

# Queenlient



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*This issue is dedicated to:*

**THOSE WHO QUEERED  
THE WAY**

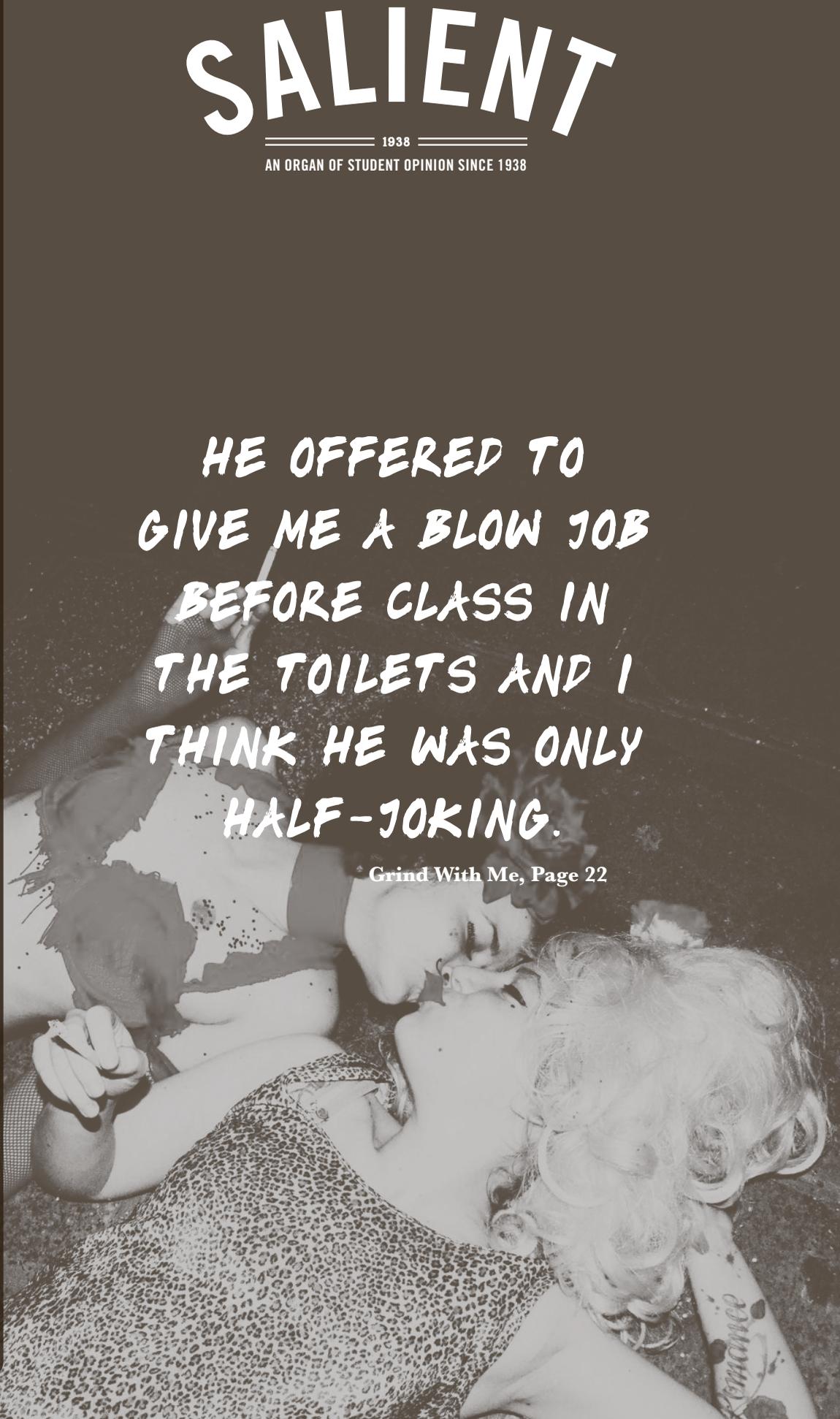
# SALIENT

1938

AN ORGAN OF STUDENT OPINION SINCE 1938

HE OFFERED TO  
GIVE ME A BLOW JOB  
BEFORE CLASS IN  
THE TOILETS AND I  
THINK HE WAS ONLY  
HALF-JOKING.

Grind With Me, Page 22



# EDITORIAL

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Sometimes the most Salient point comes from within...

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# THE MCCOURT REPORT

VUWSA PRESIDENT RORY MCCOURT

Welcome to Vic: Land of Rainbows

You know, university is a hell of a lot more than grades and tutorials; it's about getting involved, meeting new people and finding yourself as a scholar, and—most importantly—as a person.

That's why communities such as clubs, rep groups and VUWSA exist to help you through what can be a pretty trying time. We encourage and support you to think, act and dream in different ways. We challenge you to leave your comfort zone, or find it for the first time. We are your collective big brother, or big sister, who pats you on the back and lets you know it's okay to make a few mistakes.

Why? Because such mistakes can often lead to beautiful things. Take sexuality for example. While most of you are (or claim) to be hetero, some of you will veer off the straight and narrow to taste the delectable delights of the same sex. Whether it's a sly kiss with a mate, or the whole hog with someone from Fringe, exploring our sexuality can be one of the most liberating and fun experiences at Uni. And you know what? Why not?

During these treasured years our hormones are in overdrive, and many of us aren't committed to our degrees, let alone our one gender.

For me, making my way through the sexuality minefield was both exhilarating and terrifying.

You see, I first thought that I might not be straight in my mid-teens. Being attracted to guys and girls left me in an especially awkward place. Growing up in Gisborne, I didn't have many queer role models. In fact, I had none. The only gay and lesbian people I knew were comedians or others who made fun of their sexuality. Even then they were distant and unreal. I looked around my community, and my friend circles, to establish whether what I was feeling was OK. The gays were thin on the ground in Gizzy; the bis all but cooped up in closets. Straightness seemed a very pervasive norm, and queerness a very odd 'other'. What made it worse was that some didn't quite accept my sexuality was a thing. Bisexuality failed to make it into the lexicon of my family, sex-ed class or daily life, beyond the occasional objectification of female bisexuality for party novelties.

Consequently, I just couldn't see how the things I was feeling, and the people I imagined loving, fitted with any of the plans I had already laid down for my life, or the plans of my family for me.

It was another love, of history, that allowed me to analyse my situation a bit differently, in the history of man (and woman). History taught

me that what I was feeling was actually normal, and that some of the greatest figures of the past have gone both ways, so to speak. I thought 'Hey, if King James can bang girls and guys [ITALICS: and] write the Holy Bible, I can at least foray from the feminine sort every now-and-then and be a functioning human'.

This is where Vic comes in: it gave a young queer Rory all the networks he needed from Day One, first year; to explore, develop and grow as a person. Even if I didn't attend the VUWSA UniQ meetings, I knew they existed. Sometimes I got to spend time with pretty inspiring gay and lesbian MPs. At Vic, I was getting messages that it was okay to be bi, or any kind of queer, on this campus, in this community. Our community. For kids struggling with their sexuality, those messages can make all the difference.

I've seen and felt first-hand what an impact groups like UniQ and VUWSA make toward not only making students feel comfortable, but normal.

For me, that's what queer rights are about: the right to feel normal. To wake up, come to Uni, spend time with your babein' boyf or girlf, and dream about a life with them without feeling like an outsider for harbouring those dreams.

We stand up for the rights of our queer students to feel normal beyond these walls, too. This Association has a proud history of standing up. This year's marriage equality victory is only the latest in a long line of queer rights revolutions. Our students were right amongst the 1986 Homosexual Law Reform debate; the Human Rights Act push which made discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal, and of course the critical Civil Unions legislative campaign which finally allowed same-sex couples to form a legal bond.

I couldn't be more proud this year in delivering a clear message to Parliament that Vic students overwhelmingly supported the introduction of same-sex marriage, following an 84 per cent referendum result in favour of Manurewa MP Louisa Wall's Bill.

Of course, positive environments come not only from the work of activists and student leaders, but also because of the amazing support services the University is willing to put behind our minority communities. Health and Counselling, for example, are two great services committed to providing quality advice and support with specialist knowledge of the physical, sexual and mental health issues queer students might face. These services make a difference.

So what should you take away from this column? That growing up is hard to do. Finding yourself is even harder. But exploring one's sexuality and sexual preferences during this time, with the kind of fantastic networks we have at Vic, is your best bet of answering the \$64,000 question—'What's it like?'.

And you know what might be the best first step? Heading along to a VUWSA UniQ Pride Week event. Perhaps we'll see you at the Traffic Light Party on Friday, where we'll be ready to give you that aforementioned pat on the back and support you to make some of the best mistakes of your life!

Love, your bipres x

## UNIQU PRESIDENT

By JAMES GRAY

Hey babes, Pride Week is upon us and it's time for the President's **Pride Week 101: Your guide to enjoying the queer festivities.**

**Know what it's about:** What is Pride Week and where did it come from? Pride Week is a week of events recognising and celebrating the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi and trans\*) community. The catalyst for the Pride movement was the Stonewall Riots on June 28, 1969. On this night, when the Stonewall Inn, an underground gay bar on Christopher St, NYC, was yet again raided by police, the patrons of the bar resisted and a number of simultaneous instances of rebellion against police forces escalated into a full-scale riot. Queer people rallied around the event, and now Christopher Street Day is celebrated as far off as Berlin as a marker of LGBT struggles and a push for the rights of queer people.

**Choose your events:** How do I get involved?

Most of our events are in and around Kelburn Campus so they are easy to get to. We are a tech-savvy bunch, and have all the event info up at [uniquvictoria.co.nz/prideweek](http://uniquvictoria.co.nz/prideweek) and on Facebook, where you can get to the events through the VUWSA and UniQ Victoria pages. There are a lot of events, and different things will appeal to different people. Take a look at what is on offer with full event descriptions online, and plan from there.

**Pick your company:** Can I bring my straight friends?

Of course you can! Pride Week is a full community event for anybody queer-allied; sexuality and gender identity won't stop anyone from getting involved. Pride Week is a positive event that adopts a Safe-Spaces principle. Everyone is welcome, everyone is respected and everyone has a fucking great time.

**Make the most of the community:** How do I get my foot in the door?

Pride Week is set up for university students, and is designed around the fact that for many people, getting involved in this will be one of their first interactions with the queer community. We have made sure there is a wide enough range of activities so everyone can find something they like. If engaging with queer-community events makes you nervous, that is totally fine. UniQ has a queer mentoring system that will pair you up with an appropriate buddy who can talk things over with you, and even bring you along to events so you don't have to rock up on your own! Find a mentor at [uniquvictoria.co.nz](http://uniquvictoria.co.nz).

**Always go to the party:**

Lesbihonest, the queer community knows how to throw a fabulous party. Friday's Traffic Light Party is a great way to meet people and blow off steam. With the red, orange, green dress code you get to decide if you want people to hold off on the flirts, know they might have a chance, or that you are looking for that special someone.

## NGAI TAUIRA

Kia ora rā koutou mā,

Ko te tūmanako i pai tā koutou wiki tuatahi o te taraemeta nei. Kia mōhio mai, i tērā wiki ka whakatūwherahia ngā tari hou o Ngāi Taurira. He wahi tēnei mō ngā taurira Māori o te wānanga nei na, ki te hiahia ki te whai wahi mō te pahupahu, mō te wānanga, nau mai haramai. Kei 42 Kelburn Parade ā tātou tāri. Waihoki, i tū te wiki mō te urunga atu ki ngā momo karapu i tērā wiki. He mea pai tēnei hei whakapakari i ō pūkenga hakinakina, waiata, whakapono aha atu, aha atu. Mēnā kua uru atu ētahi ō koutou ki rō karapu, Ka pai koutou.

I tua atu i tērā, ko tēnei te wiki whakanui i ō tātou hoa, ō tātou whānau takatāpui. Nei rā te mihi ki a koutou mō tō koutou wā taioreore, kia tū rangatira ai koutou mō tēnei wiki.

Kia a koutou ngā taurira e hiahia ana ki te haere ki Te Huinga Taurira, kua e wareware ki te tuku mai ā koutou pūtea ki a mātou hei te 25th o Hongongoi, kei riro tō tūranga i taurira kē.

Kia kaha rā koutou ki te whai i tēnei mea te mātauranga. Ngā mihi, Ngāi Taurira.



## PASIFIKA STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Greetings, talofa lava, kia orana katoatoa, malo e lelei, ni sa bulu vinaka, fakaalofa lahi atu, taloha ni, yu orait no moa, halo olgeta, helo ibou mui ai, kam na mauri, aloha kakou, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa!

The Pasifika Students' Council (PSC) is a representative group for Pacific Students at Victoria.

PASIFIKA HEALTH SESSIONS

Wednesday 24 July, 4-6 pm: Ladies "Tiare Pasifika"

Thursday 25 July, 4-6 pm: Gentlemen "Tama Toa"

Contact Details:

Email: [pasifika@myvu.ac.nz](mailto:pasifika@myvu.ac.nz)

Phone: (04) 463 6242

Facebook: Pasifika Students' Council

Text: 021 207 4733





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# RE-ORIENTATION LIVES UP TO EXPECTATIONS

## (LOW ONES)

CHRIS MCINTYRE

Students have been left screaming for more, but not in the good way, as University re-orientation activities underwhelm again.

For the second year running, students have been disappointed by a lacklustre re-orientation schedule, after both the University and VUWSA organised a weak array of events—proving to students two wrongs don't make a right.

Organised by the University were jazz sessions in the Hub, to celebrate Victoria's recent purchase of a recording label. At the University-organised Clubs Week, stall-holders based inside the Hub were told they could not provide any food to students other than lollies.

"Health and safety considerations guide restrictions on what food and beverages can be prepared and sold inside the Hub. In particular, these relate to the preparation and sale of hot foods and beverages," Associate Director of Campus Operations Rainsforth Dix said.

The stalls would not be covered by these regulations if they were operating outside the Hub.

Organised for Re-O Week by VUWSA was a House Party held at Hope Bros, Mid-Winter Feast barbecues, and chances to win tickets to Shapeshifter's upcoming Wellington show. As previously reported in *Salient*, the difficult funding model which VUWSA operates under was

responsible for the poor event calendar. VUWSA did not seek University funding for Re-O Week, despite it being available.

"The focus is going to be on the end of the year for providing something better," Vice-President (Engagement) Mica Moore has said.

Shapeshifter was advertised as a Re-O Week event, despite the show being eight days after Re-O Week and organised by an independent promoter as part of Shapeshifter's nationwide tour. Students could buy tickets at a discounted price, \$50—\$12.50 less than regular tickets—whether or not they were a VUWSA member.

Ticket sales to the House Party had been slow throughout the week, but had picked up by Thursday. When *Salient* went to print, VUWSA was intending to give away many free tickets on the day. Tickets to the House Party cost \$10, for which attendees received \$4 house drinks and a possible share of free keg beer. The drinks deals were not advertised on event posters, leading VUWSA Executive members to worry not enough people would show up. While drinks deals are often the biggest drawcard to such events, the University's alcohol policies prohibit advertising.

The House Party was aimed at first-year students, though Hall residents spoken to by *Salient* dismissed VUWSA's efforts to attract them.

"Maybe if it was actual O-Week it would've been cool, but we all have better places to go," said the student, who was not aware of the drink specials on offer.

"It's not even in a house," she added.

Barbecues were held every day at the Kelburn campus, but only once at two of Victoria's three satellite campuses: Pipitea and Te Aro. A Karori barbecue originally scheduled for Monday was postponed due to "weather and capacity issues", said Moore. The Karori event is expected to take place in week two or three instead.

VUWSA's engagement with satellite campuses is commonly criticised by students, with 2013

Re-O Week no exception. *Salient* spoke to a third-year student based at the Te Aro campus, who described his campus as "consistently overlooked".

"We don't really see anything from them, it's like we don't exist," said the student.

"At least we're not missing out on anything good."

Despite the lacklustre calendar, 2013's Re-O Week was a vast improvement on 2012, which saw a Pyjama Party attended by less than 20 students.

Next week, *Salient* will have an in-depth look at the ongoing problems facing student events.

# GRADES WILL NOT BE CHANGED JUST YET

## UNI DOESN'T TAKE A+ SIDE TO CHANGING D SYSTEM

CHRIS MCINTYRE

The proposed changes to University grading have been delayed, with University management deciding to reconsider the proposal after numerous student and staff concerns with the changes were raised.

The changes went before Victoria's Academic Board last Thursday, but it was recommended the proposal be reviewed by a lower body, the Academic Committee, as the Board was "significantly divided" on the issues. The Academic Board is a committee of University management which advises the University Council on courses of study, awards, and other academic matters, and is the final approval step before going on to the University Council.

The outcome is a win for students, who were generally opposed to any changes and whose concerns will now be part of a review. VUWSA President Rory McCourt told the Board 60 per cent of students opposed a C- grade, while 64 per cent believed it would have "major implications" for students. 44 per cent of students opposed the new Restricted Pass (RP) grade, while 39 per cent were in support. VUWSA's survey yielded over 400 responses, a relatively high number for student consultation.

"No one has been able to answer, 'will [courses] get harder?'" McCourt said of the proposal, and

cautioned that the transitional period could have adverse effects on students.

"Are our current grades simply a cosmetic difference between the other universities, or are we actually marking easier? I think obviously the former, but that hasn't been articulated."

Different University faculties and staff were also split in their support for the proposal. For subjects like Law, a Restricted Pass would make no difference as a C grade already effectively prohibits carrying on to further study. For particular papers like STAT193, a course requirement for many Science students, a Restricted Pass would have allowed those who did not need it as a prerequisite to not have to resit the paper.

Other concerns raised included the possible effects on thresholds for Honours or further study, calculations for GPA, the value of the grade before and after the changes, and the increased discretion available to staff.

Students and staff were united in their view that it would be difficult to implement the changes fairly and evenly across all faculties, something the initial proposal did not cover in sufficient detail.

"[The changes] throw up a lot of uncertainties for students... students want to be able to know

exactly where they stand in a course, what the options are available to them, and that they'll be treated fairly throughout the University," said McCourt.

As previously reported in *Salient*, the first amendment would have introduced a new C- grade as the lowest possible grade for a pass. This would have been in the mark range of 50-54 per cent, replacing the current C grade. Subsequently, all mark ranges would have been pushed up by 5 per cent. A Restricted Pass (RP) grade was also proposed, with students achieving between 47 and 49 per cent able to pass at the discretion of the lecturer, but not able to use the pass as a prerequisite. This would make high grades potentially harder to achieve, but would also make it easier to complete a degree if you had failed some courses by a small margin.

While students were represented at the meeting, since the dissolution of the Student Forum, six student seats with voting power on the Academic Board remain empty. It is unclear when these seats will be filled.

Sources have told *Salient* the revised proposal is now not expected to pass Academic Board by the end of the year. The Board has four meetings remaining in 2013.

# VUWSA CAN'T HANDLE THE JANDAL;

## FLIP FLOPS

CHRIS MCINTYRE

VUWSA have now decided they will hold a by-election for the vacant Vice-President (Welfare) (VP-W) position, as new funding was found which would cover the estimated \$3000 price tag.

Following an Executive meeting last Monday, Education Officer Gemma Swan has decided she will also resign, citing workload as the reason. Former VP-W Simon Tapp resigned during the holidays to take up a parliamentary position with the Green Party.

Outgoing VUWSA Executive members have not been the only things changing positions, as the Executive decided to hold a by-election to replace Tapp three weeks after deciding they wouldn't.

The Executive had initially decided not to hold a by-election after co-opting Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer Rick Zwaan into the position. At a meeting on 24 June, a majority of the executive had voted against a by-election on the grounds of cost and timing.

Upon his return, McCourt stated the costs of a by-election would be covered by money received from the Student Forum. In light of the new information, the Exec agreed to hold a by-election with all members in agreement, except for Equity Officer Matthew Ellison (who voted against) and Zwaan (who abstained).

*Salient* will have more details on the by-elections as they come to light.

# SHAKE UP FOR CITY SLIQUORS

GET DRUNK EARLIER, COUNCIL SAYS.

SOPHIE BOOT

We all know about preloading, but pre-preloading could become the norm with a tough new alcohol scheme proposed by the City Council.

Bottle shops will be forced to close at 9 pm and central-city bars will shut their doors as early as 2 am if a draft Local Alcohol Management Policy proposed by the Wellington City Council is successful.

The Policy follows the Government's alcohol reforms under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, which gave local authorities greater power over the sale of alcohol. The Act also introduced national maximum trading hours of 8 am to 4 am for on-licences, and 7 am to 11 pm for off-licences.

The policy drafted by the Council would see inner-city bars in the new 'Entertainment Precinct'—between Cuba Street and Courtenay Place—have their maximum trading hours set to between 7 am and 3 am, with exceptions for "best-practice premises". Bars outside of the Entertainment Precinct would have their trading hours restricted to between 7 am and 2 am, with best-practice premises able to remain open until 3 am. Suburban bars would have to close at midnight.

Current restrictions mean that bars are variously licensed to operate until 3 am or 6 am. This will change on December 18 this year, when the default maximum national trading hours of 8 am to 4 am will be implemented.

Off-licences would also be restricted under the draft Local Alcohol Policy, with supermarkets and bottle shops unable to sell alcohol after 9 pm. This would apply to all off-licences, whether in the Entertainment Precinct or in the suburbs. National trading hours will restrict all off-licences to selling alcohol only between 7 am and 11 pm when they come into force later this year.

Students spoken to by *Salient* said the new restrictions would be an inconvenience, but would not alter their drinking habits. One second-year Arts student said it wouldn't affect her behaviour or be effective in changing problem drinking overall.

"I think if people are aiming to drink then they will.

"If we want to address the issue [of binge drinking] a lot more needs to be done than closing times."

A poll on the *Salient* Facebook page found that 44 of 56 respondents thought the current proposal was the wrong way to tackle our drinking culture, with 11 of the 44 believing no changes should be made. Just one respondent agreed with the changes, with the remaining 11 respondents apparently drunk at the time of polling.

Mayor Celia Wade-Brown stressed the importance of the creation of the Local Alcohol Policy (LAP), which is optional under the 2012 reforms.

"Wellington is a vibrant city with a pumping nightlife that needs to be looked after, while also reducing the clear amount of harm being inflicted on the community by alcohol."

The draft policy cites concerns around "excessive pre-loading and side-loading (drinking your own alcohol before and between visiting bars)" as a major factor in the restricted trading hours for off-licences. A survey by the council found that 74 per cent of those buying alcohol at 9 pm intended to drink it immediately, compared to just 33 per cent at 5 pm. 72 per cent of Wellingtonians surveyed by Research New Zealand in May 2013 admitted to pre-loading, and 11 per cent to side-loading.

