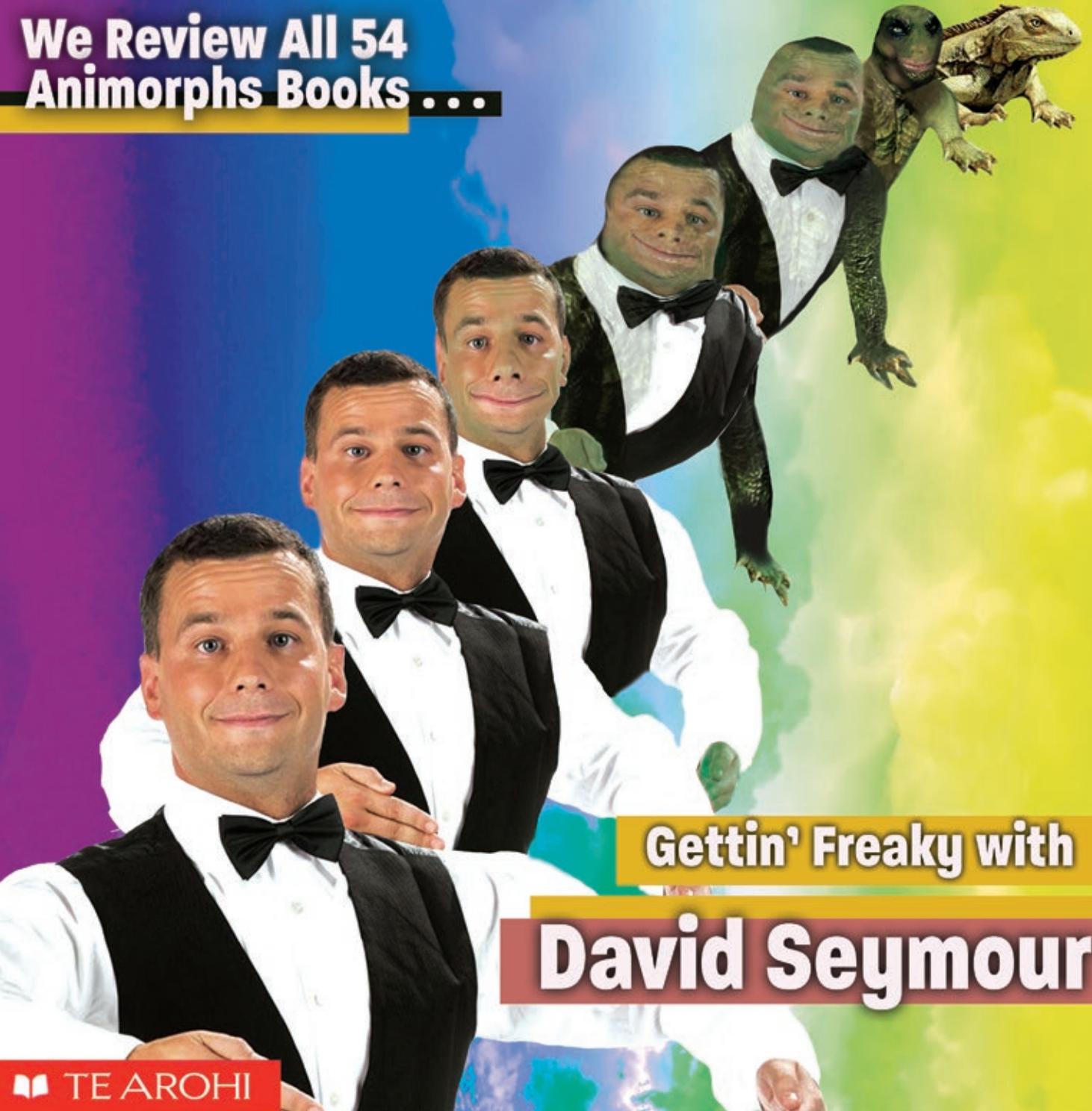


CRITIC

**We Review All 54
Animorphs Books ...**



Gettin' Freaky with

David Seymour



Don Brash is a prick.

A huge one at that. Actually lots of people are pricks. But the thing about pricks is, if you suppress their right to speak freely, then you are the prick.

Don't get my wrong, Don Brash isn't far off from hate speech. Many of his viewpoints are disgusting and should not be accepted by NZ (in my opinion). But other people should be allowed to decide that for themselves. It isn't for me, or universities for that matter, to decide that for everyone.

Universities are places for the debate of ideas and perspectives. Universities should challenge our values whether we like it or not. During my time at university, I have been exposed to marxism and extreme libertarianism. I don't believe either is right, but I'm bloody glad I have been challenged by both.

Massey University has extended its reach too far into the sphere of free speech. It's a loss for the diversity of ideas and a dent in the purpose of university education. The Vice Chancellor should be ashamed for depriving students from being challenged on campus. What's ironic, is that her actions have given Don more of a public platform. When we suppress other people's views, we suppress other people's right to challenge them.

In light of this and the Critic menstruation issue debacle, universities must not shy away from their core purpose. We must embrace the sharing of conflicting ideas for the sake of true education and knowledge.

Universities should foster self-learning, not impose it.

Cameron Meads
Admin Vice President
adminvp@ousa.org.nz

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EDITORIAL:

Why We Need Landlord Licensing

BY JOEL MACMANUS

In issue three of Critic this year we labelled Mike Harbott as “Dunedin’s Dodgiest Landlord” after he rented unliveable flats, ignored Tenancy Tribunal orders to make repairs, and failed to pay thousands of dollars of compensation.

Adding to that, he threatened tenants with legal action if they spoke to the media, and threatened to blacklist a different group of flatties on the landlord site TINZ if they went to the Tenancy Tribunal.

In a follow-up piece five months after the original story ran, Harbott admitted he had still not paid the Tribunal-ordered compensation to the girls at 41 Gladstone Rd.

After that story, Mike asked me if he could write a public apology for Critic. I’m always open to views from all sides, so I agreed. However, you will not find that apology in this issue. Despite calling it an apology, and starting with the line “to all those who I’ve let down, I’m sorry,” he quickly turned to attacking his former tenants, calling them liars, arguing with the Tribunal decisions and making potentially defamatory statements that I felt we simply could not publish.

For someone who claimed he had “learned from the mistakes I have made,” it certainly seemed to me that he had failed to take any responsibility and was still painting himself as the victim.

It then came to light this week that for the third time this year Mike Harbott had been taken to the Tenancy Tribunal by a group of tenants, and once again he lost. He failed to register the bond, again, and failed to provide a safe, liveable house.

Look, Mike Harbott is certainly not the only dodgy landlord in Dunedin. In fact, you could argue he’s not actively malicious, more just incompetent and unwilling to take responsibility for his actions. But he has become a poster child for the problem of landlords taking advantage of student tenants who don’t know their rights.

Last election, the Green Party put forward the idea of requiring a landlord license. This is not a completely novel idea; it has been applied in certain parts of the UK for some time. It would ensure that landlords are capable and trust

worthy, and penalise them with demerit points if they repeatedly show they aren’t.

Renting a house to someone is a huge responsibility; their health and livelihood are in your hands. Just having enough money or equity to buy a house doesn’t prove that you are reliable and competent. If someone like Harbott, who has repeatedly shown he’s not up to the job, wants to rent a house out, it should have to be done through a registered Property Manager who tenants can have some faith in.

You can’t drive a taxi, or even an Uber, without going through a background check and proving you have driving capabilities. Just owning a car doesn’t give you the right to go around charging strangers for rides. The same standard should be applied to our homes.

*P.S. There is an ad in Critic this week for Flou-ride Free NZ. This is a paid advertisement and while we respect their right to promote their event (and help fund our magazine), it does not amount to an endorsement by Critic.

