

# The King's Echo

ISSUE 1



## The Verdict: Transformers 3



Carrying through from the “Revenge of the Fallen”, naturally the first question on everyone’s lips regarding *Transformers: Dark Side of the Moon* is who is Megan Fox’s plastic replacement? The answer, a Victoria Secret’s model: an English, blonde Megan Fox who does little aside from opening the movie with a close up of her behind, and acting as the main reason Sam (Shia LaBeouf) puts his life in danger yet again. Frankly, the place of anyone running through the streets in 9-inch heels when in a potentially life-threatening situation has to be questioned.

However, once the audience can draw their attention away from the new female lead, they will find that this movie actually has a lot of other things to offer. Once again, the histories of Autobots and humans intertwine as the Autobots find a piece of their history right on earth’s doorstep. Literally. Meanwhile, two-time (unknown) world hero Sam Witwicky is jobless and struggling to fit the mould of your average Joe. Life gets difficult when Sam does land a job and Decepticons invade his life once again, drawing him back to the Autobots and old friends. The Autobots too have some new recruits, who come with new enemies as well. But all is not as it seems, as deceit

and mistrust are in each corner and the dark side of the moon shadows the fate of the earth.

This movie is enthralling, especially in comparison to the conventional 3<sup>rd</sup> sequel movies known to date. It is yet another well-done movie by Michael Bay and perhaps the best of the Transformers series. Viewers should be warned that this is a long movie (running 2hrs 40min approx.) with some very Star Wars-esque moments, which is a tad of dampener on what is effectively a very good movie. But all petrol heads can be assured of heart-racing car chases, expensive cars no one can afford but love to look at and some thrilling action scenes – with plenty of firepower.

The trailer certainly doesn’t do the movie justice, but serves to confuse the viewer sufficiently to make them want to see the movie. Despite the odd Star Wars invasion type scene, it is worth going to see, as it does have a few not so predictable twists. All in all it is a very enjoyable movie.

Final score for *Transformers: Dark Side of the Moon*  
8.0 /10

By Charlotte Hoonhout

### Calendar

#### Thursday 11th

Auckland 1st XV Final Eden Park -3pm

#### Friday 12th

Music Exhibition Concert - 7:30pm

Christ College Debate (Christ College)

#### Monday 15th

Inter-House Cross-Country - 2:45pm

#### Tuesday 16th

KBB Music Festival 2:45pm

#### Thursday 18th

Theatre Club Trip (Civic theatre) - 8pm

#### Friday 19th

Theatresports - staff v students (LT) - 1pm

#### Saturday August 20th

Danny McDougall’s Birthday

# A Little Insane

I wouldn't find it unusual for a person to mistake adolescence for insanity. At one point or another, teenagers are all faced with the overwhelming realisation that we have no clue what we are going to do with our lives – and for those of us who do know, we're so obsessed with obtaining it that we refuse to have any fun. Those thoughts when you're 17: what uni will I go to? What will I study? Will I fit in? What about afterwards? Where will I work? How much will I get paid? The experts say the most important stage of adolescence is finding your sense of self. But how do you do that? We're going into a dark place with nothing to guide us, jumping in headfirst with no means of finding the bottom.

Maybe that's partly because we think we don't need guidance. Teenagers are so technologically enhanced that we now believe we are far superior to our elders in terms of knowledge and understanding. If there were a book, a guide on how to be a teenager, our generation would be too stubborn to read it: we'd be convinced that our own way is better. Whether that's a blessing or a curse - I'm not sure. In New York, for example, independence is often assumed at such a young age that teenagers now mentally become adults at 16-17 years of age. At 16 the contact between child and parent is often the same as it would be between friends. You don't need your parents to transport you around, because you have the subway. You don't need to ask them for money, you may have a credit card. You may not need to ask their permission, because they are always busy at work anyway. Therefore you friends become your

family, your family become distant friends. It isn't much different elsewhere. Your friends, can often, end up having the biggest influence on your life.

Yet maybe being around your friends all the time isn't the best way to find out who you really are. Everyone will have their own opinion, their own judgement, on who you are and who you will become – especially your friends. It is easy, and very tempting, to assume their opinions then fail to develop own ideas and sense of direction. So, if we are constantly surrounded by our friends when do we have any time for ourselves? To be alone and reflect on who we are and want we want. For some of us the only time we have alone is spent procrastinating about schoolwork, trying to studying for exams and sleeping, if we're lucky. How could we not mistake this time in our lives for insanity?

