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## EDITORIAL: TURN ON YOUR HEAT PUMP

It's time we all grew up and turned our heat pumps on. I will die on this hill.

To all the power Scrooges out there, I get it. The early stages of flatting are a hard fiscal slap in the face. You hear the phrase "cozzie livs" (boomer translation: "cost of living") thrown around while you swan about your cosy, air-conditioned halls, but you don't truly feel the reality of the words until moving into your first flat.

Suddenly, every cent spent is so, so precious. The Glassons hauls you boasted in first-year and fashion-walked in front of mates are swapped out for the thermals your mum bought you after you enrolled at Otago Uni. Skipping hall dinners in favour of a Macca's run when the menu didn't quite hit turns into nibbling on toast you scraped bits of mould off ("it won't kill me"). You wince every time a new bill needs to be paid (who else didn't realise you needed to pay for bins?), and thank God that you don't live in Auckland where water bills are a thing.

Most of us move into new flats during summer, when supermarket herbs last longer than a week on the kitchen windowsill and your extra blanket stays folded up at the foot of the bed. But with daylight savings now behind us, and the weather beginning to turn, power bills are creeping higher. Showers become longer; the dryer is used more frequently; electric blankets are switched on at night – for those lucky enough to own one (if not, I'd recommend asking Santa for one next Christmas). And, inevitably, there's the Heat Pump Talk.

The divide between pro and against heat pump users is reminiscent of American Republicans and Democrats. Seems like a drastic comparison, but one I'm willing to make. "Just wear more layers!" come cries of heat pump objectors through coughs and sniffles. If you follow the clouds of their breath, you can spot them squatting beneath their mountains of blankets, purple fingers clasping a third mug of tea for the afternoon to loosen them up enough to type an essay. I shouldn't need to tell you that fingers should not need to be thawed out like a chicken breast. It's gone too far.

In second-year, my flatmates and I had the typical flat tiffs of four students on the bones of our asses about power conservation. We practically knew the price of every appliance per hour. I'd be nervous to use any appliance at

all, extending to hair straighteners and dryers. We'd have flat meetings to come up with power-saving strategies like alerting the flat to when the jug was boiled. It was being used too much, apparently. We set time-limits for showers – a song and a half, and "everything" showers had to coincide with the hour of power.

The turning point for my flat was when we found ourselves huddled together around the oven in the kitchen, door shut, savouring its warmth. We were self-aware enough to call it what it was: a miserable fucking scene. The decision was made then and there to bite the bullet and turn on the heat pump.

And it was glorious. The change was immediate. The dingy little flat turned from a shack into a home. You could take a layer off instead of putting an extra one on when walking in the front door. Sitting on the couch didn't suck all life and energy out of you like some goddamn furniture-shaped demontor. The extra money we spent on using the heat pump was probably money that would have otherwise gone toward an extra drink for an alcohol blanket, or a Student Health bill for that perpetual cold.

It's totally understandable in the current economic climate for flatters, new or otherwise, to balk at the idea of using the heat pump. You can practically hear the money draining from your bank account with every pump of hot air. I couldn't tell you off the top of my head what the cost was per week of using the heat pump, however it definitely wasn't more than the difference between a box of RTDs and a Nitro – a weekly choice you probably already make.

And let's be real. Blasting the heat pump on 30 degrees during the hour of power does fuck all. You can always go to the library if you need to study somewhere without your fingers freezing on your keypad, it's true, but you inevitably have to go home to a cold flat – unless you have the good sense to cuff a sneaky link who lives in a Uni Flat. But if you can see your own breath in your flat, you should be turning on the heat pump. The difference in your well-being will be astronomical.

NINA BROWN



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# LETTERS



### LETTER OF THE WEEK

**Hey Critic,**

Just wanted to shed a little insight on the UBAR line for those who had the pleasure of not being there tonight.

Tonight, has proved that opening the line earlier does not make anything better, and it was infact a silly way of trying to put a bandage on the actual problem (we need more student bars).

The fact is that multiple university bars closing means the students have very few choices on a Wednesday night.

Baa baa closes at 10:30 and I'm sure many of the other bars follow suite, meaning UBAR is quite literally students only option if they want to stay out past curfew on a Wednesday night.

However, the UBAR line tonight was so dangerous. You may think this is dramatic, but I promise you it is not. We arrived at UBAR just before 9am and did not get in at all (we stayed until 11am). We were pressed up against the glass for over an hour, feeling like we were unable to breathe. This is a run-on effect of any competitor uni bars shutting down. This is dangerous and the uni does not do anything to help the issue at the root.

Instead, they want to make castle street more PC by buying up all the houses. Pro tip that is not making the students any safer, but you know what will? Putting money into developing MORE UNI BARS SO STUDENTS DO NOT FEEL SUFFOCATED IN THE UBAR LINE.

The only reason this happened is because this is the only option for students to go on a Wednesday night. More options results in more safety and the fact the university doesn't see this means they are either oblivious or they just do not care. It's only a matter of time before something tragic happens due to lack of safe places for students to turn to.

Sincerely,

Someone who is very hesitant to return to UBAR line again because that was genuinely scary.

**Send letters to the editor to [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz) to be in to win a \$25 UBS voucher.**

**Hi Critic,**

I am writing as I believe that the state of walking traffic on the Otago has gotten out of hand. As a public service announcement for all freshers, walk as you would drive, keep to the left, not cutting people off, and for Christ's sake don't stop in the middle of the road to go on your phone. It is my dream to have give-way lines painted throughout the campus, but until then please just use your brains.

Sincerely,

A fast walker

**Editor's response:** *You're so real for that.*

Not to brag but I was once a successful/horny TikTok smut writer (yeah you heard that - Wattpad had nothing on my sexy audios and random backgrounds). I was bored and severely touched starved in 2022 on my gap year and to get me through my shit job and loneliness I began to type.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU !! The amount of horny 12 year olds in the comments begging for a part 32 or whatever was insane - I happily obliged because if boys get to watch 2 girls one cup - I will give you a literal orgasm through reading! It's been 1.5 years and though I don't miss it I do cherish my time. #dracotok started it!

Love from - chick who doesn't know how to write an essay.

Your crossword creator needs to learn to check their answers. "The machine that killed its inventor" Your answer: Segway

The person that invented the Segway is still alive. Someone bought the Segway company and then died on one but they didn't invent it

**Editor's response:** *Whoops, our bad.*

**Dear Critic**

The sex issue this year was very delightful, especially with its rainbow articles however, it reminded me why I am pissed off with the University and the college's way of tackling student sexual health.

You see, the university and the Colleges likes to pride themselves on supporting students' sexual health and a way they do this is through providing free contraception. This is great, but only for certain people. If you have a dick or like getting dick there are condoms available EVERYWHERE!! However, if you have a vagina or like giving pleasure to a vagina there are NO dental dams anywhere. Only condoms! What do they expect us to do with these condoms? Play where is the dick with people's vaginas or pretend that a person with a vagina can't get STD's/STI's?

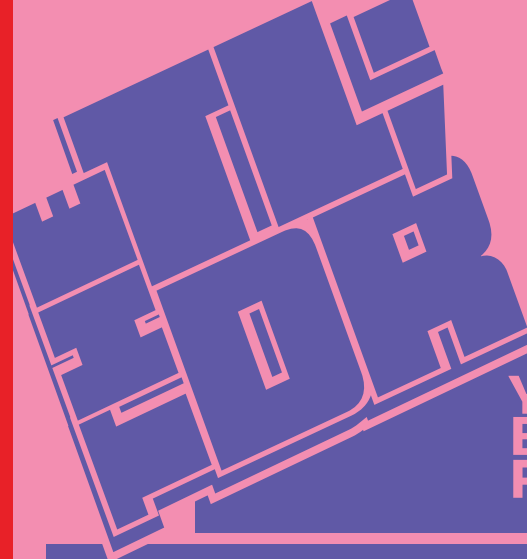
Sure I am aware that you can make a dental dam out of a condom with quick arts and crafts but how does one make arts and crafts sexy? "Mhmm I so wanna go down on you but first let me seductively cut up this condom." And that's only if a person knows they should do that. A lot of people are not taught about that in sex ed and it's not like it's advertised. Then the argument of buying your own dental dams comes up. From sexual wellbeing, a dental dam costs \$1.75. \$1.75 for a square of plastic?!!!! For context, you can get a condom, a more complicated shape of plastic, for \$1.60 from that shop and you can buy bulk condoms for even cheaper elsewhere. Even contraception can't escape pink tax.

Overall this system of only providing condoms and sexual health and safety information for those who have/like dicks is disgustingly homophobic and sexist! People with vaginas have the right to accessible contraception just like people with dicks do. If you know who I can pressure into supplying free dental dams alongside the free condoms please let me know.

Sincerely,

A pissed off vagina owner and lover.

(How to make a dental dam out of a condom: Unroll it then using scissors cut the tip off the condom so you end up with a tunnel. Then cut along the condom length wise to end up with a rectangle. Then place on the pleasure zone. Do not flip the condom after use!). (These should be used for oral/vaginal and oral/anal.)



## YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN ROUNDUP

**Fringe Festival has wrapped up**, reporting that they sold at least 1,330 more tickets and generated over 51% more income for their artists than last year

**Amnesty Youth Otago is doing a call out for new members.** If you're a keen advocate for Human Rights and want to get involved in some community outreach, hit them up on socials to get involved - @amnestyyouth.otago

**There are two new affiliated clubs!** Welcome to the Otago University Korean Student's Association and the Anatomy and Physiology Student's Association

**Meta has come under fire after Instagram users noticed that they're limiting "political" content by default.** To turn that setting off, go into your content preferences, choose "political content" and select "don't limit"

**Te Rōpū Māori SGM/ bi-elections are this Wednesday, April 10, at 5pm in the OMD CFI seminar room.** A new position Tumuaki Takirua Te Kaihāpai is on the table

**Thursdays in Black are hosting a hui to open discussions about sexual harm on campus this Wednesday from 7-9pm in the Union Common Room,** featuring speakers from the Uni's SMART (Sexual Misconduct Action Response Team) and Te Whare Tāwharau

# SPORT

**Club rugby has started in Dunedin** and our very own University side are looking like genuine top four contenders

**The Highlanders had a much needed Bye in the weekend after being thrashed by the Hurricanes a week prior.** We now sit at 8th on the Super Rugby table (ahead of the Crusaders at least)

**The mighty Otago Nuggets copped a 86-79 OT win in their opening game against the Southland Shark**

# CLUBS



## Aquinas Has a Bra Thief

Not what we meant by free the nip, but close enough

By Sam Smith-Soppet  
Contributor // news@critic.co.nz

News of a bra thief on the loose in Aquinas has students in a panic. Sources say that the thief has been on the loose since the beginning of March.

In the space of a few weeks, several pairs of women's brassiere and underwear have been reportedly stolen, leading residents to suspect the bra thief's presence. Garments have been stolen from both washing piles and even directly from residents' rooms, making for more serious consequences if the thefts continue.

Critic Te Ārohi spoke with Aquinas resident Kate for some insight into the reign of terror, one of the first victims of the lingerie-obsessed criminal. At first, she said she found the theft "rather funny as the bra was hung on a door, in an easy to access location." But this outlook changed rapidly as rumours circulated that the assailant was breaking into locked rooms to expand their collection.

Kate suggested to Critic that a set of ageing locks on residents' doors may have been the potential reason for the series of break-ins, which we were unable to confirm. The rise in thefts has also coincided with a recent rise in "carding" but Kate was uncertain if this had anything to do with the issue. Kate said that

the thief allegedly broke in with "nothing but a student ID card," implying that those affected had "carded" (keeping your keycard constantly in the door) or not. "From what I've gathered, a lot of guys were doing it to get into girls' rooms," said Katie.

According to sources within the hall, the peak of break-ins came around St Patty's Day, with several male students reportedly entering female residents' rooms whilst their inhabitants were still sleeping. Male students allegedly took photos of female residents while they slept, yet the extent to which this happened was not ascertained by Critic Te Ārohi.

Another Aquinas student, Joshua, told Critic that, "It's all happening on the second floor." He continued his speculation stating, "I think it's a few boys going into girls rooms but I don't know any names." As the conversation continued, Joshua ominously said that "there's a lot worse things that have happened here recently." Joshua is truly battle hardened at this point from all the shit Aquinas has thrown at him.

Kate suggested to Critic Te Ārohi that the thefts only happened two or three times, yet reports that other break-ins could have occurred over the recent period. Watch this space, I guess.



## Salmond Lashes Out Following Food Review

"Don't fuck with the Mond"

By Sam Soppet & Hugh Askerud  
Contributor & News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Critic Te Ārohi has once again come to blows with a hall after a full kitchen staff meeting was organised to address the magazine's now infamous food review. The meeting allegedly saw Critic staff being called out by name and staff shedding tears after reading the review in the company of others. Staff were also shocked that the hall received such a low rating of 3.6 despite sharing its catering with Knox, a hall which received significantly higher rating.

In Critic Te Ārohi's colossal undercover food review, we covered all (bar one, sorry Aquinas) of the halls. While Knox averaged an 8 (quality: 9, mouth-feel: 8), Salmond received an average of 3.6 (quality: 2, mouth-feel: 1). The result led to a rather charged letter to the editor, DMs, and in-person conversations which all amounted to "the food review was a fucking scam." Much of the criticism Critic received pinpointed the fact that, on the day of the review, over half of Salmond had prepared packed lunches due to the fact that it was Mac n Cheese day.

In staunch defence of their kitchen, Salmond staff told Critic Te Ārohi that they and Knox are the only halls to still provide cooked breakfast for residents. Big ups. Meanwhile, University-owned halls have suffered in the context of budget cuts, now only serving cooked breakfasts on Sundays. There was apparently a petition by one cooked-breakfast piner at one of those halls a few

weeks back. This inequality is largely due to the fact that Salmond and Knox are privately owned by the Council of Knox College and Salmond College, a body with links to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. In addition to maintaining cooked breakfasts, Salmond College has undergone a facelift of communal areas over a number of years.