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Letter of the Week

Fuck Tickets

I put forward the question about banning tickets in the OUSA referendum. I thought banning tickets would mean elections would be more focused on each candidate's ideas, rather than who they happen to be running with. I get there are opinions on both sides, but ultimately, students should be able to govern their own election process. Students voted to ban tickets, and that is what should happen. It seems pointless to even have a referendum when the results can be basically ignored, and there isn't even a space for students to have their opinions about it considered. I'm glad Critic cares about this issue, but not happy about how OUSA has treated this.

Thanks,
E.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scandal!

Dear Critic,

Do you ever see something and immediately feel disgusted? I walk past this disgust nearly everyday, and everyday I am still equally as disgusted as the last day. The new St Daves (St Daves II), as beautiful as it is, especially in the night, has one huge mistake. The sign for the building, beautiful as well must I say, is blocked by a f****ing pole. Don't believe me? Check it out. Please, you are the Critic, please use your power and GET RID OF IT.

Nico

Let Women Have Their Spaces

Hi Critic,

I'm writing in reply to the 'Women's Club Whinge' letter in issue 18 which was in reply to your article on the Women's+ club in issue 17. Why do (cis) men feel the need to be a part of everything that concerns women? Is it really too difficult for men to understand that many women do feel threatened or unable to contribute to a group in the presence of men? I agree full-heartedly that feminism must support all people of all sex or gender; feminism with the exclusion of men is not feminism. However, this does not mean that women should be stopped from creating spaces and groups which they can, quite frankly, do whatever the fuck they want to do, without the presence of men. Ryan from 'Women's Club Whinge' stated that a group which excludes cis-males "devalu[es]" men, to which I reply that maybe if men could realise the extent of which they devalue women every day, we wouldn't need spaces and groups devoted specifically to get away from men. (of course the act of devaluing women is the Least of our problems, but you get my point).

Love from an angry woman xx

Doggo Delight

Dear critic folk,

thank you so much for yr doggie issue. i just LOVE dogs - there's so much to love. i love the indoor/outdoor flow they have - being able to piss and crap wherever & whenever their wont - on fences, cars, power poles, people, verges, footpaths, gardens parks, beaches. brilliant! i also love how they worry rubbish bags, seagulls, ducks, cattle, sheep, cats, seals & kiwi.

that they bark at all hours of the day and night is just adorable.

as is their capacity to support vermin, parasites and diseases such as lice, ticks, fleas, hydatids, hookworm, ringworm & rabies.

i love the way they love one. humping legs, sniffing crotches and licking faces with tongues that regularly roam their own groin and anus regions. yummy!

i dig that more than 12,000 people suffered dog bites in the past year in this country alone, from our furry canine pals.

and most of all i love the way they bite off the faces of children.

with a best friend of this ilk - no wonder life's a bitch.

cheers,

rx

NOTICES

Pharmacy Revue

The 2018 Pharmacy Revue starts this week and is set to be the best one in years! This year's show is heavily inspired by the classic Star Wars saga. Darth Ventolin and Emperor Palpatation have devised a scheme that will change the Pharmacy School forever! The galaxy's only hope lies in the form of a dusty second year, the NZAPS president and some robots with homosexual overtones. Will our heroes be able to save the day, along with James Green's career?

When: Thursday 16th and Friday 17th August 7:30pm

Where: College Auditorium

Tickets: \$10 from the Hunter Centre on Great King St (by the hospital) 1-2pm every day

Show includes:

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Get in quick before they sell out!

Funding for Student Performances

Funding, usually up to \$1,500 per project, is available to help University students and staff fund public performances (e.g. comedy, dance, theatre, film, music) that wouldn't happen without this support.

For more info go to: www.otago.ac.nz/performingartsfund or email: humanities@otago.ac.nz

Closing date for applications to the Division of Humanities Performing Arts Fund:

17 August 2018 Amnesty International

Amnesty International Women's Rights Discussion

The Otago University Amnesty International Group is hosting a Panel Discussion on Women's Rights in Burkina Faso with a focus on Female Genital Mutilation.

This event is open to all and free of entry fees.

Panellists include:

Professor Ruth Fitzgerald from the Anthropology department, Professor Vicki Spencer from the Politics Department, Professor Kezia Wallis from the Theology Department and

Margaret Taylor, long-term advocate and staff member of Amnesty International New Zealand.

The Panel Discussion will be on the 24th of August, 6:00 pm at the Moot Court, located in the Richardson Building.

15th Annual Peace lecture

Otago Uni Chaplaincy and Abrahamic Interfaith Group present:

'Can We Think Our Way To Peace?'

Lecture by Dr Rachael Kohn, Of The Spirit of Things, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, to be introduced by Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Helen Nicholson.

St David Lecture Theatre, Monday 20 August, 6.15-7.30pm

Supper to follow at Saints' Anglican Church Hall, 786 Cumberland St

Issue 19, 2018

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 Culture Editor – Jess Thompson
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 Critic is a member of the Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA)
 Disclaimer: the views presented within this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, PMDL, or OUSA.

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Third Student Flat Wins Tenancy Payout Against Landlord Mike Harbott

More like Mike How-Boutt you stop doing this?

By Charlie O'Mannin

Landlord Mike Harbott, who owns several student flats in the North Dunedin area, has been ordered to pay \$4,020 in exemplary damages to the residents of 9 Duke Street for failing to provide smoke alarms, lodge the bond, or provide and maintain the flat in a reasonable state of repair.

This is the third Tenancy Tribunal case this year that student tenants have won against Harbott, following a \$4,570 settlement with the tenants of 41 Gladstone Road, and \$1,779 with 30 Warrender Street.

The Tenancy Tribunal ruled that Harbott had intentionally not lodged the bond, which is an illegal act. He cited "financial issues" as the reason he had not lodged it. Adjudicator J. Wilson wrote in the Tenancy Tribunal ruling, "While I accept that the landlord may have had financial issues this is not a reason for not lodging the bond and I am not persuaded by the suggestion that the failure was unintentional. The way in which the landlord structures his financial affairs is a matter for him, but should not impact on his obligations under the legislation. The landlord is well aware of the requirements following payment of the bond, having previously been brought to the Tribunal on the same issue". Harbott was fined \$1000 for not paying the bond, the maximum penalty.

In both the Gladstone Road case and the Warrender Street case, Harbott also did not lodge the bond in the required time.

The tenants also said that there was only one properly installed smoke alarm on the premises when they moved in. Harbott countered that the tenants had removed or tampered with the smoke alarms, providing photographic evidence, which the adjudicator said was "at best indistinct" and ruled that Harbott had committed an unlawful act. The adjudicator said, "It is difficult, given the evidence overall, to see the failure to provide and maintain the premises in a reasonable state of repair, and the failure to provide adequate smoke alarms, as anything other than intentional". Harbott was ordered to pay \$1000 for not providing smoke alarms.

The Tribunal also ruled that Harbott pay the residents \$2000 for "failing to provide and maintain the premises in a reasonable state of repair; in particular the leaks in three rooms, heat pump remote, lounge skylight and outside roof leak".

Both Mike Harbott and the residents of 9 Duke Street declined to comment, as they are due to go back to the Tribunal soon for a re-hearing.

In March, Critic reported on the two other flats who successfully took Harbott to the Tribunal. The tenants of 41 Gladstone Road took Harbott to the Tribunal over a multitude of things, including not lodging the bond, not completing renovations by the time the tenants moved in, and refusing to maintain the property in a liveable condition. Harbott was ordered to make renovations and pay the residents \$4,570 compensation. He never made the renovations and the tenants are still in the process of getting the money from him. The residents of Warrender Street also took Harbott to the Tribunal over not lodging the bond and failing to complete promised renovations. They were awarded \$1,700 compensation, which was only paid to them recently.