The proposal has been criticised by supermarket and bottle-shop owners, who say it will inconvenience responsible drinkers. Dean Gault, co-owner of Pak'nSave Kilbirnie, said "the majority of purchases after 9 pm are for home consumption, where adults are drinking responsibly."

"I think we need to concentrate on the real problem, which is New Zealand's drinking culture and the small minority who behave anti-socially, and stop penalising the rest of society who drink responsibly."

As for on-licences, council proposals would allow certain bars in the Entertainment Precinct

to remain open after the 4 am national trading hours. Hospitality New Zealand has argued that the 2 am closing-time proposed for most central-city bars will do nothing to curb alcohol-related crime, which spikes between midnight and 1 am. Yet, research done by the Ministry of Justice has shown that a bar closing after 3 am is 8.9 times more likely to have a criminal offence committed within it than a bar closing at midnight.

The draft policy is open for submissions until August 2. VUWSA will submit on behalf of students, and individuals are invited to submit their views too. There is a public information session at Te Papa on July 25 at 7 pm.

Once public consultation has closed, the council will consider whether to approve the LAP; if the LAP is approved, it will be implemented from mid-2014.

## **Once the LAP is implemented in mid-2014:**

On-licences within the Entertainment Precinct: will operate until 4 am after 18 December 2013. May apply to operate until 5 am when renewing liquor licence once LAP comes into effect.

On-licences outside the Entertainment Precinct, but in the city: will operate until 4 am after 18 December 2013. When liquor licence is renewed, will be assessed for operation until 3 am, otherwise close at 2 am.

On-licences in the suburbs: close at midnight.

All off-licences: will operate until 11 pm after 18 December 2013. When liquor licence is renewed, will be restricted to operating between 7 am-9 pm.

Liquor licences are renewed the first year after being issued, and, following that, every three years.



POSTGRADUATE

YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

—

# Where's the best place for you to take the next step?

UO0292391

# GOVERNMENT BLUFFING ON STUDENT-LOAN ARREST THREATS?

DUNNE'S DONE, MCCLAY POTTERS ABOUT

CHRIS MCINTYRE

Two months on from the Budget, the Government has still not yet clarified key elements of the crackdown on student-loan borrowers.

The latest efforts to recoup costs from the loan scheme, introduced as part of the 2013 Budget in May, included increased repayment rates for overseas-based borrowers, and the threat of border arrests for the most serious offenders. Since then, there has been an increase in student-loan borrowers contacting the IRD to organise repayments despite no firm policy-implementation measures being announced.

Former Revenue Minister Peter Dunne announced the new efforts at the Budget in May, having overseen a number of efforts to

increase revenue from the loan scheme during his tenure, including ending the voluntary repayment bonus and curtailing eligibility for the Student Allowance.

New Revenue Minister Todd McClay, who took over from Peter Dunne after his resignation as Minister in June, has not yet issued any statement regarding his plans for the loan scheme and did not respond to *Salient's* questions.

It is still unclear what conditions would need to be met for a defaulter to be arrested at the border.

In May, Dunne announced that he had considered refusing to renew borrowers' passports if they continued to ignore

repayment obligations. The future of this policy is also unclear.

"The issue has been considered [but] no firm decisions have been reached on that," Dunne said at the time.

"There are some obvious potential advantages."

Among the disadvantages are what Dunne referred to as a "human-rights issue", as New Zealanders may have a right to a passport. He said that despite these issues, the measure has "certainly... been looked at".

\$12 is returned for every dollar spent in student-loan repayment enforcement measures, according to the IRD.

# LEGISLATION PUFFED AND PASSED

KRONIC PROBLEM ADDRESSED BY PARLIAMENT

MEREANA RADEMAKERS

MPs have been active on psychoactive substances, effectively banning many legal highs.

The new Psychoactive Substances Act imposes restrictions on the availability and accessibility of so-called 'legal highs'. It was passed on July 11, with support across parties: 119 members voted in favour, and one against.

The new law sets up a regulatory framework where manufacturers will have to prove their products are 'low risk' before they can be sold. Products will be prohibited from dairies, grocery stores and petrol stations nationwide, and all individuals purchasing the products must be at least 18 years old. Cosmic Corner have said the Act will effectively ban all synthetic cannabinoids.

"To those under 18 thinking of using these products, or those contemplating supplying them, take my advice: it's just not worth it," says Associate Health Minister Todd McClay.

Restrictions on the advertising and marketing of these products have been established, and anyone breaching these rules will face up to two years in

prison or a fine of up to half a million dollars.

Todd McClay is adamant that the new Act will help the public make an informed decision before purchasing a psychoactive substance.

"This Bill is squarely about public safety and will ensure that the onus will be on anyone wanting to produce a psychoactive product to show it poses no more than a low risk of harm."

McClay is glad that local authorities, police and health services now have an effective legislative

tool that allows them to control and regulate the use of these substances throughout New Zealand.

"This is an important first step, particularly with the start of school holidays. But we need to be aware that for some, particularly young people, there may be withdrawal issues or other health-related problems that will need to be addressed."

New Zealand Drug Foundation Executive Director Ross Bell is hopeful that this "world-first" legislation will bring New Zealand one step closer to safer, better-regulated drug legislation.



# C'S GET DEGREES, BUT SKILLS PAY THE BILLS

GRADES ARE NICE, BUT DON'T SUFFICE

MEGAN BEATTIE

Graduates need more than just grades to appeal to New Zealand employers, says Chair of Universities New Zealand Professor Roy Crawford.

Opening a recent Graduate Employment Conference in Auckland, Crawford—who is also Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waikato—implored universities to equip graduates with more than just academic skill-sets.

"A key role for a university is to prepare graduates for careers. Not just imparting short-term skills that can become outdated quickly in the modern world," Dr Crawford said.

"Quite often they [employers] are not looking at the grades, they are looking at the individual and the broader range of skills that they have hopefully developed at the university."

Manager of Career Development and Employment at Student Services Liz Medford says grades are important to employers, but they are increasingly looking for more. Good grades are not the sole graduate-attribute coveted, with volunteering, peer-mentoring,

involvement with clubs and associations, overseas exchanges, work experiences, internships, and leadership programmes also valued by employers.

"'Employability' is increasingly defined as a set of achievements—skills, understandings and personal attributes—that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations. This benefits the graduate, the workforce, the community and the economy," Medford said.

Universities are challenged with preparing students for a world which is constantly changing, where new jobs are being created just as quickly as technology is advancing. Companies are focussing on attrition rates due to people increasingly changing positions and careers in the course of their lifetime.

Transferable skills such as resilience, excellent verbal and oral communication skills, the ability to relate to and work with others, self-management, presentation skills, and the ability to 'look outside the square' are key to adapting to that change and to a successful future.

While students typically gain many of these skills while studying, there could be a role for universities to more clearly recognise specific skills.

Medford says there are a wealth of opportunities here at Victoria and in the wider Wellington community which can help students enhance their degree.

"Entrepreneurial skills are also in demand; students need to be job-creators, not just job-seekers.

"The Victoria Plus Award, the service and leadership programme run out of Vic Careers, [is] an excellent way to start," Medford said.

CareerHub can be used to find a job, check out valuable resources, book for workshops, appointments and career events, or access the Resume Builder or ePortfolio. Students can log in using their student computing account: [careerhub.victoria.ac.nz](http://careerhub.victoria.ac.nz). They can also visit the Careers office at 14 Kelburn Pde, call the office on (04) 463 5393, or email [careers-service@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:careers-service@vuw.ac.nz)

## LABOR PAINS

LOANS FOR KIWIS DITCHED ACROSS THE DITCH

GRACE TONG

The cross-Tasman double standard of student-loan availability looks set to continue, as proposed Australian legislation to allow more New Zealanders to access student loans is not set to pass.

Australians studying in New Zealand can get a student loan after three years of residency. The current legislation would allow Kiwis who entered Australia as dependent minors (under age 18) and who have been a resident in Australia for 80 per cent of the past decade to be eligible for the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) for tertiary education or vocational training.

The future of proposed changes to Australia's

Higher Education Support Act had looked uncertain, due to the Australian federal elections. The Government-led legislation was behind a mass of other bills on the agenda before the September 14 elections, and the House will not sit again until after the elections. In addition, Labor has been polling poorly and looks set to lose the September elections, making the bill's future even less likely.

However, since Kevin Rudd taking over as Prime Minister, Labor has jumped and is now polling closer to 50 per cent.

The Opposition's universities spokesman said

only that they would be "looking closely at the Government's proposal".

The change was announced after a summit in Queensland, which responded to racial violence involving Pacific-Island youths near the Gold Coast. The change aims to prevent young New Zealanders turning to gangs and drugs when they cannot gain qualifications for work.

New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully welcomes the move, citing its effects on jobs.

"Making tertiary education more accessible will lead to increased employment prospects," he said.



# EYE ON EXEC

MOLLY MCCARTHY

## Monday 15 July

With President Rory McCourt, famed for his lengthy Exec meetings, back from his jaunt to the States, *Salient* were in for a treat last Monday: a 2.5 hour Exec meeting to see in the new trimester.

Although Vice-President (Academic) Sonya Clark may have been relieved she was no longer charged with the duties of Acting President, not everyone was pleased to see McCourt back in town: most University staff had told him that he “could have stayed longer”. But welcome or not, McCourt was determined to make sure that his return did not go unnoticed, leading the Exec to do a complete 180 on their vote at the last meeting.

At an Exec meeting on 24 June, a majority of the Exec had decided that it would be best if VUWSA—already overworked and over budget—did not hold a by-election to contest the role of Vice-President (Welfare) left empty by the resignation Simon Tapp, but instead let former Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer (WSO) Rick Zwaan, who had been co-opted in the interim, stay in the position for the rest of the year. Treasurer Jordan McCluskey had been the loudest voice in the against camp, as he believed a by-election was a “pointless waste of time and money”.

Since that meeting, where only Clark and Campaigns Officer Harry Chapman and voted in favour of holding a by-election, new information had “come to light”; namely, VUWSA had been given approval to use students’ money (from Student Forum)—not their own—to pay for a by-election. With McCourt back in town, a by-election was back on the cards: apparently it looks bad if you tell the Uni that you have a mandate to act on behalf of your members when one fifth of your Executive haven’t been elected by the same students you claim to represent.

The debate played out at length, with Zwaan becoming increasingly (and justifiably) frustrated, having already put in a significant amount of

work in his new role since he was first co-opted in early June. Acting on the reasonable assumption that his role was secure, Zwaan had already created an extremely detailed and colour-coded timetable—one which did *not* set aside time for running in a by-election.

Eventually however, given that money was no longer an issue (what’s another \$3000 of student money?), and VUWSA are “cramming in heaps of shit this semester, anyway”, most of the Exec changed their mind, with all except Equity Officer Matthew Ellison (against) and Zwaan (abstaining) voting in favour of having a by-election, after all.

When *Salient* questioned why the WSO role would not be contested in the by-election as well, Clark explained that electing for WSO would create the awkward possibility that Zwaan may end up unemployed. As he would have to officially resign from WSO in order for both to be contested, there is a possibility he could run for both positions, lose both positions, and be left with no role in VUWSA—all in the name of democracy.

Instead, the Exec have decided to co-opt a “General Exec Member” in the interim, who would effectively work as WSO until the by-election, meaning that Zwaan would be able to return to his position as WSO if he loses VPW in the by-election. When Vice-President (Engagement) Mica Moore expressed doubts that anyone would want to apply to be a General Exec Member, McCourt enthusiastically reassured his Exec that “People love that shit,” to which an exasperated Moore responded “Do they? Hands up who loves that shit?”

*Salient* can confirm that no hands were raised.

*NOTE: In classic fashion, the Exec have since changed their minds again and decided that they will not be seeking to co-opt a General Exec Member, as their Constitution no longer allows them to do so. For more details on the by-election, see the news story on p. 7.*

## THIS WEEK'S ipredictions

iPredict is a prediction market run by Victoria University that has hundreds of stocks on economic, political and social outcomes. The following predictions are supplied by iPredict and may have changed since *Salient* went to print. To try your luck go to [ipredict.co.nz](http://ipredict.co.nz).



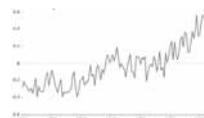
**CELIA WADE-BROWN TO BE ELECTED WELLINGTON MAYOR**

**31%**



**THERE WILL BE A LIBERAL PRIME MINISTER AFTER THE NEXT AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTION**

**69%**



**GLOBAL TEMPERATURES TO BE WARMER IN 2013 THAN 2012**

**92%**



**NEW ZEALAND TO BE ELECTED TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL FOR 2015-16**

**30%**



**ANOTHER NZ MINISTER TO DEPART IN 2013**

**65%**

# COURSE RELATED FRAUD

## STUDENT GIVEN (HOME) DETENTION

SOFIA ROBERTS

While many students have stretched the truth when applying for student loans and allowances, one student has taken it a step further.

Stacey Jane Curtis, also known as Natasha Lee Watts, used nine fake identities to obtain \$43,000 worth of student loans and allowances between 2008 and 2010. She was sentenced to four-and-a-half months' home detention after pleading guilty to 23 counts of fraud.

Watts was studying in Auckland at the time, working what the Ministry of Social Development described as a "sophisticated and cunning scheme". Watts is currently enrolled in a personal-development course at the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, which the Judge called a "positive direction".

While this offending was of a greater magnitude than most, students taking out loans from StudyLink often utilise loopholes in the system. Parents understating their income for their child to receive the Student Allowance, and collecting living costs to invest and receive interest

payments are two of the more common methods.

StudyLink urges students to report if a person is using a false identity or details to receive student support. This may occur if they have withdrawn from a course, dropped a paper or changed their course and not told StudyLink, or if they live with a partner but say they're living alone, among other things.

You can report suspected loan fraud to StudyLink's Allegation Line on 0800 556 006.



# STAY CLASSY, WORLD

In Florida, Trayvon Martin was found guilty of assaulting the man who chased him with a gun and shot him to death.

JK Rowling was outed as Robert Galbraith, author of critically-acclaimed novel *The Cuckoo's Calling*. No word on whether the book's low sales—just 1500 units at the time—had anything to do with the reveal.

An 'intelligent' knife which can detect tumours is hailed as the latest hope for treating cancer. However, it has not yet been perfected, as the scientists responsible have not yet figured a way to get rid of *all* the cancerous tissue – apparently an important prerequisite.

In performance-enhancing drug news, the Tour de France finished over the weekend. At the time *Salient* went to print, Briton Chris Froome was leading both the race, and the list of most appropriately onomatopoeic last names. Froome froome!

21 years after undergoing a painful medical procedure thought to involve producing a live human child, a local mother has given an awkward speech commemorating the occasion. Onlookers clapped politely.

## LOL NEWS

CHROFLIS MCLOLNTYRE

### TAKE YOUR PLACE ON THE FLOOR

Of all the lubricants, social and otherwise, at play at the University of Otago's Re-O Week Paint Party, most dangerous was the paint. 35 people were treated for injuries, with 11 sent to hospital by ambulance after slipping on the paint-soaked concrete floor. St John Dunedin operations team manager Doug Third said "nobody that went to hospital was sober", a shocking statement if you manage to convince yourself that there were any sober people at the event at all. Event director Jamie Templeton had done just this, telling media no intoxicated persons had been allowed into the venue. LOL News, indeed.

### LOOK MOM, NO HANDS

Independence Day is widely celebrated in the US, usually with fireworks and a barbecue, and in the case of one Californian man, by incredible stunts of masturbation. Noted multi-

tasker Clark Duncan McElfresh was arrested after masturbating while riding a bicycle, in what witnesses (probably) described as a very impressive act. All in all, a decent job at indecent exposure by the 51-year-old.

### MONKEY BUSINESS

An Italian senator revealed himself to be a baboon last week, after referring to Italy's first black cabinet minister as an orangutan. Roberto Calderoli was quoted as saying "I love animals... but when I see pictures of [her I think of] an orangutan." Calderoli also said minister Cécile Kyenge should "govern in her own country". Kyenge was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but has lived and worked in Italy for 30 years. It is unknown for how long Calderoli has been a baboon.



## HEADLINES

### THAT WEREN'T

**GREENS DECRY ANIMAL TESTING OF MOUSETRAPS AND 1080 POISON**

**PRESS RELEASE ON HOW TO USE BUTTONS SELF-EXPLANATORY**

**SKY CITY CONSCIENCE VOTE HAMPERED BY POLITICIANS NOT HAVING A CONSCIENCE**

**'FOR' BEATS 'AGAINST' AS NATION'S FAVOURITE SEX POSITION**

**FACEBOOK USERS HAD "NO IDEA" FRIEND BOUGHT BEYONCE TICKETS**

# LEFT

## IT'S A SLIPPERY SLOPE

By Carla Marks

Almost four months ago the Marriage Amendment Bill passed, allowing same-sex couples to marry. Progressives all over New Zealand rejoiced, comfortable in the knowledge that one of the few remaining bastions of discrimination in our law had been removed. Of course, these same people knew that the fight to end discrimination in society was not over, but as far as removing discrimination from law it seemed that our work was done.

Throughout the marriage-equality debate, proponents argued that the government had no place in dictating who one person could solemnise their love with. Equally, the other side of the debate talked about how the “natural progression” after marriage equality was to legalise polygamy and incest. Instead of arguing with any substance or admitting that the march of progress might lead to polygamy and incest, progressives often dismissed the arguments as simply Colin Craig and Family First fear-mongering and trash.

But maybe they were right. Maybe incest and polygamy is the next step? And maybe, just maybe, there is nothing wrong with that? Over the past year, supporters of marriage equality have almost certainly found themselves saying that if two people love each other, then why should the state stop those people from expressing that love in a marriage. So what if there are three people, or four? What if they are siblings?

If a group of loving, consenting adults want to formalise their relationship in marriage, why should we stop them? Polyamory is just a bigger, better version of what we already do. Likewise, why should we stop the same consenting adults marrying if they are related? They don't even have to bother changing their surnames.

Of course, it is true to say that the offspring of incestuous couples are more likely to be born with defects, but we have moved on from conflating sex with reproduction. Incestuous couples can surely be trusted to make decisions with this in mind, just as we let all other couples make that decision in spite of them having a chance (albeit lesser) of producing a child with mental or physical disabilities. As Johann Hari pointed out, “to prohibit two people from having sex because their offspring may be 'defective' or 'inferior' is to adopt the standpoint of a eugenicist”.

Society changes. Just nine years ago, our Parliament passed legislation which allowed civil unions, and the prospect of marriage between same-sex couples seemed to be a distant one. Yet, less than a decade later, public opinion has swung in favour of what was once a mortal sin. Incest and polygamy are just an extension of this same expression of love. It might not be as common or ‘sexy’ an issue as marriage equality, but it's one that progressives who argue that the state should stay away from the bedroom should support.

# P O L I

## LETTERS FROM A YOUNG CONTRARIAN

By Cam Price

Early last year, George Zimmerman fatally shot a 17-year-old black male named Trayvon Martin. Last week, Zimmerman was found not guilty of murdering the boy who Barack Obama said looked like the son he never had, by reason of self-defence. Much can be said about the case in terms of the ongoing issues America faces; issues like racial profiling, gun violence and self-defence laws. Indeed, too much has been said – old arguments rehashed, demands for change in the justice system made yet again, tired calls for introspection falling on deaf ears, like so many broken records. Everyone's an expert. But there is something being left out of the debate, and that is that most people should leave themselves and their opinions out of the debate.

Everyone likes to have an opinion; it's uncomfortable not to. Did David Bain commit familicide? Was Scott Guy murdered by his brother-in-law Ewen? Ask any New Zealander and chances are you'll either hear an emphatic ‘yes’ or an equally assertive ‘no’. Rarely will you hear a person answer in the neutral. Most of the time, people's views are guided by nothing more than a few facts gleaned from the media, or a gut feeling they got when they saw the person. A liberal seems more likely to want to believe in a person's innocence; those tough on law and order try to find guilt. If the shoe fits, we say, they likely wore it. Never mind the fact that the police never found the dive-boot or figured out who was wearing the bloody sock. Never

mind the fact that the jurors sat through weeks of evidence and testimony. Somehow, we know better than them.

What's the solution? Ambivalence. Ambivalence refers to the state of experiencing conflicting beliefs or feelings simultaneously. The prefix ambi- means both (as in ambidextrous); the suffix -valence refers to the attraction felt toward something (as in Level 1 Science). Someone can feel a positive or negative valence. Or both. Ambivalence is not the same as indifference, with which it is often confused. Someone in an ambivalent state of mind has an excess of opinion, not an absence of it. An ambivalent person can feel very strongly about a subject, without ever reaching anything like a coherent point of view on it.

So, when we find out that Zimmerman called 911 before the killing and said, “Fucking punks, these assholes always get away”, we might be led to believe that he intended to dish out some vigilante justice and is therefore a murderer. But we might also think that no one would murder someone having just called 911, knowing that police are on the way. And we might conclude that both arguments make sense.

Much was made of the part Trayvon's race played in the killing—he was black—but no one mentions the fact that Zimmerman is Hispanic. In our race to paint the world black and white we forget that in truth, reality is coloured different shades of grey.

# T I C S

## TWEETS AND TWATS

**@tauhenare**

WOD "300" 25min Cap, 25 Pull Ups (kips), 50 D/L 40kg, 50 push-ups, 50 Box jumps 16 inch, 50 Flr Wipes, 50 KB C&J 12kgs, 25 Pull ups (kips), 17:33

**@williamson\_nz (Maurice Williamson)**

@tauhenare meanwhile in Emirates First Class Lounge in Dubai I did: 20 G&Ts 14 SavBlancs 6 BlackRussians 7 tequilas and 4 pints of larger

**@jacindaardern**

Two tartan ties in Parliament today. And so it begins..

**@johnbanksnz**

.....visit to central Southland farm milking 20.000 sheep a day !  
Lambs ....beautiful

**@patrickgowernz**

David Cunliffe referred to Tolstoy's War and Peace in a press release today

**@PeterDunneMP**

Just finished great session with University of Canterbury Politics Society

## CAPTION CONTEST

Email [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz) to submit your caption!



Best caption wins a free coffee at:

The  
Hunter  
LOUNGE



LAST WEEK'S WINNER: POPPY  
"One girl, one cup-cake"

# RIGHT

## IT'S TIME FOR A REPUBLIC

By Freddie Hayek

Republicanism is not traditionally seen as a right-wing issue, but it is a cause people of all political allegiances can believe in. I believe that a strong, independent New Zealand republic, where people are proud of our nation, is not only necessary, but inevitable.

New Zealand is in an odd situation. We are surrounded by various Asian and Pacific republics. When our Prime Minister goes on diplomatic or trade trips, he or she meets both the Head of State and the Head of Government. Our Prime Minister is only the head of government; our head of state is an elderly British lady who lives 10,000 km away from New Zealand. She isn't a New Zealander, despite all the 'Queen of New Zealand' legal-fiction rubbish.