Critic went straight to the horse's mouth for comment on the matter; our very own Griffin Powell, writer of the Salmond food review who has since learned that you "don't fuck with the Mond." He explained that "as a fresh-eyed Critic writer, I had no idea my Mac n Cheese feed would cause so much controversy. I didn't really think much of my review once I wrote it. I wrote worse things about Carrington and was more concerned about that." Griffin knew shit had spiralled after "someone DMed me calling me a cunt for disrespecting Salmond." Griffin had also heard reports of the kitchen staff wanting to "jump him on site." A true martyr for the cause.

Reflecting on the feud, Griffin doubled down, saying, "While it's nice that the hall community is so fiercely loyal, did we all just forget it was over a plate of Mac n Cheese?" Damn, that boy is stone cold in the face of the Salmond mafia – but not stone cold enough it seems: "I'm sorry for all the distress I've caused. Don't fuck with the Mond."

TIMES GONE AFTER PINT NIGHT	PINT GLASSES STOLEN
1. Molly x 5	[REDACTED] 5
2. Hugh x 4	Molly - 0
3. Sam + Angus x 3	Sam - 0
4. Jordan x 2	

## Pint Night Glasses Going Extinct

Bet you feel guilty now (I do)

By Hugh Askerud  
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

U-Bar's pint glasses are in short supply, dropping to a stock of only 500 out of the 3000-4000 that were bought for the bar just a few years ago. Weird, I wonder why? Hospitality Services Manager Adrian Lowrey told Critic Te Ārohi that he is "trying to buy some new ones at the moment," but in the meantime, staff are grabbing empty glasses as soon as the last drop is gone to pre-empt klepto students.

"It's amazing how many get smuggled out because they always catch quite a few," said Adrian. "I don't know where they stash them." He mused that he'd "seen some pretty impressive collections in flat windows [...] most have a few."

The great pint glass extinction comes after the material and size of the pint glass was changed a few years ago (by Critic's estimation). The new pint glasses are plastic and, based on measurements conducted by Critic, actually less than a standard pint. This fact was glaringly singled out last year when the price of pints increased from \$5 to \$6, in a move which had Radio One and Critic Te Ārohi staff up in arms.

In efforts to preserve pint glasses, staff are removing empty pints set down by their drinkers, theoretically providing more bar space and preventing the removal (theft) of pints. Although we don't

have any up-to-date information on whether this technique has worked, one of our staff did still manage to sneak a pint glass out on Wednesday, March 13th. They did report having to hide it in their pants for upwards of 30 minutes.

Five out of seven of the students Critic asked were in favour of some cheeky pint glass-nicking. Yet, of those asked, absolutely none of them had stolen a glass! Madeline said, "It's a souvenir sort of thing, pretty common around here, so no problem." Another student, Ngaio, said, "I mean, we pay the University a lot of money to be here so..."

Others were more brutal, with one (maybe) student saying, "I don't condone stealing if that's what you're asking?" Mmmm okay. Her friend said, "That sounds pretty typical of an Otago University student," confirming Critic's suspicions that they hadn't seen the pint night line in their life. Another pro-glasser told us, "Why would you want the glasses though, really?"

Only 390 students can be in U-Bar at one time, but student turnover means there's been over 900 people in an evening. According to this maths, all the remaining pint glasses could then go in one foul swoop, unless Adrian has replaced the dwindling supply.

## New Queen St. Facebook Group Claims to Have No Freshers

Okay fresher...

By Molly Smith-Soppet  
Contributor // news@critic.co.nz

The smell of a fresh Dunedin street Facebook group is in the air again with the creation of 'QUEEN/GEORGE 24'. And wow, it's without the one thing all of Dunedin claims to despise: fucking freshers (or so they reckon). If you're wondering why you need another platform to buy fake Baseline tickets from or post about empty rooms for rent, so are we.

The admin of the Facebook page is anonymous, their profile labelled as simply QUEEN GEORGE in diehard respect for the group. QUEEN GEORGE also refused to comment when Critic Te Ārohi got in touch. How mysterious. Conversely, little was left to interpretation in the page's description, stating, "Strickly 3rd year + post your hosts scammers/dickheads will be removed." Fuck those loser fucks on Castle Street, aye guys.

Response to the group has been overwhelming, with over 950 members joining only two days after its creation. However, only two posts have been made so far, aside from an initial post by the admin. Of note was a poll posted by someone by the name of

'Hugh Askerud' (who the fuck are ya mate) asking people which Otago sports game they would be watching over the weekend. Of 57 answers, 52% of the group said they would be watching the Highlanders, and 28% claimed to be watching 'your mum'.

When asked about the 'QUEEN/GEORGE 24' hype, third-year student Jemima commented, "I didn't even know this page existed and I probably wouldn't post my host because my lounge would end up in the downstairs bedrooms." Fair.

The admin's identity is further shrouded in intrigue by the widespread belief that everyone is the admin, as group members have the ability to accept or decline the entrance of their own Facebook friends.

If you have information about the identity of QUEEN GEORGE or are in fact the aforementioned QUEEN GEORGE yourself, please come forward (this is Critic Te Ārohi's Roman Empire).



## Non-Student Kicked Out of OUSA Sauna

Sweaty hooligan spun shit yarns

By Hanna Varrs  
Contributor // news@critic.co.nz

A non-student has been permanently banned from the OUSA Clubs and Socs building following a sauna incident where the patron caused "discomfort for other users within that session," according to OUSA's Clubs and Societies Operations Manager Jamie Leckie.

Leckie told Critic Te Ārohi that, although he couldn't comment on the specifics of the views expressed by the non-student, they violated OUSA's commitment to providing a "safe and inclusive environment." He suggested that "careful consideration" was taken by the management team before the sauna patron was informed that "they were no longer welcome back in the building." Though OUSA Clubs and Societies prevent non-students from accessing services such as free breakfast and \$4 lunch, the sauna is available for public use, though the majority of users are students.

The OUSA sauna has an emergency button which directly alerts a downstairs reception team trained in First Aid, situational awareness, and conflict resolution. Additionally, the booking system allows management to keep track of who is in which session and follow up with users if need be. Keys are allocated by staff to ensure only those who are authorised for the session may enter.

In relation to the incident, Leckie stated that there is a "trespassing list for the centre, and if a person who is not allowed in the centre trespasses, we inform Campus Watch." CCTV cameras located in common spaces within the centre facilitate this process.

Following up on the issue, Critic Te Ārohi got in contact with OUSA's Clubs and Socs representative Emma Jackson, who was honestly just as clueless as we were, stating, "Some sort of order or thing is preventing the offender from coming back." You're real for that, Emma.

One avid sauna user and student said they thought it was "hard to make a call about whether the management team's response was right or wrong without knowing exactly what happened." However, they stated they were satisfied that hearing each party out would've resulted in an educated decision. Solid reasoning.

Leckie told Critic Te Ārohi that he hopes more of the community can make use of the space, but the priority of the OUSA Clubs and Societies team is to keep sauna users safe and happy. A clear set of protocols - criteria which greatly informed their decision in this instance - are in place so you can get your sweat on without worry.

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## University "Highly Likely" to Cut Some Journal Subscriptions

Now I'm being forced to use Wikipedia

By Monty O'Rielly

Contributor // news@critic.co.nz

Academic journals have been added to the University's list of casualties after Critic Te Ārohi was told that it was "highly likely" that resources, including some academic journals, would be cut.

A University spokesperson told Critic Te Ārohi that they could be culling "low-use subscriptions in the area of information resources – books, journals, databases, and electronic book packages." The proposed cuts are part of a "process to identify potential savings," though the University has stated that "no decisions have yet been made." OUSA president Keegan Wells told Critic Te Ārohi that, "Students can always submit on these issues...please."

The proposed cuts to library resources come just a few years after the University allegedly removed their collection of "soft pornography" from the Science Library. The cuts also come in the context of the University's debt inflation in which "all departments within the University have been asked to make savings," something which is probably more relevant than the porn thing.

Keegan told Critic Te Ārohi that she was, "Glad to see that staff aren't being cut [...] The University's slogan is literally 'it is people, it is people' so it would be pretty ironic to fire staff!" Nonetheless, Keegan lamented that "it is disappointing to see resources like these being cut. Postgraduates will be affected the most by it." Gauging the true effect of these changes on students, Critic Te Ārohi spoke to third-year student Charlotte who stated that, "I think there's a level of complex understanding that can only be gained with supplementary research of your own." She went on

to affirm the importance of library resources, expressing that, "the point of uni is to exit as educated individuals." Another student, Nicole, said, "I use the library all the time to look up academic journals." She suggested every single paper she takes relies on her looking at the library database for supplementary research, with Arts degrees being "pretty heavily reliant on needing to get access to academic sources."

A fourth-year, Amy, had different concerns, arguing that the limitation of resources could lead to "potential biases of publication, which are enough in themselves without reducing access to knowledge." She argued that the proposed cuts would prevent students from seeing the "entirety of the field so that you can evaluate and find your gaps and find what needs to be explored." Amy also echoed Keegan's sentiment about postgrads, saying, "How are we gonna supply our Masters and our postgraduate students with enough knowledge and enough understanding of their field to grow our scientific knowledge?"

In terms of a timeline, the University has stated, "Any changes made as part of cost savings would not come into effect until next year. So, there will be no impact on library resources this year!" (Critic Te Ārohi has another 100 years left on their degree, so that's shit). Dire warnings from the student community about the effect of these cuts are supported by Keegan's assertion that, "if Otago wants to be known as a research based university, resources like these are really important."

## The Baaa Karaoke Threatens Thirsty Thursday Supremacy

Pequeño jazz nighters dropping their lips

By Hugh Askerud

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Word on the street is that The Baaa karaoke has ostensibly filled the Thursday night social calendar gap after reporting "lines out the door" since the start of 2024. Supporting the piss-fuelled antics of over 200 breathas a night, The Baaa's karaoke has allegedly trumped all other competitors for Thursday night dominance – including the revered Pequeño Jazz Night. Though this is partially a consequence of liquor licencing which prevents Pequeño from having as large a venue cap as The Baaa, it's no joke when Critic Te Ārohi states that karaoke is out to take the fucking belt.

To gauge the extent of the rapid rise, Critic Te Ārohi spoke with Alex Lister, a supervisor at The Baaa and head of the karaoke nights since 2022. Alex told Critic that "we're finally starting to get back to pre-Covid levels [...] it's been steady but now we actually have lines out the door." The venue's capacity is 137 individuals, but Alex said that "we could have 100 people in and then have 100 different people in the next hour."

The rise in numbers comes after social spectators of the University scene have pointed to a relative absence of viable social events catering to a large demographic of students on a Thursday night. Wednesday has Pint Night, Friday has town, and Saturday has the flats, but pundits have pinpointed Thursday as a key zone of contention for many students. The uncertain status of Thirsty Thursday is supported by (dubious) analytics which reveal that U-Bar statistically hosts less events per semester on a Thursday than they would on any other operating day.

Alex attributed the success of karaoke night to the fact that, "It's its own unique thing. It's like, we'll let the hair down, get the

house doubles out, and have a mean time." Alex also admitted to partially manipulating his attendees, stating, "I always start us off and purposefully do the first song terribly [...] cracking highs and shit. Half can tell I'm taking the piss, and half think 'oh this guy's trash' so they have a go themselves." A likely story, Alex.

Though The Baaa's karaoke night has seen a significant increase in following, ardent fans of Pequeño's jazz nights — which run concurrently with karaoke — were quick to jump to its defence. Henry, third-year student and jazz night lover, told Critic Te Ārohi, "Jazz night does deserve supremacy!" Continuing his argument, he said, "It's not every night you get to see jazzers, including your Economics lecturer, tear it up [...] literally, his hands were bleeding buckets by the end of it."

Another fan, Nyla, told Critic, "Jazz night sounds more sophisticated [...]. I think you need that on a Thursday." Alistair, a man wizened enough to remember the days when they had 10% Billy Mavs, posited that, "It's all about different personalities [...] I've got mates who I wouldn't bring to Pequeño and vice versa, it all depends."

Cutting a knife through the confusion of the battle for Thursday night supremacy, one student Nicki, said, "The people I know who go to jazz night are all really keen." This and Alistair's comment perhaps summarises the dispute. While The Baaa's karaoke night may have triumphed in sheer numbers, nothing trumps the spirit of Jazz Night lovers (like seriously guys, chill).

Have your say!

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To find out more about the proposals and to give feedback, go to [orc.govt.nz/ltp](https://orc.govt.nz/ltp) or scan the QR code.

Feedback is open until 28 April





**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## Opinion: Nitro Goes Woke?

By Nicholas McDermott  
Contributor // news@critic.co.nz

In the ever-evolving landscape of alcoholic beverages, one name has stood out for its unapologetic embrace of the wild side: Nitro. Known for having partygoers buzzing with energy, Nitro has carved a niche for itself as the go-to drink for those looking to elevate their night from the mundane to the extraordinary. Yet, amidst the rave reviews and legendary party tales, Nitro's latest brand makeover has become a hot topic. Speculative whispers are nurtured in every corner of the social sphere, leading alcohol pundits to cry out, "Why change?"

If you aren't aware, Nitro recently underwent a brand transformation, perhaps as a response to criticism about their advertising techniques in 2021. The phrase #SleepWhenYoureDead didn't go down well with the Advertising Standards Authority for some reason. Yet Nitro has always been synonymous with uninhibited revelry, so what gives?

The new branding has taken a hefty detour into the realm of minimalist aesthetics, adopting a marketing strategy entirely opposite to the once vibrant and edgy identity that Nitro boasted. The shift towards a more subdued look raises eyebrows, not only from a marketing perspective but also for its curious timing and the potential implications behind the transformation.