OUSA President Caitlin Barlow-Groom said, "Talk shit get hit (by the law) I say. Landlords have been taking advantage of students for years and it is completely unacceptable. I encourage everyone to stand up for what is right and to not be afraid to ask your landlord to sort their shit out".

If you're currently in a situation where you think you could go to the Tenancy Tribunal, contact OUSA Student Support at 03 479 5449, help@ousa.org.nz and on Facebook.



What are you doing this Summer?

AgResearch Summer Student Internship Programme 18/19 is now open and we are recruiting paid internships across all areas of our business including **Animal Science, Forage Science, Farm Systems and Environment** and many more.

Head to www.agresearchcareers.co.nz for the full list of projects and apply by **Monday 27th August** for internships starting in November.



No Change to Number of Selwyn College Returners After Students Fight Back

Online Petitions May Have Actually Worked For Once!

By Esme Hall

After pressure from students, the Selwyn College Board of Governors has shut down a proposal to reduce the intake of returning second year students at the college for 2019 from over fifty to twenty-five.

The Selwyn College Students' Association (SCSA) presented their opposition at a board meeting last Wednesday, backed up by a petition from ex-students and OUSA.

The petition that circulated on social media said that former Selwyn residents were "alarmed" to hear that returners could be lowered in 2019. "Returning students positively shape the college, and we believe that reducing their numbers would reduce the quality of the Selwyn community and experience," it said.

"We acknowledge the need for Selwyn to continue to adapt in order to be reflective of modern society." However, "it is the task of the whole Selwyn community to continue some traditions, while leaving some behind in favour of new ones. The role returners play in shaping this is crucial."

The petition also highlighted the "incomparable pastoral care role and system of support" that returners provide.

Prior to the board meeting, the SCSA reached out to the OUSA exec for support in fighting the proposal. Education Officer James Heath brought a motion forward, saying "the processes and decision by the board of governors to me, seems wrong".

The exec passed a unanimous motion that strongly disapproved of the lack of consultation about this

matter and supported the college working with the SCSA and students going forward.

Te Roopū Māori Tumuaki Tiana Mihaere said, "they're trying to change the whole culture of Selwyn, [but] the whole culture of Selwyn is the returning students".

OUSA Vice President Cam Meads said, "if you want to change the culture you get people to buy into change not force it upon them".

Critic was not able to get in touch with the Board of Governors for comment or to confirm why this proposal was being discussed. The SCSA President declined to comment on the record.



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Critic Takes Over AskOtago And Makes It Way More Useful

Also, pretty sure we legally own the Clocktower now

By Sinead Gill

At the start of the semester, the mysterious wall of mystery that mystified the masses on the ground floor of Central Library came down, and the TRUTH was revealed to all. Unfortunately, that TRUTH was really just the Uni coming up with an excuse to lay off a bunch of staff and build some yellow desks where you can ask them questions about bureaucracy.

So the TRUTH was incredibly boring. UNTIL NOW. Thanks to some amazing investigative work by some of Critic's most diehard fans, who then fed their groundbreaking findings to us, we discovered something huge.

The University of Otago never registered the domain names for askotago.com and askotago.co.nz. So we bought them for US\$24.76, half of Critic's annual budget.

It took us a long time to work out what to do with them. We considered just linking them straight through to coolmathgames.com, or maybe just starting our own university where we teach people about menstruation. In the end, we decided that we would do our civic duty and make our own website that answers the questions people really want to know.

Unfortunately, we're not very good at making websites so we could only make it answer six questions, but luckily they are the most important questions.

1. Who won the Battle of York?
2. Who would win in a race if they were transformed into bats – the Archway building or the Burns building?

3. How big should I expect my 50 bag to be?
4. What kind of grades do I need to get into med?
5. Who is Charlene Chainz?
6. What is New Zealand's oldest, bestest, and most technologically advanced student magazine?

If you want the answers, you'll have to fire up the ol' desktop, do some web surfing on internet explorer, search Bing, and type in www.askotago.com to find the ONE UNDENIABLE TRUTH.

Police Fail to Catch 4chan Shitposter

Also, turns out police are very interested in Pepe memes

By Charlie noOb'Mannin

The extensive police investigation into the Otago University anonymous shooting threat made in 2015 has reached a dead end, according to a police report released to Stuff and later Critic under the Official information Act.

In October 2015 an anonymous person posted on 4chan, "If you're in Dunedin, I wouldn't recommend coming to Otago University on Wednesday. Notes have been taken from tactics used in other massacres and shootings. I know what works and what doesn't," along with a picture of a locked open pistol. The post came a week after a similar post on 4chan resulted in a mass shooting in Oregon, killing ten people. There was no attack on the University

Following the threat, the Dunedin Police launched a significant investigation, dubbed "Operation

Varsity," involving "A large number of police and specialised units".

The Dunedin Police identified and spoke to 37 potential suspects but "no evidence was ever found linking them to the threat," according to the report.

Critic spoke to one suspect, then a first year student at a residential hall, who said that police showed up at his door with his RA "in like, full get up".

He said that he was interviewed for about two hours and he was mostly asked "a tonne of shit about my hobbies, what websites I frequented and why, asking what names I went by online, they made me email them a Pepe wallpaper I'd made, asking why I used non-standard programs for things, and if there were any groups of people I disliked."

"They did say pretty early on that they were pretty sure someone had just played a joke on me, but because of protocol or whatever they had to treat it properly."

According to the police report, the person who made the 4chan post was "very computer literate" and knew how to re-route and hide IP addresses. The police tracked the post across the world, ending in a communications company in Medellin, Colombia. Police got in contact with the company but it proved to be a dead end.

At the conclusion of the police report Detective Sergeant Chris Henderson said, "I have held onto the file until now in the hope that some new line of inquiry may come to light, however it hasn't and to date this case remains unsolved".



University to Continue Computer-Based Exams Following Successful First Semester Trial

More like com-poo-ter based examinations, am I right? 🍌

By Sophia Carter Peters

The University are hoping to roll out computer-based examinations to all papers at Otago, after a trial of the system in first semester was deemed successful. The University hopes that the new system will allow students more flexibility and make life easier for the markers. However, Associate Law Professor Selene Mize emphasises that students will always have the option to take the classic paper exams.

The semester one trial focused primarily on law papers, but also included anatomy, medicine, and politics papers. Mize said that the trial was “extremely useful”. Trials will continue in second semester.

Mize said that key worries that surfaced in the trial included the noise level of computers and

computer batteries dying. These issues have been addressed, with headphones to block out noise provided to everyone sitting the exam, and prioritisation of rooms with outlets available for all students. Another concern was the variability between computerised marks, and paper-based marks; Mize said that studies have shown that there are small differences between work marked electronically and on paper, although she said it was “much less” than the variability between different markers.

Many teaching professionals agree that marking is the worst part of their jobs, partly because of completely illegible handwriting. Exam marking on a computer ensures that markers can read

a student’s handwriting; useful considering that some exams look like four year olds wrote them. Computer-based examinations also allow students to correct or rephrase sections without scribbling passages out. The new system would also decrease the University’s excessive paper waste.

After the trials are complete, the University hopes to introduce the system gradually to more papers, making sure individuals can opt out if they choose. The University has got to be delicate about how they approach computer-based examinations: “If you try to force either way, you’re going to have unhappy people”.

Education Minister “Cannot Make a Commitment” to VSM Repeal

Also, turns out police are very interested in Pepe memes

By Charlie O’Mannin

Minister for Education Chris Hipkins has rejected a request to repeal from the New Zealand Union of Students’ Associations (NZUSA) to repeal Voluntary Student Membership, saying he “cannot make a commitment” at this stage.