Shouldn't a New Zealander be our head of state? I think so. Shouldn't primary-school teachers be able to tell children that they can be Prime Minister or President if they want to? Yes again. Currently, people who are born here, and live here, are barred from being our head of state. They can aim for the silver medal of being Governor-General, but it helps to be a former judge or a friend of the governing party. Currently the Governor-General is appointed based on the choice of one person, the Prime Minister, instead of the 4.5 million of us who also live in New Zealand.

Republics are apparently unstable however, and we should be careful, lest we become a South-Pacific Zimbabwe, ruled by a homegrown Robert Mugabe. Bullshit. The United States has been a republic since it declared its independence in 1776. It is the richest and most powerful nation in the world. Many of the wealthiest, best-governed and most lawful countries in the world are republics. We have nothing to lose, and national pride to gain.

Wanting an independent New Zealand republic does not make me a traitor. It makes me someone who believes fundamentally in the greatness of our country, in New Zealand exceptionalism. Our nation, founded upon a Treaty between the Empire and Māori, has become so much more than that. It is the freest, most tolerant country in the world, in which people from all over the Earth have made their home, not just those of British descent.

My final question is: why do monarchists fight the prospect of a referendum on a possible New Zealand republic so hard?

Because most of New Zealand agrees with me, and time will prove it.

# CAMPUS DIGEST

## PROBING THE PUNTERS

Margin of error: give or take a few



### Do you prefer puppies or kittens?

Puppies 70%

Kittens 30%



### Have you broken the Smokefree policy?

Yes 40%

No 60%

### Have you enjoyed Re-Oweek?

Yes 10%

No 0%

There haven't been enough events to classify it as Re-Oweek' 90%

### Have you ever had sex on campus?

Yes 0%

No 100%



### Are you going to leave your assignments to the last minute this trimester?

Yes, it worked fine last tri 30%

No, I learnt my lesson from last time 60%

Ask me again in week 10%

## GET AMONGST "THE BEST"

### Overheard @ Vic

Anthony Lim

Overheard @ MGMT 101:

Lecturer:

'do really want me to go through this shit?'

'do you guys get this shit?'

'shit someone ask me a question.'

'you can have a shit management staff...'

'I need to take a shit...'

'shit'

and MORE 'shit' in almost every sentence.

Rebecca Ferguson

Overheard in ENGL348

"In this course you'll be keeping company with genocidal maniacs,

paedophiles, rapists, torturers and creepy academics. And that's just in the novels."

Sarah Miles

Overheard at Vic Books Popup store: a guy saying YOLO when buying his textbooks.

Tim Bunckenburg

Overheard in the hub, "I can't be homophobic, I love lesbian porn"

Steph Owens

Overheard in Psyc 221: Lecturer - "Kiwis don't fly. Neither do pukekos."

Student: "Pukekos fly..." Lecturer:

"They do? Okay, takakas. They don't fly...wait, do they fly? ...fuck it. Kiwis don't fly."

Kayla Blackburn

Overseen in ANTH 102... Lecturer thinking the microphone glitch is the fire alarm and evacuating KKL 303 lol



### THINGS WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MARRY

10. THE OCEAN
9. RON WEASLEY
8. MY PERSONAL BRAND
7. JUSTICE
6. OUR 'COOL' ENGLISH TEACHERS
5. PRINCESS DI
4. THE CONCEPT OF REGRET
3. HELVETICA NEUE
2. WILLOW ROSENBERG
1. TUMBLR

## GOING UP

Your sexual prospects – With so many new faces in lectures and tutorials, the options are endless(ish).

Sales of that Whitakers L&P chocolate – Out of curiosity if nothing else.

Novelty knitwear – Reclaim winter!

## GOING DOWN

Beyoncé – \$250 for tickets, and to share the experience with thousands of others. Is it even worth it? :(

X Factor obsession – Enough of this #xfactornz. Bring back #outdoorswithgeoff

The number of people actually obeying the smoke-free campus rules.

## Sounding Out the Student Voice

You may see some advertising right around here for a by-election on University Council. As previously reported in *Salient*, this is for the second student seat on Council—the University's highest governing body, which was previously reserved for the VUWSA President. When VSM was introduced in 2012, the University established a new body to act as the voice of students. The Student Forum (RIP), was given the responsibility of appointing said Council seat, as well as a variety of other student representative positions within the University's millions of boards and committees. When it collapsed earlier this year, a review of student representation was brought forward in order to sort out the shambles of student representation which resulted following the collision of University management and student politics. The review process is now at a stage of consultation, where for the first time in years you get to have a say in how the student voice is fed up through the University, and how much influence it has. If you're not too sure what any of this means check out [salient.org.nz](http://salient.org.nz) for further info. Hopefully we'll be able to clear a few things up for you, but honestly, we're not too sure what it means either.



### read more online

Check out [salient.org.nz](http://salient.org.nz) for further details on the review.

## COUNCIL ELECTION 2013— CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### ELECTION OF ONE CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL BY THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

An election is to be held to select a person who is or has been a student at Victoria University to be co-opted onto Council for four months to 31 December 2013. The successful candidate will be co-opted by Council at the beginning of its 26 August meeting.

Given the need for the successful candidate to be co-opted at the beginning of the 26 August Council meeting and the short-term nature of the position, this election will not strictly adhere to all aspects of the Council Election Statute.

Nominations, which must have the consent of the nominee, close with the Returning Officer at **5.00 pm on Wednesday, 24 July 2013**.

All students are eligible to make nominations and to vote in the election. For election purposes, a student is any person currently enrolled in a personal course of study at Victoria University or a person who is studying at the University under an exchange agreement with another institution.

### NOMINATION FORMS

Copies of the nomination form and the information sheet to be completed by the candidates are available from Reception in the Hunter Atrium, or on the University's website at [www.victoria.ac.nz/council/elections.htm](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/council/elections.htm) or by telephoning **(04) 463 5196**.

### CLOSING OF THE STUDENT ROLL

The student roll will close at **5.00 pm on Wednesday, 24 July 2013**.

### DATE OF ELECTION

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, an election will be held on **Wednesday, 7 August 2013**, with the polls closing at **5.00 pm**. Candidates will be elected by the single transferable vote method.

Voting will be by internet only. Voting details will be emailed to students at their preferred email address on **Wednesday, 31 July 2013**.

Caroline Ward  
Secretary to Council and Returning Officer  
Victoria University of Wellington  
PO Box 600  
Wellington





**QUEER PEOPLE ARE HAVING AN ALRIGHT YEAR – MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS QUITE THE ACHIEVEMENT. PART OF THE MARRIAGE BILL'S WIDE ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT AMONG NON-QUEERS CAME FROM THE FACT THAT POPULAR CULTURE NOW FEATURES A WIDE CAST OF RELATIVELY 'NORMAL' QUEER PEOPLE. THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD THING – BUT ARE WE GETTING AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF QUEERNESS? OR JUST A BENIGNLY INOFFENSIVE ONE?**

By Patrick Humm

Slowly, things are getting better for queer people. At the very least, you (hopefully) aren't going to be lynched for your sexual proclivities (in this country, anyway). This progress, which is plainly quite marvellous, owes some of its success to popular culture. According to Nielsen, the American broadcast-aggregation company, 2012 saw 24 per cent of prime-time broadcasting in the United States including LGBT-inclusive content. A similar figure isn't readily available for content produced in New Zealand, but much of our programming is outsourced anyway. The gays are on TV! Hide your children accordingly. What may not be immediately apparent, however, is that those dude-loving dudes you see on the TV are usually polished, manufactured products designed to navigate the minefield of potential upset that has accumulated over time by both the gay community and those who aren't that fond of them. Sure, our screens are a little more diverse these days, but they're diverse in a particular way.

In an article produced for *Salient* by Duncan McLachlan and Cam Price in the aftermath of the passing of the marriage-equality bill, Green Party MP and gay-rights activist Kevin Hague says that “people like Cameron and Mitchell from *Modern Family* have done us an enormous service in providing a model of a gay couple who are just like everyone else”. In the most important ways this is true – gone are the days when the establishment saw all gay men as potential pedophiles and inverters (unless, of course, you live in Uganda or Russia or much of the Arab world or any number of other places). For those queer people who lived through a time where they found themselves entirely absent from popular culture except as sassy best friends or bitchy hairdressers or murderous transvestites (“*It rubs the lotion on its skin or else it gets the hose again*”), seeing out gay characters appearing regularly on television and film must be quite remarkable. The gays of the modern mainstream cultural landscape aren't just the kind of gays who were notionally closeted but pretty damn gay à la Liberace. Now, we can actually see men kissing men and women kissing women along with everyone else.

Dr Anita Brady, a lecturer in Media Studies at Victoria University, says that while “I would agree with Kevin Hague... it's a particular version of gayness. Depictions on television like

*Modern Family* or *The New Normal*... are part of the general social milieu that affects change, but it is a particular form of gayness that gets to attain that sort of credibility.” If *Modern Family* is making a statement, it is doing so by chasing the same flavour of “normality” that denied the validity of non-heterosexual relationships and people in the past. *You, too, can be a part of the mainstream*, the show says, *if you behave like us*. Of course, *Modern Family* is hardly an insidious tool for assimilation. While irreproachably admirable in many ways, the gay-rights movement in its current epoch holds, or has held, a set of essentially conservative goals as its most dear: marriage, adoption and service in the military (although this last one isn't a cause for concern in New Zealand). Most people understand the potential for change that popular culture wields, but what is perhaps less apparent is the homogenising way it goes about propagating change: by making the previously unthinkable palatable for the masses. Brady says that some academics have argued that the normative depictions of gay life seen in shows like *Modern Family* and *The New Normal* are the result of this. “The marriage-equality campaign, for strategic purposes, does this. It is a particular sort of gayness that gets to be acceptable.”

Before we go on any further, it is worth noting that discussing queer people as a single cohesive population is a little silly. For one, as a single unit of analysis queer people aren't terribly well understood by anyone, least of all themselves. What's more, within the broadly defined world of the queer, there isn't a consensus about what the parameters of that label are. The LGBT spectrum is a concise way of organising a complex variety of identifications, and while fostering a supportive community between them is prudent, the relationships between the disparate aspects of the community aren't always positive. Gay people, for instance, have always been prominent in exercising a certain level of influence over the culture we consume. There isn't any reason to think, however, that a conventionally gendered gay man or lesbian woman is in any way accredited with an understanding of transgender people (which is seemingly a common mistake). In this way, it's tricky to discuss ‘queer’ people in popular culture when in truth, the material that the conversation

# POPULAR CULTURE HAS ACHIEVED CHANGE BY MAKING THE PREVIOUSLY UNTHINKABLE PALATABLE FOR THE MASSES.

will be comprised of will largely include only gay men and lesbian women. They're the ones we can watch on TV, after all. We haven't yet carved out spaces in popular culture for queer people who fall outside of that narrow scope. While it would be lovely to talk about LGBT people in popular culture, we can only really talk about the L and the G. It's a pity.

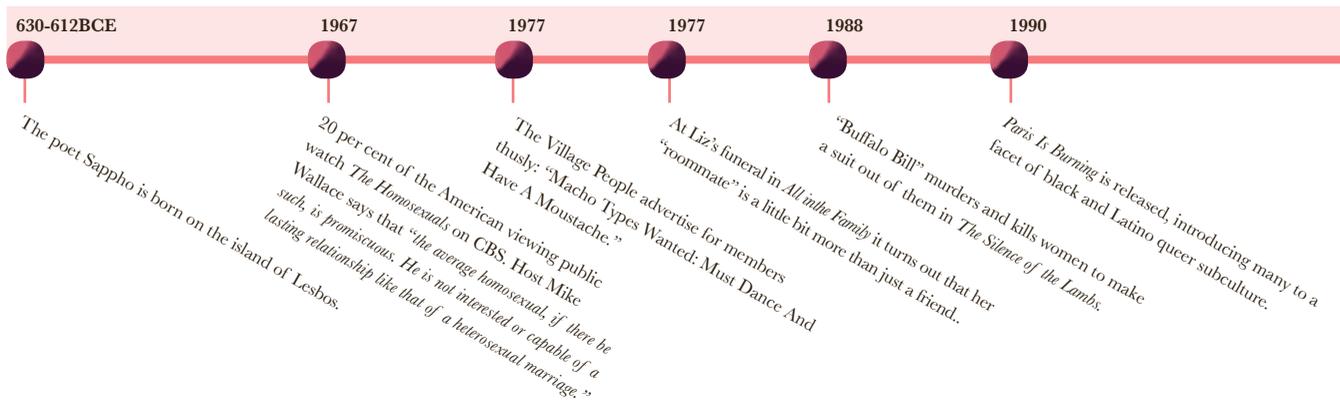
For this reason, LGBT-inclusive content can be both remarkably inclusive and progressive, while at the same time offering a thin and meagre view of the multitude of queer people out there. Brady says that while shows like *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word*, which serve up rare depictions of queer life with an almost militant fervour that is unlikely to be seen again, are "well aware of their place in history", they still manage to depict a particular *sort* of gay life. Or, as Brady puts it, "there are a lot of glamorous lesbians on *The L Word*." On the other end of the scale, shows like *Happy Endings* exert so much energy in trying to prove that their gay characters aren't stereotypes that it almost seems like they're sort-of missing the point. In one episode, slovenly Max is described as a "straight dude who likes dudes". Which isn't true. Like, at all. He's a dude who likes dudes and also eats a lot of junk and doesn't exercise (I empathise entirely).

This desire to grasp for the normal, whatever that is, might also relate to a pervasive but shallowly understood sense of internalised misogyny among some gay men – where the feminine is understood as pandering to an effete stereotype which is a source of great shame. [www.douchebagsofgrindr.com](http://www.douchebagsofgrindr.com) is a handy catalogue of this phenomenon being manifested in the environment of digital hook-ups. When a gay dude sternly instructs potential sex partners to "not be gay", you know something slightly sinister is going on. This is not to say that the queer storylines found in television aren't wonderful in their own way, or incredibly important to some people, because they are. It's just that when there seems to be a fear of 'getting it wrong' we don't get a whole lot of variety.

Returning, then, to *Modern Family*, it is easy to see why the inclusion of Cameron and Mitchell—gay dads with a Vietnamese baby—is a step in the right direction. It has very little to do with them being "just like everyone else", because they aren't. Cameron in particular is a confection with wrists so limp they might fall off, and once upon a time he might have received a barrage of criticism from a community terrified that they were understood in terms of a single pervasive stereotype. Today, however, there is

more of an understanding that queer people are of a more diverse mix. Cameron's brand of flamboyant hysteria doesn't preclude other, different depictions of life as a gay man. The retention of his camp tics is a nice reminder that the way people live their lives can't be 'outdated'. When someone's withering criticism of a particularly fey character is that they are *so-o-o* 1980s, what they really mean is "We've found new, assimilatory ways of fitting in! You're letting the team down!" A stereotype shouldn't represent an entire community, but that shouldn't preclude those people from representation in the media either.

A very modern symptom of this process of normalisation of queerness in popular culture is that ideas of equality are now more or less commodified. Macklemore's 'Same Love' is an easily digestible anthem for gay marriage. Brady notes that "there is a history of popular music of songs with a political message," pointing to songs like 'Free Nelson Mandela' by The Specials. Macklemore's ideology isn't necessarily suspect, but the fact that non-queer people are able to spin such huge successes out of queer struggles is slightly galling, and reinforces the idea that certain types of queerness are deemed more worthy of promotion than others. This is especially so, considering that artists who are actually queer are confined to their own, sub-mainstream spaces (unless you're Elton John, but Elton John's genre is realistically best labelled Elton John anyway). Rappers like Mykki Blanco and Le1f are interrogated routinely by the musical press over what they think of being queer artists. The gloriously gender-fluid Blanco (or Michael Quattlebaum) expresses her angst about this succinctly and deliciously in 2012's 'Wavy': "What the fuck I gotta prove to a room full of dudes / who ain't



listening to my words 'cause they staring at my shoes."

In those rare instances where queer artists discuss queer issues or present themselves in an atypical way, we apparently find it rather difficult to see them as anything other than as a queer thing. Conversely, Katy Perry told a whole legion of young people that if they felt like plastic bags it was okay because she does too sometimes. Well bully for her, but she's white and conventionally attractive and heterosexual, and in the music video for 'Firework', an array of people with 'abnormalities' are paraded across the screen, like cancer patients, children with abusive fathers, a larger woman, a teen mother and a gay kid. As she stares vacantly at the camera in a very expensive-looking dress, it isn't totally clear what she has in common with any of these people, and while empathy is a trait we should all aspire to, in this case it does seem suspect. While taking shots at Perry might seem a bit silly, that song received enough playtime for its success to be galling. Reducing the identities of entire communities to one of victimhood to shill a record is douche. She's not alone. Even Ke\$ha got on the equality-anthem bandwagon 'cos we r who we r. It is sad that the only musicians who achieve mainstream success while discussing issues relating to queer people in their work aren't queer themselves. Listen to Blanco. She's really neat.

Similarly, the idea of the 'pink dollar' means that LGBT communities are recognised as a viable economic market of their own. The *Financial Times* estimated in May of this year that there were (very approximately) 400 million self-identifying LGBT people globally, and that they have a combined spending power of US\$3 trillion. It behoves producers of entertainment to include material that attracts those customers, while at the same time balancing their inclusion

## WHILE IT WOULD BE LOVELY TO TALK ABOUT LGBT PEOPLE IN POPULAR CULTURE, WE CAN ONLY REALLY TALK ABOUT THE L AND THE G.

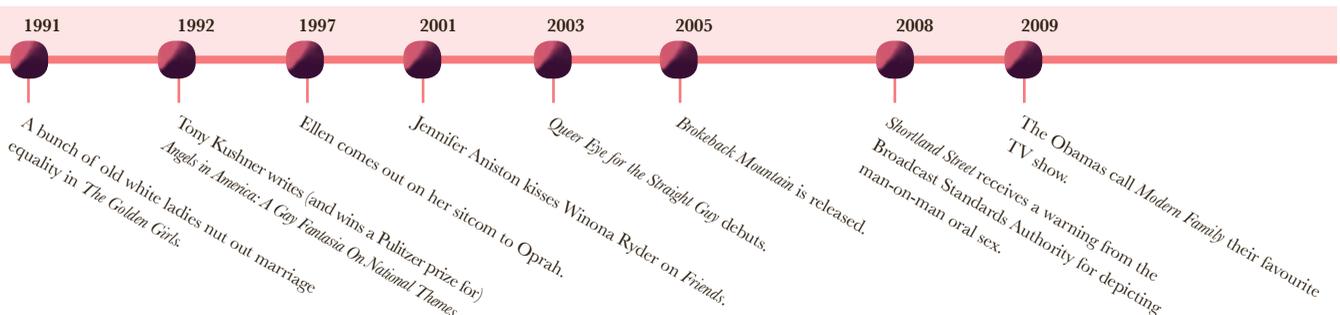
with the need for the product to have mass appeal. This might be why there are so many goddamn gay lawyers on television. Brady says that "*Will & Grace* got away with a gay lawyer-ish type, so the next show to come around says it will do something similar because it now knows what the risk is." While this is true, it means that queer people are disproportionately represented on screen as being wealthy and educated and white. At one point this image was backed up somewhat by statistical evidence, but that hasn't been the case for some time. As early as 1998, a study by the University of Massachusetts warned of the inaccuracies in this belief. Gay people, it turns out, are not really any more likely to be more well-off than anyone else.

Even when work is produced that does attempt to explore queers on the fringes of society, they often succumb to the need to attract a certain kind of attention. Works like *Boys Don't Cry* and *Transamerica* seem like they use a version of the transgender as a vehicle for edgy, powerful performances by their (non-trans) leads. Hilary Swank and Felicity Huffman both excel in those films, but it does make one wonder whether a transgender performer was ever considered for the parts.

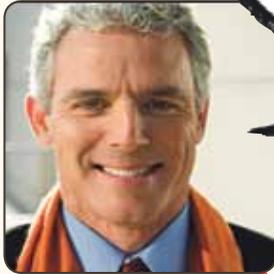
When unfairly asked which depictions of gay people on screen she finds successful, Brady

isn't totally sure. After all, it's a silly question. You can't show a 'right' or 'wrong' sort of gay person, because there isn't a correct way of being gay or trans\* or bisexual or of just being a person, really. Brady does, however, have a few tentative answers. The first, surprisingly, is *Glee*. Brady points out that it is unusual for having not only such a large number of recurring gay characters, but that for having gays of "different stripes". Alternately, Omar Little from *The Wire* is "interesting". Interesting – that's probably the way to go.

Agitating for change is tricky, and it makes sense to distil the collective identities of marginalised people into something identifiable for the purposes of organisation. In the case of things queer, however, this distillation looks pretty monochrome right now. On a case-by-case basis, it isn't all that bad. In fact, a lot of the things we've looked at are pretty neat. As a whole, though, it can be sort of icky. Diversity doesn't mean uniformly inoffensive characters – it means interesting ones. It's good that there are queers are on TV, and it's great that everyone can get married now, but if we're using popular culture to educate those who aren't in the queer know we should probably be putting some more colourful, less lawyer-y vibes out there.



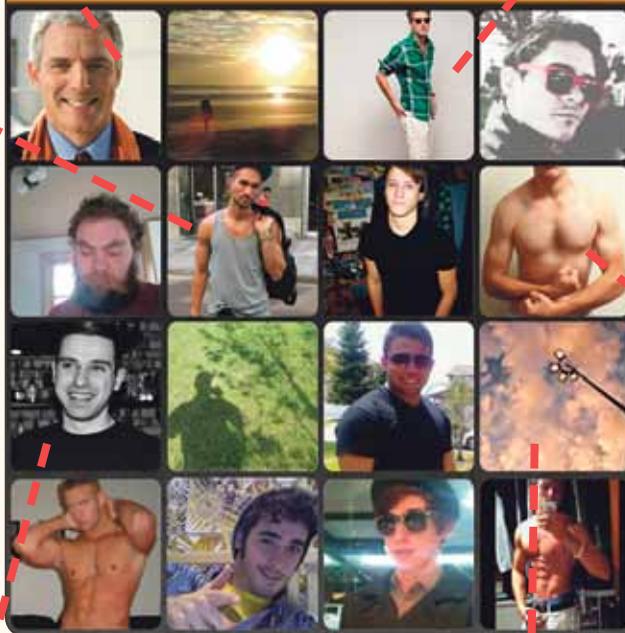
I ENJOY MEETING YOUNGER WMS 18-30 WHO ENJOY BEING PAMPERED OR SPOILED ON OCCASION.



LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA. FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT, CAPTURE THE GOOD TIMES, AND DEVELOP FROM THE NEGATIVES



### STEREOTYPES OF GRINDR



I'M GONNA CUT TO THE CHASE AND JUST ASK IF I CAN BLOW YOU.



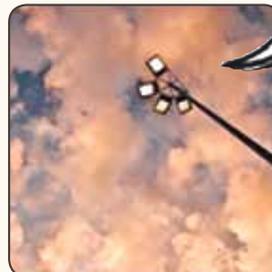
CHECKING THIS OUT...NOT INTO HOOK UPS



LOOKING FOR: CHAT, DATES, LOVE



HEY



# GRIND WITH ME

## MY WEEK ON GRINDR

By Mac Money

The first thing you see when you open the Grindr app on your iPhone or Android smartphone is men. Or, more accurately, parts of men. Headless chiseled torsos abound, but that's as raunchy as it gets on the homepage – Grindr's terms of use prohibit full-frontal nudity in display pics.

Click on a person's profile, and depending on the amount of information that person has decided to divulge, you can learn their age, ethnicity, height and weight. You also get to see a bigger version of their display pic. Pictures range from the above-mentioned Greek busts, to smiling-face pics and in-the-mirror phone selfies. Some trippy artistic types have pictures of landscapes like the sky or the ocean. Yet more grindees, either because they're ugly or don't want to be identified, choose to have no picture at all.

Equally, many choose not to write anything in their description box. Some of the braver men write a short summary of themselves, or choose a verse from a poem. Others write in code; simple acronyms describing what they're after. 'NSA' means no strings attached, 'DTF' is down to fuck, 'DL' or 'd-lo' means the guy is air-quotes 'straight', but has sex with guys on

the down-low. 'B for T' is Bottom for Top, and vice versa, and so on and so forth.

Bizarrely, also included in the profile settings is the ability to indicate your current relationship status. I didn't understand this at first. Surely if you had a boyfriend, you wouldn't go on Grindr, or at least you wouldn't advertise that you had one if you did. But then it dawned on me that all men, and gay men in particular, are into all kinds of fun sex, threesomes being one of those kinds. Good on the kinky buggers, I say.

There is an option to show what you hope to get out of Grindr – chat, dates, friends, networking, relationship. Husband isn't yet included on the list, but that's presumably because Grindr is an international app with over a million subscribers, only a fraction of whom actually have the right to marry. For shame.

The central plank upon which Grindr has built its success is its unique geolocational technology. Men's profiles on the homepage are ranked in order of the distance between you and them. The closer they are to you, the higher up the list they are. A grindee's individual profile also shows the approximate distance, down to the metre, between you. One (hetero) *Salient* staffer remarked that the accuracy was so good that he and his flatmates were thinking of downloading the app and using it as a tool to keep tabs on where the others are.

As a result of the GPS capabilities, travelling with Grindr is a breeze – each new city you visit brings a new lineup to your homepage. In fact, when the athletes of the world descended upon London for the 2012 Olympics, Grindr couldn't cope with the strain from the extra demand and its servers crashed.

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**HE OFFERED TO GIVE ME A BLOW JOB  
BEFORE CLASS IN THE TOILETS AND I THINK  
HE WAS ONLY HALF-JOKING.**

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# IT DAWNED ON ME THAT ALL MEN, AND GAY MEN IN PARTICULAR, ARE INTO ALL KINDS OF FUN SEX, THREESOMES BEING ONE OF THOSE KINDS. GOOD ON THE KINKY BUGGERS, I SAY.

## GRINDING

Anecdotal evidence suggests that 95 per cent of the time, you will have made up your mind about whether you like the guy or not based solely on his profile. The next step for those who make the somewhat unfair and brutal cut is to chat. A green dot shows that someone is online. Clicking the chat button opens a window in which you can send messages, as well as photos.\* \*\* You can choose a photo from your albums, or take one and send it.

Depending on your mood, you'll either login to Grindr and wait to be chatted to or actively initiate conversation. Chatting usually goes something along the lines of "Hey", "What's up?", "Not much", "Want to fuck?", "K", or similar. After all, a majority of guys on Grindr are using it to hook up with people for sex. However, that's not to say that there aren't a lot of guys who are on Grindr seeking someone to date. Plenty of guys are keen to meet in person for a drink or a coffee or a movie.

Some use it for other reasons. A lot of guys, some of them new to town and looking to make connections, use Grindr to find out where to buy drugs. A simple "looking for 420" in your description will enable you to get your hands on some green. One guy I chatted to in the course of research for this feature was looking for P, and when he found some he offered to do it with me. In the interests of investigative journalism I very nearly accepted, but in the end I pussied out.

The motto "don't drink and grind" applies to chatting in Grindr. For some reason, alcohol invariably turns you into a horny chatty Cathy and you end up sending embarrassing messages

to everyone on your list. The block feature allows you to keep a shred of dignity intact, but even so, it's annoying having to go through your list and actually do the blocking on a hungover Sunday morning.

\*The dearth of dick pics in display pictures is more than made up for by this feature.

\*\*The girth of dick pics sent to you by random shrivelled old men sharply diminishes the novelty of this feature.

## DAILY GRIND

### *#1 – Friday:*

A few after-work drinks diminished my inhibition enough to give Grindr a crack. A guy who I had recently brought home from town was online, and he asked me if I wanted to go for a date. We went to The Grand Steakhouse on Courtenay. He had the chicken parmigiana and a cider, I had the stone-grill steak and a Heineken. He was 22 and studied Architecture at uni before his current job working at a bank. Over dinner, he told me about his recent trip to Australia and how he wanted to move there to further his career. He also told me he bought a house with his last boyfriend, which they are still paying off together. He owns two cars. Conversation came easy and things went well. We shared a laugh or two, and decided to skip having a drink in town in favour of having one at his. He paid for everything and drove

me back to his. After meeting his roller-derby-playing flatmate and having a nightcap, we retired to bed. In the morning he took me to work, and I said I'd text him. I haven't. It's not that I didn't like him, he just seemed like he was at a much different stage of his life than me. I like to think that money hasn't consumed me just yet.

### *#2 – Sunday*

Storm night. After going for a run in the freezing cold and howling rain, I went on Grindr in the hopes of finding someone I could cuddle with to keep warm. One guy took my eye, and after exchanging photos and flirty chat, he invited me to his. His house turned out to be a little artist's studio in Island Bay. He was bald but it suited him. He had an incredibly toned body, like a dancer's, or a gymnast's, or a person who does lots of yoga. Turned out he did all three. He was quite the artsy type. We shared a bottle of wine and a joint and watched some indie festival film that didn't really have a plot. We both fell asleep on the couch. I woke up in the middle of the night, and because I had work early the next morning I took a taxi home. By far the most interesting date of them all.

### *#3 – Monday*

Between work in the morning and uni in the afternoon, I squeezed in a coffee with a Law-School student who I vaguely knew through friends of friends. We talked about Grindr and he seemed like quite the pro. He was very frank when I asked how many sexual partners he had had. I like to think that I'm no prude, but the high number shocked me. I asked him whether that made him a slut and he said maybe it did, but he was always safe and always had fun. He said emotions weren't an issue so long as both partners were clear beforehand that there were strictly no strings attached. Fuck the haters. That made me realise that maybe I was a bit sex-negative, and that people who have a lot of sex, regardless of their sexuality, shouldn't be scorned because of their choices. He offered

## HE WAS EVERYTHING. I WAS NERVOUS. WE'RE GOING TO MEET AGAIN.



to give me a blow job before class in the toilets and I think he was only half-joking. In any case, his immense experience intimidated me a bit. I politely declined and we went on our separate ways.

#### #4 – Wednesday

In the afternoon, I met up with a high-powered lawyer who was closer to 30 than 20. I knew him through friends, and his occasional drunken Grindr messages at 3 am on Sunday mornings. He bought me coffee and we talked for an hour, mostly about Grindr. He spoke openly and frankly, on occasion being outrageous or jokingly offensive, and with the kind of upper-class cadence that is the mark of many gays. He drew the line at talking about what kind of sex he was into (on reflection it was pretty bad form to ask him that on the first date). He said he never experienced any degree of homophobia in his job, and that he knew of a number of his colleagues who are gay. He was confident, successful and comfortable in himself. He said that although he didn't chat with that many guys on Grindr, he was always online. It's a bit seedy and a bit shit really, he reckoned, but everyone likes to be complimented.

#### #5 – Thursday

He was beautiful; tall, lean, fair. He was cute, had blue eyes and long hair. He had lips the size of Jagger's, which frequently broke into a wide

grin. He was easy-going and peaceful. He liked to joke, and wasn't afraid to have one at his own expense. He was open to ideas and, while quiet in a large group, would engage in deep conversation when I got him alone. He had a knack of giving perfect answers to questions. He told me 'autumn' when I asked if he preferred summer or winter. He was crazy-talented. He was one of those people who are blessed with an eye for fine detail and fine art and fine living. He had a beautiful family and a beautiful life story. He was everything. I was nervous. We're going to meet again.

## GRINDR @ VIC

I was surprised by the sheer number of uni students using Grindr. Sitting in the Hub or in the Law School common room with Grindr on produces a homepage full of university students. It's interesting to note the differences and similarities between the two campuses: Kelburn has a wider ethnic spread, with more Māori and Pasifika users. It also has the more artsy/alty/hipster/counterculture types, while Pipitea almost exclusively features middle-to-upper-class white gays.

It's a slightly disconcerting experience bumping into a guy in the hallway of uni or in public and recognising him from Grindr. After a while you get used to it. It's kind of cool that without speaking a word and without knowing each other, you can share a look that says, "We both know the other is gay, and we're the only ones in the room who know".

One faux pas I made while using Grindr at university was to forget to put my phone on silent. Unless it's on silent, Grindr plays a distinctive notification sound every time you get a message. In one of my lectures, I was bored and decided to check my Grindr. When I opened the app, the tone played and my heart sank. Strangely though, it was more awkward for some of the other males in the lecture theatre, who gave themselves up by the way they reacted to the sound.



# HOW TO BE A STRAIGHT ALLY

By Matthew Ellison

So you're straight. Well I'm not, and that difference affects the way we interact. I'm sure nearly all of you don't think of yourselves as homophobes, and I'm not here to accuse you of being so, but there will almost inevitably be things that you do or say which make a queer person feel uncomfortable, or make it harder for a friend to come out, or have some other negative effect on queer people.

I'm assuming that you want to mitigate that, that you're someone who doesn't want to be causing harm to others, but isn't sure what you need to change in order to do that, and how you'd go about changing it. If you genuinely don't care about how your actions can hurt queer people, well, you're reading the wrong issue of *Salient*. For the rest of you...

## Welcome to Straight Ally 101

Listen. That's the number-one most important thing about being a straight ally. You have to know completely that no part of your experience prepares you to be an expert on being queer, and that every queer person is an expert on their own experiences. If you try to counter someone's experience with your own, then rather than adding voice to theirs you're erasing it and replacing it with your own words. Likewise, if a queer person shares a way in which life has been harder for them because of their sexual or gender identity, you are causing more harm than good if you try to offer an experience from your own life that you believe to be comparable. This is their time to talk, not yours. Quieten down. Listen. Learn.

Don't be afraid to ask questions, but think about why you're asking them, and how they might

affect the person you're asking them of. It's valuable to understand someone's experience with coming out, for instance, but it may not have been a great experience for them, so don't push too hard if it's making them uncomfortable.

**A STRAIGHT PERSON  
CALLING OUT  
HOMOPHOBIA IS A MORE  
POWERFUL ACTION  
THAN A QUEER PERSON  
DOING SO.**

Recognise that it's not a duty of a queer person to educate you – go out and learn on your own! You won't be the first person a queer person has had to educate, and it's exhausting educating person after person. There is such a wealth of information online, and, if you look in the right places, a lot of good-quality discussion you can learn from. Try to make sure that you're learning from people who are queer themselves, though!

Being an ally isn't a part-time occupation. The whole deal is that you use your straight privilege properly and call out people on queerphobic language and actions, because the sad truth is that your voice has more power because of your sexuality, and a straight person calling out homophobia is a more powerful action than a queer person doing so.

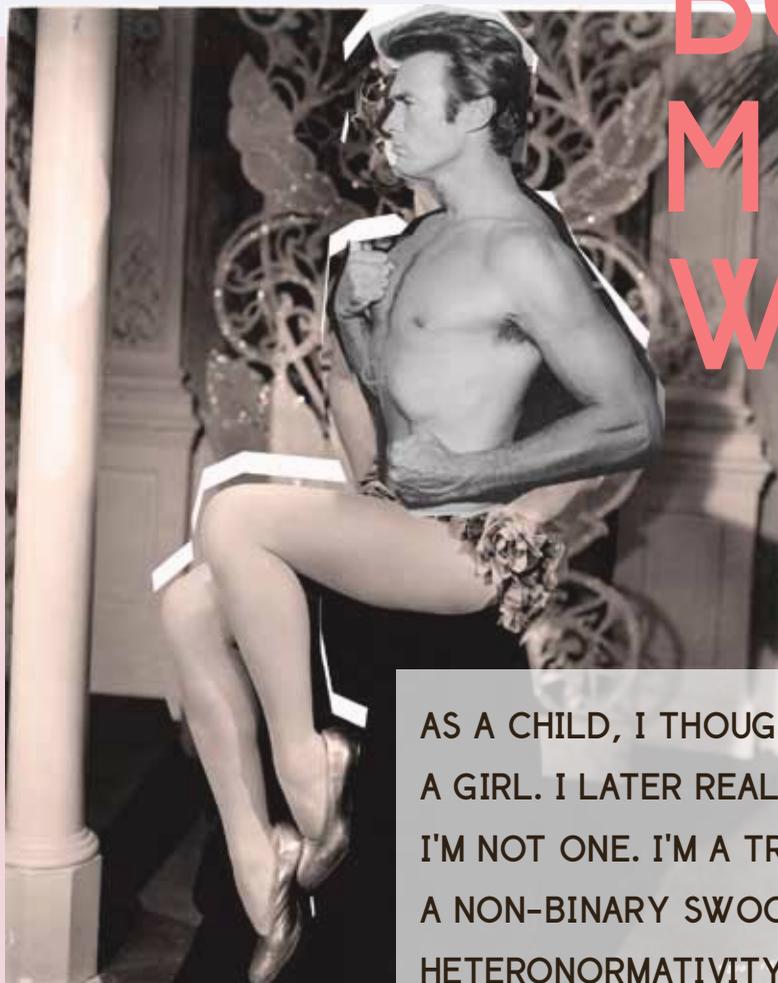
No matter how good an ally you are, you'll eventually do or say something that's a bit problematic. And that's okay, we don't blame you – these slip-ups are a learning opportunity, and it's important to recognise that we've all

grown up in a very heteronormative society, and fighting against that is not easy work. What matters is how you respond when someone calls you out – remember, if a queer person is offended by something you said, it's not your place to defend it. It doesn't really matter if you meant something to sound queerphobic or not, because it's not the intent of words that wound, it's the words themselves. A good ally acknowledges their mistakes and graciously learns from them. A bad ally denies they are being queerphobic.

Accept that some spaces aren't for you. We know that you're not responsible for all the ills wrought on the queer community by straight people, we know you're one of the good ones, but there are times when queers need other queers, and a straight person, no matter how well-meaning, won't fit into that space. A huge part of being a good ally is recognising that, because you can make people uncomfortable by inserting yourself in a space that's not yours. This doesn't mean you're not ever welcome in queer spaces, but tread with caution, and check in with the people around you.

You may need a thick skin at times, to be an ally, and you'll likely encounter people who say they hate straight people. Try not to take it personally – it's a reaction to growing up in a straight society that hates us and shits on us in sometimes overt and sometimes subtle ways, and it's natural to hate that!

Lastly, thank you. Thank you for being an ally, and for making the effort. I know it's not always easy, but believe me, it's easier than being queer. Being an ally is totally worth it – you'll make so many fantastic new friends and meet so many great people by getting right into it!



# BOY MEETS WORLD

AS A CHILD, I THOUGHT I WAS BAD AT BEING A GIRL. I LATER REALISED THAT WAS BECAUSE I'M NOT ONE. I'M A TRANSMASCULINE FELLA, A NON-BINARY SWOONPRINCE SMASHING HETERONORMATIVITY AND TEARING APART THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT.

BY SEBASTIAN MADDOX

I'm transmasculine. For me, this means I'm a cute femme boy with a cunt. I was born into a body labelled 'girl', and that's how I was treated. It never really felt comfortable. As a child, I avoided dresses and pink and stereotypical markers of femininity and femaleness. My mother lamented my masculinity. I was presented with standards of behaviour—of 'girl'—and fell short. Then I learnt about tomboys and figured I must be one of those. This was recognisable and understandable, and so I never really questioned it. I remember strongly owning a few items of 'boys' clothing'. Wearing them made me feel self-assured and comfortable

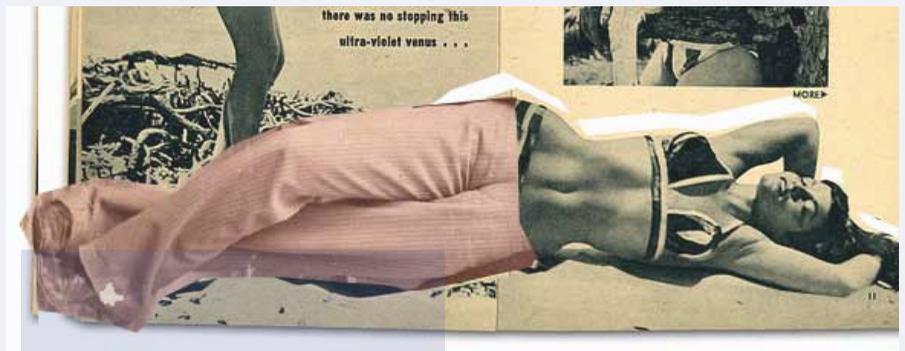
in a way that was totally unfamiliar to me. My favourite was a hand-me-down from my brother. It was a big ol' orange polo shirt with teal sleeves and collar. #fashion

As I grew older, the narrative of 'girl' became intertwined with ideas about desire — specifically, the idea that boys like girls and girls like boys, and all the complex ways that can play out. I wasn't particularly interested in boys or girls. I liked to draw comics and play video games and hang out with dogs. I brushed off my classmates' kissing and going out as juvenile

and pointless. Because I was a fat tomboy, I was a walking archetype of undesirability. This raises the question of whether I was really uninterested in others, or if I distanced myself to avoid needling. In any case, I was a real sassy little nerd of a kid. I mostly thought I was smarter and better than other people and spent a lot of time on the internet. Once, I convinced a classmate to give me his Neopets password. Totally stole all his Neopoints.

In high school, I went through various identifiers. First, I was a straight girl. I had my first kiss at the tender age of 15, with a boy I dated for seven months. I asked him out because I thought he liked me and I wanted to prove that I was attractive and desirable. He was a nice enough guy, but kind of boring. Following that, I realised I was attracted to women and figured I was bisexual. Then, I lost interest in boys and thought I was gay (I never really took to the term ‘lesbian’). After that, I learned about genderqueer people on the internet; something clicked for me. The notion that ‘boy’ and ‘girl’ were the only options fell away, and I realised I could identify and present however felt right for me. For a nerdy li'l chubber like me, the possibility of feeling comfortable in my own skin was both exhilarating and frightening. You know how sometimes you get what you want and all you can do is worry that someone will take it away? I strongly associate my identification with queerness as a sexual orientation with a queering of gender. With this realisation, I could suddenly picture a future for myself. Before, I felt I was failing as a woman and as a person, and couldn't comprehend how I would or could comfortably live out the narratives I was presented with.

Today, I identify as transmasculine. I'm flamboyant and playful (traits usually read as feminine) in my presentation because I'm secure and grounded in my masculinity. I feel safe in that. I came out to my family recently. It went pretty well. My mother was confused and, I think, has some mourning to do – fair enough, as to her she's losing a daughter. I'm



## I SUBMITTED TO THE PRESSURE AND PRETENDED TO BE A SUPER MANLY DUDEBRO. IT WORKED!

out at work and privileged to be surrounded by supportive, understanding people. My mother has been asking me questions that I never thought to answer, because trans\* stuff is pretty familiar to me by now. I forget that most people don't have access to education on the topic and that the way we're portrayed in the media is generally pretty awful (if we're mentioned at all). It's a strange thing to have to justify in detail the dreams for yourself and your body that seem so obvious and necessary. For instance, she asked me if I was “dissatisfied with [my] face”, or if I thought I wasn't masculine already. I'll be honest; I'm a handsome fucker, but a big motivator for me in terms of transitioning is dysphoria – essentially, a discomfort with my body and perceived gender. That's putting it mildly. I get especially uncomfortable around my chest and my period. Having breasts and a uterus just feels wrong to me. It's often a physical sensation and is difficult for me to explain, but imagine if your body had accoutrements associated with the opposite sex. You probably wouldn't identify with those body parts; they would perhaps seem alien and ill-fitting. Combine this with a sense of failure,

a fear of never living up to rigid expectations, and a feeling of self-loathing. Shake well. Serve over ice. Dysphoria cocktail.

There are many elements to a transition, and it's different for everyone. I'm about to start taking testosterone (T) in order to counter my dysphoria. It's been something I've wanted since I was (at least) 16, so I'm naturally pretty excited. I was actually taking small doses of T a little while ago, as I 'obtained' it from a friend. I had heard endocrinologists weren't understanding about non-binary people and so thought that getting it through legitimate channels wouldn't be an option for me. I've found a lot of doctors don't really 'get' trans\* people, and I generally have to teach Trans\* 101 each time I see a new medical practitioner. Admittedly, it's more the fault of the system than of them specifically. In any case, I'm lucky enough to have a solid relationship with my GP, so I gave it a shot. I raised the issue with her and she knew enough to refer me to the endocrinologist at Wellington Hospital.

I was really nervous on the day of the appointment. I put on my butchest plaid shirt and asked a pretty cis lady-friend to join me, due to the bizarre pressure I felt to live up to conventional standards of masculinity. I feel that pressure constantly, despite my ideological

rejection of those norms. It can get confusing, but in this case I figured the ends justified the means. I submitted to the pressure and pretended to be a super manly dudebro. It worked! It was a long appointment and I was asked a lot of intensely personal questions. Had I not been prepared, it would have been a lot more stressful than it was. Again, I've been lucky enough to have a supportive network of trans\* friends to guide me. Despite this support, it remains bizarre to me that even in transgressing/transcending/subverting traditional ideas of gender, I feel that pressure to perform it in specific and prescribed ways. The primary mechanism I've developed for reconciling this cognitive dissonance is to identify strongly with extremes: beefcake bears, pretty princess femmes, queens, twinks, and teen heart-throbs. My presentation is a synthesis of the outliers. My sexual orientation is confusing and fluid (hence 'queer' as a useful term). My gender identity is an important part of my life, because it affects so much of how I'm treated and what I experience. However, as I think about this stuff, I realise how intertwined it is for me. My gender, my sex, my fat body, my sexuality and my relationships all affect and are affected by each other in ways that are impossible to separate (intersectional feminism what uuuup).