The minimalist trend, characterised by clean lines, uncluttered spaces, and a monochromatic palette, has dominated the design world for years. Nitro's decision to embrace this trend could be seen as an attempt to stay relevant in a market that constantly demands innovation and change. However, it begs the question:

Can a brand that has built its reputation on the promise of wild nights and unforgettable experiences find a genuine connection with its audience through a simplified, almost Zen-like approach to its image?

Critics and fans alike have voiced their opinions, with some applauding the bold move towards modernity and others lamenting the loss of the brand's original spirit. The conversation around Nitro's rebranding is not just about the aesthetics; it's about the message it conveys. The minimalist approach could, therefore, be interpreted as a strategic move to appeal to a broader, perhaps more mature audience. Alternatively the change could be seen as a move toward a deeper brand philosophy.

As Nitro navigates this transformation, the response from its devoted fanbase will be telling of the brand's future. Will the makeover resonate or will it alienate? Only time will reveal the true impact of this bold departure from tradition.

In the meantime, the chat surrounding Nitro's rebranding serves as a fascinating case study in the dynamics of brand evolution and the delicate balance between staying true to one's roots and exploring new horizons. So sure, you may hate the new look, but could this change be the most Nitro thing we could have asked for? Is the brand's journey perhaps a reflection of its willingness to challenge the status quo? In this sense, is Nitro redefining what it means to be truly "wicked"? Maybe. All I know for sure is that Nitro is out here making money moves.

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## Capping Show Reveals 'Beezie' Theme

### It may be plastic and is certain to be fantastic

By Molly Smith-Soppet  
Contributor // [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz)

The Capping Show is back for the 130th time (never gets old), brandishing a new theme and a bucket load of sure-to-be-explicit skits – we counted “49 assorted sex, dick and tit jokes” last year.

Critic Te Ārohi met up with co-Stage Director Jack Archibald to flesh out the show's new look, expectations for the show, and to put an end to the rumour that the Capping Show is just a massive cult (doubtful).

The idea for this year's theme did not come easy, building on a series of discussions by the producer, directors, and main sketch writers. Yet, following a pitching night held at the start of the year, one theme emerged triumphant: Beezie – piggy-backing off last year's Barbie boom, but in breath-a-speak.

Jack explained the show as “a very loose adaptation of the movie” that is “set in Scarfieland.” Jack said that audiences could look forward to the “Dunedin-isation” of a film that made \$1.446 billion USD in the box office and has attracted significant social commentary since its release last July. The added pressure of the 130th anniversary is allegedly “not scaring” the very passionate cast and crew.

The Capping Show held open auditions on the 27th and 28th of February, inviting both seasoned performers and complete theatre

rookies to ensure that the show would have a diverse sense of humour. More than half of the 2024 Capping crew are new blood, but have “clicked” according to Jack, who mentioned that he was very impressed with how the new cast members had adapted.

Accompanying the new theme is the old host of Capping Show traditions, including the much revered Sextet and Sexytet, who have been performing since 1912 and 2001, respectively. The Selwyn ballet will also be on show, an amateur ballet troupe which claims to be the second oldest amateur group in the world (where you at Knox?). Even the crew is long-running, with co-Stage Directors Jack and Sunterra Bright having been Cappers for the past four years (that's gotta do something to a person's psyche).

As for whether this will be the best Capping Show yet, the resounding answer from Jack was a passionate “yes,” as he hopes to triumph over history with a Beezie-fuelled ride through Studentville. Harnessing both fervent dedication to comedy and a determination to exceed expectations, the 2024 Capping Show hopes to leave a lasting impression on Dunedin's cultural landscape – but first, they need to sell tickets.

Keep an eye out on social media and around campus in May to grab tickets to one (or all) of their eight shows in the College of Education Auditorium.

## Bar Behemoths Combine to Support LGBTQIA+ Community

Are we the only ones who remember the beef?

By Hugh Askerud  
News Editor // [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz)

Woof! have teamed up with Emerson's Brewery to create a t-shirt encouraging people to “be proud of the rainbow thirst trap that you are!” Not only will the t-shirts be drippy as fuck, but they're also helping fund an initiative to provides stores with printed materials in order to “let the LGBTQIA+ community know they are safe and welcome.” The collaboration takes place even after Woof! triumphed over Emerson's in Critic Te Ārohi's 2023 Bar Review, proving that some things really are more important than the judgement of a handful of students.

Woof! said in their advertising of the campaign that “it's small but significant actions like this that make life slightly easier for marginalised communities.” The campaign comes after several claimants have suggested that Dunedin has a relatively limited queer nightlife scene. In 2022, Critic culture editor Lotto suggested in an opinion piece that, “We need to change our image and gay it the fuck up.”

Woof! have been at the forefront of this movement, with their website stating that they aim to provide “a safe, fun, welcoming place for our people, and to advance the visibility of the rainbow people of Dunedin!” coinciding with Woof!'s rise in popularity has been a gradually growing Dunedin Pride scene, mostly targeted at

University students through events such as 2023's 'Pride Night at the Museum' and other such events which have been initiated to reduce stigma.

The initiative sparked between Woof! and Emerson's follows this trend, with owner Josh Thomas telling Critic Te Ārohi that, “Emerson's did a print run and said, ‘Here you go.’” Speaking to the initiative which the shirts will raise funds for, Josh stated that “retailers can have signage that welcomes those in the community [...] it's something that will be long lasting and specific to Dunedin. As someone who is queer, when you see a flag or any other form of positive messaging, it is quite meaningful.”

Woof! bartender, Jamiema, said, “It is truly an iconic crossover! [...] Emerson's is such a local powerhouse in Dunedin's beer scene so it is awesome to have their support on an important cause. It's like getting approached by your favourite celebrity or something, but the celebrity is your favourite brewery!”

Josh commented that, “Inclusivity is something we are very staunch about [...] this will be a positive chance for other retailers to get involved.”

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# PUZZLES PUZZLES PUZZLES

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## CROSSWORD

**Crossword rules:**

Multi-word answers are indicated by a (\*)

If a clue contains a period-noted abbreviation, the answer will also be an abbreviation

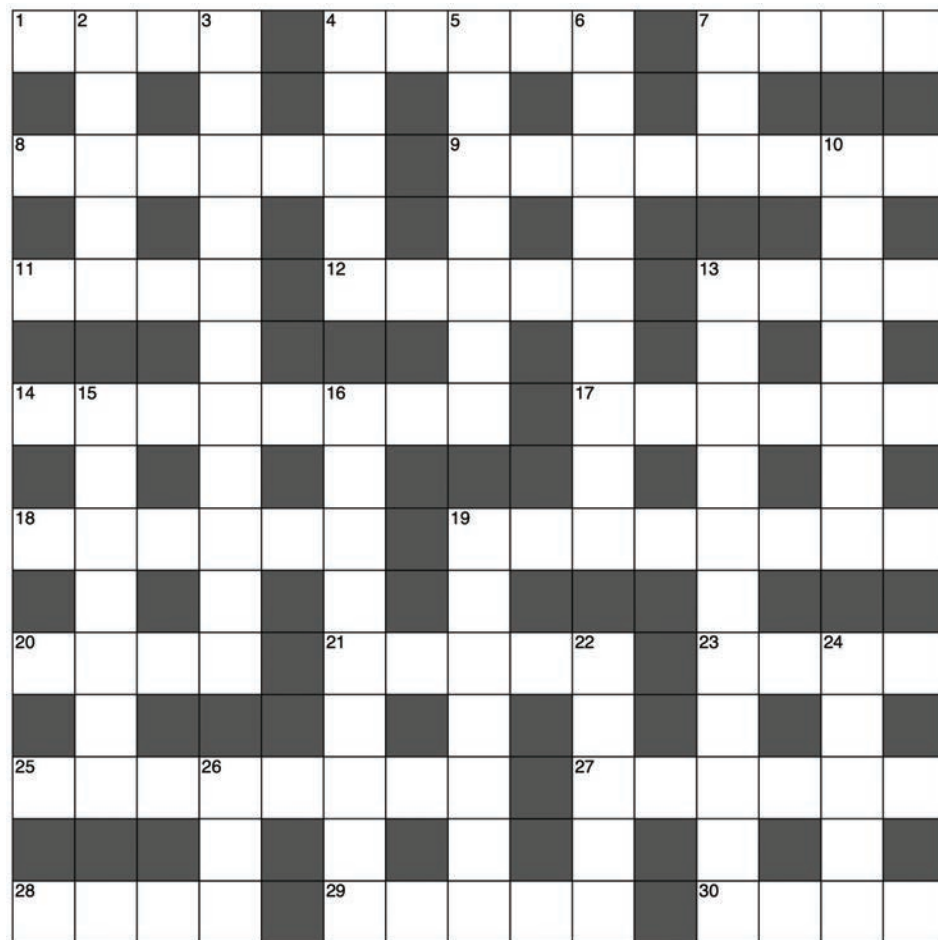
If a word is in the clue, it cannot be the answer

Quotation marks around a phrase mean that the answer is a similar phrase

Pluralised clues = pluralised answers. Same for past and present tenses (-ed, -ing).

### ACROSS

- 1 Grand tale
- 4 Tools for de-licing
- 7 Online market
- 8 \*Argument
- 9 Like a cloudy night
- 11 Lightsabre-wielder
- 12 Common taxi car
- 13 NaCl, for one
- 14 Film with Chris Rock as a mosquito (2)
- 17 Grain component
- 18 \*Tabloid rater
- 19 They're paid at funerals
- 20 Element in brass
- 21 \*Central point
- 23 Spelling mistake
- 25 Key spot on a car
- 27 Frank Ocean album
- 28 Ocean bobber
- 29 They outnumber people in NZ
- 30 River to Hades



### DOWN

- 2 Key's comic counterpart
- 3 Attractive personality
- 4 Radiohead song
- 5 \*Enormous
- 6 Horoscopes are based on them
- 7 Slippery river dweller
- 10 \*Poignant
- 13 \*The highlighted clues are all... (2)
- 15 Piece of jewelry
- 16 Job postings
- 19 1979 hit by the Police
- 22 Walk heavily
- 24 Kermit's gal
- 26 Slick, as roads

#### ISSUE 5 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1. MOHAWK 5. REHEARSE 9. BETA 10. NAOMI 11. BENZ 12. IMMINENT 13. ZOMBIE 15. ACCIDENT 18. GOBBLE 19. ASCENT 21. DEMOLISH 23. GOALIE 25. UNDER PAR 27. JPEG 29. GROUP 30. IRIS 31. DOCUMENT 32. SPEEDO

**DOWN:** 2. OPEN MIC 3. ASAHI 4. KANYE WEST 5. ROOST 6. HEINZ 7. ASB 8. SUNDIAL 14. MOBIL 16. IDEAL 17. TED 18. GVMT DEPTS 20. SCORPIO 22. SEA BIRD 24. EAGLE 25. UBOAT 26. RAISE 28. GRU

## SUDOKU

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### EASY

6	5	7			9	1
7				8	2	6
	2	6	5	9		8
2		4	8			5
	6		9		7	
9			1	6		8
	7	9	6	5	8	
8	6	3				9
1	9			4	5	3

### MEDIUM

			4			7	5
3			6	7			4
		7	8			1	6
	1	2	8			5	
7							1
	5			1	4		2
8	7				2	4	
1				6	8		2
2	3				9		

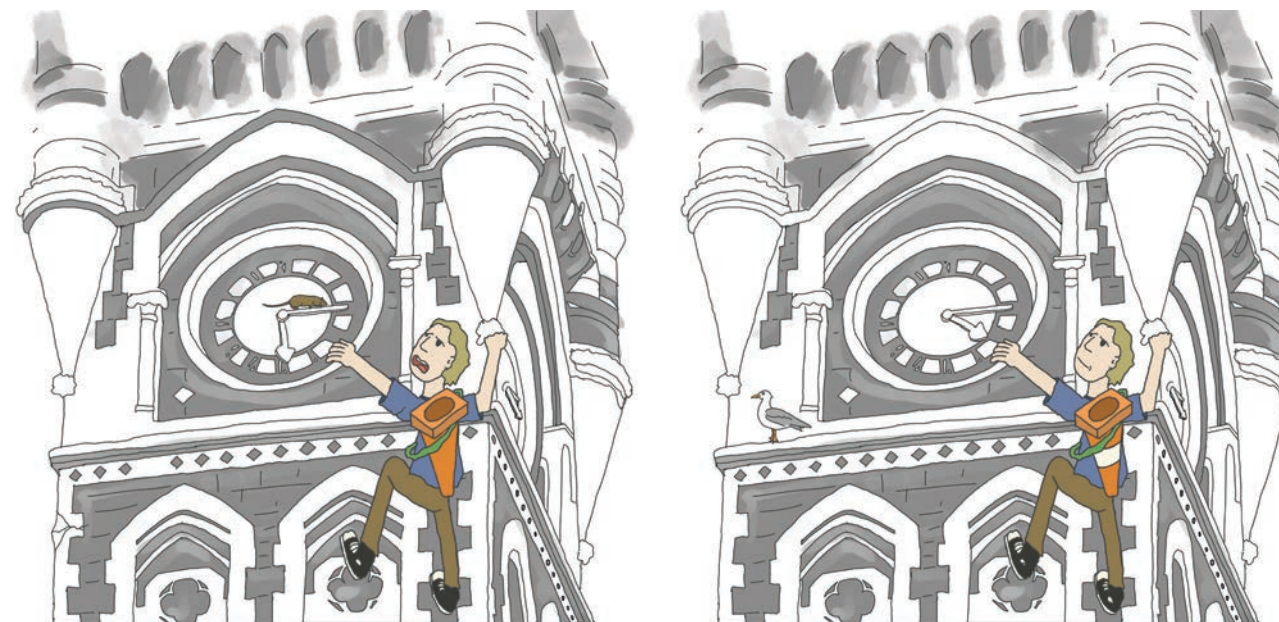
### HARD

7				5		3	2
	4			3	5		
					8		6
		5		2	7	9	4
			3		8		
	2	8	5	4		7	
3	2						
		1	4			2	
5	4		8				1

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Illustrated by Ryan Dombroski

There are 10 differences between the two images



By Adam Stitely, Gryffin Powell, Christopher Elder & Monty O’Rielly

Illustrated by Evie Noad



# THE LECTURE SWAP

**Critic Te Ārohi sent two pairs of what we considered to be polar-opposite majors to go to each others' lectures: History major Adam and Biochemistry & Genetics major Gryffin; Marketing major Christopher and Gender Studies major Monty. It's like swinging, but with a bit more content and a bit less consent.**

**Disclaimer:** This article is the subjective experience of students with zero experience in the paper they reviewed. It is not reflective of the course content or the lecturers' teaching.

