely staring out of bus windows, listening to “The Sound of Silence” on repeat? Well, cut it out. Give this setlist of songs a listen next time you feel like turning your public transport journey into an R.E.M. music video.

“All These Things That I’ve Done” -

The Killers: “If you can hold on / If you can hold on / Hold on,” and then the beat drops faster than a metal tray you recklessly removed from the oven without wearing mitts. This song is so good.

“Have You Ever Seen the Rain” -

Creedence Clearwater Revival: To be fair, this list should be made up of 99% Creedence bangers. “Midnight Special” and “Hey Tonight” are also guaranteed to make you feel tip top.

“Go The Distance” - Michael Bolton:

Arguably the most motivational Disney song in existence, please, please watch the music video to see Michael Bolton’s flowing blonde locks and leather jacket/pants combo against the backdrop of a faux Greek antiquity museum exhibit. A ripper of a guitar solo around the three-minute mark.

“Come on Eileen” - Dexys Midnight

Runners: The combo of Celtic fiddle, drums, and swarthy English accents is a rich, creamy chicken soup for the soul.

“Send Me On My Way” - Rustic Root:

This is the song that plays over a montage of four-year-old Matilda as she makes herself pancakes, then sits down and eats those pancakes while reading the newspaper like a full blown grown up. Get a hit of good juju and nostalgia, all wrapped up in one great ol’ banger.

“Concerning Hobbits” - Howard Shore:

This is the quintessential *Lord of the Rings* theme, reminding us of happier times in the Shire before rings were found and journeys to Mordor were undertaken. It’s hard to feel overly stressed if you spend some time picturing yourself as a chill wee hobbit, or alternatively, imagine being swaddled in the strong, girthy arms of Viggo Mortensen. ■



the day my bum went psycho

a conversation

FART FULLERTON AND SABUMTHA GIANOTTI

Two members of the Craccum cohort, on a late night bus ride home, opened up to one another and shared the most vulnerable part of themselves - that they had a deep and enduring affinity for Andy Griffith's fart-warming glute-themed trilogy, beginning with The Day My Bum Went Psycho.

"Surely there must be a big anniversary coming up sometime soon" they mused. Turns out the anniversary of the third and final installment, Bumageddon, happened in September of last year. Undeterred, the two decided to get together over a can of vanilla coke and shoot the breeze about the books their mums didn't really want them to read.

BUM-LESS BODIES

A literary classic *The Day My Bum Went Psycho* may be, a paradigm of anatomical correctness it is not. When a character's bum detaches itself to run rogue and partake in a poo coup d'état, what is left behind? Mark wagers it would be a concave patch of skin, a sort of velcro situation. Sam figured it was more an exposed fleshy mound, with lower intestines left flopping about like a rope of flaccid frankfurters.

BASED ON A TRUE STORY?

There were two great betrayals in Sam's childhood: the first was the fact that the *Kangaroo Jack* trailer made it seem as though the titular 'roo would be a rappin', wise-crackin' companion for Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson, only to have him rap for approximately thirty seconds in a main character's heat-induced fever dream, nothing more than a regular kangaroo for the rest of the film's tight 89 minute runtime. The second was the fact that the phrase "based on a true story" was emblazoned across the cover of *The Day My Bum Went Psycho*, *Zombie Bums From Uranus*, and *Bumageddon*. At the tender age of ten, Sam was confused: surely there was never a time when bums freed themselves from the shackles of slacks and sweaty denim to run amok - but why would someone say it if it wasn't true? Sam never admitted it to anyone, but in the Mulder/Scully crossroads that fell before her, she was the David Duchovny of the *Bum Went Psycho* readership. She wanted to believe.

THE KISSER: WEIRD OR NAH?

A mainstay of the series was the 'B Team,' a crack team of bum-fighters made up of the Kicker, the Smacker and the Kisser. The first two are fairly self-explanatory. One wears big boots and kicks the shit (lol) out of rogue bums, and the other smacks the shit (not as funny as the first time tbh) out of rogue bums.