I think people need to realise that teenagers are a little insane, and that if it wasn't for our friends we would be a lot more insane. Yet I also believe that we need to develop our own opinions separate from our friends and for some of us this means having some 'me time'. It is however also important, in my opinion, for us to recognise that there is help out there to help us through this period of insanity: we just need to ask.

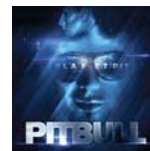
*By Bryce Talley*



## Songs that you may not have heard of, but should have.

### COME N GO

- PITBULL



Throbbing synth beats accompany Mr 305 as he coos over a pulsating bass.

Enrique Iglesias follows up with a breezy chorus.

### WILD HEART

- SABI



Known only for her contribution on Cobra Starship's *You Make Me Feel...*

rapper/singer Sabi proves she is a force to be reckoned with on *Wild Heart*.

Warning: contains traces of dubstep.

## James' Songs Of Summer (In Winter)

### MOVES LIKE JAGGER

-MAROON 5



Funky guitars punctuated with summer synths makes *Moves* a romping hit. Adam

Levin struts just as Christina Aguilera purrs in their respective verses.

### LAST FRIDAY NIGHT

-KATY PERRY



Katy Perry graphically depicts a night of debauchery that would bring out the party in even the

most conservative of us. A check list for any night out.

# Kiwi Entrepreneurship At Its Finest

Men dressed in draping singlets that slink to the floor like a past generation's baggy jeans. Shop assistants gliding around on mini-skateboards in between servicing customers. Skinny jeans that quite frankly go beyond the realms of skinny. The brand is Federation.



The intriguing brain-child of a group of innovative New Zealanders that wanted to offer the people something different, the original Federation clothing line was born in its North Shore home two years ago. Since then

the brand has gone from strength to strength, gaining recognition everywhere from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island, from hip teenagers to mothers who should have stayed far far away. The NZ clothing market is a cut-throat competitive industry with hundreds of companies vying for the interest of the consumer, and few have captivated the elusive and fickle teenage market like Federation has.

Unlike everything else on the clothing market, where all is made in China, Federation was a project born and raised in NZ shores, with the original pieces all cut and sewed here. It pitched its euphemistically bizarre, but

unique offerings at high prices - a questionable and risky business model at best. Theoretically, it shouldn't have made it, with its absurd prices, funky designs and high production costs - but the gamble did pay off, and Federation has become a sought-after supplier of the tumultuous teenage market in NZ, wishing to soon carry its success overseas. The entrepreneurship displayed by these NZ 'blokes' of starting small and attacking a market niche is admirable and has made these young guys a lot of cash very quickly and proves that any idea, no matter how ridiculous, can churn a profit.

By Ja-  
Beaton

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## The Cultural Eye

Hey guys and gals!

I'm Denzel and, with my enjoyment of all things cultural, each week I'm going to write about one of the cultural groups at King's and discover what makes each one special. This week I'm going to write about Stage Challenge.

Stage Challenge is a national theatrical dance competition. This July King's competed for the first time, against nearly 175 schools around the country. Participant Latafale Auva'a said *"This year, King's has really stepped up to the mark with awesome results. For King's to not only win 8 excellence awards, but to come first in the raw division shows just how well we did against schools with more experience."*

With around 40 students in the group they performed an exhilarating dance led by Lucy Gibbons, Suzie Cotterill and Krystal Brock. The group was brought together by Zoe Ellis and Natalie Seagar, and won the Raw Division (for routines with no props allowed). This is their first year competing and they have done exceptionally well. Great job guys!

Next year King's is going to compete in Stage Challenge again so after reading this hopefully if you want to join, and you should, if you want try something new.

By Denzel Panama

## The Hit Man



**Max Martin.**

If you hold yourself above the pop trend, the tsunami of electro songs flooding the charts, you may think that Britney Spears, Kesha, Katy Perry, Avril Lavigne, and Pink are practically all the same person. You would *almost* be correct. They all get their hits from the same writer.