**HISTORY VS GENETICS**

## BIOC221: MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

This was an anxiety-driven shit show long before I even made my way into Castle 1. The lecture was at 10am on a Tuesday, and the post-Patty's two-day hangover was really hangovering. Being surrounded by BSc students who looked like they were yet to have a near-death experience managed to make my headache ten times worse.

**9:53am:** At least I made it on time. I avidly avoided the front seats and settled myself into the (hopefully) inconspicuous middle of the lecture theatre.

**9:56am:** Lecture slides are up: BIOC221 - Bioinformatics and Transcription. First of all: what the fuck does that even mean?

**10:01am:** Lmao, there's a Vevox to rate the lecturer. Can't wait to join this.

**10:02am:** It's multi-choice, honestly a foreign concept to a BA student. They're not nearly as much fun as I thought they would be.

**Q:** How do you find the pace of [previous] lecture?

**A:** "Too fast – a lot of new material!" Yeah, no shit – my only experience with the sciences was my brief stint in Year 12 Physics, and whatever tinfoil hat-fuelled COVID conspiracy theories my uncle shares on Facebook.

**Q:** Which Bioinformatic examples did you find most interesting?

**A:** "Medicine Virology: Covid Variation." I'm somewhat of a scientist myself. Thanks, Uncle.

**10:18am:** How am I not even halfway through this?! The lecture vibes are not on; this guy may have the most monotone voice I have heard of a lecturer. To be fair, I'd be the same if I had to talk about gene editing all day. Absolutely exhilarating.

**10:22am:** Definitely not the only one feeling this way. Looking around the lecture theatre, I think I'm taking more notes than everyone else here.

**10:26am:** I am way out of my element. I think it's been ten minutes since I've been able to actually comprehend a full sentence coming out of the lecturer's mouth. I feel far too intimidated to Google anything due to fear of being silently judged from behind. But like, what is a "promoter" or "elongation"? I know these words and yet, I don't.

**10:33am:** I don't think I've seen a single student smile yet. Lighten up, champs.

**10:38am:** The lecturer has gone on a ten minute spiel about how tuberculosis cases went up during Covid. If even I understood this straight away, it might be time to move on, dude.

**10:43am:** Nothing like a Youtube video from 2010 to drill this into me. 360p is plenty, yeah?

**10:45am:** I'm in so much pain watching this attempt to play the video on the projector. I'm actually itching to watch Anthony Fauci now. Good throwback to before nutjobs thought he was the antiChrist, at least.

**10:49am:** This lecture has gone in one ear and out the other. I've got PTSD from the monotone, and at this point I'm just writing for the sake of blending in. I still don't know what Bioinformatics and Transcription means. I've been bio-uninformed, and I've only transcribed my spiralling inner monologue.

**Something I learnt:** *Fauci absolutely froths it when you can diagnose tuberculosis within two hours. Fuck yeah, I can get around that.*

**Something I unlearned:** *Everything I thought I knew about DNA.*

**If I gave a lecture on this:** *Showing a Hank Green CrashCourse video and an Arthur Morgan tuberculosis compilation to really tug on the heart strings.*

## HIST318: AUSTRALIA SINCE 1788: BOUNDARIES OF BELONGING

As seemingly the only Critic writer not studying Pols or Comms, it was my turn to try a BA lecture. Maybe I'd also leave with questionable journalistic skills. I want to clarify that as Critic's resident science student, I promise I don't support cutting the arts nor am I coming into this lecture armed with a BSc superiority complex (despite saying "nor" just now). I'll try my best to like this.

**10:52am:** Gapping it after a particularly dry and traumatic Biochem lecture, I discovered, to my surprise, that I was off to Mellor labs for the History lecture. I felt a bit like a traitor walking past all the HSFYs who were on the verge of tears.

**10:58am:** Settling into the weird seminar room, I notice that there's only about 30 people here. Nestled in the back, the fella next to me immediately glances me up and down. Either the History department is cultishly close, or I didn't dress the part of an indie BA hippie. Both, probably.

**11:01am:** The lecture starts – today we're learning about South Asia and colonial Australia. Mint, I'm an Aussie (apologies) so maybe learning about my own country will make me actually appreciate the subject I so proudly avoided throughout school.

**11:02am:** I'm introduced to today's lecturer, and the second she starts talking I'm hooked. Get her an audiobook contract ASAP! Her voice is so chill and oddly soothing (I already feel a nap brewing).

**11:06am:** A few minutes in and I'm really appreciating how few words there are on each slide. I'm not missing the mindfuck of a single Biochemistry slide taking ten minutes just to decipher.

**11:10am:** Shit, I've already zoned out for a few minutes and we've barely started. I can't help but notice the kitchenette in the corner of this strange room. Maybe if I made some Mi Goreng mid-lecture I'd actually be able to focus.

**11:16am:** Starting to worry slightly that I've been stitched up and put in the wrong paper to see if I'd notice. Every slide has a map on it – are we sure this isn't just a Geography paper in disguise?

**11:22am:** We've spent the first half of the lecture learning about early connections between India and Australia, and I think I'm following so far. On a side note, the lecturer loves using the word "foundations". I wonder if she'd be interested in Engineering, there's far more foundation chat than in History.

**11:26am:** As a very questionable break from learning about the monopoly of the East India Company, I watch Critic's video of Sam gridding across campus. Now this is history.

**11:32am:** Just as I was paying attention, I lost ten minutes without realising. I want to go on my phone but everyone is fully engaged – this is the first lecture I've been to in my degree without someone online shopping in front of me.

**11:38am:** A failed attempt at showing a 30 second YouTube video turns into a four minute ordeal. Glad to see no matter what subject you study at Otago, your lecturer still won't be able to use technology for shit.

**11:43am:** I may have mentally checked out about 20 minutes ago, but occasional camel facts catch my attention as we learn about the Afghans who came to outback Australia to manage camels.

**11:50am:** The lecture ends with a "Thank you for your attention" slide, filling me with guilt for not appreciating History enough in the last hour. You rock arts profs, humanities students deserve the world. Regardless of your degree, every lecture has students teetering on the edge of daydreaming.

**Something I learnt:** *There's more detailed records of the camels that came to Australia than the Afghan cameleers that came with them :( Fuck you, colonisation.*

**Something I unlearned:** *Hating on people who actually do their readings, especially for papers like this. Getting through pages and pages of content this dense would finish me off long before my questionable lab safety practices do.*

**If I gave a lecture on this:** *I'd just play an episode of Horrible Histories, with Subway Surfers in the corner to satisfy our cooked attention spans. Maybe then I'd remember something.*

## GENDER STUDIES VS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### ENTR101: HOW TO START A VENTURE RESPONSIBLY

**3:56pm:** Walking to Archway to attend ENTR101, I can't help but wish this was taking place in the Business School. I've always been jealous of the Business School. It doesn't make any sense why the Business students get the nice things now when they are going to be able to afford them later and we (BA students) won't.

**4:02pm:** After figuring out how to spell "entrepreneurship" to blend in (which I assume is the first thing you're taught in this paper), the lecture starts in a mostly empty room. 'Lean Entrepreneurship Part Two' the slides read. Brilliant. Lean entrepreneurship? Like the purple shit? I know I am in for a treat. As the lecturer starts to talk, his speech patterns and hand gestures are exactly like a motivational speaker, and I feel myself being pulled into a false trance.

**4:06pm:** Endless flow charts appear on the slides: 'Growth Hacking'. "Make sure you do a SWOT every month." I have no idea what these things mean, but either everyone understands, or they're all as lost as I am, because I'm typing the most in this lecture hall.

**4:10pm:** Update: a subtle Google reveals SWOT means Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis. This is no help.

**4:18pm:** Someone asks the lecturer a question for clarity, and receives the reply: "That's a question for another paper, because that has more than a yes or no answer." Guess he doesn't understand what he's saying, either.

**4:24pm:** We get into the real meat of the lecture: 'Guerilla Marketing' strategies. It's fascinating, normally I study guerilla warfare but now I get guerilla marketing. I guess gorillas are kind of lean? The strategies covered include: sponsored flash mobs (fuck off), getting a student council member to promote your product on Instagram (print media is dead), and projecting your ad on the side of the Dunedin Civic Center (he insisted again and again that this was legal).

**4:26pm:** Just as I am processing how annoying a sponsored flash mob would be, someone excitedly raises their hand: "Is this like when Elon Musk shot a car into space?" The lecturer looks ecstatic, "Yes! Exactly like that!" I think I've hit the jackpot.

**4:35pm:** Mr. Lecturer moves on from discussing potential marketing tactics to discussing potential business models. From what I can tell, no one is paying attention at this point. Someone swings on a squeaky chair, two people snap each other. I feel like I'm back in high school.

**4:42pm:** Trying to ignore the incoming headache from that goddamn squeaky chair, I zone back in to realise he is not only describing, but encouraging, the razor-and-blade business model. Holy shit. I thought this paper was meant to be about responsible business ventures. For those unfamiliar, it's selling an initial product at a loss, but the replacement parts of the products at a massive markup. It's generally considered to be just downright extortion, but he seems very excited over this idea, lulling us into believing it's positive with his motivational speaker voice.

**4:45pm:** The lecture finishes five minutes early, and I can only hope that these students have to take an ethics class alongside this.

**Something I learnt:** Lean marketing has absolutely nothing to do with lean.

**Something I unlearnt:** Any hope that I had of future entrepreneurs being taught ethical business practices.

**If I gave a lecture on this:** I'm a communist. I wouldn't.

### GEND207: MASCULINITIES

**10:02am:** The first two things I notice upon entering the lecture is that A) it's mostly women learning about masculinity, and B) this lecturer isn't straight. One of the main ways you could tell the latter (aside from my excellent gaydar and the fact that he spent a more than generous portion of time talking about his gay adventures in Berlin) was that at several points during the lecture, students were actually encouraged to chat and share their thoughts with the class. This never happens in BCom owing to the "I am in charge", aggressively straight, male, possibly racist, once-a-week missionary with the wife energy that envelops the majority of my Commerce professors.

**10:18am:** With the lecture's content being 'Masculinity and Mobility', it naturally leads to a discussion on cars versus public transport. I learn that taking a bus makes you look like less of a man because you aren't the one driving. Lord forgive the Passenger Princes.

**10:25am:** The fact that women seemed to make up the majority of the class gives me the impression that this is less a masculinity master class as one might think, and more of a class dedicated to figuring out why men care so much about who has the loudest car. Apparently, expert opinion is that the decibel level of your engine doesn't directly correlate with the size of your penis.

**10:32am:** Okay, so apparently men take up more space on the road because they don't like to feel "submissive" by taking public transport, hence why they take up more physical space on public transport when they do (AKA the manspread).

**10:46am:** The discussion has evolved to whether self-driving cars are less masculine than cars you drive yourself; whether it's more important to a man to feel that he is in control (driving), or to feel like he is better than everyone else (fancy self-driving status symbol car). I'm hesitant to inquire about where Truck Nutz comes into the equation [Editor's note: I regret Googling what those are].

**Something I learnt:** A great final exam for a masculinity course would probably consist of surviving an hour of car talk with some straight dude-bros without getting something explained to you as though you haven't learned the alphabet yet.

**Something I unlearnt:** Shame over using my Bee card.

**If I gave a lecture on this:** I would definitely spend more time covering my own homosexual escapades in Berlin.

# LEITH THEM ALONE

THE FAMILIES OF LEITH STREET  
BY HARRIETTE BOUCHER  
ILLUSTRATED BY ARIA TOMLINSON

**Leith Street – a key part of the North Dunedin epicentre of Otago’s student life – has long been the home of scarfie flats and student parties. But despite its reputation, Leith is more than just students living out their second-year dreams in New Zealand’s most notorious student neighbourhood. Nestled in the heart of Leith Street is a run-of-the-mill residential complex which several families call home – a unique existence when in such close quarters with student chaos.**

Critic Te Ārohi was curious to find out what life is really like for the families who live smack-bang in the middle of this student-dominated environment.

Sidra Iqbal, her husband Habib Ullah, their daughter, and twin boys have lived in a two-bedroom flat on Leith since 2019, after arriving in Dunedin from Pakistan. At first, Sidra, who was studying at Otago before working there, came alone in 2018 to find accommodation. She found it difficult to find anything suitable and faced constant rejection. In the end, Sidra and Habib’s family were happy to finally find

their place on Leith. It was affordable at \$290 per week and within walking distance to the University, their mosque, and the Botanical Gardens.

However, during their time in their Leith Street home, Sidra and Habib have experienced serious ill-treatment at the hands of students, facing vandalism and attempted break-ins, as well as racial abuse. One night, in 2019, the family denied some students access to their bathroom which resulted in the students hurling insults towards them. “They were shouting and screaming, ‘Oh, you bloody Asians!’” remembered Sidra and Habib.

This was one incident of many others over the years they’ve lived on Leith. “Last month, some students painted our car [...] The next day, the Proctor called and said, ‘I’m so sorry, I’m so sorry.’” Sidra said that the University had a responsibility to try and curb the students’ behaviour, but she was also grateful for their response when they had had issues. At the very least, Sidra and Habib have received support from Campus Watch and the University – they have their contact details and will come to check on the family when called.

But it hasn’t only been students giving the family trouble. Sidra also said a Leith Street resident allegedly threatened to have their kids taken from them by authorities if they didn’t stop crying. “You’re complaining when you’re living on Leith Street?” said Sidra. “My kids got scared: ‘Oh my god, they are going to come and take us from you.’”