The Kisser's method, however, is seduction - he sways and sings the bums into a trance, then picks them up one by one and kisses them unconscious. This prompts a lot of questions, the most pressing of which being: *where* does he kiss them? Is it a pucker on a cheek, or a smackeroo right on the starfish? Andy Griffith's child-friendly novels offer no outright answer to such a question. But we're pretty sure he mouth-washed afterwards, which strongly suggests The Kisser does indeed make a beeline straight for the brown eye.

BUM FIGHTING ABILITIES

Harry Potter fans muse over what Hogwarts house they might be sorted into; *Lord of the Rings* buffs ponder whether they would be better suited to life with the elves of Rivendell or Mirkwood. *The Day My Bum Went Psycho* fans while away the days with thoughts of their bum fighting talent, and a place among the upper echelons of the bum fighting ranks. Mark wagers he'd put his talent for shouting to good use, his shrieks currently saved for when he needs to get someone's attention, or spills his box of Nerds in the *Craccum* office. In her youth, Sam routinely pictured herself as a member of the B Team, whipping butts into shape with her sinewy mane. Each question whether the fact they have imagined themselves as part of a crew of fictional (literal) ass-kickers is something they want put into print. ■

Smile Like You Mean It, Dammit!

Every good human has seen rom-com *The Holiday*. Meaning every good human has witnessed Cameron Diaz singing (extremely out of tune) to indie rock band The Killers hit “Mr Brightside”. A classic movie, a classic song – and a classic band.

Lately I’ve been re-listening to my old Killers albums. Just ‘cause. And as I’ve been doing this re-listening, I’ve re-remembered why they’re so rad. So rad, in fact, that I’m calling for a Killers comeback. This gem of a band really has it all – fab lyrics, a mighty fine frontman (Brandon Flowers amirite?) and music that you can dance to, sing/scream to, and feel nostalgic to.

For a trip down memory lane, start your Killers journey with their first album, *Hot Fuss* (2004). So many bangers. This is where previously mentioned tune “Mr Brightside” originated from, which, undoubtedly, we’ve all lost it to at some point. Other notable songs include “Change Your Mind” and my personal fave, “Smile Like You Mean It”. The latter seems more relevant than ever, Brandon wisely telling us to “change your ways while you’re young.” Then there’s the absolute anthem “Somebody Told Me” (you had a boyfriend, who looked like a girlfriend, that I had in February of last year), and of course “All These Things That I Have Done”. As fellow *Craccum* contributor Catriona Britton points out, “I got soul but I’m not a soldier” is one of the most underrated lyrics of all time.”

Two years on from *Hot Fuss*, The Killers blessed

us with more goodness in the form of *Sam’s Town*. Again, SO MANY BANGERS. For me, this album is just a straight reminder of those awkward – but great – teenage years. While “Bones” may be considered the most well-known hit from *Sam’s Town*, there really isn’t a bad song on the whole album. “When You Were Young” is insanely feel-good, while “For Reasons Unknown” and “Uncle Jonny” are just straight classics. One can’t overlook “This River Is Wild”, though. What a rager. There’s something about this album that made it so great in the noughties and makes it still so great now. Perhaps it’s the uniqueness of it – I really can’t think of another band that sounds the way The Killers sound in *Sam’s Town*. Definite ten out of ten.

I’m going to ignore The Killers’ most recent album because I believe their older work is the best, but *Day and Age* (2008) does deserve recognition. I remember seeing The Killers play at Vector Arena in 2009, when I was sixteen. I was so close to the stage that I could see sweat dripping off Brandon’s face. It was magical. Many a-song from *Day and Age* were played, including that absolute tune “Human”. Other gems include “Losing Touch” and “Spaceman”.

As I’ve said, however, it’s the old school Killers that we need to bring back. Bring them back, and bring them back now. Great music doesn’t die, it’s the listeners that change. But as listeners we also have the power to re-discover musical genius from the past (or 2004, so really not that long ago). In sum: dust off your Killers CDs, or if you no longer have a CD player and aren’t okay with sitting in your car having a music party like some of us losers, get onto iTunes and buy that shit. ■ NIKKI ADDISON



Presenting: Buffy the Vampire Slayer

This is a vengeance article for all the times I have had to nod politely while a person I am only mildly acquainted with enthuses about a show I will probably never even attempt to watch.