VSM, which was introduced by ACT back when it was actually a party and not just David Seymour moonlighting as a politician. Meant that rather than students directly funding their students associations, universities control the funding and can cut it at their discretion. In most cases, this meant major cuts to essential services such as counselling and advocacy.

Critic filed an Official Information Act for all emails between NZUSA and the Education Minister, revealing that a Hipkins had shrugged off a formal request for repeal.

NZUSA President Jonathan Gee wrote to Hipkins and pointed out that funding has dropped in most

associations, some by over half. “[VSM] is depoliticising our movement, and our generation. Students’ associations are now beholden to our institutions for funding, and we are constrained from being political (let alone critical) of our institutions for fear of ‘biting the hand that feeds us’. While some students’ associations have weathered the storm through the post-VSM era, it does not appear to be a sustainable model for a thriving student movement.”

Chris Hipkins sent a letter in response, saying that while he understands that VSM has led to less funding for students’ associations, he was not able to act on anything yet.

“Any policy change would likely lead to increased costs to the Crown, for example through student loan borrowing to help students meet membership fees. I cannot make a commitment to you at this stage, as we need to assess any change

to VSM against other work programme priorities as well as competing priorities for Government expenditure.”

Jonathan Gee told Critic that NZUSA and the Government are “in the very early stages” of repealing VSM.

“As a former student president himself [Hipkins was President of VUWSA in 2000/01], we know that the Minister also understands the importance of strong student voice and we’re glad that he’s been happy to discuss VSM alternatives with us. We know from our recent wins however that lobbying Government (especially a coalition) takes time. Obviously, it’s too early to predict any likely outcomes as the work is just beginning.”



Unprecedented Demand for Beer Festival Tickets

Turns out people like beer, whomst'd've thunk?

By Joel MacManus

The Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival sold out of tickets in a record three minutes after going on sale last Friday.

The OUSA-owned festival, which is scheduled for November 10, made 6000 tickets available. 2000 were made available to email subscribers on Wednesday August 1, which sold out in 20 minutes, and the remaining 4000 were snapped up in three minutes after they were released two days later.

"We thought that it would probably sell out on the day, but not in three minutes," said OUSA Events Coordinator Jason Schroeder.

This is the third year the festival has sold out, but it marks by far the quickest sale. In 2017 the event took 10 weeks to sell out, and in 2016 the last tickets were sold one week before the event.

While student tickets were available at a \$5 discount, OUSA doesn't treat the festival as a student event but rather targets it toward the general public and uses it as a way to raise funds to keep the association running.

"As a students' association running a public event, we needed to be able to warrant the resources. Now we're able to run it as a really strong fundraiser," Schroeder said.

Tickets were sold for \$45, up from \$40 in 2017, but despite the clear demand, Schroeder said they're not keen to raise it much more for next year.

"We wouldn't want to raise the ticket price too much. There's definitely a ceiling with what people are willing to pay and also the value that they get back... It's really popular, why screw that? We don't want to get greedy."

Instead, OUSA Events says they're keen to explore other ways to increase revenue, including further sponsorship and potentially lengthening the event across a whole weekend.

"We're not against looking at a two day model. It's something we'll explore but there're so many things to work out. Licensing might not want it, the stadium might not want it."

The 2018 Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival at Forsyth Barr stadium will feature 68 breweries and beer distributors, as well as 22 food stalls.

Those who missed out on tickets can sign up to a waiting list to get tickets if any are returned or more are made available down the track. There will also be a number of ticket giveaways through select sponsors.



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OUSA Joins Wā Collective To Provide Discounted Menstrual Cups

“You get a menstrual cup! You get a menstrual cup!”

By Esme Hall

OUSA has partnered with the Wā Collective to offer affordable menstrual cups to Otago students.

The Wā Collective is a kiwi social enterprise that fights period poverty by providing \$15 medical grade menstrual cups to students across the country. Menstrual cups are reusable and are worn internally to collect period blood rather than absorbing it. They can be emptied as little as every 12 hours.

Wā Cups are subsidised to below cost price via a Bought to Support Programme where anyone can purchase a cup for \$49.

The Wā Collective said over a four-year degree, one menstruating student will send about 1000

tampons or pads to the dump, costing \$500 or more. Wā cups last ten years.

“A cup is zero waste and a one off payment. Having a Wā Cup means a student will no longer need to buy their monthly supply of menstrual products, saving them hundreds,” Olie Body, the Wā Collective’s Executive Menstruator, said.

“Our purpose is simple, it’s to keep students in class and give them freedom to live a healthy lifestyle by preventing ‘period poverty,’ [the situation where students cannot afford sanitary products throughout their period]”.

Wā Collective research suggests 75% of students have spent less on food because of the cost of

tampons and pads and half had blocked their period for financial reasons.

“We set out to deliver a sustainable solution that could bypass the monthly unsustainable subscription-like model that people currently [are used to]. By partnering with us, OUSA and Otago Uni are part of a progressive, national conversation, no strings attached.”

OUSA Welfare Officer Abigail Clark said, “OUSA is committed to helping students out of period poverty, and we see partnering with Wā Collective as an essential step towards this goal”.

To get a cup, just go to the Wā Collective’s website and select OUSA as your pick-up option.

OUSA Grants Funding Runs Out

Don’t take grants for granted

By Sinead Gill

As of last week, the OUSA grant budget has run out of money early, with just over \$3400 left out of an initial pool of \$80,000, according to OUSA Recreation Officer Josh Smythe.

OUSA grants are typically available throughout the year for groups or individuals who need money. This can range from running cultural events and conferences, to buying club banners and equipment, to individuals needing help paying for travel costs to national and international competitions.

According to Sarah Taylor, OUSA Clubs Development Officer, “OUSA Grants is treated as first in

first served, once the funding is gone, that’s it”. Which is bad luck for clubs or individuals who have not yet applied for an OUSA grant.

The July grant round received over 70 applications. There was going to be at least one more grant round for the year. It is unsure if there will be a round to distribute the remaining money.

Taylor said that part of the reason grants funding ran out early this year was that there was only \$80,000 allocated to the grants budget this year, which was a 20% decrease from 2017’s 100,000.

Last year, \$61,303 was awarded to clubs, and \$35,915 was awarded to individuals. However, \$17,926 was not collected by recipients. This could have been the logic behind the \$20,000 decrease in 2018. Taylor noted that the overall budget for OUSA had also been reduced for 2018, which limited how much could be allocated for grants.



OPINION: The Mess of Medicinal Marijuana Politics

By Esme Hall

New Zealand now has cross-party support on medicinal marijuana. And 78% of New Zealanders are in favour of legalising medicinal marijuana for pain relief, according to a Drug Foundation research poll. But, no political party is willing to put their name to another party's Bill on the issue. Politicians are letting their own petty bullshit get in the way of addressing an issue New Zealanders broadly agree on.

Three Bills have been proposed with different visions of medicinal marijuana.

In February, the Green Party proposed a Bill that would have allowed people with health conditions like terminal illness, chronic pain or immune system disorders to legally grow their own cannabis, or have someone else grow it for them, if prescribed by their doctor. Chlöe Swarbrick fronted the Bill and it was endorsed by GreyPower and Helen Clark. But, the Bill was voted down at first reading. Although it was a conscience vote, National and NZ First MPs all voted against it.

In April came the Government Bill headed by David Clark. Rather than making medicinal marijuana 'legal', it makes marijuana 'not illegal' for those who are terminally ill with a year left to live. It also removes cannabidiol (CBD) products from being

classified as a controlled drug, to comply with the World Health Organisation's finding last year that CBD "does not appear to have abuse potential or cause harm". Finally, the Bill allows for regulations of domestic supply of medicinal cannabis products, but doesn't make any suggestions towards what these regulations would look like. Labour says the Bill is so conservative because that's all NZ First would agree to.