The harassment was so pervasive that Sidra’s friends would feel scared when visiting her house, as many had been victims of it as well. On two separate occasions, her friends had been in a car which students had tried to break into. Sidra told us about one of the chilling incidents: “My friend, one day she came to pick me up and some drunk person [...] he tried to open her door,” said Sidra. “He wanted to attack [her]!”

The family had, of course, anticipated that some issues would come with living in the student neighbourhood. Unfortunately, Sidra admitted that the reality was worse than they’d thought. Sidra had been warned about the students by a friend, but had assumed the problems would only be minor, saying, “I have three kids, they will

always make noise.” Making noise has perhaps been the least of the kids’ worries – the broken glass that litters the streets has been an issue that Sidra and Habib believe the University has a responsibility to control. “My kids say, ‘Mum, it’s so dirty. The students are so dirty,’” said Sidra.

When their son was asked if he would like to live on Leith Street when he is a student, we got an unequivocal, “No.” Unsurprisingly, Sidra and Habib expressed that their least favourite time of the year was O-Week, when a new crop of students swarm the streets. “The new students are coming in February and March. Oh my God, they are always partying.”

On Friday and Saturday nights throughout most of the University year, the family chooses to stay inside unless there’s an “emergency”. When asked about their favourite time of the year, they replied, “November, December, January are very good, very peaceful here,” in the absence of students, “so we are happy in those few months.”

Despite the negatives, the couple had plenty of good things to say about where they live. For one, they say they’ve been blessed with their former property manager – someone the couple described as the best person they had met in Aotearoa. After being home in Pakistan during lockdown, the family returned to find that she had left a \$50 gift card, as well as fresh vegetables, milk, bread, and meat in their fridge. “I can’t explain how I felt [...] she was always very amazing,” said Sidra. Even more amazingly, Sidra and Habib maintain a positive outlook on their Leith life. “I certainly have found some difficulties and problems here, but the benefits are [greater],” said Sidra.

Living below Sidra and Habib is another family who have made their home in the Leith Street complex. Md Moudud Islam, Sadia Tabassum, and their four-year-old daughter Mahreen Tasnia moved from Bangladesh to Dunedin in 2022.

Like Sidra and Habib, the family had also struggled to find accommodation before eventually moving to Leith last year. They were well aware of the student culture beforehand, but having students as neighbours was their only real option in looking for an affordable family rental

near the University – a necessity for Moudud, who is completing his PhD in Zoology.

They spent more than a year looking for somewhere to live. In that time, they had temporary accommodation that they said “mentally tortured” their daughter – it was far too small, and they kept getting sick. Eventually, they found that the Leith complex was within their budget, at \$360 per week for a two-bedroom home. Moudud’s family is generally happy with their student neighbours, and surprisingly had few complaints – except for the glass and loud music, of course.

Reflecting on his own student days, Moudud said he could understand the partying, though he does think that Otago students are given significantly more freedom than other students across the world. “What we didn’t do was break glass,” Moudud said. “It’s dangerous for students, it’s dangerous for cars.” He thought that the University should be more mindful of this, saying, “They should impose some regulation over this.” Moudud and Sadia are quite sympathetic to the student population. “They can drink, they can dance, they can party,” the couple said. “Everything is alright [other] than breaking glass randomly.”

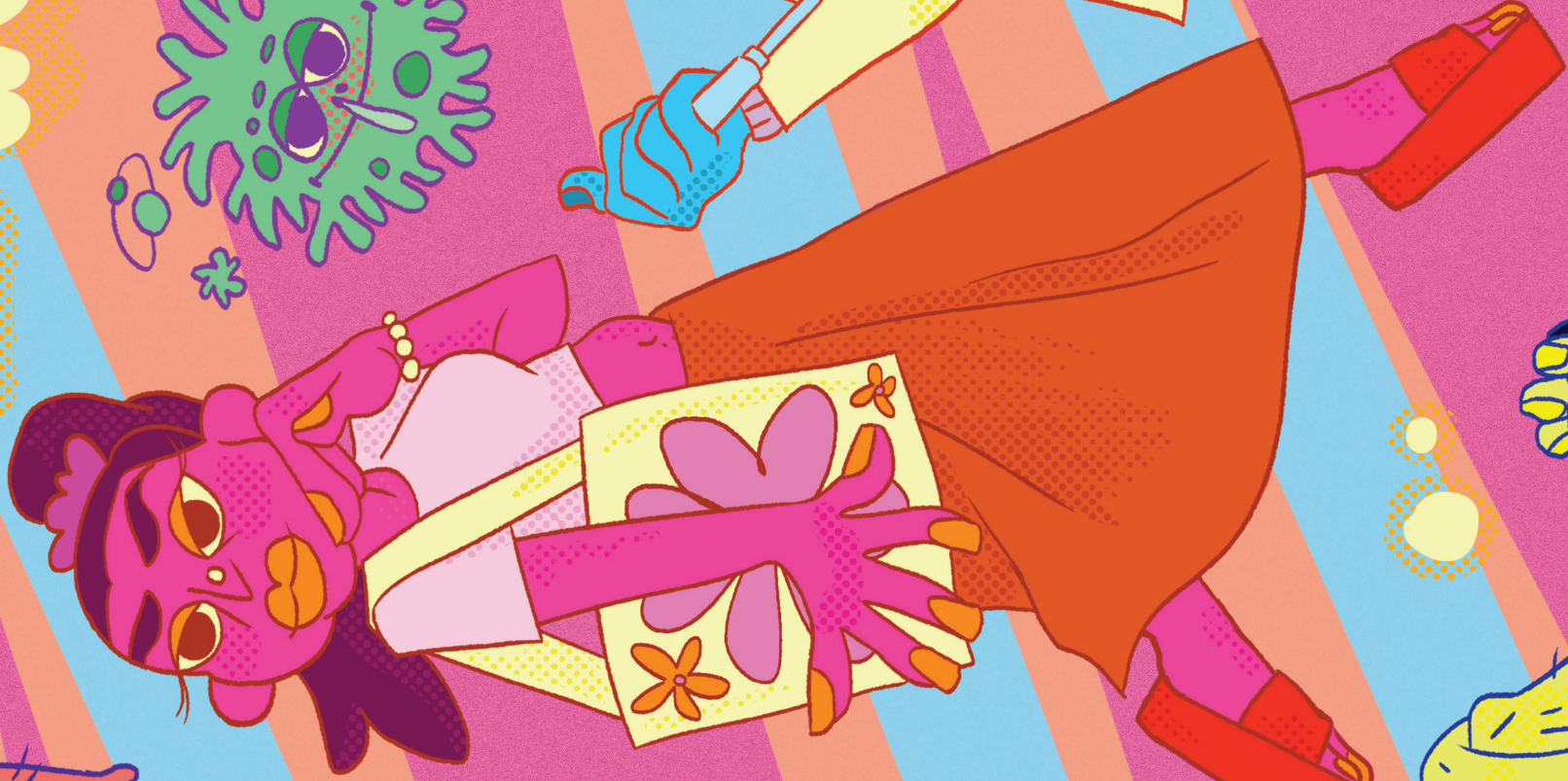
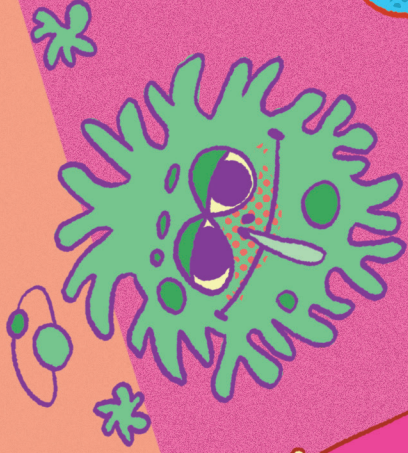
Fortunately for Moudud’s family, they had fewer horror stories than their upstairs neighbours. Still, they told us that the hardest times were “obviously Fridays and Saturdays [...] and of course the beginning of the semester.” The family avoids walking down their own street on Friday and Saturday nights. “If it’s heavy partying down the road, then it is a bit scary,” said Sadia.

The Leith street complex consists of seven residential flats, made up mostly of families or PhD students. Despite the wider area’s reputation, the complex is a refuge in which many residents can make a home, which was part of the appeal for both families. According to Sidra, there is a definite sense of community within the complex.

Like Sidra and Habib, Moudud and Sadia found that when raising a family on Leith Street, the good far outweighs the bad – the good being proximity to the University, their daughter’s kindergarten, and the affordable rent. The bad, of course, is us.



# CRAFTS!



*It's important to Critic Te Ārohi that our reviews are authentic. To review hall food, we needed to assume the identities of freshers. And to review Baseline, we also had to assume the appropriate state of a festival-goer: dressed a lil' slutty and with enough vodka Red Bulls in our system to make us giggle at anything that moved (pls give us back our sponsorship). Admittedly, our voice notes covering the night were largely incomprehensible.*

# DANCING IN THE RAIN: BASELINE REVIEWED



**By Iris Hehir & Nina Brown**  
Photos by Kelsey Frost

Limitless Touring's Baseline Festival describes itself as a "full-day dance marathon." Liking the sound of this, Critic Te Ārohi joined the throng of frothers at Logan Park, sacrificing our white sneakers and eardrums in the name of journalism.

Critic arrived (wobbled) onto the scene fashionably late at 6pm – providing "fashionably" means "four hours". "It's giving Southern Sounds," says Iris. "There's a lot going on. I love it, I love it. We'll have to check it out, but I love it." Note that you'll be able to spot a Critic staff member at this point in the year purely by their overuse of the phrase "I love it," coined by upbeat News Editor Hugh. We love it. Nina expresses concern upon arrival at the misty rain that was starting to fall, especially since Iris straightened her hair. "The Fizzliss stage looks really nice, though [inaudible slurring] – and uh, let's go!" Shit weather for frizzless, perfect for Fizzliss.

Baseline brought a mix of international, national, and local talent to the stage this year divided into two stages: Limitless (bigger, DnB focused) and Fizzliss (smaller and non-DnB focused, whose genres included house, techno, UKG, and dance). Organisers proudly told Critic that this stacked baby-festival gives local talent the chance to rub shoulders with the greats. "I would definitely agree with that," said Candice Clark, AKA CANDI, a member of the Nörty Club Collective who played a set at the Fizzliss stage on the day. "I think it's a massive bucket list moment to play at Baseline for local Dunedin [acts]." Candice said a lot of the famous acts got there early, so not only was there time for a meet and greet backstage, but they also joined the crowd to watch the local acts.

**"SOMETIMES  
A MATE'S  
HAIRBRAINED  
SCHEME ISN'T  
AS COOKED  
AS YOU MIGHT  
FIRST THINK."**

One of the great things about Baseline, according to Candice, is that it was created by people "who were avid punters [festival-goers] first, so they know what artists and punters want to see from a festival". Limitless Touring was started by two of Dunner's own breathas, Hamish Todd and Angus Tylee, from an idea cooked up in an Arana dorm room in 2017. Critic pegged them as students to watch in 2020, asserting that "sometimes a mate's hairbrained scheme isn't as cooked as you might first think."

The organisers may not be cooked (Candice notes they are "so sweet"), but the punters certainly were, and Baseline came prepared. It's not their first rodeo when it comes to hosting a good party. Right beside the entrance to the festival stood the tents of OUSA Student Support, Are You OK, and KnowYourStuffNZ, followed by a row of food trucks. Like parents who encourage their kids to drink with them at home before they smash their first bottle of vodka, Baseline could be considered a festival training ground – a mini version of Rhythm & Vines, without the capacity to get lost in the throng.

Eating is cheating, so Critic skipped past the food

trucks and went straight to the main stage (terrible advice) like bees to honey, baby. Fuelled by the superiority complex of two girls with free tickets – a legal high like no other – we beelined to the front of the mosh (top tip from Iris: "Go from the sides, never from the back"). Our progress was halted by the typical awkward run-in with an ex-boyfriend's flatmate (can't remember what was said, hope it was chill), and then the mission continued.