Max Martin. Who is he? You won't know his name. You will know his songs. They have defined the sound of summer and sin for over a decade. Every song he writes hits gold. Or should that be platinum? Max Martin, born Martin Sandberg, spearheaded the rise of teen pop in the late 90's. Stumbling upon two American boy bands, Martin gifted them with songs such as 'Backstreet's Back', 'Bye Bye Bye' and 'I Want It That Way'. The Backstreet Boys and N\*Sync became the bestselling groups of the decade. The defining moment in his career came when a sixteen year old girl from Louisiana arrived at his studio searching for songs for her debut album; and so Max Martin became the impetus behind Britney Spears. Her breakthrough hit 'Baby One More Time' (a song which Simon Cowell tried to bribe from Max with a Mercedes) went to number one in twenty five countries. Martin continued to work with Spears throughout her meteoric rise, solidifying her place at the apex of

bubblegum-pop. He wrote for her second album 'Oops... I Did It Again!', providing the title single as well as signature songs 'Stronger' and 'Lucky'.

Shortly thereafter the 90s came to an end as did the teen-pop craze. Backstreet Boys changed their sound, Britney changed her producers, NSync disappeared altogether. Max Martin had to re-invent himself. He met with Kelly Clarkson to discuss a sound that had "more drums" and so 'Since U Been Gone', 'My Life Would Suck Without You' and 'Behind These Hazel Eyes' came into being.

Still, times were changing. Britney was breaking down and Kesha was breaking in. Pop music became dance music. Max Martin's first foray into the genre came through writing Katy Perry's electro/rock hybrid 'I Kissed A Girl' which went to number one in twenty countries. 'Hot N Cold' followed as did 'Teenage Dream', 'California Gurls' and 'E.T.'. His production blends to fit with the style of the artist he produces for. 'Blow', 'Dynamite', 'DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love Again', 'So What', 'Raise Your Glass', 'Whataya Want From Me' and 'If I Had You' were all written and produced by Martin. He even wrote 'Loser Like Me' for Glee.



The moment that brought him full circle came when Martin agreed to executive-produce Britney Spears' album 'Femme Fatale'. Although he had written '3' for Spears in 2009, he had not helmed one of her albums for over a decade. The results



### **Compare and Contrast: Spears in 1999 and 2011**

pushed the boundary of mainstream music. 'Hold It Against Me' and

'Till The World Ends' delved further into the grimy, previously unexplored genres of trance and dubstep. They encapsulate the sonic evolution of both Max Martin and Britney Spears. You cannot deny that Max Martin has defined the sound of pop more than any artist. Look at the iTunes Top 10. It is almost guaranteed to contain at least one song written by him. This discovery may provide an explanation for those of you who think that all pop sounds similar. Much of it has been shaped by the invisible hands of a Swedish Svengali. And if one thing is for certain, he will be responsible for many of pop's greatest moments for years to come.

*By James Young*

## THE VIEW FROM DOWN HERE - A FIRST YEAR'S PERSPECTIVE

When I moved up from primary to intermediate; no big deal, but moving up from intermediate to college; nerve-racking. As I entered King's College for the year 9 orientation day, my nerves and feelings were all in knots. I felt isolated as I entered a new community, aware that I would meet new people and anticipated that everything was much bigger including people, work and school. As I observed the mysterious buildings, I was in awe at their size.

I entered my new dorm up at Parnell with people I had never seen before. Quickly thoughts about my new friends sprang into my set of thoughts. Some I thought were really really weird and some I thought were pretty friendly. Some had the habit of continually talking with-

out cease and others were hugely silent. At least we were all going down on the same boat.

I found our orientation day extremely odd, knowing that the students in my dorm were to be friends for what then seemed like a tremendously long five years. So I found myself and my supposedly new 'friends' trying to awkwardly interact and communicate with each other, although this didn't come naturally to any of us. The very first time I heard that ominous thud and stamping as the y13s charged in for a dorm raid set the tone for the rest of the year and the rest of my time at King's perfectly.

*By Daniel Kim*

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## NEW-AGE MARRIAGE

The media was blaring for weeks before the big day; yet, for many, Prince William's royal marriage was of little importance at all. The hype dwarfed the actual event: barely a fifth of predicted audiences actually watched.

Does this comparative disinterest in "the wedding of the century" show how our thoughts of traditional marriage are changing? If so, it's not alone. Divorce rates are soaring. Wedding rates are dropping. And the controversy over same-sex marriage is forcing people to re-evaluate their definition of marriage itself.