In July, National withdrew its support from the Government's Bill in favour of its own, drafted by National MP and Chair of the Health Select Committee, Dr. Shane Reti. National said its MPs had wanted to add to the Government's Bill in Select Committee, but Labour members didn't want change. National felt they were not being listened to so gave up and proposed their own bill.

National's Bill does not have a 'grow-your-own' provision, but it goes a lot further in some areas than the Government's proposal. As under Chlöe Swarbrick's Bill, National's Bill would create a 'Medicinal Cannabis Card' which would be issued to people based on criteria decided by the medical profession. Cardholders would be able to purchase approved medicinal cannabis products without a prescription. It also places pretty arbitrary licens-

ing and hiring regulations on cultivators and manufacturers, which prevent them from operating within 5km of residential land or hiring staff who have had, even minor drug offences.

Each party's Bill contains interesting ideas. But surely all these ideas could have been considered within the debate on one Bill? With more negotiation at a higher level, some of National's ideas could have been added to the Government Bill, or the Green's Bill could have been toned down over the Select Committee process. Labour's Bill has proceeded to Second Reading, so some of National's suggestions can still be included via Supplementary Order Papers. But it displays a stunning lack of efficiency that three separate Bills have had to be made on basically the same thing.

It's a bit of a confusing mess. It seems like a petty argument with your sibling where you can't admit you agree just because you're annoyed. Regardless of your views on medicinal marijuana, it is pretty worrying to see politicians be so unwilling to listen to each other that they can't take action on something they broadly agree on.

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NURSE JOY?

THE STORY OF THE NATIONAL NURSING STRIKE

By Callum Doyle

After a day-long strike and nearly a year of negotiations, New Zealand Nurses Organisation has accepted the latest pay offer from their DHB employers, ending the threat of further strikes. Callum Doyle went to the Duendin protest to find out what it means and why it was necessary in the first place.

On Tuesday the 15th of July, if you were walking anywhere near the hospital, slightly hungover from a Monday night drinks sesh that totally isn't indicative of early alcoholism, you may have heard a lot of yelling and honking. No, it wasn't the usual case of some dipshit pulling out in front of another dipshit, who then proceeded to punish his dipshittery by blasting his horn for everyone else. No, this honking was in support of the nurses of Dunedin, who were striking alongside 30,000 nurses nationwide for better treatment and pay.

The actual protest was pretty great, although it was terrifying being surrounded by a couple hundred women that all reminded me of my mum and not even in a fun Freudian way. The general mood

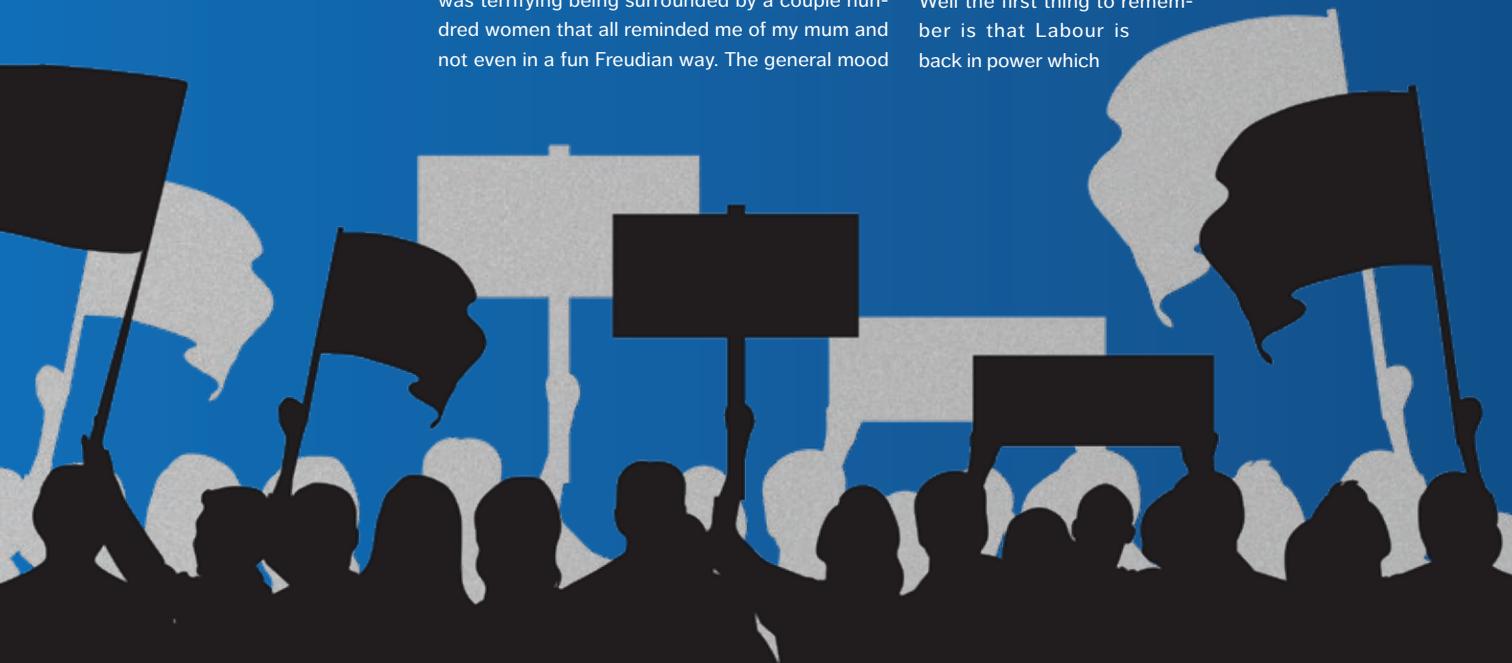
was upbeat, if annoyed and frustrated at the fact that it was even necessary. Everyone I saw was in good spirits, even the lads™ who mooned us as they drove past. Everyone I spoke to talked mostly about two things, safe staffing, and fair wages.

"We're working on a lot of overtime to run the hospital," said one protestor, "also if you're trying to recruit people into nursing you have to have a fair wage or they'll go overseas."

But that lack of staff hasn't just taken a toll on the nurses themselves, it's affected the patients who are in desperate need of the best care they can possibly get. Nurses aren't just pissed off because they work long hours, that's always been the case. When I asked one nurse why exactly we needed more nurses, instead of just paying them better, she said, "you have one nurse to six patients. You cannot get everything done, mistakes are made, medication gets missed and basic care doesn't happen".

As one lovely nurse put it, "it's a shit fight and it's every day". But the loudest chant I heard and what all the nurses seemed to want to emphasise on the day was "safe staffing saves lives". Because nurses will work themselves to death, then get out of their coffin and cover another shift, because they have to for the patients. They know that if they don't, people will suffer. But it's gotten to the point where they physically cannot, and patients are suffering regardless, so they've finally had to speak up about it. It was even pointed out to me by some of the nurses that, to ensure the safety of the patients in the hospital, "there are more nurses doing life preserving services today than there are normally. There's not enough nurses for everyday nursing but they've got enough to cover emergency services".

But if they're so fed up with it, why hasn't anything happened before now, why did they have to strike? Well the first thing to remember is that Labour is back in power which



“ If you’re trying to recruit people into nursing you have to have a fair wage or they’ll go overseas ”

means the commies finally won we’ve got a left wing government in power again, which is pro-labour (if ya know, being the LABOUR party didn’t give it away). But nurses have been unhappy with their pay for a long time now. Currently a senior nurse with 30 years of experience makes \$69,755 which is ok, but they argue it severely undervalues the work nurses go into, as well as the training they receive (and pay for).