Spotting a group also aiming for the front, we followed through the crowd in their wake, like a breatha Moses parting the white line. "We're pretending like we know the people who are trying to gaslight their way to the front [...] Yeah dog," says Nina (a significant number of "likes" were edited out of that). This next part of the night Critic charitably dubs 'The Shit Interview'. After politely but firmly taking breathas' hands off our waists (journalism never sleeps, and we'll never sleep with you either), we turned around to rope them into a vibe-checking interview. To sum it up, the vibes were good, if vague and borderline repetitive:

**Critic:** "How are you guys finding it?"

**Breathas:** "Awesome!"

**Critic:** "What's your favourite thing about Baseline?"

**Breathas:** "The people, yeow! Lots of people. Like the amount of people. It's mean. There's lots of people."

**Critic:** "Why would you recommend Baseline?"

**Breathas:** "Just cos it's awesome! Lots of people, meet new people, ya know?"

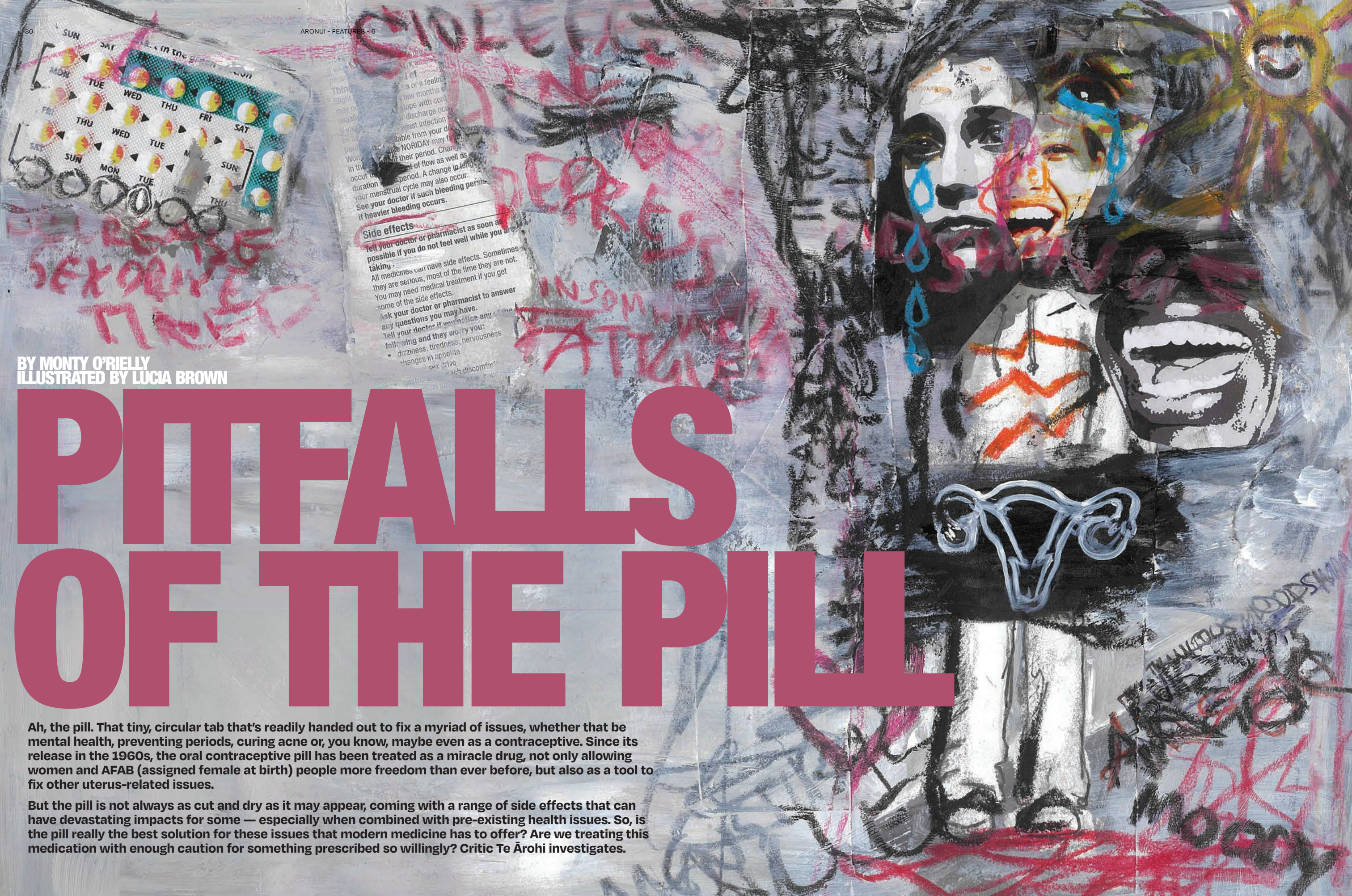
We gave up at this point. Another guy chimed in that he'd have preferred if the music was country, "but drum and bass is okay!" And the people, of course.

Critic grew very enthusiastic about the female representation on stage, spotting who we think was Sin from George FM. "I want to hear from HER!" yells Iris. "Female empowerment!" Any jaw-swinging mosher around us could have told us that we were never going to get backstage. Oh, but did we try. No less than four security members were harassed for backstage entry by two alleged reporters looking more like drowned kittens. It was pissing down, and we'd been pissing up.

Although the main stage at most festivals tends to be the biggest draw, Critic wound up spending most of the night boogying at the small stage. In our end of the night recap, Iris says, "Big ups to them. It was a way better vibe. Everyone agreed on the dance floor as well."

Candice enthusiastically recommends Baseline to anyone thinking of going next time round: "I think that not only from an artist perspective but from a punter perspective we're really lucky to have festivals like Baseline here in [Dunedin]. I think that a lot of people forget that it's a really big and well thought-out festival [and] it is just here, in our backyard, which is awesome. You know, normally people travel to Queenstown or Christchurch or Wellington or Auckland for these festivals, so it's really special to have one here in Logan Park."

If anything, the soggy-ness of the mosh made the festival even greater. There's little more freeing than dancing in rainfall. The only thing that could have made Critic's experience better? "Wish I got more food," says Iris.



BY MONTY O'RIELLY  
 ILLUSTRATED BY LUCIA BROWN

# PITFALLS OF THE PILL

Ah, the pill. That tiny, circular tab that's readily handed out to fix a myriad of issues, whether that be mental health, preventing periods, curing acne or, you know, maybe even as a contraceptive. Since its release in the 1960s, the oral contraceptive pill has been treated as a miracle drug, not only allowing women and AFAB (assigned female at birth) people more freedom than ever before, but also as a tool to fix other uterus-related issues.

But the pill is not always as cut and dry as it may appear, coming with a range of side effects that can have devastating impacts for some — especially when combined with pre-existing health issues. So, is the pill really the best solution for these issues that modern medicine has to offer? Are we treating this medication with enough caution for something prescribed so willingly? Critic Te Ārohi investigates.



**"IT WAS JUST EASIER TO ISOLATE MYSELF AND NOT HAVE TO HURT ANYONE IF I HAD A MOOD SWING OR IF I GOT REALLY UPSET."**

The pill carries some serious risks and potential side effects. As the veritable blanket of paper that comes inside the medication's box warns, side effects can include: acne, fatigue, insomnia, depression, bloating, and mood swings. Students Critic Te Ārohi spoke to shared their struggles with the emotional and physical side effects that they attributed to taking the pill.

Everyone knows periods can be a bitch, but some have it much worse than others. The pill is often prescribed to alleviate symptoms. Second-year Jess initially went on birth control at age fourteen to treat severe periods that were causing her anaemia. But it wasn't a quick fix. Since then, Jess has tried multiple different kinds of the pill in an attempt to regulate her flow. While trialling these many variants, her periods became incredibly erratic. "I could go four months of just straight bleeding, two days no bleeding, and then six weeks of more bleeding. There was no clear cycle."

When a patient is switched from pill to pill in an attempt to solve a physical health issue, as in Jess's case, hormonal shifts in the body can cause even more issues. "I had crazy side effects from just bouncing from pill to pill," says Jess. "I was with the school therapist like multiple times a week, because I was just not coping."

Dr Ogilvy tells Critic that clinicians take a holistic approach to all health and wellness concerns, emphasising it is important to outline the pros and cons of any proposed medication. "It can be difficult to be sure whether deteriorating mental health is attributable directly to the medication, as a result of the original symptoms or indeed a completely new problem. But we would certainly never want to ignore any such issues."

Both Jess and another student, Lotto (they/them), told Critic that when they first began taking the pill, they suffered from extreme mood swings. Lotto says they experienced "constant tearfulness, like actually losing hours of my day, most days, to crying. Don't know how I produce so much fluid, to be honest. Kind of impressive." Jess reports a similar experience: "I literally could just not stop myself from crying. I would just be consistently on the verge of tears. Like, every day."

In 2022, former Critic Culture Editor Annabelle Vaughan wrote about her experiences with the side effects of the pill, particularly the "tumultuous mood swings" that came with it. "When that time of the month came, my mood became so bad that it was impossible to do anything at all. I was susceptible to bursts of anger and irritability, with my friends often being the ones to bear the brunt of it. I was forever in a state of feeling short tempered and aggravated, depressive and moody."

Jess's mood swings affected her personal relationships as well. After starting the pill, she says she "lost a lot of my friends roughly around the same time because I just got too much. It was just easier to isolate myself and not have to hurt anyone if I had a mood swing or if I got really upset."

While Annabelle initially put it down to pressure of her lifestyle change in beginning university, once she came off the pill she said she had "never felt better [...] I now feel great, knowing that I won't have to write one whole week off every month due to being in a depressive and anxious state."

But quitting the pill cold turkey isn't always the solution to these side effects. The process of coming off the medication can also have serious

impacts on your mental health, as was Lotto's experience. After they stopped taking birth control, Lotto says they felt "numb, but also like very, very on edge all the time. And just my capacity to do anything was rock bottom [...] It was just so, so obvious that I just couldn't look after myself."

The pill's side effects can have an extremely detrimental impact on everyday life. Lotto says that birth control left them entirely unable to look after themselves: "It affected everything [...] My parents just got so worried that they flew me back up to Auckland. And I was there for like a month. Had to get extensions on everything. Pushed a lot of things back."

No one who Critic spoke to can recall being sufficiently informed or warned of these side effects, or the time it can take to regain mental stability after taking the pill. Nor did they report being offered counselling, or any other mental health support after being prescribed the pill – a medication which has become so normalised that Annabelle wrote she thought "taking the pill was one of the next natural steps in becoming a woman."

For Jess, the lack of consultation from doctors before being prescribed the pill extended beyond emotional side effects, too. After being prescribed 'Ginet', Jess says she experienced horrible migraines: "I was having chronic migraines that would last months. Like I was incapacitated. For weeks on end." The pain got so bad she was prescribed tramadol (an opioid medicine).

Jess later found out that Ginet could potentially cause seizures when taken by someone with pre-existing issues with migraines, which she suffered from. Jess was not warned or informed of this risk,

and has since been told by health professionals that the migraines she suffered after taking the pill could have been absent seizures. This lack of oversight on the part of Jess's GP did not allow her to make informed medical choices about taking this medication, nor was she provided the possibility of support should something go wrong.

Not everyone, however, has a negative relationship with the pill. Graduate Nina says she had a relatively positive experience after being prescribed the pill as a contraceptive at age sixteen. She experienced no issues or negative side effects for the three years she was on it, remarking she "honestly stopped taking it because it was annoying to remember to take a pill every day." Though she couldn't recall being warned about potential side effects when being prescribed and threw out the info sheet in the box ("it was giving terms and conditions"), Nina would still recommend the pill to others as it "it did the job." However, Nina acknowledges that in retrospect "it is important to be informed of what the potential side effects could be, because every birth control method is different for every single person." These differences mean every experience of the pill is unique – for some it may be overtly negative, whilst for others, like Nina, it may be stress-free.

Dr Ogilvy says many patients coming to Student Health have some prior knowledge of different forms of birth control, including oral contraceptive pills. "We will always aim to provide information around risks and potential side effects of any treatment prescribed. This advice may be verbal or in the form of leaflets or email links. Students are also encouraged to read the written information enclosed with the medication."



The apparent easy process of getting a prescription for the pill does not extend to being prescribed alternatives. Jess tells Critic Te Ārohi she was denied any alternative treatment, such as seeing a specialist, alternate medication or surgery, despite pushing for these in her appointments. "I went to my doctors at the age of fifteen and was like, 'Is there a procedure you can do? [But] they didn't want to look at procedures or anything,'" says Jess, explaining that the typical response from health professionals was that she was "too young". Student Health GP Dr Jenny Ogilvy tells Critic that, unfortunately at this age, there are limited realistic alternatives with fewer side effects.

When asked what she would have liked to have done differently in treating her irregular periods, Jess said, "I would want them to run all the tests. Send me to a specialist [...] instead of someone who isn't specialised in treating menstrual issues. I would rather have been sent to someone who was actually fully capable and knew what was going on and was able to figure out what was going on. Because if I had to get a whole bunch of procedures or inspections and stuff done to get to the root of the issue, which we still don't know what the root of the issue is, then it would've made my life so much easier."

Referral to a specialist can be difficult. Dr Ogilvy says that while GPs "try their best to help as many people as they can, there will be students who require further specialist examination. Access to specialist care under the public health system can be extremely difficult and often students are reliant on private health insurance or the ability to pay out of their own pockets."

Lotto faced similar issues in their attempt to find an alternative to the pill. With their first experiences on the pill leaving them feeling "just kind of awful all the time," Lotto was understandably extremely resistant to try it again after their doctor suggested it as treatment for their premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD). PMDD causes significant distress and impairment in the early phases of the menstrual cycle and endometriosis. Lotto sought Zoladex and hormone replacement as alternatives. To Lotto's frustration, their request was ignored. "I just could not find a GP down here [in Dunedin] who would do that for me."

Lotto said they wished they had gotten "blood work checkups, follow-ups [...] especially like in my case, just to make sure that everything was smooth." Similarly, Dr Ogilvy hopes that our healthcare system can improve access to such tests, stating that she wishes we had "improve[d] access to ultrasound scans" and "specialist

gynaecology clinics," – especially for people with chronic pelvic pain – as diagnosis of endometriosis without laparoscopy (a surgical procedure) can be "extremely difficult." Dr Ogilvy also says that she would like to see "better dissemination of information about contraception, menstrual and sexual health in general to empower people to make informed choices about their fertility."

While not everyone has a bad experience with the pill, there's no doubt many young people are being pushed to take medication that has the potential to massively impact their quality of life. As reported by interviewees of this piece, crucial information is not always provided to patients beforehand. The negative experiences of Jess, Lotto, Annabelle and others could perhaps have been remedied, or at least alleviated, had they known more about the effects of the medication they were being given. Their stories seem to point to a gap in our healthcare system, where a lack of access to specialised treatment for uterine related issues is causing an over-reliance on birth control as the go-to solution for a range of health issues and cosmetic concerns.

When the pill was first introduced during the second wave feminist movement of the '60s and '70s, it was a huge step in offering women sexual liberation and autonomy over their reproductive health. However, it's important to recognise the shortcomings of the pill and the negative side effects it has on many who take it today in addition to its benefits. Women and AFAB people's medical history, life circumstances, and overall needs must be taken into account with the prescription of any medication, and the pill is no different.