It's true that the image of a white-clad bride is a romantic ideal for generations of girls - but marriage isn't as constant as it seems. It's changed from a purely religious ceremony to a faith-optional state function, a purely religious ceremony to a faith-optional state function, and from a lifetime union to something far less permanent. Now, marriages can be arranged on the spur of the moment - think Las Vegas drive-thru weddings - and divorces can be granted just as easily.

Overall, there's a clear trend towards more freedom in marriage. Its traditional religious roots have already been eclipsed by a society that puts tolerance and personal choice first, and increasing support for gay marriage shows that individuals are willing to accept this change.

Yet more and more people are questioning whether a relationship needs validation from an outside authority and the need to marry at all.

If a couple is already in a dedicated, long-term relationship, they ask, what is marriage but a formality? They challenge the view of lifetime commitment as synonymous with marriage - divorce rates can attest to the vast difference. Today, common-law marriage and broadening social attitudes are increasing the freedom to simply decide against marriage - a freedom that we may one day take for granted as much as other reforms.

For now, though, marriage still has its charm. It's a tradition spanning millennia, an unmatched symbol of romance and dedication. If it's here to stay, perhaps that's for the better.

*By Richard Ngo*



## VICTOR SUN'S CORNER OF RANDOMNESS

Welcome to the first installment of my corner of randomness. Sadly I'm not permitted to bore my readers with a scientific rant so instead I will review what I think was the best show ever.

"Bones, dry bones." These are the opening words of *Walking With Dinosaurs*, the spectacular show which recently ran at the Vector Arena. This simple introduction doesn't give any clue to what lies behind the huge curtains with the Earth projected onto them. For a few minutes nothing happens, until a loud cracking noise is heard and the Palaeontologist Huxley (played by Dominic Rickhards) appears and reveals a nest of eggs. Some tiny bodies can be seen slowly breaking their way out, but what happens next is concealed – until Huxley starts yelling and the curtains open up again and a whole plethora of prehistoric mayhem jumps out!

Even though the dinosaurs are all costumes and cleverly designed animatronics, the audience still feels for them. I distinctly heard many cries of "NOOO!" when a liliensternus started to brutally massacre baby plateosauri, and many laughs when the torosaurus and ankylosaurus started to converse in a jumbled mess of grunts and roars. But all these dinosaurs are only the hors d'oeuvre of this already amazing and remarkable show. As the curtains open to reveal the final dinosaur, who should walk out? This living monstrosity that used to be a toy sitting on your shelf, but is now the closest you will ever get the living death machine that is the TYRANNOSAURUS REX! Creature Technology Company has defined every dinosaur so greatly, every one is actual size – from the midged liliensternus to the gigantic brachiosaurus (who stares right into the top row.)

But the show comes to a cataclysmic end as the whole Vector Arena lights up in an exploding light show. As you realise the horrible truth that the dinosaurs are gone, Huxley (yes him again...) recites the beginning words and begins to speak about how dinosaurs still live in the form of birds. The show ends on a high note when the baby tyrannosaurus comes out again.

My final verdict for this show is that it was amazing! Although it is quite short (96 minutes) it balances the

elements needed to make everything so realistic that you forget there's a person driving the brachiosaurus, or a puppeteer making the ornithecheirus fly.

It was a great show with elements of feeling as well. It makes you rethink the rigid rules that Jurassic Park set for dinosaurs. The only small flaw is that some parts of the inner animatronic (wheels, etc...) are visible. I give this show 9.8/10.

*By Victor Sun*



## MODEL UNITED NATIONS KC GROUP



Late in term 2, KC students Richard Ngo, Cosmo Fyers, Ashley Varney and I attended the New Zealand Model United Nations in Wellington. 4 days of intense conferences filled with debating about world issues and a variety of bizarre but awesome people made for a truly memorable experience. A King's MUN group will be starting up soon so watch this space!

*See Jamie Beaton for further information.*

*j.beaton@kings.net.nz*



INNOVATIVE MINDS

Most of the time, when something comes with instructions, it's a good idea to follow those instructions. This should apply even more so when the items in question are capable of, and indeed are manufactured for the purpose of, abruptly reducing the number of people on the planet. However, necessity is the mother of invention, but it seems like boredom will work just as well in most cases.

and freeze to form ice cream once the pilots had returned.