It happened with *Teen Wolf*. It happened with *Arrow*. It even happened with *Game of Thrones*. I don't care if you like them. I'm stubborn and want to choose what I like for myself. Fuckers. Time wasters. People like that are the reason we have to work eight hours a day instead of four. I'm turning into what I hate.

Presenting: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

Everyone has heard of *Buffy*, and maybe watched a couple of episodes just because it was around (kind of like *How I Met Your Mother*). But not everyone has ploughed through all seven seasons of the TV show with absolute focus, pondering the motives of its characters and wondering how anyone ever made a show so good, so understatedly perfect that it was

seemingly made by mistake. But everyone should. When you give it time and patience, *Buffy* ceases to be a lame 90s TV programme with bad special effects, and becomes a behemoth of a show. With its witty repartee, lovably flawed characters, and a sardonic critique of gender norms, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* has the ability to suck you in - just like the Hellmouth of evil forces upon which the show is based.

The characters are the ultimate TV friends. The action scenes are comedic and blissful. The script is flawless. Giles is the father figure everyone wanted but never had. The only bad parts are when Buffy gets boyfriends that interfere with her ability to kick ass because their male pride gets in the way of her saving the world. I'm looking at you in particular, Riley. God I hated Riley. He wasn't even a vampire.

Here is a handy reference list of some of the great things about *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (in bullet point form for reading efficiency, because everyone outside of academia loves and cherishes bullet points):

- Xander's flamboyant taste in patterned

shirts. Particular patterns of note: green jellyfish, pink and purple unicorns, and even a bacterial colony.

- Spike: the perfectly imperfect vampire conundrum.
- Willow and Tara (aka one of the earliest longstanding lesbian relationships on mainstream American television).
- Buffy's sassy lines. "She irons her jeans. She's evil."
- Unconventional and creative villains (a principal turned into a giant evil snake once - what?)
- Faith, the second vampire slayer. So complex. So vulnerable. So kickass.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer lets humans do bad things and non-humans do good things, rather than trying to create infallible heroes and evil villains as some supernatural shows are prone to do. The show is a rare moment of self-deprecating perfection in a TV world of meaningless noise. Do yourself a favour. Fuckers.

■ CHRISTY BURROWS



Editors' Essentials

THE MUSIC AND MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS NO ONE ASKED FOR

Which musician or band, dead or alive, would you pay \$1000 to see?

CATRIONA

The Beatles: People said One Direction were the new Beatles. They were wrong. People paid \$1000 to see 1D. They were idiots. I paid \$120 on the day of 1D's concert and got front row seats because I was caught up in the hype (and I was unhealthily infatuated with Harry Styles) – in front of the diehard fans who paid \$1000 for VIP seats. Shaaaame, ya shits. I was bored throughout the whole concert. The Beatles would never bore me. The Beatles far surpass 1D in every way. I would happily pay \$1000 to scream at the Mop-Tops with the OG, baby boomer generation fangirls, dodging dentures and saggy tits everywhere.

FELIXE

Gwen Stefani: But it would have to be No Doubt and the solo years. She would also have to go through what she was wearing (which she would have made herself like in the good ol' days). I would also love it if she shared some personal anecdotes and advice about love and being an amazing woman. It could happen. She's still releasing music. Used to love you, and still do.

MARK

ABBA: I joined the cultural peasants of *Craccum* in an ABBA singalong the other night. I admitted to having seen *Mamma Mia!* only once, which prompted gasps and cries of 'but if you don't know the movie, how do you know the music?' Because they're the greatest goddamn band in the world, that's why. Growing up I thought everyone owned a copy of *ABBA: Gold*. I guess I was wrong. Fucking peasants.