**While the pill isn't all doom and gloom, bad experiences point to a need to rethink its quick-prescription, and for a better understanding of the spectrum of healthcare needs that fall under the birth control umbrella. It was revolutionary once, and with a greater acknowledgement of the diversity of those being prescribed the pill and increased access to specialised care, sexual health can be once revolutionary again.**

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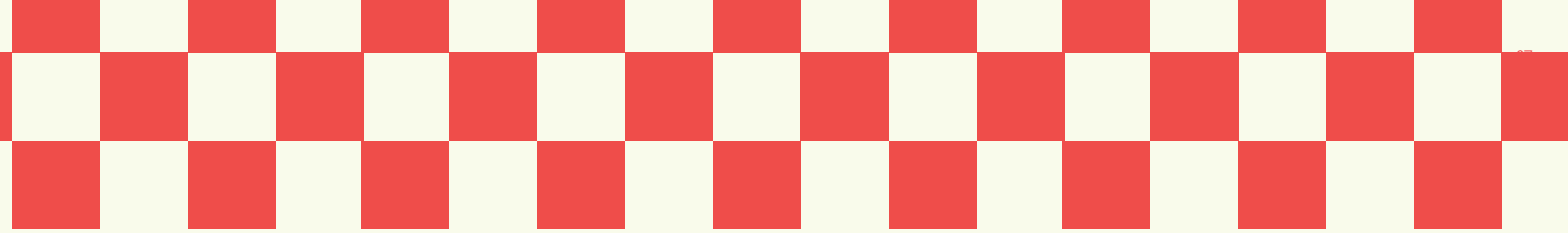
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# Takeaways

weekly specials



## SOMETHING TO LISTEN TO



### DJ Padre Guilherme's music on Spotify

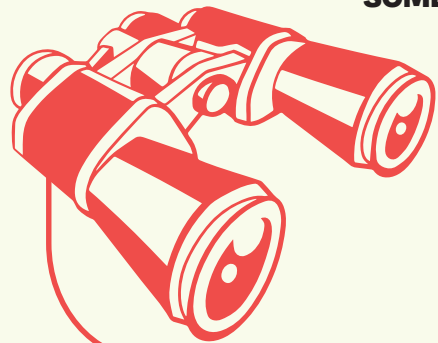
Here's one in honour of Easter weekend. The Portuguese priest Guilherme Peixoto goes by the stage name DJ Padre Guilherme after getting into music during lockdown, and his tracks go way harder than they should. Apparently, the Pope blessed his headphones. He plays to bring joy to people's lives, he told one journalist, saying, "And people seem happy when they see a priest playing music online." Amen.

## SOMETHING TO GO TO

### Thursdays in Black hui

Thursdays in Black (TiB) are hosting a hui to open discussions about sexual harm on campus this Wednesday April 10 from 6:30-9pm in the Union Common Room. The hui will feature speakers from the Uni's SMART (Sexual Misconduct Action Response Team) and Te Whare Tāwharau. It's open to anyone to go (there'll be free kai). The team says that they hope to learn from the student body where the most urgent needs are regarding this issue, and there will be separate safe spaces available for anyone to step out as needed.

## SOMETHING TO WATCH



### 'Almost Pumping' short film

If you haven't watched it yet, you're missing out. Isaac Chadwick's short film 'Almost Pumping' is a 16-minute fever dream of surf, as Chaddy and his mates tackle the waves of Indonesia, describing "multiple fuck arounds and a few hectic injuries". It's freely available to watch on Youtube, and you can also check out Hugh's interview with Chaddy in the first issue of Critic this year (technically something to read, but give's a fuck).

## SOMETHING TO SUPPORT



### The BDS movement

Inspired by the anti-apartheid movement of South Africa, Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement that challenges economic support for the state of Israel who are perpetuating mass violence against Palestinians. You can support the movement through the boycotting of Israel-related companies and products. Since BDS is a tactic of grassroots protest, not a centralised organisation, the criteria for boycotting can change. For some, Macca's and Starbucks are among those listed. There's a bit to unpack here, so have a search yourself if you're interested in showing your support.

## SOMETHING TO READ



### 'Student Rags' Substack

Former Editor Fox Meyer has started a weekly(ish) newsletter round-up of what the student magazines around the motu have been up to. He says the newsletter will be highlighting the top news stories, current trends, and cultural commentaries you might not have time to read on your own - if you even were aware other unis had mags (spoiler: Critic is better). You can subscribe to the newsletter by searching it up on Substack.

## SOMETHING TO CANCEL



### Yucking someone's yum

We learned this phrase from Shit You Should Care About, and it's golden. Also probably something that Critic needs to keep in mind from time to time. Don't yuck someone's yum. If your friend is expressing their love of an artist, or a new hobby they've picked up, or even something as small as a shitty little sticker on the back of their phone, you're a dick if you criticise it. People should be able to enjoy things without fear of judgement.

# GIG GUIDE

**WEDNESDAY  
10 APRIL**

**THE OCTAGON POETRY COLLECTIVE OPEN MIC**  
NEW ATHENAEUM THEATRE  
Featuring Isla Thomas and Nicola Thorstensen, with MC Jasmine Taylor 7pm. Open mic. Free entry. All welcome.

**THURSDAY  
11 APRIL**

**THURSDAY JAMS  
ERRICK'S**  
6pm. Free entry.

**FRIDAY  
12 APRIL**

**LUKE BUDA + BAND  
YOURS**  
w/ Keira Wallace. Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz. 7.30pm. All ages.

**HALF/TIME, E-KARE, CUCK, AND HŌHĀ**  
THE CROWN HOTEL  
9pm. \$15.

**LANEY BLUE  
MOONS**  
w/ Alex Martyn. Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz. 7pm.

**SATURDAY  
13 APRIL**

**TERRIBLE SONS - 'THE RAFT IS NOT THE SHORE' TOUR  
MAGGIES**  
w/ Ryan Fisherman. Tickets from terriblesons.com. 6.30pm.



By Jordan Irvine

# PURPLE DOG

Starting off the year with a slew of Pint Night performances at U-Bar, Purple Dog have now established themselves as a prominent Ōtepoti band. As they gear up to release a second single, Critic Te Arohi caught up with the band to ask about their origin story, new music, and upcoming shows.

Purple Dog is an alternative indie band with a sprinkle of rock. The band of five is made up of members Marc (he/him) on guitar, Bryce (he/him) on drums, Imogen (she/her) on vocals and guitar, Charlotte (she/her) on bass, and Corey (he/him) on guitar. Purple Dog came together when all the members were taking the same music paper. Imogen says, "We had to come together and practice for upcoming assessments so we had been playing together on and off throughout the whole year." Corey added that they formed towards the end of the year, "about late August."

Imogen serves as the main songwriter for the group. Her writing process begins with starting on an idea, situation or feeling. "It then grows beyond the initial idea and it's often not the same by the end of the song process," she says. "I take it to the band, not always fully formed but then we workshop it [and] then something will come out of it."

Purple Dog takes influences from many different bands. Imogen and Corey point out the band Alvvays; Marc cites midwest emo and math rock bands as well as Jeff Beck; Bryce has a grunge influence ("The drumming sound doesn't always lend itself to indie

pop but I make it work"); and Charlotte looks up to both metal and soft indie bands. The wide array of influences allows the band to not pigeonhole their sound to a specific genre, with Charlotte saying that "it's a vast spectrum."

The band kicked off this year by playing Pint Night three weeks in a row, with plans to play more gigs throughout the year. Imogen says, "At the start of the year we asked ourselves what we wanted to do specifically for this year, and we agreed on playing lots of gigs." The band was asked to play opening night by their good friends and fellow musicians No Danger, and from then on continued getting offers. The Daze then offered them to play the second one. "It was like, 'Wow, two in a row,'" says Imogen. "Then in the midst of us preparing [for the gigs], Cruise Control hit us up and asked us to play the third one."

The band hopes to release some new music this year, as well. After last year's single 'Wave Goodbye,' they are going to follow it up with a new song release later this week, recorded at Albién Studios. Marc says that since he's doing a music production paper this year that includes mastering and mixing music, he's hoping he can "do a two-in-one and record a song for the band, an EP, if I'm feeling ambitious."

**Purple Dog will release their new single 'I Feel the Same' on all streaming services on May 1st. To keep up with Purple Dog, you can follow them on Instagram @purpledogmusic.**

# Chat

**CHATGPT COULD NEVER.  
SEND ALL YOUR WOES AND WORRIES ABOUT  
FOES TO CHATGOTH@CRITIC.CO.NZ FOR  
TOTALLY REAL AND LEGIT ADVICE.**

**Hi ChatGOTH,**  
I need help slaying the Hydra. My ex will not stop trying to talk to me. As per usual post-break up courtesy, I asked for space but little did I know how challenging this labour would be. Long story short, it got to the point where I had to block her (so my phone would stop ringing!). But, like the mighty Hydra, when one head is slain, two more grow from the fleshy terminus. Since then I have blocked her on Messenger, blocked her phone number, blocked 5 of her Instagram accounts and then another 3 from my alt account and blocked her on Snapchat. I recently received a hand written letter on the window of my car AND A FUCKING GOOGLE CALENDAR INVITATION CALLED "Chat Time!" I guess I have to block her email too now? The other 11 Labours were so easy but I need my lolaus to help me slay (first and only time I will ever say that) this multi-headed conundrum. I am hoping you have some awesome goth superpowers and/or can make her eat cobwebs or something.  
Sincerely, Heracles

Hi Heracles,  
Firstly, congrats on the breakup. It sounds like it's all been a real battle. You know what they used to do to battlefields? Go fucking scorched-earth.  
Look, you seem like an expert tactician. Tact, however, is far from my strong suit. I've been told that I have the subtlety of a Molotov cocktail. While you shouldn't go for arson (though Heracles did burn off the Hydra's heads...), I do think it's time to go a little bit nuclear. Harassing you like that is not okay - and quite frankly embarrassing on her part - so it's clear that you're past the point of amicability.  
I was going to advise you on pranks you could pull (like using her email to sign up for as much spam as you can) but, despite the jokes, I don't want to make light of the situation - ah fuck, that was an arson pun - cos you really are being treated like shit here. Well, you

could kick her off your Netflix, screenshot her harassing you and publicly shame her, or leave a big note on your car for her to see that says "(Her name): it's over. Never contact me again." Chuck a frozen fish under her porch to rot. Fill her possessions with sand. Google "piss discs" and have at it. Unleash some pantry moths. Don't listen to any of this.  
Listen to this part though: her behaviour is inappropriate. Stalking you like that is fucked. I don't know the context of your relationship or breakup, but she needs to understand that the relationship is over, and by harassing you she's burned that bridge for good. Keep records, and report if necessary, or at least tattle on her to someone. Any chance of redemption is long dead. There's no need to slay her when she's a ghost to you.  
Look after yourself.

# ChatGOTH

Students receive 2-for-1 entry into the Tūhura Tropical Forest



**TŪHURA**  
Otago Museum  
f i t  
@otagomuseum



# Moaningful Confessions

## CATMAN

We're coming up on the anniversary of this story so I feel as though I have enough closure to share it. This was my first attempt at a Tinder hook up after a breakup, and I knew the guy from home so I thought it would be chill. No surprises, I was wrong.

Everything is set up, I've got the flat to myself, I'm not drunk, I even bought a nice new g-string for the occasion. He comes over, and, I kid you not, 5 minutes into the interaction he starts meowing at me. Like a full on cat-like MROWW. This happens constantly throughout the evening at ANY point of slight silence in conversation. Also a lot of biting me? Especially on my nose? I'm sexually deprived so I choose to ignore this, and proceed to get in bed with him, where he says he wants to go to sleep and THEN says we need to take turns getting changed into our pajamas?? When I get changed he covers his eyes with his hands, in order to protect my modesty of course!! \$15 on underwear WASTED.

When we're both in bed I still have the audacity to kiss this man, and every single attempt at a makeout is met with more meowing and biting of my nose. Eventually he goes to sleep; turns out he is the WORST snorer in the entire world, so I am awake alllll night :)

He then wakes up and leaves at 7am (THANK GOD). The next few days are filled with many, many attempts to ask me out on a date, to all of which I politely say I'm busy. Eventually, after one of my refusals, he calls me, I pick up, and what am I met with on the other line? HISSING. A grown man hissing at me. To this I reply 'no' and simply hang up. There were a few more date requests after that, and eventually he gave up.

Moral of the story ladies, if a man's pick up line on Tinder is 'meow' please don't think it's cute, he's actually revealing something very very scary about his personality.



**HAVE SOMETHING JUICY TO TELL US? SEND YOUR SALACIOUS STORIES TO MOANINGFUL@CRITIC.CO.NZ. SUBMISSIONS REMAIN ANONYMOUS.**

# SHOULD HYDE RESIDENTS HAVE TO PAY FOR TICKETS TO THE HYDE STREET PARTY?

# DEBATE

## AGAINST: BY OLLIE THORNS

For some reason, the world is especially extortionate when it comes to students. A box will cost you \$30, rent is about the cost of a kidney, and on top of all this, Hyde residents are expected to pay a fee for simply partying on their own street? It's like the DCC and OUSA enjoy watching students live off instant noodles. Imagine getting charged for the litter other people trash your street with? This is basically what's happening to the residents of Hyde. They've got their own sanitation (mostly), they've got their own bins, bathrooms, and brooms, and yet here are a horde of rowdy students making a great big mess which they are paying for.

Making Hyde residents pay for the party presents a unique threat to student wellbeing. Eventually, residents are not going to want to host and will become apathetic towards OUSA, diminishing the sense of unity that comes with getting wasted on Hyde. Besides, why should the residents pay? Their entire day seems like a fight for survival. The brigade of drunk (at best) Otago students probably has enough force to stage a coup.



Given the bond money that'll inevitably be lost at the flats, it's reasonable to say our comrades on Hyde are paying for a sacrifice that could very easily be made less shitty. Just don't charge them, and make less expensive wristbands or something? Students are already suffering in this cost of living crisis the older generation created. Let us be and don't charge people for living on their street during a party you decided to take control of. Besides, if they don't pay, what are you going to do? Lock them in their flats or kick them out for the day? Get real.

## FOR: BY LIAM GOULD

Okay, so it might be a bit stink that on top of overpaying for what is likely a cold and damp flat on Hyde Street, residents also pay \$20 for tickets to a party hosted on their street. Some would argue that because it's their street and they're the ones opening up their flats, they shouldn't be expected to pay.