I grew up as a feminist woman. This has left me with questions and concerns about spaces I'm allowed in. As I undergo more changes and become increasingly read as male, I'm allowed privilege and power that I didn't

previously have access to. In light of this, I've been carefully considering my interactions and relationships with women and feminine people. It's really strange to go from an equal footing to a hyper-awareness of an institutional power imbalance, especially given that's complicated by my non-binary trans\* identity. This is still something I'm in the process of negotiating, but I'm basically just trying to be kind and respectful. It seems to be working okay? I'd recommend it as a life strategy. Gender stuff is complicated. Relating to other people is complicated. Be kind and don't make assumptions. Growing up would have been a helluva lot less confusing had I not been constantly made to feel as if I was failing at something I was told was biological.

## TRANS\* 101

### Why \*?

The '\*' in trans\* signifies the diversity of identities that come under the category of trans. It includes genderqueer, agender, genderfluid, genderfuck, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, fa'afafine and many other identities. It recognises the invalidity of the traditional idea of the gender binary – the belief that only two modes of expression and identity exist: male/masculine and female/

feminine, and the belief that those absolutely correlate. In short, there's more than just dudes and ladies. People often argue that gender is psychological/social while sex is biological. This is simplistic and not really true! Sex and gender are both diverse spectrums! Intersex people exist, after all – people whose junk doesn't fit clearly into our arbitrary standards of male/female. People also have varying levels of hormones and secondary sex characteristics.

### Trans\* v cis

'Cisgender' (often abbreviated to 'cis') basically means that you identify with/as the sex and gender you were assigned at birth. Most people are cis. 'Transgender' is the opposite of that; you identify with/as a gender/sex other than that which you were assigned.

Most trans\* people come under the category of either female to male (FTM) – born female, transitioning to male, or male to female (MTF) – born male, transitioning to female. There are also non-binary trans\* people!

### Transitioning

It's vital to remember that every person's experience is unique. A transition can have social, medical and legal aspects, such as name changes. Some people undergo medical procedures as part of their transition, such as surgery and HRT (hormone replacement therapy), but others don't. Some people may choose purely to have HRT without surgery, or vice versa.

### Etiquette

Trans\* people are humans with feelings, not kooky aliens existing for your entertainment or titillation. Treat them as such. Use the name(s) and pronouns you're told to use and don't ask invasive questions about their bodies, histories, sex lives, etc.! I wish I didn't have to say it, but because of a lack of education on the subject, you'd be surprised at the things people think are acceptable.

**THE NOTION THAT 'BOY' AND 'GIRL' WERE THE ONLY OPTIONS FELL AWAY, AND I REALISED I COULD IDENTIFY AND PRESENT HOWEVER FELT RIGHT FOR ME.**



# Come Out, Come Out Queener than You Are

By Stella Blake-Kelly

I hate the phrase ‘coming out’. Its very nature implies that sexuality is black and white: You’re straight or you’re gay. You’re in or you’re out. Such an over-simplification can just make it all the more confusing to get your head around. In reality, sexuality is more like a continuum, rather than a set of categories. The range of rainbow colours proudly donned by many a queer during demonstrations of pride symbolises the spectrum of difference that the nature of sexuality encompasses.

I didn’t really understand these nuances until late in my sexually formative years. The dark closet that your inner-conflicts and anxieties construct can make it hard to notice the different colours that might suit you. Over the last two years I’ve been slowly making my way through the quagmire of coming to terms with my own sexuality, though I imagine writing about it in *Salient* may speed the informing aspect up a bit. Hi Gran, if you’re reading. Having settled on a particular shade of bisexual blue, I can say that sometimes it was really great, sometimes it really fucking sucked, but ultimately it’s a journey that has made me a lot happier than I was at the start.

‘Coming out’ implies that you should be leaping out onto a stage, letting your sexuality lead you

into a song and dance about how proud you are to be queer. For some this comes naturally, for some it doesn’t. Groups of difference need leaders to carry them into acceptance, and the queer rights movement certainly wouldn’t be where it is today without such flamboyant

**IT IS ALL TOO EASY  
TO FEEL GUILTY OR  
ASHAMED THAT YOU  
AREN’T SHOUTING  
FROM THE ROOF-  
TOPS WITH YOUR  
QUEER PEERS.**

characters. But it’s not always that simple for everyone, and it is all too easy to feel guilty or ashamed that you aren’t shouting from the rooftops with your queer peers.

Marion Kirker, a counsellor at Victoria’s

Student Counselling Service (a free service available to all students), says that such pressures are all too common. “It’s really sad for me when I see people getting squeezed between a really appropriate—but political stance—that coming out is really important, versus a kind of personal experience for that individual,” she says.

“If you’re choosing to come out, think of it as a process and do it at your own pace. Think about when, where, and how. It can be loud, it can be quiet. It’s really okay that you pace it to suit you, your time, your people around you... Some people will give up a lot more than others by coming out.”

It’s very easy to assume how someone will react when coming out to them, but a lot harder to actually pluck up the courage to put your assumptions to the test. All the difficulties I found were self-inflicted; I had built up in my head worries about how people would react, or how they would treat me differently. Luckily for me, compared to how much I had built it up in my head, actually coming out turned out to be somewhat of an anticlimax.

I was fortunate enough to come out on the basis of having [drunkenly] stumbled into the feminine embrace of a friend, which would soon see me overcome a fear of commitment for want of a safe space to ‘be myself’. Who



couldn't resist the pick-up line "Do you want to come inside and watch *Bridget Jones*?", anyway? It took me four months of being with said girlfriend before I told my Mum. She didn't say anything and we both made a hasty physical exit from the conversation. She's not mentioned it once since, but I don't consider this necessarily unsupportive. Her having lent me a DeLonghi dehumidifier, and a sudden increase in frequency of gifted blocks of cheese really gave meaning to Ronan Keating's lyric 'You say it best, when you say nothing at all'.

Gradually I proceeded to tell various friends, a stomach-churning experience that proved to be as anticlimactic as the initial step had been. I went from writing it on a piece of paper and handing it to a friend, to sending another a text because I couldn't bring myself to say it—and the last time I'd tried, my friend couldn't actually read my handwriting, which made it all the more awkward anyway. *Eventually* I was able to tell people out loud. Some reacted by asking "What's it like to eat pussy?", others declaring that they already knew because I'd forgot to turn Find Friends off and kept having sleepovers at my new home away from home.

It took me a long time to get to the stage where I was comfortable talking about sexuality, and this just meant the personal difficulties I

## WHO COULDN'T RESIST THE PICK-UP LINE "DO YOU WANT TO COME INSIDE AND WATCH BRIDGET JONES?", ANYWAY?

was having in coming to terms with them were prolonged. As Kirker says, it can be very helpful to find yourself some space where you can talk about it.

"It's a really good thing to go somewhere disconnected to you personally, but not everybody has to. If you've got good sounding boards then that's okay. If you haven't then sometimes it's really good to talk to someone who's been through it before, or who's open to

just exploring what could be really great and what could be really hard."

She says the same can be said for giving space to those who you choose to come out to.

"You can't always know what's going to happen. You can make a lot of guesses about what might happen, or how somebody might respond and be quite surprised.

"Some people will be all good, like 'yeah, we knew, whatever'. And others will be surprised, shocked, they'll have their own homophobic assumptions that might make them feel really really frightened. That's not to say you should ever put up with someone being harassing or discriminatory towards you, but there is a kind of space that requires a bit of time... and then going back to check in. Especially for the really important people in our lives... often that's families."

If my experience has taught me anything, it was that embracing what I saw as a point of difference has only enabled me to feel all the more normal. Queer relationships, like straight ones, all eventually end. It still hurts just as much—though I'm not sure any ex-boyfriend would sing 'We are never ever getting back together' with me to wind up our friends.

# SPEAK UP!

Check your email for the chance to have your say on how students should be heard at Vic.

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# SALIENT'S

1938

## GUIDE TO QUEER SEX

### FOR HIM

By Seymour Butts

Something I get asked fairly often by straight dudes is something along the lines of: “So, like, how does it work when you guys, you know, do it?”

In the minds of most people, sex between two (cis) men is putting a penis in a butt, but as with all sex, it's not nearly that simple. There are heaps of queer men who don't enjoy anal sex, but there's often an unpleasant pressure to do it. It's not as common as you might think, and the definition of what sex is can be a little fuzzier than for hets. For me, oral sex counts as sex, and a sexual relationship between two men without anal sex can be just as fulfilling (trust me on this).

#### **Foreplay**

Ultimately, the technical stuff can be learned along the way, but for really good-quality sex it's about being really into the other person/people. Just because it's a dude you're getting

with doesn't mean they won't appreciate foreplay. You know the drill – erogenous zones, sensitive but passionate kissing, nipples, fingering... and blowjobs.

#### **Blow jobs**

In my experience, having a penis is a boon for the ability to give good blowjobs – knowing exactly how it feels when teeth graze the head makes a real difference. There's a myth that all queer men have no gag reflex, but I can tell you with great authority that this isn't true (gents, please, form a line). Lux and I will be covering this in more detail soon, but for now, avoid teeth, use your tongue lots, don't ignore their balls, and be aware that it feels pretty great to have your penis at the back of a throat.

#### **Bottoming**

Take a dump in the few hours before you go for it. You generally don't need to douche unless you're paranoid about the slightest

trace of crap on the condom. Finger yourself first, or get the other guy to finger you.

Going in cold when it's been a while can be unpleasant. *Go slow*, use more lube than you thought possible. Don't forget that you have all the power in this situation, and can stop things at any time. If you're not enjoying it, ask the top to stop. There's a difference between taking a while to get into something and just plain not enjoying it.

#### **Topping**

The bottom has all the power. They may like to be fucked hard, but if they ask you to stop, you stop straight away and slowly pull out if that's what they want. As above, go slow, use plenty of lube, don't freak out about the possibility of seeing trace amounts of crap, and *learn where a prostate is*. I reckon that bottoming a few times makes you a better top, so please experiment!

## FOR THEM

By Sebastian Maddox

Trans\* lovin' is just like any other kind of lovin': if you're both enthusiastic and open with each other, you'll probably have a great time!

- Communication is super-important. You need to carefully negotiate boundaries. For instance, specific body parts may be off-limits due to feelings of discomfort and dysphoria (or they may not be!) Also, you may have to reject your learned labels for body parts, especially genitals. Ask which words your partner prefers! Let your partner show you what they like and what makes them feel good.
- Unless your partner initiates the conversation and is comfortable sharing,

don't ask invasive questions about their body's history or future plans. If you ask questions they don't want to answer, don't push it! This is just common courtesy.

- Enthusiasm is appreciated! Trans\* people get a lot of negative messages about their bodies, meaning some people have issues with feeling undesirable. Further to this, don't compare your partner to other partners. It's kind of a jerk thing to do in any circumstance, but especially when comparing a trans\* partner to a cis partner.
- Protection! The methods of protection you'll use depend on the acts you partake in and anatomy of those involved. Use gloves, dams and/or condoms, as well as plenty of lube! Water-based lube is the safest and most versatile lube. Oil can destroy latex condoms

and dams, and silicone lube will fuck up your silicone toys (silicone being the best material for toys as it's non-porous, easy to clean and body-safe).

- Remember to check in with your partner regularly to make sure you're both havin' a safe and happy sexy-time.
- Keep an open mind. Try new things; you may just be surprised by the results...

For more info on trans\* people, check out the Trans\* 101 guide on page 29. There's also a really great, more in-depth guide at [tranarchism.com/2010/11/26/not-your-moms-trans-101](http://tranarchism.com/2010/11/26/not-your-moms-trans-101).

## FOR HER

By Emmanuelle Kant

It's hard to put into words all there is to know about lesbian sex.

Almost a century ago Vita Sackville-West wrote a poem to her mistress Violet Trefusis. After referring to Violet's "chatter" and giving thanks for the "honest friendship", Vita breaks into a description of the "heavy fragrance of intoxicating night", saying "I search on your lip for a madder caress... I tear secrets from your yielding flesh." This sends a rather heady aroma wafting from the page.

Vita's love of Violet's yielding flesh—visceral—was only recently discovered. This is often the case for lesbian sex as well. Sex education was putting a condom over a wooden penis and being shown where the

vagina is. Most of my primary education on sex came a decade later from *The L Word*.

Thus, there's a tendency for people to view sex through the lens they know: stimulation of vaginal juices, harden penis, insert, repeat, with poetic understanding of this process provided by blockbuster films. And so, we talk of "endless foreplay" or lesbian sex being "everything but..."

Perhaps? Technically yes? But, I think this misses a point: we are all on the same hedonistic pleasure-cruise set for the same destination. Kate Winslet could just as easily smear her hand across a sweaty car window on board the Titanic from the thrust of Natalie Portman. With fingers or a strap-on, or a tongue on yes, some yielding flesh or lip. Granted, dear Kate would be swimming to the island of Lesbos and not stranded in the cold waters of the Atlantic.

I've been stranded in the cold waters of the Atlantic with both men and women. So if you do decide to jump ship and swim for Lesbos, make sure you go with the tide, that is to say, trust your gut. It pulls you there.

Most importantly, sex should be fun. It's good to keep a sense of humour when negotiating the logistics of scissoring—one of the more difficult moves—in the back seat of a car. There's no need to panic because you already have a head start: Sex with a woman is simply jumping from one model of car into driving another. You know the fundamentals already; it's all about finding out the nuances. A vintage Porsche may require extra attention on the clutch when switching gears. Driving with feeling makes for the best ride.

And finally, if you're looking for a how-to, a Guide to Lesbian Sex is best written with a lover.



# TO ALL THE KICK-ASS FEMMES

## *Femme-phobia in the Queer Community*

“Sometimes, you are invisible. I have no idea what this must feel like, to walk by your own people and not be recognized, to not be seen ... I want to thank you for coming out of the closet. Again and again, over and over, for the rest of your life. At school, at work, at your kid’s daycare, at your brother’s wedding, at the doctor’s office. Thank you for sideswiping their stereotypes... You fight homophobia in a way that I never could.”

- Ivan Coyote, ‘To All the Beautiful, Kick-Ass, Fierce and Full Bodied Femmes Out There’

By Genevieve Fowler

What the butch and beautiful Ivan Coyote outlines in this piece can broadly be described as ‘femme invisibility’ – the effects of the assumption that femme lesbians are in fact heterosexual, and thus fail to feel accurately included or identified in either straight or queer spaces. This seasoned slam poet spends the next few minutes fighting back sneaky tears, confessing her love and understanding for the plight of the girly dyke.

The scepticism, prejudice and exclusion that often accompanies this experience can be broadly termed ‘femme-phobia’. This disdain for feminine traits is one of the insidious ways that

sexism sneaks its way into the queer community. Because of the layers of disadvantage involved, manifestations of misogyny such as this are often more difficult to identify, but they are no less damaging or discriminatory, and thus important to identify and discuss. The following aims to be a simple outline of a few of the ways sexism, and femme-phobia in particular, manifest within queer communities and relationships.

Queerdom inevitably involves the rejection of compulsory heteronormativity and, subsequently, the particularly nasty brand of misogyny that protects it. This usually comes in the form of bullying. Taunts of ‘sissy’, ‘man-hater’, ‘freak show’, ‘fugly dyke’ or countless other gender-based insults punctuated many a fraught adolescence.

These comments were, in retrospect, sexist, as they served to remind us that being too girly or being unattractive to men were socially disadvantageous traits. Sexism tried to convince us homosexuality was a bad idea (and, boy, was it wrong about that). Thus, for many, the coming-out process resulted in the conclusion that gender roles are erroneous and that femininity is neither inherently good or bad – a collective experience that lays the foundations for feminism in the queer community.

So, what exactly does allow some forms of patriarchy to thrive in the queer community? For a group of people very invested in equality, diversity and personal expression, it doesn’t seem likely that open intolerance for women or femininity would be tolerated. I can only postulate a few justifications:

(a) that the queer community does not exist in a vacuum and that homosexuality does not make one immune to the pervasiveness of patriarchy.

(b) that queerness often results in a sense of disenfranchisement and patriarchy, as it puts others down, is an exceptionally effective tool for reclaiming a sense of lost superiority and empowerment.

Similar ideas affect gay men too, with men who exhibit fewer traditionally masculine traits treated

badly, and there is certainly a relative privilege afforded to 'masculine' queer men. There are two types of men we see in the media too – the flaming gay man who is never the author of his own story; always the assistant, the sidekick, the comic relief or the party trick. More recently, as homosexually has become more acceptable, nay, fashionable, the butch gay man is the new public fascination – gay rappers and sports stars and even serious and certainly masculine professionals like Anderson Cooper are viewed as more enabled, empowered, important individuals. They are SO BRAVE to have come out in such a masculine world and it's SO IMPORTANT for the world to be able to see such powerful and driven

## CAN YOU REALLY BE A LESBIAN WHEN YOU PAINT YOUR NAILS? DON'T YOU WANT TO ATTRACT WOMEN?

personalities in the public eye. They're successful and emotionally stable. They have careers and a chance and a happy (and coincidentally very heterosexual-resembling) domestic life.

These men, in and out of real life, are three-dimensional people, compared to your standard Will-and-Grace-style stereotype. If you're a masculine gay man, you're challenging, interesting, and three-dimensional. If you're an effeminate gay man, you're a gimmick.

Femininity in a woman is considered advantageous outside the queer community, where it endears women to men (and subsequently supposedly makes moving up the social hierarchy easier), whereas in the gay community it's not uncommon to find traces of the opposite. Butch women are often found in higher regard than their femme-presenting counterparts, presumably because of the perception of authority it bestows.

You know what the worst thing in the world is? Feeling invisible to your own people. "Aren't you in the wrong bar, honey?" "So where's your gay mate?" "You wouldn't understand, you're not ... we'll it's harder when you look like me." Looking girly is associated with being less secure in your queer identity, with weakness – can you

really be a lesbian when you paint your nails? But, don't you want to attract women? A friend of mine has recently come out and is naturally very girly-looking. Consequently, even some of her closest friends, who also happen to be gay, doubt her legitimacy.

I confess, that when I first came out, this was the way I thought. That I needed to be good at this. That I wasn't really an actual lesbian if I couldn't seduce a chick. (Not unsurprisingly, this train of thought got me approximately NONE. Insecurity is not an attractive trait, folks.) It was possessive, objectifying, and it was straight out of the patriarchal text book. I thought one's sexual

conquests can be traded for social hierarchy, and I really wanted my dykey brownie point.

Furthermore, these initial targets of my misguided fumbling flirtations needed, I thought, to be girly, as though my worth would be affirmed by the relative attractiveness of my conquest. I would gain respect and fascination from male counterparts as opposed to the prejudice and confusion I might expect if my hypothetical squeeze were particularly butch. Yuck.

You cannot barter with women, ladies. Just because you are female does not mean you are exempt from treating women as commodified objects. Lesbians are still fully capable of being misogynistic and possessive towards women – this is rape culture, straight up. It's not uncommon to see butches appropriating the sexist behaviour of their hetero male counterparts – complete with belittling slurs for femmes, rapey slurs ('dominated', 'pounded'), and a sense of elitism in their personal presentation, as if their identity is more politically evolved.

Queers, pull it together. Community ain't gon get built if we're putting down the women or femme-presenters in our midst. There is no right way to look in the gay community, but there are a few wrong ways to think, such as perpetuating the hatred of women in any way.



# The Hunter

LOUNGE

2.4.1

MARGHERITA  
PIZZAS  
EVERY  
TUESDAY

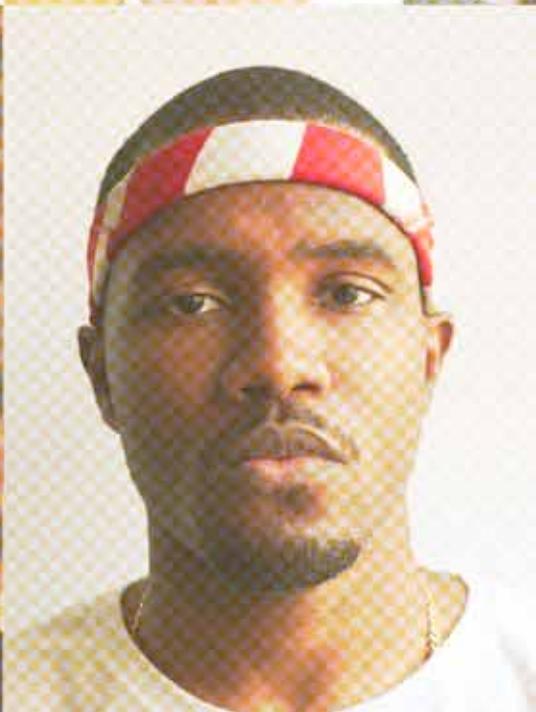
ALL DAY





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DEFACE**

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## Secret Diary of...



# KATE MIDDLETON AND THE ROYAL FOETUS

By Penny Gault

**Baby:** Prepare the tea and scones, Mama, I'm on my way! Tell the souvenir shops to prepare the collector's plates, teaspoons, flags, and teacups with my face and date of birth emblazoned across them. Make them as heinous as possible, because people will buy them anyway and won't that be fun?!

**Kate:** One should not make fun of a royal birth. It is a most serious matter.

**Baby:** But the commoners made fun of the birth of their royal, North West. Hard not to, I suppose. Oh, mother. You know I jest. Uncle Harry taught me. He and I were thinking, perhaps I should start with a tactical vom on Granny Cam Cam's hat when we're out in public. Now that would be a most ideal photo for a collector's plate. There could be a whole series! 'Royal Baby Voms in Public'.

**Kate:** Remember what I told you about Uncle Harry. We still aren't sure he's *truly* related. His good looks make me most suspicious that Diana adopted him while out doing charity work. Actually, speaking of photos, you'll have to wear that hat Fergie and the girls sent.

**Baby:** Is *that* what it is?

**Kate:** Do you know, over a third of Britons feel more pride for their nation now, with you

on your way, than they did a decade ago? As much pride as they have in their chickens' droppings, apparently. Vast improvement. But don't be getting a big head – that won't be much fun to push out.

**Baby:** I thought that was because of Pippa on your wedding day – she put an end to the belief that British people were unattractive, and morale soared. It took a lot of work after Granny Cam Cam made people think we mate with horses.