CAITLIN

Johnny Cash: I have been an unacceptably dramatic person since the day I was born, and Johnny Cash's broken, weathered voice has provided a lifetime's soundtrack for my grotesque displays of emotion. If you come up to the *Craccum* office on any given day, chances are you'll happen upon me lying on the couch, listening to "Hurt" and wailing – not crying, just howling like a dog with its tail stuck in the car door. The best thing about Johnny is you don't even have to say "I'd want to see him in his prime" because he never fucking left his prime. Three Johnny Cash albums have been

released since his death in 2003 and they are all rippers. His voice only got more soul-destroying as he got older. Ain't no grave can hold that talent down.

WINIFRED

The Middle East: I'm revealing my inner wanker here but it would have to be The Middle East, an Australian band. Despite the questionable name, this poetic, melancholic, harmonic sausage-fest of a band (it's ok! There's one woman!) won my heart over in the year that they split up. They would be playing in some dingy Melbourne bar, over a few warm beers, with about twelve people in the audience.

HANNAH

Simon & Garfunkel: My family and I once went on a two week holiday, where we did a lot of driving. The only CD we had in the car was *Tales from New York: The Very Best of Simon & Garfunkel*. We listened to this album SO MANY TIMES – I'm talking about seven or eight times a day for fourteen days straight, and I did not regret a single minute of it. Listening to this dreamy duo in a live venue would be an absolute dream come true.

SAMANTHA

The Jonas Brothers: My instinctive answers to this question were Creedence Clearwater Revival and Queen. Both bands I love, both with more than their fair share of beauty corks balls. But to choose either of these would be to deny the band of brothers that held my heart from ages fourteen to seventeen. Probably more like twenty, if we're being honest. I cried in 2009 when the Jonas Brothers didn't include New Zealand on their world tour. I cried in 2013 when they announced they were disbanding. To hear *When You Look Me in The Eyes* live would be my younger self's wet dream. Bringing along original live band members John Taylor, Greg Garbowsky and Jack Lawless is a must.

ANDREW

Dead or Alive: If I could pay \$1000 to see any band, dead or alive, I'd have to choose to pay \$1000 to see the band Dead or Alive. [edit: I've decided this isn't actually funny] ■



HOBBIT ON TOUR

Welcome To The Langham: Ode To Shitty Student Living

WITH ELOISE SIMS

"It actually doesn't look too bad." The taxi driver says doubtfully, peering over his steering wheel at where he's going to drop me. "I've seen worse places."

He's examining the front building of 105 Mt Eden Road with the trained eyes of a professional – taking in the Devonport villa-esque balcony, the clean rubbish bins, and the creamy colored roof. His eyes flick back to me. "Quite nice, in fact."

"That's no' where I live now." I mumble. I haven't slept in 36 hours. My face is numb. Nothing is real. Am I speaking English? Do I even have a tongue?

"... I live round the back."

"Oh." He looks with interest down the mold-spattered side fence. "You need help with your bags?"

"Nahm'right may. Chers." I manage, stumbling out of the car. "Than' yew." I add.

Relieved, he waves goodbye, and drives off. "Heigh ho." I mutter, heaving my bags over my shoulder and trotting down the mossy path. Twenty seconds later, I wake up the entirety of my flat by falling headfirst down the stairs. A flat-mate surfaces, blearily, to find me staggering to my feet outside. "Eloise?"

"Aaaaaaaarhhshit." I say, in a friendly greeting.

I could not have had a better introduction to the beauty that is my new Auckland digs. Affectionately nicknamed "The Langham" by its residents, it's a true testament to how crap student housing can truly be.

With a bag of frozen peas wrapped around my injured hand, I'm introduced to my new home for the next six months.

"Don't leave anything on the floor for too long – it'll grow mould. I put your sheets on yesterday, so hopefully they're not all damp and gross yet. That hob on the stove doesn't work; don't try it. I know; bit cold in here. You can buy a heater, but our power bill will go up... Ah, that *is* a hole in your wall right there. You might need to get it plastered."

Overwhelmed, I blink in assent. She looks

shrewdly at me. "Have you got earplugs?"

"Er, yeah. Why?"

"Sometimes you can hear the rats running round in the walls." She says nonchalantly, giving my wardrobe a cheery thump.

I choke.

"You're not-"

"Oh yeah, I am."