Talks began earlier this year, attempting to avoid any striking action as no one wants that, especially the nurses. While the NZNO thought the offer was fine, nurses voted against it, and so the strike went through.

But why reject the offer? Senior nurses could earn up to \$92,000 according to the government, as well as a \$2000 flat payment. But that doesn’t really get at the heart of the issue. Yes, the nurses wanted more money and their job to be valued as it should be. But their biggest concern was always for safer staffing and coverage for patients so that the patients are affected. As Lorraine Lobb, an organiser for NZNO, put it, “This was around the fact it achieved some of the pay but not safe staffing, it also wasn’t equal across all levels/scopes of practice”.

There’s also a big caveat with the whole “\$92000” the government and your National supporting dad keep trotting out. According to one nurse,

“the media have made out we can earn over \$92,000 but that means shift work, including night duties”. Which isn’t possible if you have annoying things like family, children or any other kind of responsibilities.

As well as this inflation of what nurses would make, the offer didn’t mention anything about encouraging the decision to become a nurse, aside from small pay offers for registered nurses, and the promise that maybe five years down the line you might be making something close to a liveable wage.

On August 7, the nurses agreed to the fifth and final offer that was made. So that’s good right? Well your grandad is probably raving about commie nurses so there’s one good outcome. There’s also the fact that that there has at last been greater commitment to ensure safer staffing.

The NZNO said that an “exceptionally high” portion of their membership voted on whether to accept the offer, and a “significant majority” voted in favour.

As one nurse (who happens to be my mum) put it, “There is now a clear plan to monitor how vacancies get addressed and covered while a role is vacant”.

But the pay increase hasn’t changed at all, meaning no progress there. It’s not the landmark decision anyone was hoping for, but hey at least we’ve gotten somewhere. Thankfully

the government’s response to this has at least shown they’re willing to negotiate with workers, which is a sign we could see more change on the way, as other areas of labour are beginning to talk about striking and pushing for better pay, such as the teachers strike currently planned for the 15th of August.

Labour have promised to fix the issues they say were caused and amplified by a National government that did nothing to address the situation. As David Clark, Minister of Health, put it, “I think everyone agrees nurses should be paid more than they are now, but it takes more than one pay round to address nine years of neglect”.

So hopefully everyone who reads this realises this applies to them and helps them out, no matter who you are. Get a nice concussion coming home from a party picking a fight with a particularly speedy tree? Now you’ll be looked after by fresh and ready nurses, not ones who have had to spend ten straight hours working. Currently in health sci and wanting to be a doctor one day? Well first off hope you’re ready to be a commerce student next year, but if you do make it you’ll have enough nurses to actually get shit done. The strike didn’t solve everything and there’s still a whole lot to fix. But it’s a start, and the BA students can keep their guillotines in the closet... for now.





By Charlie O'Mannin

THE WEEK THE ODT SERIOUSLY FUCKED UP

To start this week the ODT are awfully sure of themselves.

No half-baked ideas here

Excuse me; ODT Watch will be the judge of that, if you don't mind.

A gem from the Regions section.

SOUTH Otago residents are going quackers for an a-quack-tic Daffodil Day fundraiser next month.

"A-quack-tic" definitely made everyone at the ODT named Barry (the entire staff) orgasm embarrassingly loudly.

Some classic ODT whinging, combined with some classic ODT weird sentence structure.

Things just aren't as good as they used to be, allegedly

Then the ODT seems convinced that all dog owners are going to face legal action.

Owners of dogs to be prosecuted

The article is only about two people. Why not go with "Two dog owners to be prosecuted". It's literally the same number of characters.

Then the ODT have discovered a rare strain of sport in the wastelands of Central Otago.

It's golf, but not as we know it

Seriously, no one tell them about minigolf. It'll blow their minds.

Next, we turn to the 'letters' section. Also lovingly dubbed the 'ODT readers reveal that none of them are younger than 95' section

'ODT' delivery

What a delight to have a folded ODT in the letterbox. It is ecologically friendly and no longer a challenge to arthritic hands to free the paper from its wrapping.

This week the ODT made the decision to be incredibly racist for no reason. Starting with big old racist cartoonist Tremain, who drew this picture in 2018.



That was printed in 2018, in a newspaper dated 6/8/18. This is not from a racist World War 2 propaganda Disney film. It says something that even the ODT's racism is archaic.

And then this from the 'Faith and Reason' section

most Westerners won't tend to pray for our enemies' babies to be dashed against the wall, but I imagine there have been believers throughout the centuries who have been in such anguish about their situations that similar thoughts have seemed appropriate. Even today such believers might be African.

Sick of your shit, ODT, real sick.

Finally, the ODT have seriously fucked up. Everything else pales in comparison to this monstrosity.

At long last, Shrek gets a decent sequel

SHREK TWO WAS PEAK SHREK. FUCK YOU. FUCK YOU. FUCK YOU.

The Critical Tribune

Dunedin's Most Accurate News Source Since 1653



Is David Clark Secretly One Half of the Electronic Music Duo Daft Punk? A Critical Tribune Investigation

For years, the French electronic music duo Daft Punk has captured the fascination of audiences around the globe, not just with their groundbreaking musical styles, but with the air of intrigue and mystery which surrounds them.

The duo have not been photographed without their masks in years, and even today their identities are not really known. While generally believed to be the individuals known as Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and Thomas Bangalter, no one can be truly sure who they are, or if they are secretly Members of the New Zealand parliament.

However, the Critical Tribune goes deeper and asks the question no one else is willing to ask: is Minister for Health and Dunedin North MP David Clark secretly one half of the chart-topping supergroup Daft Punk? It may sound crazy, but it adds up.

The discography of Daft Punk aligns remarkably well with David Clark's career trajectory. Their debut release, *Homework*, came out in 1997 just as David Clark was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. Was it reflecting on the educational journey that brought him to that point? This was quickly followed up in 2001 with *Discovery*, obviously about his burgeoning relationship with God. 2005's *Human After All* paired with his decision to leave his work in the church to benefit secular society, working for the Treasury and as Selwyn College Warden. *Random Access Memories*, 2013, chronicled the intensity and craziness of his political ascent and first two years in parliament.

But the plot thickens even more:

1. Daft Punk's debut single, "The New Wave," was released in 1994. Dr. Clark is 45 years old, making him 21 in 1994. 21 is the perfect age to be down with the kids and know what the cool new music is.
2. Daft Punk are famous for wearing helmets. David Clark, an avid cyclist and ironman athlete, is a known helmet wearer.
3. In an interview for *Jockey Slut* (apparently a real magazine), Daft Punk said, "We don't want to be photographed [...] We don't especially want to be in magazines. We have a responsibility." A responsibility to the New Zealand public mayhap?
4. David Clark studied at Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen, which is in Germany. Which is in Europe. Which is where France is. *Ipsa facto...*

5. Perhaps most damning of all is that Daft Punk have not performed in public or announced any new music since they performed with The Weeknd at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards on 12 February 2017 – too busy with political campaigning and governing to make any music since?

6. David Clark has never been seen in the same room at the same time as both members of Daft Punk. While they were photographed together at the 2014 Grammy Awards, he kept missing the taller one, who always seemed to sneak out to the toilet just as David was returning.

7. The D in D.A.F.T. could stand for David (Clark)

8. His full title is The Honourable Reverend Doctor David Scott Clark, MP. That's got nothing to do with Daft Punk, but it is a suspiciously long name.