**Kate:** Dear, you must be decorous upon your arrival. When addressing Great-Granny, remember: Ma'am as in farm, not Ma'am as in ham. She is not a sandwich filling. Oh! And Prince Philip will probably mis-gender you. Do not be offended. We should also probably have a quiet word about your father. There's no other way to say this, but you will find him extremely boring. I can't even begin to explain how boring. But he is nice enough. And you will probably be the King or Queen of England one day because of him, and he made Mummy very famous. So do be kind.

**Baby:** Oh, Mammy, I have every intention of being kind. I think I'll channel Granny Di, and fundraise for paupers when I'm older, oh! I mean the disadvantaged. I've much to learn.

**Kate:** Just don't go washing beggars' feet. Not wanting to rush you, but when do you

think you'll be gracing us with your presence?

**Baby:** Well. It's been awfully difficult deciding when to have my birthday. I'll have to have the same day for the rest of my life. And then there's public holidays... I must consider when the people want to go on holiday. I was all ready to go about a week ago, and then I thought, wait! A third-in-line to the throne would be much more successful as a Leo than a Cancer. So I'm staying put until the 23rd, at least. I'll be a ball of dynamic energy. Leos have a great sense of timing.

**Kate:** That's a bit ironic, seeing as you're already late.

**Baby:** But I want to be born a leader, not an emotional wreck, like a Cancer. I want to run through the castle, roaring like a lion, pouncing on the knitted kangaroo that distracted Julia Gillard from the political vultures circling above her.

**Kate:** I suppose that's what you get for sending convicts to another country. I thought when I asked the colonies to refrain from sending gifts and instead donate money to charities, they'd not send us a thing. But apparently they're 'ingenious' down there in the southern hemisphere. Knitting! And condoms from Finland! Who knows what John Key will send? A 'surprise', he says. Lord, help us.

Weekly Rant

## AN EDUCATION

By Laura Freeman

Theory became reality for me after I completed my Development Studies paper 'Gender Race and Development' last semester. I had recently returned from a 2012 University exchange in Fiji, and during my time there, had befriended Joy, a women's rights activist in Suva. She was passionately involved with the 'One Billion Rising in the Pacific' movement – a campaign dedicated to putting an end to domestic violence against women of the Pacific. This was just the beginning of our friendship, during which I would later learn the irony of the life she led; a powerful advocate for women's rights was herself a victim of the evil she fought against. Over my semester there I witnessed first-hand evidence of the topics from my textbooks.

For our last major assignment, I decided to draw from my experiences and write about Fiji, a country I could now closely relate to. In one section I wrote about the fact that three out of five women in Fiji will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, but failed to make the connection between what I

had put on paper and what my friend was experiencing at the time. Like many other Pacific-Island women, she too was on the receiving end of psychological and physical abuse from her husband. It was just last month that she finally gained the courage to leave him and order a divorce.

Tragically, her brave actions in standing up to her husband led him to commit the worst offence; Joy was murdered on June 27, exactly a month after she had told me she was having trouble trying to leave him.

Although it was a realisation that came too late, her sudden passing has opened my eyes up to what is going on right here in New Zealand. Did you know that this month the Women's Refuge campaign against domestic violence is taking place? I didn't until recently. In their brochure they talk about how to identify the most common telltale signs of domestic violence (Joy's case ticked all the boxes). I found it shocking that even in New Zealand, ten women are murdered every year by a member of their family. It makes me wary to think of the various other domestic-violence

statistics I have yet to stumble across.

The point of this story, though, is that just because our classes end, it does not mean the issues do too. Use your knowledge and apply it to the real world, no matter what field of study you are passionate about. I know that I could have done more for Joy but I didn't. Issues we learn about in class need to be taken seriously, and as educated individuals, we need to be the ones who are applying the knowledge that we have. I hope that reading this has not left you feeling sad, but rather empowered. Head to your classes this semester armed with an understanding that we have a responsibility to make change in this world, and every morsel of knowledge will make you more capable to do so.

Have a voice and use it.

For more information on these issues check out:

[womensrefuge.org.nz](http://womensrefuge.org.nz)

[onebillionrising.org](http://onebillionrising.org)

*'Weekly Rant' is a space for one-off opinion pieces. Want to write your own? Contact [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz) to run riot.*

**'O' FOR AWESOME SUMMER JOB APPLICATIONS CLOSE JULY 28**  
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## LAYING DOWN THE LAW

### NAMING, NOT SHAMING

By Emma Smith

When John Key made his “gay red shirt” call, it became pretty damn obvious that using the word ‘gay’ to insult someone is no longer acceptable for most New Zealanders. One issue that is less clear is whether or not it’s okay to publicly proclaim that someone else is gay.

The law in New Zealand has had to develop in the last few years, to deal with issues that arise with the proliferation of media outlets. One major change has been the development of the torts of defamation and breach of privacy.

Breach of privacy happens when someone publishes private facts about someone else, if the publication of those facts is highly objectionable to a “reasonable person”. Defamation, on the other hand, is when you publish a statement about someone which would lower their reputation in the minds of “right-thinking” members of society. Under both of those types of claims, you might be able to get damages (cash-moneys) from the person who published the thing about you.

The interesting thing about both claims is that it’s not always obvious what will be offensive to a “reasonable person” or a “right-thinking member of society”. Sometimes it’s fairly clear – if someone publishes a story saying that you are a criminal, or that you’re incredibly racist, you probably don’t want other people thinking that about you. But would a “reasonable person” be offended if someone said they were gay? Or would publishing a story about someone and suggesting they are a lesbian make “right-thinking members of society” have a lesser opinion of you?

A few years ago, if a story came out that someone was gay, it probably would have lowered other people’s opinion of them. Now, there might be an argument that if someone was married and it came out that they were gay, that would lower others’ opinion of them, if they were perceived to be lying to their partners. However, on the whole, it seems that times have changed, and it’s unlikely that most of us would think less of anyone else if we heard that they were attracted to members of the same sex.

That seems to be the prevailing opinion, although the issue is still contentious in New Zealand. There was a case a few years ago where an All Black managed to stop a story being published that suggested he was gay, but the overwhelming academic opinion seems to be that it would not be defamatory or highly offensive to be called gay in most cases. That’s probably the right result – we want our courts, as one of the three branches of government, to promote the idea that it’s not embarrassing or offensive to be gay or to be called gay.



## HOOPIN’ AND HOLLERIN’

### MORE LOVE FOR TEST CRICKET

By Carlo Salizzo

Could test cricket be the most modern form of the gentleman’s game?

Before you literally explode with bewilderment, let me qualify that. Obviously Twenty20 is the most recent form of the game, ahead of ODIs and (cough) Cricket Max. By ‘modern’, I mean it’s the most in-step with today’s lifestyles. We’re all over social media, we watch our sport predominantly on television, we obsess over statistics, and an exciting contest is important. The recent Ashes are a fresh illustration that test cricket wins at all of those things, and more.

Cricket, by its very nature, lends itself easily to social-media discussion and the internet in general. The game can be broken down into small and easily digestible units, meaning that you can share a six-second clip on YouTube without missing much context. You can tweet a score and the fall of wickets without breaking a sweat, and live updates are so easily digested they’re essentially yoghurt.

The beauty of tests is that everything happens so slowly. You genuinely aren’t required to watch every ball of a five-day match to enjoy it, and the overwhelming majority do not. That slow build-up of tension works almost as well over the internet as it does at the ground, without actually having to skip lectures.

To enjoy a T20 or ODI, you have to see at least the second innings. That’s a three-hour commitment, unlike the sampling of a test buffet. With beer, banter and chips it’s so easy to drift in and out for the good bits, and then stay up ‘til 3 am when a plucky 19-year-old is doing something magical.

The internet lets us geek out over ridiculous stats, an addiction familiar to all NBA fans. The history of tests is amazing, and equal to it is the mind-boggling amount of numbers generated by a five-day match. There’s plenty to seek your teeth into.

As a bowler I love to see a low-scoring match. Two teams really duke it out on a green seamer (or a subcontinental turner) for all-round supremacy, and it’s as much about surviving as it is about making runs. The trend has recently been to flatten out pitches and reduce bowling to a medium-paced accuracy-fest, under the assumption that big scores draw crowds. I think the Ashes and other recent test series have proved to us instead that the best cricket is close cricket.

We love to watch a result, and when top teams bat for three days you’re just not going to get one. Good bowling pitches (and smart, aggressive bowlers) bring good captaincy into the equation, and put the world’s best batsmen through their paces. Take note, groundskeepers and administrators: it’s for the good of the modern game.

# THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

with Lux Lisbon &  
Seymour Butts

I live with a real bro flatmate who keep bringing skanky girls home from god knows and having extremely loud sex with them. i'm not into deep male groaning + ballslaps . how to address and is it ok to tell them to keep it down? maybe some tips to leave flatmates undisturbed while having good times

I myself am guilty of being both the flatmate subject to these night-time noises, and the one creating them, much to my flatmates' disgust. Obviously your flatmate has a vibrant sex life that they are enjoying immensely, and that is totally cool – it just sucks when it starts to interrupt your life. If it is bothering you in your own home, by all means tell him to keep it down. Chances are he doesn't fancy giving the whole house a testicular-percussion experience either, and doesn't even realise you can hear as much as you can.

You're going to get the best response if you take a tack that is non-confrontational and doesn't embarrass him or his partners, because it sucks to feel like you're being censored in your own home. Have a chat to him in private, one-on-one, and say that the sound of his balls have been keeping you up at night. Explain that it's your home too, and sometimes, despite wanting to bang at full volume, you have to be respectful of those with whom you share close quarters. Suggest maybe he should play some tunes to drown out his moans of ecstasy if the time of day permits, or perhaps biting

down on a pillow if he can't keep his mouth shut, and reserving full-volume sexy time for when there's no one else home. If this still fails to reward you with any silence, maybe you should invest in some earplugs/ headphones, move out, or maybe better yet, give him a taste of his own medicine.

Before I sign off, I do have a little additional advice for you: referring to the women your mate decides to bring home as 'skanky' likely says a whole lot more about yourself than if does your flatmate, or his partners. Check yo' self; slut-shaming ain't good for no thang.

Lux you long time xx

I think I might be into being strangled but a lot of people find that weird. How do I broach it with sex partners? Is it unsafe?

Broaching a subject like this will be different with every person, and it's not always easy. Provided your partners are decent people, the worst they can say is no, they're not into it, but I'd still be a little cautious, perhaps approaching it by talking about anything else kinky you're into (if there is anything) and steering the conversation towards, "Do you reckon you could be into strangling?" If they react badly then you can say, "Yeah, I'm not sure either, I was just curious to see what you thought", if you're nervous about them knowing.

Ideally, even if they're not into it, you'd still be able to reply 'yes' if they asked you back whether you were curious, but it's good to have a backup plan, even if just for your own peace of mind.

Strangulation is an inherently unsafe activity and it carries with it a whole host of risks. It can be pretty tricky to gauge how hard to strangle, and going too far can cut off blood supply (or so some research I did told me – full disclosure, I have relatively little experience here and you'd do well to do some of your own research). Really light strangulation is safer, but still not without risk.

If you are going to practice it, however, make sure you have a safeword, as with any BDSM practice. 'Red' is a common one because it's not likely to come up in any other context, and is quick to say if you need to do so urgently. For an activity like this, it's also very important to have a visual safeword, such as holding a bunch of keys up and dropping them when it's too much. This has the added advantage of still working if you pass out from lack of oxygen.

Also, be aware that strangulation will likely leave marks on your neck, and if you're not ready to explain to your friends that you like your partner to choke you then you may need to have a wardrobe of scarves or turtlenecks.

Seymour  
xx

Lux and Seymour are our in-house sexperts. If you've got any questions about all things love and lust, or a topic you want them to cover, go right ahead and ask anonymously at [ask.fm/LuxandSeymour](mailto:ask.fm/LuxandSeymour). For everything else, there's Hector and Janet—our resident advice columnists. Contact them anonymously at [ask.fm/FixingYourLife](mailto:ask.fm/FixingYourLife)

If you have issues or concerns that you wish to discuss privately and confidentially with a professional, rather than Lux and Seymour, or Hector and Janet, Student Counselling Service can provide a safe place to explore such aspects of your life. The service is free and confidential.



Hi,

It's winter, and hardly anyone's happy about that, but they keep scheduling parties and coffee dates and lectures and working weeks that mean I have to leave the house on a regular basis. Do I really have to maintain any kind of social calendar? There are *so many reasons* why that should simply get fucked.

Yeah, cheers.

..... **JANET** .....

Sometimes bad things happen, right? And you can't do anything about it, right? Right. WRONG! Like making *Lion King* references to lengthen columns, the art of bailing on social events is nuanced but ultimately achievable. I don't want to assume anything, but it sounds to me like you are an introvert with no car that is trying to avoid someone in particular. It's like looking in a mirror.

Work is not avoidable, so I can't help you there. It is, however, possible to navigate your social calendar so as to minimise the time you spend bored and freezing your nuts off in someone's Aro Valley living room, waiting outside Customs for a perpetually late friend, or wasting your day off 'catching up' with three different people and returning home exhausted after thrice recounting your latest romantic failure to lacklustre scones and three separate "I told you so"s.

Everyone I know seems mired in winter and having a vaguely shit time. We are all focussing on our own mental health (read: Student Health counselling services are booked out until the cows have not just come home, but made a couch fort and watched 16 consecutive episodes of *30*

*Rock*). Someone said to me yesterday, "I haven't seen you in ages," to which I shot back with, "Yeah, well, I've not been doing much, so that's my half of it, now explain yours." Getting in touch with people is a two-way street (like when my mum would respond to 14-year-old-me's angst with, "Well, are *you* texting *them*?"). Remember that for your efforts to be rebuked, you have to actually make them. Another way of putting this is, if you don't make plans, you logically cannot piss anyone off by bailing on them.

Admittedly, a lot of the time you're looking to bail on parties or dinners to which other people have invited you. Think carefully. You never really \*have\* to go to anything, but the smaller the event or the closer you are to the host, the more noticeable your absence will be. Some will tell you that a 'bury head in sand, cunningly turn off iMessage at 4 pm, pretend phone is 'dead' approach is the best. NO. Be assertive. You are also better than "maybe attending". We all know this reads as "waiting for a better offer", or worse, "cbf, and what's more cbf even telling you i cbf". Just admit that you knew all along that you'd stay in, because you are in a relationship and the prospect of hanging out low-key with someone that quite enjoys seeing you in thermal pants is one that you can't resist. Maybe one day I'll be able to call a spade a spade without making any digs, but it's not today, Josh, you flake.

Best, with hearty resting bitchface, Janet.

..... **HECTOR** .....

Look, at the end of the day you should just quit your job, drop out of uni and not have any friends any more.

If you can't do that, maybe you should

realise that it's all a balancing act. You obviously want to do some of these things and not others. We'll take work and uni as things that can't be avoided, and focus on socialising. When it comes to the Last Possible Moment before you have to commit to leaving, just ask yourself whether you actually want to go out, or if you would be much happier at home in bed. Don't think about the way you \*might\* feel in an hour's time; think about the moment. There are always ways to warm yourself up, either through cups of tea, more coats or the alcohol blanket. Be smart. Use them.

Don't be that idiot who wears inappropriate clothing out and about on these wintry nights. It's not sexy, it's awful. If you're a guy, you're going to want something with long sleeves and a normal-sized collar. T-shirts on a cold night just ensure you aren't to be taken seriously. Taking a jacket to town is a pain in the arse, but sometimes it's unavoidable. A merino underlay is also something that no Wellingtonian should live without. I'm not so wise to women's fashion choices, but I do know that there are people who get by without matching a beanie, scarf and puffer jacket with a short skirt and bare legs.

I have to disagree with Janet on the 'maybe attending' point. Unless someone has solidly asked for your RSVP, why the hell wouldn't you leave yourself open to just not showing up? It's better than saying 'yes' and turning up anyway. Facebook isn't the concrete database of social certainty that we sometimes pretend it is. Besides, a 'maybe' is far, far sexier than a 'yes'. Your mystique will pull far better than you ever could. And that's what you really care about.

Yours in this land of ice and snow, Hector.

## LIFESTYLES OF THE POOR & THE STUDIOUS



By Julia Wells

This might be kind of confessional. You see, I sometimes feel like I'm not a real student. Not only have I never lived in a hall, never ended up on Overheard @ Vic, never went to Big K, and I often come home with half a bottle of wine left. I know, right? Shall I hand over my student ID now?

Anyway, this recipe was invented to deal with that problem, since there are only so many half-drunk bottles of wine that can fit in a fridge at one time without (a) feeling like those AA ads are meant for you, and (b) running out of space for all the cake, cream and other dessert things that a fridge is for. And there are only so many times you can make risotto before you start to go slightly mad. Hence this jelly.

Don't be intimidated if you've never made actual, non-Pams-purple-crystal jelly before. It is almost as easy, and is way more delicious, impressive and exciting. The only special ingredient you need is a packet of gelatin (if you are a stricter vegetarian/better person than I am, I'm sure agar would work instead). You can find this in any supermarket, or even in the Kelburn Four Square.

With about five minutes of actual work (i.e., stirring some liquid in a pot), you get a gorgeous ruby-red jelly with a perfect texture. The wine isn't overpowering, and the touch of cinnamon is great. Jelly gets stereotyped as a children's food, which is a pity, because well-made, creative jelly is a wonderful thing. Artisan ice-creams became a thing. I'm sitting here waiting for the same thing to happen to jelly. You may scoff. But you heard it here first. Also, if you want to be fancy, you could pour this into wine glasses and leave it to set like that.

1 cup red wine

1 cup water

1/2 cup white sugar

A pinch of cinnamon

1 tablespoon of gelatin (follow

instructions on the gelatin

packet; the amount used should correspond to what is needed to set 500 mL of water)

(Serves 3)

Combine wine, water, sugar and cinnamon in a saucepan and heat gently, stirring, until sugar has dissolved. The longer you heat it, the more alcohol will boil off. Your choice! Place the gelatin in a cup, and add a small amount of the hot liquid. Stir until dissolved. Add the dissolved gelatin into the hot wine mixture, and stir to combine well, heating until it is totally dissolved. Pour into one large bowl, small bowls, or wine glasses. Once they have cooled a little, cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge. Leave until set (this will take at least 4 hours).





## BEER'D

By Dave the Beer Guy

Over a few too many beers at the pub late one night, a friend asked: "If you were going to Mars and could only take three beers to drink for the entire trip there, what would they be?" Perhaps he'd been listening to too much *Afternoons with Jim Mora*, but this desert-island beer question got me thinking about *why* I drink a beer, and my answers surprised even myself.

We beer geeks often strive for the new and exciting, hunting down the latest barrel-aged-imperial-rye-whatever. We'll mull over it and stroke our often-bearded chins as we take notes, but we'll always come back to trusty ol' faithful afterwards. And sadly, the ol' faithful beers tend to end up in the shadow of the flavour of the month.

So what three beers could I drink for eight months without getting tired of them?

### The Quaffer: Three Boys Golden Ale

Sometimes I just want a *beer*. I don't want to think about it, put up with intense bitterness or big sweet malts – I just want to drink it, and for it to be tasty.

Three Boys Golden has been faithfully filling this role for me since its initial release years ago. Its simple malt-and-hop combo—rumoured to be simply a single malt and a single hop (Nelson Sauvin)—make for an easy-going, thirst-quenching beer. For me, the key to Golden's allure is its beautiful hop

character – the light, earthy passionfruit of Nelson Sauvin hops punctuate the finish, putting it far above your standard thirst-quenching-but-tastes-like-water lager.

*Runner up: ParrotDog FlaxenFeather*

### The Hop Bomb: 8 Wired Hopwired IPA

Following a quaffer, I'll often have the taste for something with a bit more body and bite. Hopwired's tropical fruity hops not only smell great, but give the beer an assertive, but balanced bitterness to challenge the palate. If I'm travelling millions of miles away from Earth, I'll want something that tastes of home. 8 Wired Hopwired IPA was one of the first beers to show New Zealand hops' unique *terroir*, a term usually heard in reference to wine but just as valid with hops.

### The Dark: Renaissance Elemental Porter

A robust dark ale is a great way to finish a drinking session, and over the years Renaissance Elemental Porter has never let me down. It sits at the strong-ish six-per-cent ABV, so has enough body to not be watery after a hop bomb. Elemental's beautiful chocolate/coffee flavours, given by its complex mix of roasted malts, are sure to satisfy after a long day of space travel. Its rich and satisfying roasty finish make Elemental a fitting nightcap for the depths of space.

Now I just need to convince the brewers to put their beers in little squeezezy space-bags.

*If you've got any questions or comments, tweet me @davethebeerguy*

## Health tip #14

**DRINK, DRINK...  
BRAIN SHRINK?**



Yep, that's right. Alcohol can contract brain tissues, destroy brain cells, and depress the central nervous system; even moderate drinking for a relatively short period of time and may reduce the number of cells in one part of the brain by up to 40 per cent. All the more reason to rethink that drink and say yeah, nah—no more beers for me. For support or more info come see us any time at Student Health Service.

## Things Your Grandmother Should Have Taught You

By Alexandra Hollis

### Leftover chips:

Heat 'em up in the oven with paprika and sea salt, eat with some aioli.

### Apple cider vinegar:

It's good for you, is great on salad, helps with weight loss, and it works as a conditioner if you run out.

### Herbs:

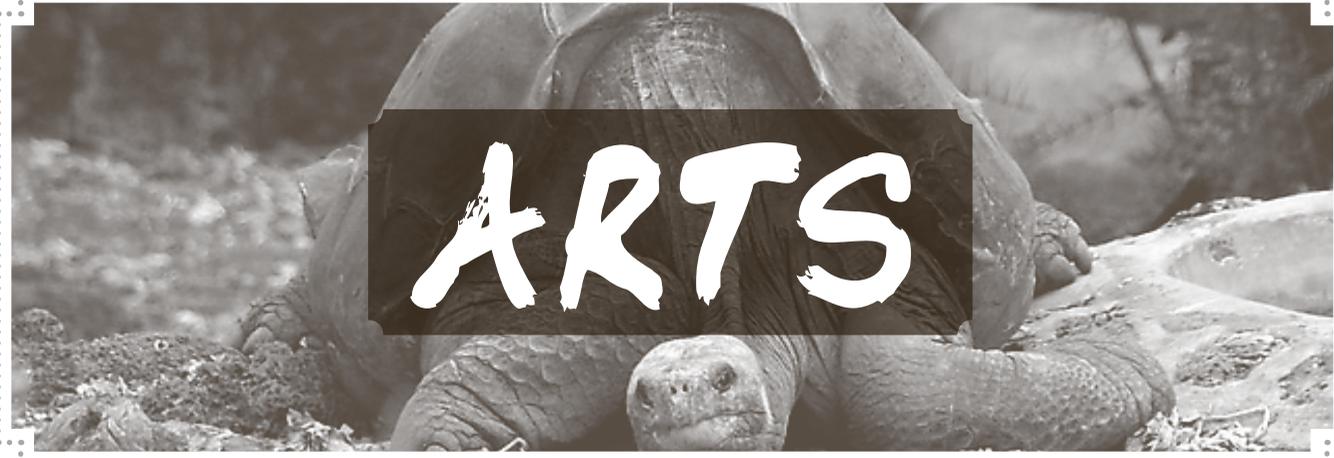
Are always great, but can be a bit of a luxury. Old people tend to grow their herbs close to fences, so if there's a granny in your neighbourhood, scope that out!