It wasn't just plain vanilla that was served up either. Using the juice from the tropical fruit there, they could have a variety of flavours of ice cream available to them. In order to keep the consistency through the ice cream, they also had the pilots execute barrel rolls, loops and other manoeuvres while flying to make sure that the ice cream came out thoroughly mixed.



Fighter planes: In an idea that seems almost genius in its simplicity, fighter pilots in the Pacific theatre during World War 2 found ice cream, among other luxuries, in short supply. However, the individual ingredients weren't hard to come by, and from this, some of the more lateral thinkers among them realized that they had everything they needed to make it. By filling the empty reserve fuel tanks on the planes with the requirements, then having the pilots fly their aircraft at high altitudes for a short time, the ingredients would mix

According to those serving in the squadrons, the practice, once it became known, was a fairly common one among them. Sadly though, it seems to have died out now, due to the riskiness of suspending tanks underneath the wings of the faster jets used by today's military.

*By Nichol Fyfe*

***Three ingredients to instant ice cream - innovation, aviation and coning shenanigans at a drive through***

SUDOKU

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AGE

A human life is a miracle but how quickly does it pass. How things go past their prime, and slowly wither away.

Youth slowly fades from us, and beauty disappears with it. How time is unforgiving, no matter how much we try.

Our reflexes deteriorate, and our memory wavers. How our hands shake, and white hairs appear.

But time still trudges on, at that same, constant pace. Not willing to stop for anyone, not willing to speed up or slow.

When our dear life ends, and mortality stands true to its name,

we seem to look back at things, and see time wasted as shame.

Time is our treasure. We can use it or we can waste it. But when it is gone, it is gone forever.

*By Martin Luk*

HOROSCOPES

**Gemini** (May 22 - June 21) A tough decision lays ahead. Make sure to make a wise decision as it will affect your future.

**Cancer** (June 22 - July 23) Although you may be in a romantic mood, don't let it get the better of you. Consider all options before making a hasty decision.

**Leo** (July 24 - August 23) Money may be needed in the future so use it wisely. Consider what you want and what you need when shopping.

**Virgo** (August 24 - September 23) Focus on your relationships with others. Showing support to friends will pay off in future.

**Libra** (September 24 - October 23) Take time to let your creative side flourish. Starting a new project would be beneficial.

**Scorpio** (October 24 - November 22) Focus on the task at hand. Prioritise your time between work and friends affectively.

**Sagittarius** (November 23 - December 21) Stop worrying about the past and the future. The present is where everything begins.

**Capricorn** (December 22 - January 20) Preparation is the key to success for you this month. Think before acting.

**Aquarius** (January 21 - February 19) Relationships with co-workers should remain good. Don't jump to conclusions about a friend.

**Pisces** (February 20 - March 20) Through helping others, not just friends but the community, you may discover a new side to you.

**Aries** (March 21 - April 20) Your imagination will run wild this month as the moon passes through pisces. However, don't say something to a friend you may regret later.

**Taurus** (April 21 - May 21) Communication is important. This will help you make new friends and connections for the future.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Chocolate Fudge Brownie

- 200g Melted butter
- 3/4 cup Cocoa
- 2 cups Caster sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups chopped chocolate or chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 150°C. Mix melted butter, cocoa, sugar, salt, eggs and vanilla essence until well combined; for around four to five minutes. Gently mix in flour, baking powder and chopped chocolate. Pour into a greased pan and bake for 50-55 minutes. The brownie should have cracked slightly from the edge of the tin, but still be soft in the middle. Leave the brownie to cool in the pan.

By Lucy Parker



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The King's College  
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*Wise Wolf  
Adviser to all...*

*Dear Wise Wolf,*

*My bag has disappeared four times already this term, what do I do to prevent this?*

If you are like many people at King's College and you carry a 'macpac,' consider investing in another unique brand. This will make your bag easy to recognise, if at any point during the day you have to leave it somewhere. I find just leaving my bag in the same place every time I put it somewhere also incredibly helpful.

*Dear Wise Wolf,*

*I seem to be walking into walls a lot more than usual and missing the train as I keep reading the main clock incorrectly. What should I do?*

It seems that you may need an eye test. Many people will agree with me in saying that walking into walls is not very pleasant. Specsavers are currently having a sale on glasses if you need a cheap pair fast.

**If you have a question for the wise wolf, please slip it under Mrs Adams' door, Room 13**

Quote of the Day

"Never go to a doctors office whose plants have died."