9. One of the members of Daft Punk is around 6'1, which is the same height David Clark might be.

10. David Clark is a known accomplice of Jacinda Ardern, who has publicly confessed to being a DJ

When approached for comment by the Tribune, The Honourable Reverend Doctor David Scott Clark, MP denied that he was a member of Daft Punk.

"I have never received the Best Dance Video award at the 1998 International Dance Music Awards for the major club hit "Around the World". Neither have I been nominated for a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media for my, I mean, Daft Punk's, work on the science fiction action film *Tron: Legacy*. I absolutely reject any allegations that I appeared on the cover of the December 2010 issue of British publication *Dazed & Confused* to promote the film *Tron: Legacy*, for which, again, I certainly did not compose the score."

Daft Punk did not respond to a request for comment, but instead forwarded all inquiries to the Ministry for Health.



Dance Superstar
David Seymour
strips his soul bare

By Caroline Moratti

David Seymour * strips With the * Stars



Editor's Note: I just want to make it 100% clear that this is a real interview. All the quotes were actually spoken by David Seymour to Critic reporter Caroline Moratti, in a very awkward, very real, interview.



"I'm sort of a symbol for awkward sex, like the kind you'd have in your first O-Week."



In 2018 a star was born. Dancing with the Stars was a life-changing experience for David Seymour – it took him from his origins as a relatively unknown dancer, and placed him at the forefront of pop culture. His popularity is found in his boyish demeanor, from his cheeky grin to baby blue eyes, which ultimately creates a sexy, boy-next-door vibe. You could take him home to your parents, who would love him, but he would still dry hump you among the musty odour of your childhood room. Yet for a country that knows so much about the twist and turns of David's body, relatively little is known about the twists and turns of his mind. Who is David Seymour? Critic endeavored to find out.

David Seymour walks like someone has poured whipped cream over every part of his body; that was what I first noticed about him. It's easy to see how the 35-year-old had gotten into dancing. Rumour has it that he's being scouted for a Black Swan sequel, which would place the lithe young dancer beside the likes of Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis. But surprisingly, David was relatively down to earth about his newfound fame, choosing to belittle his athletic ability: "I think one of the things we've established is that I have no dancing opportunities in the future. Tribute to Amelia, my partner, who stuck with me the whole way, even though I was a bit shit".

"A bit shit" doesn't quite match up to David's incredible journey on DWTS – he finished 5th on the show. It's refreshing, however, to meet someone as modest as he is handsome. I'll admit it took some time for David to fully open up to me, probably due to inexperience in public speaking.

Q: What age did you dream of becoming a dancer?

A: 34 years old, and it may have been a nightmare just after I signed the contract with MediaWorks.

Q: Why did you decide to do DWTS?

A: A couple of things, firstly I've been in Parliament almost 4 years –

Q: Oh have you? That's great for you.

A: I'll do the jokes, thanks. [Silence follows]

Things seemed to pick up after that. His favourite dance routine was the Viennese Waltz, which he was quite proud of, saying it "kind of dressed me up in a dignified way for once". Meanwhile his favourite outfit was the twerking outfit. Mine too, David. Mine too.

It is important to note that people spent their hard-earned money to watch David Seymour dance, which to me, sounds like a glorified Stilettos. David was vague about whether or not he defined himself as a stripper: "I guess the definition of a stripper is someone who takes their clothes off and I didn't do that ... There was one [jacket taken off] during the James Bond routine, but frankly, if you were up there dancing with two girls dressed as Bond girls, you probably wouldn't care either." Critic would like to say that strippers are incredible dancers, and for David Seymour to be potentially placed in that category should be taken as a personal honour. It's one thing to dance, it's another thing entirely for people to pay for you to dance. One thing's for sure, David's dancing career can only go up (or down, depending on the pole).

David Seymour walks like someone has poured whipped cream over every part of his body

David seemed weirdly keen to talk about politics, which was odd considering the election was last year and now no one gives a fuck. But to humour him, I played along. It's sweet he has a hobby in this day and age. God knows I've lost all passion from my life ever since the crippling anxieties of adulthood came along. To entertain the poor boy, we played Shoot, Shag, Marry. In a round, which he described as "Shit this is one of the hardest ever," it was between Gareth Morgan, Winston Peters and Steven Joyce. "Well I'd marry Gareth Morgan, for the money obviously, well for his son's money. I would shoot Winston Peters, just to do New Zealand a favour. And I'd shag Steven Joyce just to see his silly grin bobbing up and down." [Winston, if you're reading this, you're a silver fox and you deserve the shag, no matter what anyone else thinks].

Despite this, David still wouldn't shut up about some free market bullshit. So the next game was looking at memes. At first he whined a bit, saying "I'm too old for memes," but he was intrigued by the classic Dungeons and Dragons alignment chart. "Well, this is a pretty good description of New Zealand politics. NZ First is Neutral Evil. The Greens are Neutral Good; they're lovely people but they're doing fuck all. The Nats are Lawful Neutral, always following the law. Peter Dunn is Lawful Evil, that's why he's gone. Labour is Chaotic Evil. Act is Chaotic Good, so I guess I'm Chaotic Good. I'm all for freedom and kindness."

Though we didn't discuss who David had voted for in the general election, I got a strong vibe he was into Jacinda. Call it foolish, but a

dancer would be the perfect stay-at-home dad profession to look after young Neve. He himself admitted: "I've stayed at home before, I just don't have the kid, so I'm halfway there".

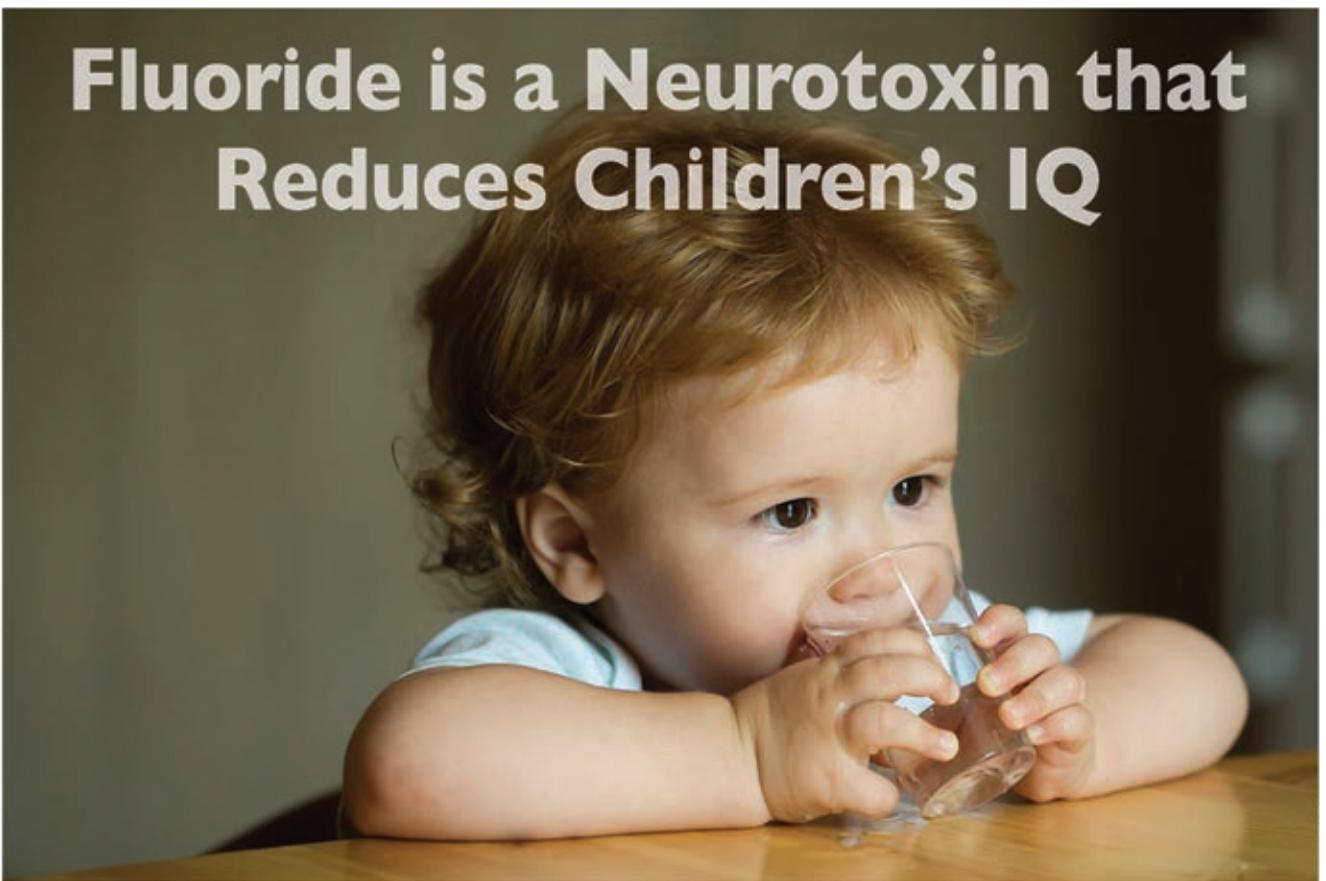
When asked about his nickname of "Daddy Seymour" which naturally evokes father-like connotations, David stated his bamboozlement, saying "I was hoping you might help me with this, Why the fuck do people keep calling me that?" I could tell the readers of Critic what I said, but unfortunately, I think my grandparents may be reading this.