Mildly distressed, I wander outside to go and catch my breath. *We have a backyard, though!* I reassure myself. *We can have barbecues in the summer! Nice hazy days! Pimms, goddamnit! It'll be fine!* My eyes wander over the cinder blocks, trolleys filled with empty bottles, clumps of grass, and a lopsided clothesline that makes up the backyard.

"Jesus." I mutter.

Now, I didn't exactly expect to move into the Ritz. I know full well how New Zealand housing struggles with things like central heating (I mean, I lived in Wellington). And I know that living in a crappy student flat can be an essential part of the entire mad, challenging, and exciting experience that is being at university. But, come on – *really?*

My flat, however nasty, isn't even the worst one I've heard of. To their well-deserved credit, my flatmates have done their best to make it homely – re-painting the walls themselves, investing in dehumidifiers, and putting up posters over some of the most noticeable holes. I've heard stories about people being forced to move out of Auckland flats due to toxic mold infestations – or being chucked out with next to no notice simply because their landlord "wants to do renovations".

How have we gotten to the level where this kind of behavior is just blithely accepted as a given? How come there are more of these stories every day? Sure, we can take on landlords and fight them in tribunals and so on. And yes, I'm well aware tenants have rights, and you have to read any contract before you sign it, be aware, etc. But to take on your former landlord in a tribunal, as well as having to find a new place and move out – that would take a *phenomenal* amount of time and money that many students quite simply don't have.

I know first-hand that so many students, after living in first-year halls, are so desperate to find a place in the current Auckland housing market, that they rush into contracts *for at least some degree of security*.

This is the thing. As housing prices keep surging in Auckland, rent goes up too. More and more, students are paying outrageous prices that necessitate part-time jobs on the side, to have a roof (however shitty) over their head. In a country that prides itself on its political and social equality, the pride some landlords take in ripping students off would be actually be comical – if it wasn't such a social reality for so many of us.

So, the question has to be asked.

As a country and as a city – can't we do better for students than this? ■

ELOISE IS ONE OF THOSE GIRLS WHO MADE A SHOW OUT OF HATING JUSTIN BIEBER WHEN SHE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD. NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED. SHE LOVES JOHN OLIVER, PICTURES OF LABRADORS, AND VERY RARELY CHANGES HER END-OF-COLUMN BLURB SO MARK HAS TO JUMP IN AND TRY TO MAKE IT RELEVANT FROM WEEK TO WEEK. PLEASE FOLLOW HER ON TWITTER (SHE WANTS TO TELL HER MUM SHE'S FAMOUS): @SIMSELOISE



SEX, DRUGS & ELECTORAL ROLLS

Fear And Loathing Of A Democratic Presidency: Where To For The American Left

WITH CURWEN ARES ROLINSON

At the time of writing, we've just had a week of absolute and utter chaos at both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

Predictably, this has led to the usual profusion of armchair pundits and paid political "experts" pontificating en-masse as to what's about to happen and, perhaps more importantly, what *should* happen next in the long run. Obviously, Trump's sensational and salacious dangling of the threat of an onslaught of Russian hackers in the general direction of Hillary Clinton makes for stimulating reading but this is a sideshow, and we all know it.

The real issue is the future nature of the Democratic Party, and left-wing politics in general in the USA, for both the rest of this electoral cycle and for the foreseeable future.

Hunter S. Thompson, in the book I spent a fair portion of my early twenties straight-out living, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, penned a beautiful paean to the lost promise of the counter-cultural revolution of the 1960s. Often called 'the Wave Speech', he eulogizes the way that a tumultuous series of crises and catastrophes conspired to bring about the end of that particular political dream:

"We had all the momentum, we were riding the crest of a high and beautiful wave. So now, less than five years later, you can go up on a steep hill in Las Vegas and look West, and with the right kind of eyes you can almost see the high-water mark - that place where the wave finally broke and rolled back."

Sound familiar? For Bernie supporters, it certainly should.

For many of us here in 2016, that elegiac high-water mark is probably Senator Sanders himself nominating Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Candidacy in this year's Presidential election. Certainly, it will be some point scattered around the Democratic Convention itself, if not that precise moment.