This logic, of course, ignores the fact that Hyde Street is an expensive event for OUSA to run, and the benefits that come from it are debatable at best. Firstly, there's absolutely no way that Hyde would still be around if it wasn't for OUSA's intervention, which took a previously overcrowded and dangerous event and turned it into something that is far safer, better organised and – more importantly – a party the existence of which OUSA and DCC now willingly tolerate.

OUSA provides a useful service in hiring out security guards, providing amenities, and generally ensuring this iconic party can continue. It goes without saying that there will be a cost to this. Since the costs and profit of running this event is only ever going to break even for OUSA, it is completely reasonable they charge residents for their service. Plus, it's not like the residents of Hyde aren't receiving some advantage from flattening there in paying only a third of what non-residents have to pay for tickets. Being able to ignore the lottery and invite a good chunk of mates of your choosing is also a pretty sweet deal. All things considered, it really isn't that big of a deal to expect them to chip in and help with the cost of hosting.





MI GORENG GRADUATE  
By Ruby Hudson

Serves: 6  
Time: 10 mins prep + 1.5 hr cooking  
Price: \$ \$ \$  
Difficulty: 2/5  
Pairs well with: haikus and contemplation

Suggestions:  
Katsu Curry: top with a piece of crumbed protein of your choice e.g. chicken, tofu or pork (Google Katsu Curry for some inspiration).  
Beef Curry: add 300g of diced stewing beef before your vegetables go in and cook as per instructed.

Japanese Curry  
Perfectly balanced, tasty  
Wallet friendly, yay

As summed up in the above haiku, this Japanese curry recipe ticks all the boxes when it comes to a delicious meal. With the weather getting colder, this should be your new go to for a cheap, yummy, and customisable dinner! There are heaps of ways you can make this your own so be sure to check out the suggestions for some great options and ideas.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 carrots
- 4 medium potatoes
- 1 large onion
- 5 garlic cloves (chopped finely)
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- ½ packet (100g) Japanese Curry Mix
- 100 mL red wine (optional - otherwise use water)
- 850 mL hot water
- 2 Tbsp soy sauce
- Salt
- Pepper
- Oil

I used the S+B Brand in Medium Hot from Pak n Save

use two if on the smaller side

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Step 1.** On a medium heat pour 1 tablespoon of oil into a pot. Thinly slice your onions and add these to your pot, stirring occasionally for 10 mins. Add a pinch of salt and cook until it turns golden.
- Step 2.** While the onions are cooking, chop your carrots and potatoes into bite-sized chunks.
- Step 3.** Once the onions are done add the garlic and cook for 3 mins until fragrant.
- Step 4.** Add the vegetables and tomato paste along with a pinch of salt and pepper to taste. Cook for a further 5 mins.
- Step 5.** After this add your water and red wine, then bring to a boil. Once boiling, turn the heat down to low and simmer for 30 mins with the lid on.
- Step 6.** Once your vegetables are mostly cooked, add in the soy sauce and your Japanese Curry Mix cube. Stir until combined and the curry cube has dissolved. Cook with the lid on for 15 mins. Then remove the lid and cook for a further 10 mins or until you have achieved your desired sauce thickness.
- Step 7.** Serve on rice!

Enjoy as is or read notes above for some other yummy suggestions!

BOOZE REVIEWS  
BY CHUNNY BILL SWILLIAMS

# Mulled Wine

Daylight savings is creeping forward, bringing with it shit weather and a splash of seasonal depression. In this autumnal slump, we want a drink that reminds us of simpler times, like Christmas – not New Zealand Christmas, but the one you see in low-budget rom-coms. I want to get fucked up while feeling like I'm in The Wind in the Willows, so it's time for mulled wine. Mulled wine is something to warm the heart, like drinking a tea in front of the fire, except the tea gets you drunk and the fire is an alcohol blanket.

According to Google and Wikihow, you're meant to use a recipe to make mulled wine. I find the best way to make it is to find the shittiest bottle of red wine you can find, a little bit of orange juice, some spices that you think will work (I used cinnamon and cloves) and an undisclosed amount of brandy (although Fireball would go hard) depending on how much of aforementioned alcohol blanket you want. Nuke that shit with honey or sugar to hide the fact that you don't actually like red wine. Bring to a simmer, making sure not to boil it – because what's the point of drinking wine if it's not going to make you drunk?

As for taste, mulled wine is the alcohol version of a herbal tea. It smells comforting and warm but its taste fails to live up to its smell of cinnamon and Christmas. (Or maybe I'm just not a fan of red wine). Mulled wine is simultaneously sweet and spicy, and just the right amount of warm to save your poor breatha hands from your stingy flatmate that won't let you turn on the heat pump in the middle of July. Bonus points for adding more brandy to really get that warm feeling down. Mulled wine is the seasonal equivalent of a pumpkin spice latte: it makes you want to sit in front of a fire, listen to Frank Sinatra, and act as if you're not a chronic binge drinker.

- TASTE RATING:** 8/10. Warm alcohol go brrrr.
- X FACTOR:** Drinking out of a cauldron.
- HANGOVER DEPRESSION LEVEL:** 2/10. No one can be fucked to make enough of this to get a hangover.
- PAIRS WELL WITH:** Binge watching Game of Thrones. Winter is Coming.

Barista made  
organic & fair trade  
**Coffee**  
SUBWAY

\$4<sup>00</sup>

All sizes  
SML REG LGE



# SUP ACADEMIC WEAPONS



I'm Stella, your Academic Rep for 2024 and apparently I make the least fun exec job even less fun (thanks Critic).

Critic Te Ārohi reckons I'm dead boring because I actually read important documents and try to talk to class reps. As far as I was aware, that's called "doing my job". In my spare time I read academic proposals, politely ask that we don't cut any more courses, and send lots of Official Information Act (OIA) requests to the Uni and Ministry of Education. I legit have a signed letter from Chris Hipkins from 2021, asking me to pretty please stop sending him OIA's.

Critic Te Ārohi also feels for the students who would rather remain ignorant about course cuts. And you know what? I feel this. I honestly don't want to hear any more bad news about courses. Unfortunately, for those of you who would prefer to hold tight to your naivety,

I'm working on creating a one-stop-shop that has all the major additions, deletions and amendments for both papers and programs. Wouldn't it be fun not to have to frantically Google if your degree is being offered in 2025?

I don't think that I need to be fun to be useful to students. I sit on at least 12 boards and committees, and that means I have far too many places to complain to on your behalf. If doing all the boring reading and emailing makes me unfun, then hell yes I'm going to own it.

I'd also really really like it if you would email me at [academic@ousa.org.nz](mailto:academic@ousa.org.nz) and talk to me about all your academic problems. I'm also okay with being sent TikToks about Lando Norris.

Thanks and love you,  
**Stella**

<p><b>AQUARIUS</b></p> <p>When life gives you lemons, make a vodka LLB (lemon, lime and bitters), sit back and watch the world burn. There is nothing you can do to save those plebs.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> I am healthy, I am wealthy</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b></p> <p>You are very aware of your surroundings this week. While your intuition is usually correct, not everyone is out to get you. Sometimes people's vibes seem sketchy, but they just don't know how to communicate. Give new people the benefit of the doubt.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> I DON'T need coffee this morning</p>
<p><b>ARIES</b></p> <p>As the most passionate sign, you find yourself easily invested in the interests of your friends and this week is the perfect time to go hobby shopping. Try out everything you can get your hands on, you never know what you might find out about yourself.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> Today WILL be a good day</p>	<p><b>TAURUS</b></p> <p>Take a break from adulting, sometimes we all need a day to rot in bed. Remember the only person you need to impress is yourself. Wear those comfy pj's all week, neglect your chore chart, and skip your tutorials. You deserve it.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> I believe what I need will come to me</p>
<p><b>GEMINI</b></p> <p>Your friend group is big and you love meeting people, but you're often overlooked in big groups and seened in the chat. This week, speak up, use copious amounts of emojis to draw attention to your messages, and don't take silence as an answer!</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> My opinions DO matter</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b></p> <p>Change is coming and rolling with the punches is the best way to get through. But change isn't all bad and sometimes it takes us from the maggot we were, to the fly who can spread their wings and soar above the rest.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> Everything I need is within me</p>
<p><b>LEO</b></p> <p>Be confident as the star in your life. Others are drawn to you like moths to someone on their phone in a dark room because of your ability to make everyone you speak to feel special. Just remember not to let your ego get the best of you, this could lead to a power trip that loses you half your friends' respect.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> I am grateful for everything I have</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b></p> <p>Autumn's here, and now's the time to get organised. The chaos of your room is starting to affect your life and your friends are taking notice. You haven't been looking like your usual put-together self and this dishevelled look is not working for you! So donate those unworn clothes to a good cause and put all your due dates on a Google calendar.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> I am not a slob</p>
<p><b>LIBRA</b></p> <p>Your hair's so big because it's full of secrets, just like Gretchen Wieners! Just don't go around telling people those secrets otherwise you will go bald! Boo, you whore.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> I am so fitch and smart</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b></p> <p>The change in weather brings new emotions for you that you aren't used to (sadness). But don't worry, when you go back home for a break the seasonal depression will give it a rest for a few days. If you aren't leaving Dunedin, sucks to be you xx</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> When I'm back in [insert hometown], I feel it</p>
<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b></p> <p>Your need to roam is becoming all-consuming, so seek adventure, Sagittarius. Whether that is finding a new sesh spot in the Botans or going to Clip-and-Climb, sometimes we all need to be let off the leash to run wild and free.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> I embrace everything given to me</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b></p> <p>Count your blessings Capricorn, because once you tally up all the good things in life you realise it doesn't suck as much as you think it does. It's the little things that count, like when someone else's Uber Eats gets delivered to your door or when you find a free car park close to uni.</p> <p><b>Your morning mantra:</b> No one is out to get me</p>

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# SNAP OF THE WEEK



SEND A SNAP TO US AT @CRITICMAG BEST SNAP EACH WEEKS WINS AN OUSA CLUBS & SOCS SAUNA VOUCHER

## SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT CRITIC ON INSTAGRAM TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE



Monday morning breakfast of champions



Got jump scared every time. Who do you work for?



Me rn



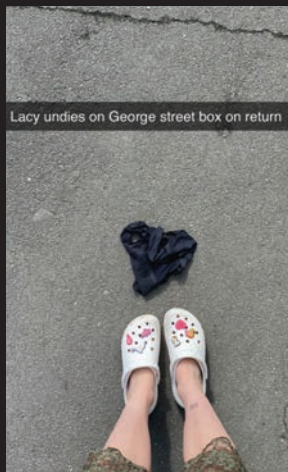
Up the mighty Highlanders



We ran out of rubbish bags



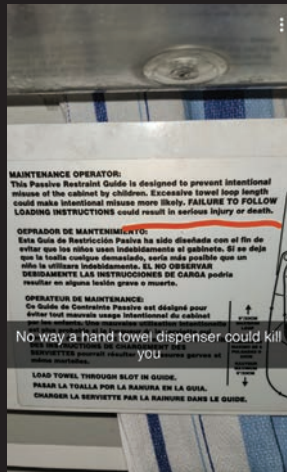
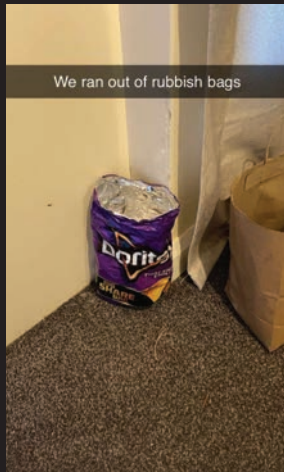
Is she taking a selfie with a Nintendo DS



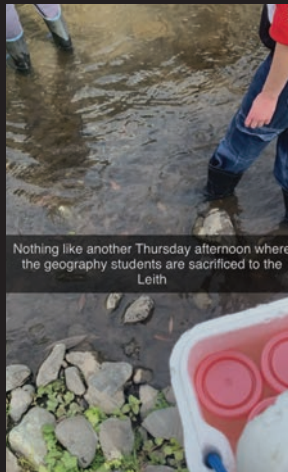
Lacy undies on George street box on return



damn they based it off me fr



MAINTENANCE OPERATOR: This Passive Restraint Guide is designed to prevent intentional misuse of the cabinet by children. Excessive towel loop length could make intentional misuse more likely. FAILURE TO FOLLOW LOADING INSTRUCTIONS could result in serious injury or death. DEPRADOR DE MANTENIMIENTO: Esta Guía de Restricción Pasiva ha sido diseñada con el fin de evitar que los niños usen intencionalmente el gabinete. El uso excesivo de la longitud del bucle de la toalla podría hacer más probable que un niño lo utilice intencionalmente. EL NO CUMPLIR LAS INSTRUCCIONES DE CARGA podría resultar en lesiones graves o muerte. OPERATEUR DE MAINTIENANCE: Ce Guide de Restriction Pasive est désigné pour éviter tout mauvais usage intentionnel du cabinet par les enfants. Une longueur excessive de la boucle de serviette pourrait rendre plus probable que les enfants l'utilisent intentionnellement. LE NON RESPECTER LES INSTRUCTIONS DE CHARGER pourrait entraîner de graves blessures ou la mort. LOAD TOWEL THROUGH SLOT IN GUIDE. PASAR LA TOALLA POR LA RANURA EN LA GUIA. CHANGER LA SERVIETTE PAR LA RANURE DANS LE GUIDE.



Nothing like another Thursday afternoon where the geography students are sacrificed to the Leith



Assuming there's noone attached to this

HAZ BEATS TOM SCOTT LUI SILK

RADIO ONE & STRUNG OUT TOURING PRESENT

# HOME BREW

SOUTH ISLAND TOUR '24

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL  
DUNEDIN  
UNION HALL

1 91 FM STRUNG OUT



RADIO ONE 91FM PRESENTS:

# MARKET DAY

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WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL

10AM - 3PM

UNION LAWN

f R1 MARKET DAY



ousa