### Keep your nice underwear nice:

Hand-wash it in the sink with soap rather than risking the 'delicate' cycle on your washing machine.

### Get cheap/free food:

Go to art openings for free food and drink; rifle through grocery-store bins on Sunday nights (they're always cheaper on Sundays anyway, if you're a fancy guy); if you order Pizza Hut online you can get free sides; 2-for-1 pizza at Hunter on Tuesdays (\$3!); visit your parents and steal all their rice.



# ARTS

**SALIENT ARTS RATING GUIDE:** 5 Stars: A coffee date with Audrey Horne • 4 Stars: A prophetic dream in a comfortable Hotel Bed • 3 Stars: Fish in the percolator • 2 Stars: I only have time for coffee (and I certainly don't have time for this!) • 1 Star: Arriving for a threesome and seeing your daughter • 0 Stars: Watching any of the Twin Peaks movies.

## BOOKS



### TOUGH BY AMY HEAD

ALEXANDRA HOLLIS

REVIEW

One of the best things about New Zealand literature is the chance it gives us to directly encounter ourselves—our communities, our history—on the page. Victoria University Press' latest offering, *Tough*, by Amy Head, is a collection of short stories set on the West Coast which does just that.

The stories in *Tough* alternate between the present-day West Coast, a small community, although not as isolated or desolate as it might appear to be, and the West Coast of the early settlers and the gold rush, a wild coast where danger arises from the people as much as the land. This is an interesting element which highlights the features typifying both sets of stories. The contemporary stories, when told next to the Wild-West-esque settler ones, seem all the more relevant; modern stories for a modern sensibility, expressing a starkness which is echoed by their environment. The earlier stories, through this juxtaposition, become then more historical, and more like stories. This division can make reading *Tough* a strange experience, as we move suddenly from one world to another.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it does present an interesting question: what is the purpose of telling the stories of the West Coast from these two time periods? There are some constants. The river seems to be always

flooding, and in both time periods characters reappear, which lends the collection as a whole a kind of continuity. Yet we are still faced with two mostly disparate halves, interwoven into a whole which resists being read as such.

There is, however, a clear similarity in tone: a focus on simple, evocative images, a roughness in character and subject matter, a colloquial vernacular. So, are these two worlds so different? Perhaps not; the contemporary stories are largely concerned with loss in a romantic or temporal sense (sometimes both) where the historical ones are preoccupied by death. There is a common thread here—hard lives being eked out in an isolated, weather-worn place—and, because the lives of the characters largely improve with time, a sense of hope.

These stories are often strangely anti-climactic, ending abruptly. Although this can be disconcerting, it works in Head's favour, contributing to the muted power of her writing. So much is subdued that it can seem like there is nothing going on. But there is. The character motivations and conflict—the backbone of any short story—are constantly bubbling away beneath the surface, going largely unmentioned, until they surface at vital points, like the bodies floating down the river in 'Flood' and 'A Strange Story'. If there is a governing consciousness for these stories it is minimalism; not a stylish, pretentious minimalism, but a sort of solid brusqueness leading into moments of solemn beauty, perfectly echoing the character of the West Coast.

### LI TWITURE

ON THE ROAD BY JACK KEROUAC

@searching4paradise: @deanmoriarty yo dude your bio says you were born on the road?!

@deanmoriarty: @searching4paradise #yeah #man #in #a #jalopy #passing #thru #Salt #Lake #City

@searching4paradise: @deanmoriarty #goingwest ch? Always wanted c my country. #USA #amurika #notahint

@deanmoriarty: @searching4paradise #man #let's #do #it.

@searching4paradise: @deanmoriarty mean! U make the playlist, I'll get the snacks. #roadtripparty

@searching4paradise: Going West, may be some time.

@searching4paradise: the dream of the West... guys. I'm finally here. #2manystories2tell

@searching4paradise: Feel a yearning to go back East again. U guys get me?

@deanmoriarty: @searching4paradise MAN! COMING 2 GET U! GOIN BACK 2 FRISCO!

@searching4paradise: any1 hanging round Denver rn?

@searching4paradise: hola at u mexico!

@searching4paradise: sooo #sick

@searching4paradise: @deanmoriarty matewhereareyouwhatsgoingoninmexico FUCKUDEAN

@searching4paradise: On the road. Again. @deanmoriarty

# VISUAL ARTS



## A SPACE WORTH DEFACING

ARTICLE

SIMON GENNARD

In March, Wellington City Council announced plans to cut Te Papa's annual funding by \$1.25 million. In May's Budget announcement, public broadcasting was cut by \$3 million and regional museums by \$600,000. Later that month, Chris Finlayson, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage proclaimed via Twitter that New Zealand was experiencing a "golden age" for the arts.

If things can seem a little bleak, there's ample evidence to justify the feeling. When cuts need to be made, the arts are the first to take a hit. Which makes sense – artistic endeavours are frivolous, a luxury suitable only in the most prosperous of economic circumstances. In such a precarious state, it's easy to adopt a defeatist attitude. These conditions can, however, prove a fertile breeding ground for alternative means of creating and exhibiting art.

The Urban Dream Brokerage is one example. Spawned from the public-art project *Letting Space*, project managers Mark Amery and Sophie Jerram liaise with property owners to provide artists with temporary spaces for installations, exhibitions, and creative projects in vacant buildings. Since the beginning of this year, Urban Dream Brokerage has secured space for eight different projects in Auckland and Wellington.

Most recently, Gabby O'Connor, with curator Katherine Allard and oceanographer Craig Stevens, presented *Cleave* in an empty retail space on Victoria St. The installation, an ice-shelf made from lacquered tissue paper, was created with the aid of Miramar Central School students, a decision that was intended to create a larger group of individuals with an investment in the work, individuals "that may not usually engage with the arts and also science". Collaboration is so relevant to *Cleave* because its educative function lies as much in its production as it does in its presentation. When projects are created by groups such as this, they have the potential to reach beyond their exhibition period. O'Connor claims that the workshops she led during the sculpture's creation have left a "strong imprint" on the students involved: "kids have

been making their own ice-shelf-type geometric artworks, penguin colonies have been created and amazing discussions have been had that will lead to future investigations". Understanding the effects of climate change can be difficult when the implications are so vast and so abstract, but O'Connor claims that the project allowed for the children to gain a tangible sense of "the fragility of our planet" by viewing it in an artistic context, and by interpreting physical evidence of changing weather patterns.

The project was situated on a busy street, lit continuously over its viewing period, and its reach was arguably far greater than it would have been had the installation been shown in a gallery. O'Connor tentatively considers the work "boundary-breaking". She mentions anecdotal evidence "of people who would never normally step foot in a gallery going to see it and... drunken revellers in the evening (while installing)". When artists and writers speak of an art world, they do so knowing the term implies exclusivity. It is not without basis in fact that art galleries are often deemed to cater to a specific audience. The arts establishment demands that

viewers keep their distance from art, that they do not touch, that they do not take photos. Uncoincidentally, Wellington residents' awareness of City Gallery fell nine per cent below the Gallery's target last year.

The emergence of 'public-art projects' indicates a wider concern for the public role of art in contemporary environments. It's a concern that goes beyond showcasing properties currently on the market in an active condition, reaching into anxieties regarding the accessibility and consumption of visual arts. As populations grow, housing become denser, and spaces become unfixed, Art leaves the gallery, allowing the public to become active participants in the work. Of course, money has to be made in order to pay rent, in order to keep oneself comfortably in place, but for a city like Wellington, where the life expectancy for a small business is short, the Urban Dream Brokerage wants us to reconsider the urban building, not as a permanent fixture that serves an exclusively economic function, but as a space that has the capacity to incubate the city's artistic potential.



# FILM



## PACIFIC RIM

DIRECTOR: GUILLERMO DEL TORO  
REVIEW BY GERALD LEE

REVIEW

Guillermo del Toro has a certain flair for pulpy yet nuanced entertainment that I've always admired. *Pacific Rim* is supposedly his attempt to escape the cynicism of typical blockbusters, instead emphasising unadulterated entertainment. Alas, while there are flashes of brilliance, *Pacific Rim* is a brainless film that bores more often than it excites.

In the near future, humanity has constructed giant robots known as Jaegers to fight alien monsters (Kaiju) that have risen up from the depths of the Pacific Ocean to wreak havoc upon human civilisation. As they stand on the brink of annihilation, the last Jaeger pilots gather for one last operation designed to end the Kaiju threat.

Unsurprisingly, the story that follows is astonishingly stupid. Two-dimensional characters

and cliché-ridden dialogue abound. However, the real problem is not that the script is idiotic; indeed, that was probably the point. Rather, it is that del Toro treats such material so earnestly. Much of the second act is devoted to a bizarre mix of pseudo-drama and tedious character exposition. Del Toro's attempt to anchor the action with such weak human elements just makes it more apparent how artificial it all is.

Compounding the script's woes is some abysmal acting. Many characters sport cartoonish accents that make it difficult to take anything they say seriously. This wouldn't be a problem if they were dealing with tongue-in-cheek material but such ridiculous voices do not lend themselves to 'emotional' moments. Couple that with an inability to display any more than one facial expression and the audience is left with ciphers whose ordeals are difficult to become invested in.

Occasionally, however, *Pacific Rim* does manage to thrill. Del Toro proves himself to be an adept

choreographer of action and crafter of worlds. Each Kaiju is fearsome, whilst the Jaegers are appropriately scarred yet imposing. When the two go toe to toe, the results are staggering. Widespread destruction is simple to create, yet *Pacific Rim* manages to avoid it descending into mindlessness. Del Toro has an excellent understanding of scale and visual space, and uses it to craft action scenes that are both expansive and coherent. At times, *Pacific Rim* is an enthralling spectacle.

Unfortunately, these moments are few and far between. Aside from a few set-pieces, *Pacific Rim* is largely a laborious and witless piece of fluff. How could the man who brought us *Pan's Labyrinth* produce such garbage?



## HOW TO BECOME A WOODY ALLEN FAN

CHLOE DAVIES

ARTICLE

**Step One:** See his face on T-shirts, hear him referenced as the typical New-York Jewish liberal intellectual, feel drawn to how 'relatable' his films seem. Watch *Annie Hall* once and feel as though you didn't really 'get' it. You laugh at all the right moments yet feel disconnected. Resolve to watch it again; maybe the second time you'll feel more of a connection.

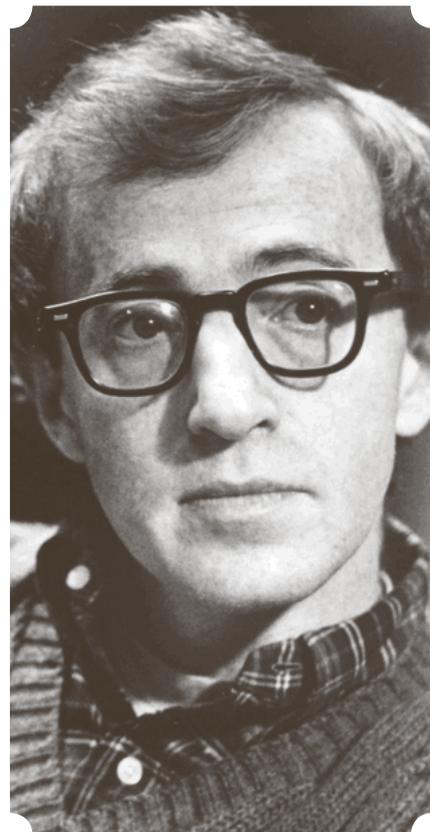
**Step Two:** Remember having watched *Vicky Christina Barcelona* years ago and 'appreciating' the humour. Watch *Annie Hall* again and laugh hysterically. Watch it again and feel you now understand more about life and love and all its meaning than you ever did before. Watch *Manhattan* and decide you like it equally to *Annie Hall* although the experience isn't so 'fun'.

**Step Three:** Watch *Hannah and Her Sisters* and appreciate how his neuroses make him 'relatable', yet everything always works out better because it's a movie. Watch *Interiors* and realise maybe it all doesn't.

**Step Four:** Discover he left his partner/the mother of his children, Mia Farrow, for her 20-year-old adopted daughter from a previous marriage. Have a moment of moral crisis, remembering the time your mother and her friends discussed how 'unforgivable' it was. Remind yourself it was over 20 years ago and "the heart wants what it wants" (to paraphrase him). Watch *Manhattan Murder Mystery* and realise the whole sleeping-with-his-stepdaughter thing doesn't bother you so much anyway.

**Step Five:** Purchase a second-hand copy of *Without Feathers* from the Salvation Army. Never get past the third page. Spend an evening searching 'woody allen interview' on YouTube. Feel not-so-alone and refreshingly positive about your existence. Realise you have now watched all his films rated 'fresh' on Rotten Tomatoes. Feel a sense of accomplishment.

**Step Six:** Romanticise your own neuroses, judge pseudo-intellectuals, mull over the nature of your existence, become a humorous cynic. At least you have self-awareness. Realise you are not, and never will be, Woody Allen. Watch *Whatever Works* and realise this is probably a good thing (how could the godly pairing of Larry David and Woody Allen have failed so miserably?!)



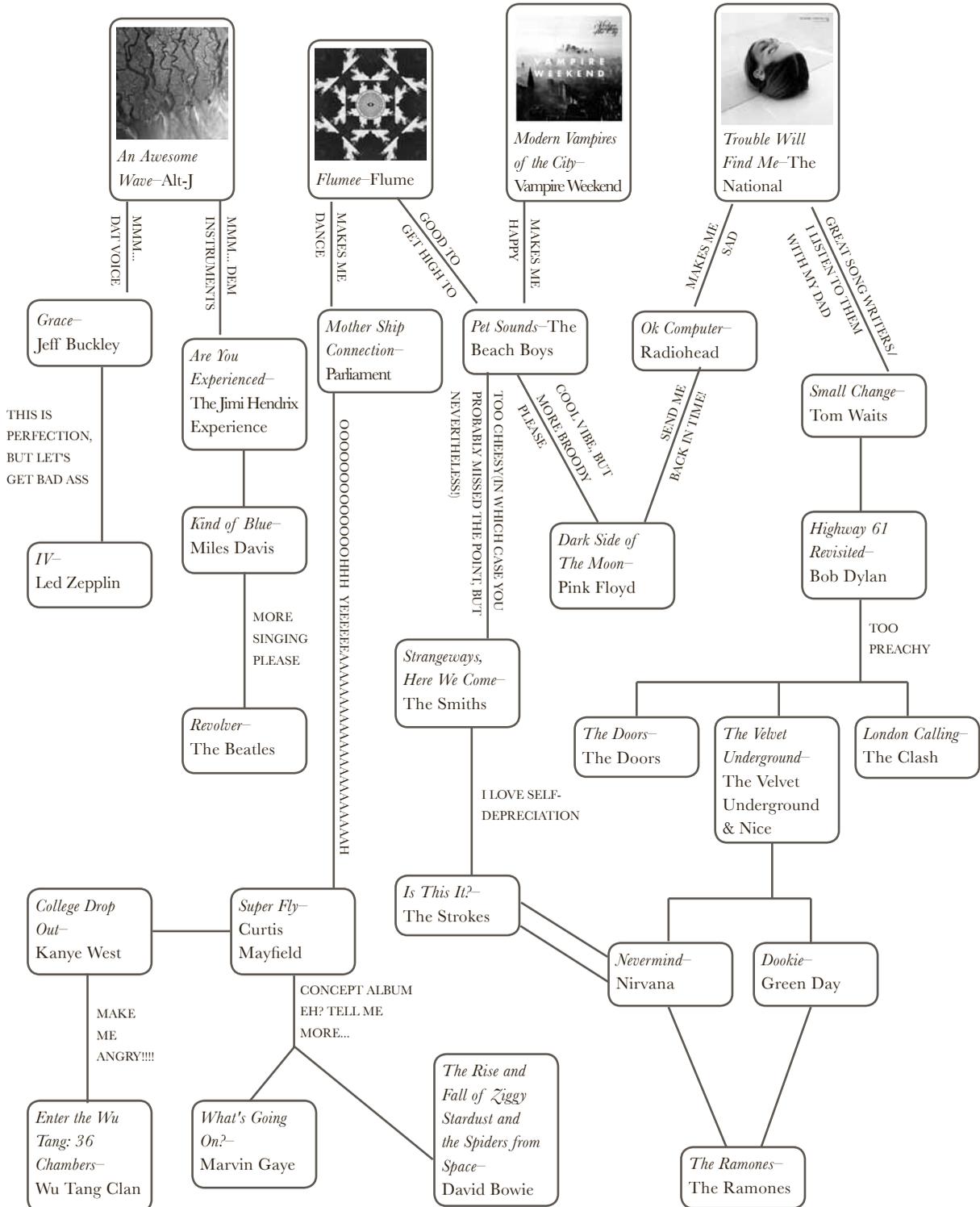
# MUSIC



## FIND YOUR CLASSIC ALBUM

ELISE MUNDEN

Begun by choosing your favourite album from the last two years, and lead yourself down the well-trodden track of 'classic music' that has shaped the current tunes we be jammin' to today.



# THEATRE



## THEATRE ON FILM – NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE'S RECORDING OF *THE AUDIENCE*

GABRIELLE BERAN

REVIEW

I could wax lyrical for a whole page about *The Audience*. It is not hard to see how a play written by Peter Morgan (who wrote the film *The Queen*) about Queen Elizabeth's weekly meetings with her Prime Minister is worthy of its five-star reviews. Starring Helen Mirren as Elizabeth II at an astonishing myriad of ages—from her first year of reigning to last year—it is a succinct, interesting play that is an absolute pleasure to behold.

But I do not intend to extol its many virtues here. There was something more interesting about this theatrical experience: while I watched it in a theatre, it was a *movie* theatre.

Stage performances have been filmed and played in our cinemas for a few years now, the Met Opera starting what is a growing trend. National Theatre Live is in its fourth year of broadcasting and has recently reached our shores. With several cameras placed throughout the theatre,

the footage is then edited together and sent to cinemas around the world.

Like a geriatric tentatively buying an iPhone, I sat in trepidation at my local independent cinema. The camera swept over the real audience, seated in the London's Gielgud Theatre, the lights dimmed and, like something from *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, Geoffrey the Butler took the stage to guide us through the next two-and-a-half hours of theatrical magic.

Having the different camera angles take in the whole of the stage was excellent, as you got so much closer to the action than even people in the best seats could have (and for only \$20!) It was cinematic in the way that whole people—rather than the whole stage—were, at times, the sole focus of the audience's field of vision, yet there was restraint shown—no facial close-ups here. The problem with this miraculous zoom capacity was that some nuances of holistic scenes were lost—Mirren's costume and age changes were often cleverly performed onstage, and thus the audience were deprived of some real theatrical illusions.

Having an actual audience in the playhouse and hearing their laughter, gasps and spontaneous applause left in the edit worked

better than expected. It created the atmosphere of a theatre. It was not like the canned laughter of television sitcoms but appropriate for the jokes—and there were quite a few. The applause that erupted at the end of a particularly brilliant scene, such as the showdown between Elizabeth and Margaret Thatcher, helped to recreate the aura of live spontaneity that is part of the theatrical experience. Continuing with the idea of theatrical authenticity, there was also a short interval.

Watching a play on a screen was much more enjoyable than expected and proves that if a play is good enough, you do not have to be there for it to be effective. National Theatre has also been commercially canny and kind to us in broadcasting great British theatre to the world. They also have some appealing Shakespeares coming and the much-lauded version of *Frankenstein* with Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller. So, theatre purists: save your money on that flight to London and head to your local cinema instead.

*The Audience* is on now at all Lighthouse cinemas and Penthouse, Brooklyn. Student tickets \$20.

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# GAMES



## BAD GAMES

ARTICLE

PATRICK LINDSAY

Basically all of the games I own are great. Every single one is a critically acclaimed masterpiece, a tour de force of storytelling, or expertly crafted work that will surely be recorded in the (internet) annals of video games. But it's becoming clear to me that this is an issue. Just like you shouldn't eat ice-cream and steak (in that order) for every meal, I'm starting to realise you should play some 6/10s or 7/10s with your 10/10s.

We're all students and, let's be honest, we're sort of poor. We can't afford to impulse-buy any random game off a shelf because it looks like it might maybe possibly be okay, much less buy a brand-new game on release date. Sure, there are more expensive hobbies (skiing, skydiving, meth), but video games can definitely end up costing quite a bit, both in hardware and in games. This means the student gaming enthusiast needs to do a lot of research and thinking before making any purchase.

Every console game I've bought in the last year has been the result of reading half-a-dozen different reviews, weighing the game up against any others that came out at the same time and then waiting months for the price to drop to something more reasonable. I want to be sure I get a basically flawless game and not feel the sting of buyer's remorse. After carefully weighing up the decision against rent payments and grocery bills, I'll always wait for a sale to stretch my student-dollars as far as possible before tentatively taking the plunge.

This slow, meticulous process means that my game shelf is the cream of the crop, the best of the best, and even one other cliché to describe

how good they are. There's your *Assassin's Creeds*, your *Skyrims*, your *Grand Theft Autos* – only games that have been highly reviewed and almost unanimously agreed to be awesome. On the one hand, buying quality games really slowly makes sure I've got time to fully experience them, and they're always fantastic. On the other, not playing bad or less-mainstream games means I've got nothing to compare the good ones to, no baseline.

Last week, I borrowed my friend's copy of *Dragon's Dogma* (Capcom, 2012). It's enjoyable and has an addictive combat system. It also has a meandering plot, terribly written 'ye-olde-English' dialogue, some crappy menus and pretty ugly graphics. I took a shot in the dark and tried something different, and let me tell you – playing a game that wasn't immaculate was a breath of fresh air. A game having flaws might mean it doesn't hit 10/10, but it doesn't necessarily mean that there's nothing at all in there of value, and certainly doesn't mean it should be totally ignored, ostracised and never mentioned again in the light of day.

Being able to appreciate a game despite its flaws (and sometimes because of them) is a rewarding experience, as is getting the chance to be respectfully critical of a game. You're encouraged to think about which parts are bad and why, which are good and why, and whether the positives outweigh the negatives. To get a decent perspective on video games, you need a baseline to compare them to, and you can't possibly get this by only playing a sample of the best games. Go wild, try something new and potentially terrible – but make sure you consider why you think it's terrible. Take my advice – give a shite game a go.