Up until then it had somehow still seemed possible that Sanders might still, inconceivably either take the nomination himself, or nevertheless force the inevitable Clintonite juggernaut to accept such humbling, crippling concessions that the post-Bern beast which arose might bear nothing but a passingly vague resemblance to the pro-TPPA ultra-Hawk candidate that had terrorized our

television screens for much of the preceding electoral cycle.

But it wasn't to be.

Whether by the combined might of DNC corruption to 'tip the scales' against Sanders when it came to the delegate-count; the sheer overwhelmingly confounding institutionalized paranoia about what a Trump presidency might bring or simply, as some have darkly joked, the semi-literal threats of what Clinton and co. might have done to Sanders if he'd held out, the old man finally decided in the interests of party unity (a party he'd only just joined) to sit this one out and apparently adopt a sinecure position as Clinton's cheerleader-in-chief.

And while this was arguably a minor tragedy in itself - especially in an emotive sense - a moment like this might still require some sort of justification in order to substantiate the "high-water mark" labeling.

So it's this. The #FeelTheBern campaign represented something fairly unique in the annals of recent Western politics (particularly in the Anglosphere). A genuine attempt to not just put strongly and ardently anti-Neoliberal politics at the direct heart of a modern electoral contest but also to engage in what you might term an 'Institutional Revolution', and take back a party of the nominal 'center-left' (which nevertheless, as they are wont to do, frequently seems to behave more as a creature of the 'center-right'). Call it creating a 'safe space for Socialism'.

Whatever. The point is, it didn't work. And for any number of reasons - mostly because the institution true-lefties and young people were seeking to take over - turned out to be about as hostile to this sort of outside intervention as one of the Middle Eastern countries so thoughtlessly 'democratized' under Mrs. Clinton's watch as Secretary of State.

This doesn't necessarily mean that such an effort might not work out in the future - but for the moment, just like the Egyptian Deep State rolling Mohamed Morsi in favour of yet another in a long line of more American-amenable dictators, the Powers That Be within the DNC have conspired to head off Hope & Change in favour of going back to the status-quo antebellum. A good example of this is the selection of ardently pro-Wall St. and TPPA Tim Kaine as Hillary's VP pick. "Where's your 'Revolution' now?!", indeed.

All of this leads up to some fairly uncomfortable choices for Democrats-left-of-center and more proper Social Democrats going forward. It would be a bitter pill, indeed, to vote for Hillary Clinton come November. But, so the argument goes, there is no choice. And I'm sure we all remember that "T.L.N.A." - There Is No Alternative - is a favoured Neoliberal rallying-call to get the skeptical to accept the unpalatable everywhere from Thatcher's England to Douglas's Aotearoa. Trump is apparently too terrifying to risk doing anything other than granting total, blind and unqualified loyalty to

Clinton at the ballot. Weathering the four or eight years worth of bad Presidency which Clinton may bring is thought to be far superior an option to taking a gamble on what a Trump-era might entail. "And don't you DARE vote for Jill Stein!"

But here's a thought, and a probably highly controversial opinion.

What if Trump winning made it more likely for leftists to get organized, field candidates, and win seats in the American political system? What if the stultifying and suffocating influence of the Clinton-machine Democrats had exactly the opposite effect? It certainly seems to be working like that already. What if, in short, it was actually desirable from a long-term left-wing perspective that Clinton lost in November?

There's already some precedent for this internationally. Here in New Zealand, for instance, one reason why the true-left wing resistance was so slow and inefficient at organizing and mobilizing against Rogernomics was precisely because it was the nominally left-of-center party carrying out the reforms and the dastardly right-wing economic agenda. Just like Clinton. It took the evils of Ruthanasia carried out under National for parties like The Alliance to properly coagulate and start winning serious electoral victories.

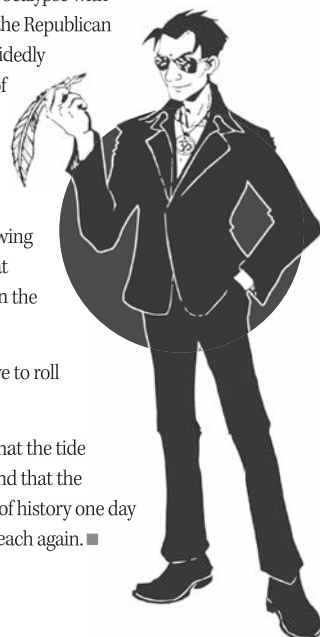
I don't begrudge people who've made their own personal judgement call that Trump's over-the-top and abhorrent rhetoric means that he's a bete-noir who absolutely must be beaten at many costs, although I DO most strongly sneer at those who seek to pretend that Hillary is an actually-objectively straight-up Good Option on her own terms and merits.

But if Americans (in whole or most likely in part) were serious about challenging the prevailing conditions of neoliberalism and globalism which have so perniciously ensnared their country - and thus the world at large - for so long, then perhaps a different conversation is needed.

Instead of ringing in the Apocalypse with manic doomsaying about the Republican option or celebrating a decidedly false-Messiah in the form of the current Democratic nominee, how about thinking of and discussing the serious business of building up a genuine left-wing alternative option and what might be required for this in the immediate years to come.

That's how we get The Wave to roll back. In, this time.

Ensuring, in other words, that the tide doesn't stay out forever - and that the much-mythologized wave of history one day does in fact roll in up the beach again. ■



Champagne Problems

WITH ADITYA VASUDEVAN

In a recent interview with *Vox*'s Ezra Klein, Trevor Noah shared some advice that Dave Chappelle had given him prior to becoming the host of *The Daily Show*: "whatever you do, don't let them steal your joy". Noah expanded, "don't let people convince you that you are not happy; don't let them try and bring you into a world where you are miserable with them". This profound and thoughtful interview made me regret drifting away from *The Daily Show* after Jon Stewart's departure. It gave me perspective.

It is Noah's unique experiences that make him so intriguing. A child of apartheid South Africa, Noah's mixed parentage meant that not only could he not be seen with his father in public, his fairer complexion made some of his black school friends think he was actually white. He saw his mother suffer through an abusive husband who would later come back to shoot her in the face (non-fatally). You gasp, but Noah passes off these details as commonplace.

Experiences are subjective in a way that means you could be living an utterly crazy, abnormal, or unusual life and have it feel completely normal. In a portion of the interview, Klein gets Noah to talk about race in America. Obliging, Noah admits that he still flinches when he hears police sirens behind him. In the same breath, he acknowledges how difficult it is to effectively communicate the true extent of these experiences to people who will never have them. He uses the New York cat-calling videos as an example. Even for men with female friends, it took those

first-person videos to get a real appreciation of the sheer frequency of sexist remarks hurled at women walking down the street in the city. And Noah insists that his over-the-shoulder fear of the red-and-blue lights coming up from behind isn't some overly taxing burden he feels – for him, it's just normal.

Perspective is something that comes easily when it is drawn from our own experiences, but not when it is from others'. Noah can call having Twitter haters a "champagne problem" because he's seen far, far worse. When others' experiences are invoked it has what I like to call the 'children in Africa are starving' effect. And yes, that is an intentionally lazy and inaccurate label. If I'm suffering – visceral and so first-person it's fucking live – I don't care that others have suffered more, that slavery happened, that people don't have food to eat. Callous and egoistic is what we are. Children will never finish their vegetables when you spoon feed them the opportunity cost to the developing world as a punishment. That's just the truth.

There's hope in the fact that we share *some* experiences. If I feel like something could actually happen to me, it gives me perspective, even if it hasn't happened already. Noah's fear of posterior sirens resonates with me because of airports. Ask any brown person how many times they've been stopped for a "random explosive test" and watch the frustration pour forth. The more distant an example gets, the harder it is for me to use it to put my struggles in perspective – hence, starvation and war don't cut it because of my temporal and geographic privilege. Noah's interview left me reflective and positive – it is a treasure and I recommend it to everyone. He's a uniquely empathetic speaker and really does make you feel like all you have are champagne problems (in a good way). ■





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