## WHAT'S ON

### Visual Arts:

- *Water is to Paper* at the Toi Poneke Art Centre. Rebekah Rasmussen and Laila O'Brien each present work which considers "how the self responds in the face of pressure and time constraints." 26 July-17 August. Free entry.

### Books:

- July 22: Writers On Mondays: Jane Stafford and Kate Camp in conversation, discussing Camp's fifth book of poetry, *Snow White's Coffin*. Te Papa, Level 4 (The Marae), 12:15 - 1:15. Free Entry.

### Music:

- *Slow Focus* by the Fuck Buttons album release, July 23
- Phoenix Foundation *Fandango* release tour, July 27 at James Cabaret
- New Kings of Leon song released; 'Supersoaker'.

### Film:

THE FILM FESTIVAL OMG OMG

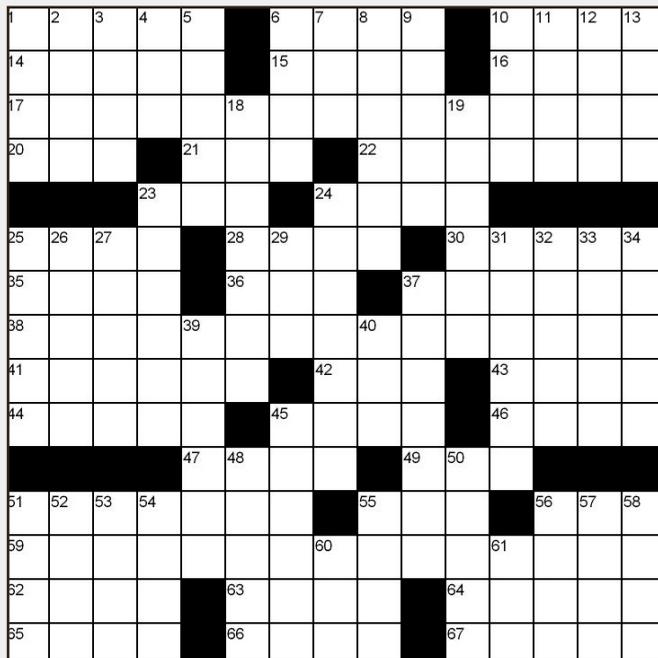
### Theatre:

- Circa: *C - A Musical* by Paul Genden music by Gareth Farr. 6 July - 3 August. A musical memoir about cancer and celebrating life. But it's a bit of a comedic one, apparently.
- Bats: Young and Hungry Festival of New Theatre takes over Bats from Friday July 26 - Saturday August 10. There's three new one hour plays a night, all performed by 15-25 year-olds. This year's plays are *Dragonlore* (by Nic Sampson, directed by Richard Dey) at 6.30pm, *Atlas/Mountains/Dead Butterflies* (by Joseph Harper, directed by Ralph Upton) at 8pm, *Trashbag* (by Georgina Titheridge, directed by Alison Walls) at 9.30pm.

# PUZZLES

VARIETY PUZZLES &  
CROSSWORD BY PUCK –  
ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE

'ROAD FILMS' - DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM



- 43. Sandy getaway
- 44. Burns to the ground
- 45. Jealous wife of Zeus
- 46. Home for a 57-Down
- 47. Rosebud was a famous one
- 49. Part of a comedian's routine
- 51. '\_\_\_\_ One Bites the Dust'
- 55. One of Ned Flanders' kids
- 56. Only prime that's even
- 59. 1960 'road film' directed by Billy Wilder
- 62. Result of a brainstorm
- 63. Alan's villainous role in 'Die Hard'
- 64. Like some music or icing
- 65. Dread
- 66. Last word of many threats
- 67. Bracket for many first-years

- 26. Member of a string quartet
- 27. "\_\_\_\_ vous?" ("How are you?" in French)
- 29. \_\_\_\_ Jima, WWII battle site
- 31. Travelling about
- 32. "\_\_\_\_ man once said..."
- 33. Physicist Bohr
- 34. Part of a map in a 1-Across
- 37. Hobbit that became Gollum
- 39. '\_\_\_\_ is my Skinhead' (Nirvana song)
- 40. 'The' in German
- 45. Like some teas
- 48. River of forgetfulness in Hades
- 50. Skilled
- 51. "Like, whatever!"
- 52. Prepared to streak, say
- 53. "\_\_\_\_ wish, two a kiss..."
- 54. Ivan or Peter, for example
- 55. Complicated plot
- 56. Record for later watching, maybe
- 57. See 46-Across
- 58. Wagering ratios
- 60. Hanger-\_\_\_\_ (entourage)
- 61. Compete (for)

**DOWN**

- 1. Wile E. Coyote's supplier
- 2. What 'T' means on some tests
- 3. Respite
- 4. Character whose Pikachu should have evolved long ago
- 5. Imperial weight measurement
- 6. Put on the market
- 7. They might get fertilised
- 8. Medical implement, or medical journal
- 9. Outkast member \_\_\_\_ 3000
- 10. Drive in 'Star Trek'
- 11. Send out
- 12. Record for later watching, maybe
- 13. Ooze (through)
- 18. Direction from a dog owner or psychiatrist
- 19. 35-Across with pips
- 23. Put into storage, maybe
- 24. Signified
- 25. Old anaesthetic

**ACROSS**

- 1. 6-foot robot just unveiled by the Pentagon
- 6. Kiwi band \_\_\_\_ Rosa
- 10. Dampens
- 14. Earth's topmost layer
- 15. 'Almighty' role for Steve Carell
- 16. Word used often by French lovers
- 17. 2001 'road film' directed by David Lynch
- 20. Slippery fish
- 21. Zero, in some scores
- 22. Revealing fashion from the 80s
- 23. Take in a flick, perhaps
- 24. Consider (to be)
- 25. 'Well, Did You \_\_\_\_!' ('High Society' song)
- 28. Reduce one's intake
- 30. Citizen of Tehran
- 35. A 'Z' one is worth ten
- 36. Have the title to
- 37. Trap in a polar blast, maybe
- 38. What 17- and 59-Across are, in more ways than one
- 41. Time for a Hobbit meal
- 42. Shirt that might get turned into a 22-Across



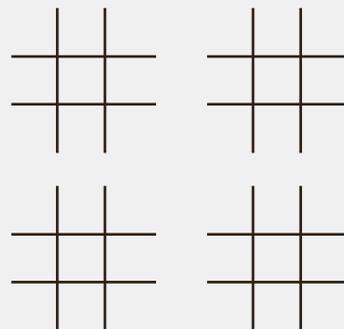
LAST ISSUE SOLUTION

## QUIZ

- 1. Which country was the first in the world to legalise same-sex marriage?
- 2. According to Forbes, who is the highest paid actor?
- 3. Over 80 per cent of Nepal's population follows which religion?
- 4. What is Molly?
- 5. How many Independent MPs are currently in the New Zealand House of Representatives?
- 6. Which Warriors player has recently announced he will play for Tonga rather than New Zealand in the Rugby League World Cup later this year?
- 7. What TV show did recently deceased Cory Monteith star in?
- 8. What vegetable is usually the main ingredient in the Eastern European soup called borscht?
- 9. By what nickname is the star Sirius sometimes known?
- 10. Molly Bloom is a character in which James Joyce novel?

## YEAR LONG PUZZLE:

14. Rearrange OUT OF MEMORY into the title of The Beatles' first #1 song (4,2,2,3).



ANSWERS: 1. The Netherlands. 2. Robert Downey Jr. 3. Hinduism. 4. Ecstasy. 5. Two (Peter Dunne and Brendan Horan). 6. Conrad Hurrell. 7. Gee. 8. Beetroot. 9. The 'Dog Star'. 10. Ulysses.



# LETTERS



WIN A \$10 VOUCHER FOR THE HUNTER LOUNGE

## **BUT YOUR LETTERS ARE A+++**

Dear Hellnolient,

I've got 99 problems but a pitch ain't one.

After the 11th denied pitch of my {insert absurd topic here} article, I have decided to take my buisness elsewhere. And By elsewhere I mean a two page spread in The Weltec Gaset [or waht ever]

## **[SHADE:STFU]**

Dear [ITALICS: Salient],

You should probably get that sorted.

Love,

[ITALICS: Critic]

## **THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS**

Dear Hearsalient,

I heard that Rory McCourt got a ride to his school ball in an Anne Tolley electioneering vehicle. I demand accountability and want to know if Mr. McCourt has been bought with favours from high places. The last thing VUWSA needs is a leader beholden to the wishes of a political movement such as Ms. Tolley's National Party.

Just thought the readers of Slanderlient should know,

Rory's re-election rival

P.S. Rory, I'm actually a bit of a fan

of your work, so it'll be a bit bittersweet when I have to dethrone you come re-election. Sorry mate.

## **WOAH JUDITH COLLINS WROTE US A LETTER**

Fuck Joe Karam.

Fuck David Bain.

He's a murdering, psychotic bastard who the country has bizarrely fallen in love with. Don't believe his lies. That expressionless face is merely a veil to hide a heart of evil. They can come up with as many fabricated pieces of evidence as they like but they will never be able to hide the truth.

Rise up people and destroy Mr Bain!

Yours,

The rational population of New Zealand

## **HUGE DISAPPOINTMENT**

Dear Salient,

Something needs to be done about the disingenuous interest the Huge! people have when talking to unsuspecting first years, I remember one of the first friends I made in first year was a huge booth person, we talked for a good 7 minutes about our lives, what we were studying, where we'd come from, where we hoped to go, I was enraptured in how much he seemed to be enjoying my company relieved at my ability to converse ; This was at the big play out. When I saw him again, serving waffles in the vic house common room, he talked to me like we were speaking for the first time. I was crushed.

Yours,

Walking on a dream

## **THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS**

Dear Salient,

C=====3

Warm regards.

## **HOW TO GET YOUR BIKINI BOD**

Dear Salient,

I don't know what people are complaining about with the 'lack of re-oweeek', I haven't eaten so well in weeks! Given my primary diet of noodles I feel like my late teen growth has been severely stunted. Purple IS a fruit and I can safely say that the jet planes i've ingested over this week have kept me going until home time. So many candies! Dutifully payed for with signature.

And a Sausage sizzle! I could feel my body pouncing on the nutrice.

I also won the wheel spin both times i tried. Which makes me feel like the world was made for me.

Yours,

Health nut.

:/

I heard Massive and Crakem and The Weltec Gaset had party and didn't invite you.

## **WONG EMAIL**

Hello,

Good day!

The attached is our new product-

# LETTERS

mahjong price list for you, you may interest in them.

Have a nice day!

Thank you.

Peter Wong

.....

## **BUZZFEED**

To Gerald, the ex-film editor,

2 out of 5? Rude! You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, and I'm like a real good fly, like a real big juicy one. So juicy. Yeah I'm a blowfly. A ...blow...fly. You know how to whistle, don't you? You just put your lips together and blow... fly. If I was the Academy, you'd be nominated for at least 7 of my Awards this year. I wanna demolish you like the Blair Witch Project demolished everyone's box office expectations. I promise I'd be better at being your man than I am at coming up with metaphors.

.....

## **CUTE!**

To my secret admirer,

I greatly appreciate the kind sentiments you expressed in your letter. I'm not familiar with "intimacy" or "relating" to people; it's largely why I spend so much time watching films. On the flip side, I am hopelessly lonely so we should probably give it a whirl. I'll be at the midday screening of the latest hipster obsession; look for the guy crying into his ice-cream.

Yours faithfully,

Gerald Lee/ Broken human being

.....

## **STOP REGGAE-LING US**

To Salient magazine,

Let it be known, first of all, that I am not entirely impartial to the charms of this humble publication. However, at times, your choice of Letters of the Week leaves much to be desired. A case in point: the last issue of last trimester. 'Buffalo Souljah' was a most uncouth character, entirely unworthy of publication. No doubt he uses recreational drugs as well, the rascal.

Furthermore, so-called 'reggae' music is dreadful; a repetitive, unruly cacophony, betraying a feeble intellect in its enthusiasts. It is the Devil's own handiwork. It is high time that such impure, insidious elements were purged from the pages of your holy book.

So, in conclusion, down with this sort of thing!

Best wishes,

Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells

.....

## **COOL CATS PREFER CHEF**

Yo Pipitea-campus students,

Why y'all so obsessed with Chef's Palette? It's not even that good oi. Just 'cos it's cheap and faintly 'exotic' if you've lived in the rural South Island your whole life? Like seriously, if you could be bothered walking for 10 mins further up the road you can get banh mi (Wikipedia that shit) for \$6.90 with a student discount. Only slightly more expensive, and it's actually something, not just a weird, slightly unsatisfying noodle-salad hybrid.

Regards,  
Law student who knows where to fuckin' eat.

P.S. This is not an ad for Nam restaurant. Promise.

## **THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER WELL FAIR POINT**

What are you trying to tell our youth of today? How to disagree with their parents or to oppose everything? We are already a mix nation. To try and receive an opinion from them is like squeezing orange juice. Some are sweet and some are sour.

Thanks and just see the positives in life. Those who continue to see negatives should just live x

You people need to talk in person.....or are you afraid of getting what you ask for?. Case mangers are not able to read minds nor can the change what government do! They are people like you and me. To pick on a case manager is like telling a mother she can't breast feed her baby, when her baby is hungry.Your argument should be with the politicians that place the legislation and policy before you. Not the workers who have to work under the system. We are very lucky to have a system where new Zealanders have some type of assistance we can fall on when we need it. All those who appose should pay the moaners.

Thanks. My case manager helped me every way she could to get me to where I am today.

.....

### **SALIENT LETTERS POLICY 2013**

Salient welcomes, encourages, and thrives on public debate – be it serious or otherwise – through its letters pages. Write about anything you like: Beyoncé, puppies, or the metaphysics of space-time. Send us love mail, send us hate mail, send us party invites. We want it all. Letters must be received before 12pm on the Wednesday for publication the next week. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Pseudonyms are fine, but all letters must include your real name, address and telephone number, these will not be printed. Please note that letters will not be corrected for spelling or grammar. The Editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline any letters without explanation.

Letters can be sent to:

EMAIL: letters@salient.org.nz POST: Salient, c/- Victoria University of Wellington **HAND-DELIVERED:** the Salient office, Level 3, Student Union Building (behind the Hunter Lounge)

# NOTICES

## CAREERS AND JOBS

Details on CareerHub: [www.careerhub.victoria.ac.nz](http://www.careerhub.victoria.ac.nz)

Applications closing soon:

Organisations	Closing
Macquarie Group	July 25
Opus	July 26
Linfox Logistics (NZ)	
BDO	July 28
Asia NZ Foundation (Japan)	
Sport New Zealand	July 29
Staples Rodway	July 31
Alltech	
InterContinental Hotels Group	
The Boston Consulting Group	Aug 9
Citi	Aug 16
Orion Health	Aug 22
SAS Institute Australia & NZ	Aug 31
Bloomberg	Sep 1
Employer Presentation	
EY	July 22
NZICA	July 23
Cookie Time	July 25
Clemenger Group	July 31
ACCA	Aug 7
Careers Expo	
Science Careers Expo	Aug 8

## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY TAEKWON-DO CLUB (WTF STYLE)

Interested in Taekwon-Do? New to Taekwon-Do? Learned Taekwon-Do before? Come along and join us! Great way to keep fit and have fun!

- Training times: Tuesday 6.30-8 pm, Long Room, Victoria University Recreation Centre Saturday 3.30-5 pm, Dance Room, Victoria University Recreation Centre
  - What you need: Drink bottle, comfy trousers/shorts, T-shirt
  - Contact us: [vuwtkd@hotmail.com](mailto:vuwtkd@hotmail.com)
- We are affiliated to the TaeKwonDo Union of NZ (TUNZ)

## REFUGEE BACKGROUND STUDENTS

DROP-IN CENTRE FOR REFUGEE-BACKGROUND STUDENTS.

- Every week day 4-6 pm, there is a drop-in centre in on the 10th Floor of the Murphy Building in Room 1010, to help you with your studies. The Centre is run by senior students, and you can drop by at any time for help with essays, studying for a test, dealing with a tutor, planning your degree, practicing an oral presentation etc.
- You can also just drop by to de-stress, get something to eat and have a chat.
- For more info, email [vuw.dropin@gmail.com](mailto:vuw.dropin@gmail.com).

## VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY: MAORI DEVELOPMENT

- 5.15pm-6.45pm, Thursday 1st August, CO304, Cotton Building.
- Speaker Aroha Mead will begin an open discussion on current Maori Development issues. Come along and share your ideas and opinions! (Note this event is not on our usual meeting day).

## PUBLIC MEETING - WALKING TOGETHER: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH REFUGEE- BACKGROUND COMMUNITIES.

- Hear from a fantastic range of speakers including those with a refugee-background, volunteers and representatives.
- Learn how others in our society partner with refugee communities and how you can get involved too! Held at Ramsey House on 8 Kelburn Parade, From 7:00 PM, Wednesday 24th July. Tea, coffee and baking provided!

## PUBLIC MEETING: NEW ZEALAND AND IMPERIALISM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

When: Tuesday, 6.30PM, 23 July  
Where: SU219, Student Union Building, Kelburn campus, VUW Hosted by the International Socialist Organisation. All Welcome!

## 'STORIES OF SUCCESS' - A PHOTOVOICE EXHIBITION AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

- Thursday July 25, 4.30 - 6.30pm  
Bec's Cafe, 8 Kelburn Parade, Wellington
- You are warmly invited to share food and celebrate diverse students' 'Stories of Success' as told through their photographs. The exhibition is a result of the ongoing collaboration between Changemakers' Refugee Forum and postgraduate students in the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences at Victoria University.
- The exhibition is free and open to the public from Monday 22 July to Friday 26 July.

## AOTEAROA ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2013

- The conference will be held at St John's Church Hall, which is at the corner of Dixon and Willis Street on Friday 26th and Saturday 27 July. There will be an exciting line-up of national and international speakers, stalls, workshops and delicious food.
- The conference is designed for anyone who is interested in finding out more about animal rights, animal issues and how to get involved with helping animals. To find out more or to purchase tickets please visit [www.animalrightsconference.org.nz](http://www.animalrightsconference.org.nz). Nau mai, haere mai!

## HRINZ AT VIC

- Are you currently studying or considering a career in Human Resources Management? The Human Resource Institution of New Zealand (HRINZ) offers a discounted membership to help you head start your HR career. Members have the benefit of networking opportunities, education and professional information services and the opportunity to connect with practitioners. Informative conferences and courses are designed to build value to your professional skills and knowledge.
- Visit the HRINZ website for more information and join: [www.hrinz.org.nz](http://www.hrinz.org.nz)
- Additionally visit our Twitter or Facebook page.

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TUNE IN TO YOUR STUDENT RADIO STATION! 88.3FM OR STREAM ONLINE AT VBC.ORG.NZ

**VBC**

MISSED OUT ON GETTING A SHOW? SPACES COME UP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR; EMAIL YOUR INTEREST TO STATIONMANAGER@VBC.ORG.NZ

	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
7-10AM	<b>THE FLIGHT</b> <i>Coffee</i> VBC BREAKFAST SHOW w/ SALLY, AMBER, KEEGAN & ROHAN SWEET MUSIC, NEWS, INTERVIEWS & GIVEAWAYS				DJ MP3 PLAYER BEEP....		DJ MP3 PLAYER BEEP....
10-NOON	JAMES RIVERS!	PODCASTS + MIXTAPES	DC CURRENT w/ DUNCAN & CAM	MIRIAMA AOAKE	RAW POLITIK w/ EMANUEL & NEAS	BROOKE	WAKE N' BAKE w/ PEARCE
12-2PM	THE BEEF! w/ MATT & ALEX	GRACE ACE FILLS THE SPACE	INFIDEL CASTRO w/ PHILIP McSWEENEY	DOMO ARIGATO w/ MR ROBATO	JOE McKAY	MADDIE	MICHAEL BERRIMAN
2-4PM	THE IMPOSTERS	OPEN	OLIVIA	THE VBC HIP HOP SHOW w/ FABULOUS G	ALEX, MICHAEL & NICK	DAVE & ED	SUNDAY FLY w/ LORENZO & GANG
4-7PM	WHAT IS ART? w/ VIRGINIA	PARALLELS w/ COOKIE	SALIENT w/ MOLLY & STELLA	THURSDAY DRIVE "ADD w AIDAN"	OPEN	THE BEATDOWN	THE VINYL COUNTDOWN
7-9PM	THE MIXTAPE w/ SAM!	SLIM PICKING'S w/ SLIM & BUNNY	THE DROP w/ GUSSIE	SIGNAL SOUNDS 7PM - LATE	SUPERFLUOUS SUPERHEROES	THE B-SIDE REVOLUTION w/ RICH & PALS	MAKING WAAVES w/ KARIIBA & GUESTS
9-LATE	GEORGE ARMSTRONG DEAD AIR	CHRIS GILMAN THE NIGHT SHIFT	THAT'S SO METAL w/ MITCHELL		PRE-LOAD w/ MATT & FRIENDS	DIDDAKOI w/ KESZIA TYLER	RAILROAD BLUES w/ RAY

## GIG GUIDE

	MON 22	TUES 23	WEDS 24	THURS 25	FRI 26	SAT 27
<b>The Hunter</b> LOUNGE		2 FOR 1 MARGHERITA PIZZAS	POOL COMP & PRIDE WEEK QUIZ	PRIDE WEEK OPEN MIC	AFTERSCHOOL SPECIAL	
<b>MIGHTY MIGHTY</b>			MIGHTY QUIZ 6:30PM UNCLE THUNDERMAKER	LADY PARTS (FREE!)	ROGERNOMIX & NUMBSKULL (\$5)	SHEIT GEIST, HEX, DIE KRABBen (\$5)
<b>SAN FRANCISCO BATHHOUSE</b>				COMEDY @ SFBH 7PM (\$15-20)		24 HOUR PARTY PEOPLE 9PM (\$10)
<b>BODEGA</b>					THE VEILS 8PM	SOLA ROSA
<b>MEOW CAFE</b>	BIG BAND NIGHT (FREE!)	LATIN CLUB 8:30PM (FREE!)	THE JAM (FREE!)	ACOUSTIC ROUTES PRESENTS THE RAVEN MAVENS	BUTTERFLY PIG, JAILB8 & STEVES NEPHEW (\$5)	
<b>PUPPIES</b>						BAD BLOCKS/ YVNALESCA/ SKYMNING (\$10)
<b>SANDWICHES</b>					TRUTH 10:30PM	THE OFFICIAL SHAPESHIFTER AFTER PARTY

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has a brand new website!

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