There's no denying it, David Seymour and his dancing is sexy. "I'm sort of a symbol for awkward sex, like the kind you'd have in your first O-Week." I only wish that were true. I felt like we were on a more intimate level now. Under the dim lights of the Critic office, at 3pm on a Wednesday, there was a thick energy pulsating between David Seymour and I. More than mere physical attraction, it was the connection of two old souls realigning. As if we looked at each other, sighed a deep breath and said "You too?" I never used to believe in soulmates, but now I'm not so sure. I wanted to ask him if he would do the iconic Dirty Dancing lift with me. I wanted to travel the world with him. Instead, what came out of my mouth shocked us both.

"Do you ever get lonely?" I asked, a mere breathless whisper. He paused.

"No, because if you know what you believe in, then you never get lonely."

Fluoride is a Neurotoxin that Reduces Children's IQ



International Experts share latest research linking fluoride to neurological damage and other harms.

Dr Vyvyan Howard, former Professor of Bioimaging, Nano Systems Biology, Centre for Molecular Biosciences, University of Ulster.

Declan Waugh, Environmental Scientist and Risk Management Consultant, author of a number of Fluoride Risk Assessments.

Professor Paul Connett, Executive Director of Fluoride Action Network (FAN) and the Co-author of *The Case Against Fluoride – How Hazardous Waste Ended Up in Our Drinking Water and the Bad Science and Powerful Politics That Keeps It There*.

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4th September**

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HOROSCOPES

Aquarius



Jan 20 - Feb 18

Go on, take your pants off.

Study Bevvv: Albany long black with soy (it tastes the same as a flat white but costs as much as a long black)

Pisces



Feb 19 - Mar 20

Wow wasn't that a celestially active month, in an unbelievable turn of events, everyone has forgotten your mishaps from last Saturday night. I know. Unbelievable.

Study Bevvv: You're too poor for coffee, dissolve NoDoz in hot water

Aries



Mar 21 - Apr 19

You've recently become sexually liberated. So cool!

Study Bevvv: Nitro with extra Nitro

Taurus



Apr 20 - May 20

All that horoscope hate has got you down. The stars shine for you this week. Pass Go. Collect \$200.

Study Bevvv: You're one of those gits who thinks diet coke is good for you.

Gemini



May 21 - Jun 20

Your roots need a touch up honey. While you're natural blond in character, your head says it ain't so.

Study Bevvv: Spirulina with nutritional yeast in it

Cancer



Jun 21 - July 22

Having recently learned that you are circumcised, you have been investigating penile plastys. Mate, the hour has been and gone xx.

Study Bevvv: Bell tea, but you never actually drink it

Leo



July 23 - Aug 22

Get off that farkin computer and appease cosmic energy by going on a spiritual run up Signal at sunset.

Study Bevvv: You are superior. Hydration is for peasants

Virgo



Aug 23 - Sept 22

Cosmic dust in the 8th quadrant suggest that a gnome event next Thursday is unlikely.

Study Bevvv: Mocha with chocolate fish, from that café opposite central lib

Libra



Sept 23 - Oct 22

When asked what made you such a successful businessman, you'll lie and tell them it was \$50,000 worth of degree.

Study Bevvv: Liquidated funds

Scorpio



Oct 23 - Nov 21

Forecasts stipulate that as the planets fall out of alignment, your blue shakra will resume potency. A.K.A keep a weather eye on that romance horizon.

Study Bevvv: Coffee so strong it gives you arrhythmia

Sagittarius



Nov 22 - Dec 21

On Wednesday you will happily discover a kegel exercise for men that you can do anytime, anywhere.

Study Bevvv: Raro with a smidge of salt for that peak performance electrolyte goodness

Capricorn



Dec 22 - Jan 19

Venus has moved into the 19th plane of obscurity which essentially means you'll soon discover a need for shit-tonnes of vases.

Study Bevvv: The goon you found in the warmer draw of your oven

PHAKE PHACTS

1. Radio One was the first radio station ever discovered. That's they they named it 'one'
2. Everyone knows the Hyde Street party, but no one has found the Seek Street party
3. Money doesn't grow on cheese
4. In dog years it is the year 1439, because dogs follow the Islamic calendar
5. Dogs don't see colour. They're racist to everyone.
6. OUSA is an acronym. We don't know what it stands for but the S is for socialists.
7. The brain can't learn about itself.
8. The pinky can't learn about itself either. We don't know why.
9. Nepal was originally called Nipple until they found out it was rude
10. Red pens aren't allowed in exams because of communism.

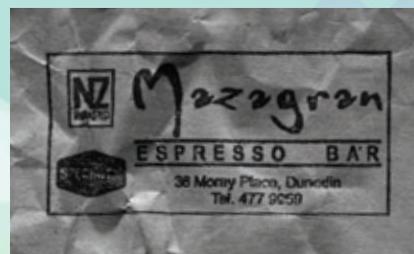
POPULAR BOIZ.

- **Noah** - Eyes like the sea on a stormy day. Drawn to the ocean, like the tides dragging him in. Hears voices, but doesn't tell anyone.
- **Elijah** - Kind hearted, soft eyes, strong nose. Takes care of his grandma's puppy on Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons while she does her chemotherapy. Wears scarves and linen shirts (very hot).
- **Lucas** - Rhymes with Lupus, a disease which he has.
- **Joey** - Makes films and lives in Berlin. You shared a brief but passionate kiss while he was on exchange and you think about it every second day. Was he the one?
- **Chazz Michael Michaels** - Is Men's Figure Skating

TOP TEN WAYS TO:

MAKE A FRIEND

1. Playdough
2. Paper Mache
3. Imagination
4. Draw it on a whiteboard
5. Make a second facebook profile
6. You're always got a friend in Jesus
7. Sit next to them in a lecture and then follow them home after they leave
8. Buy a large bag of cocaine and have it all at one. Oh wait, that's how to make a fiend.
9. Get Myspace and Tom will be your friend.
10. Genuine human empathy





HIGHLANDERS

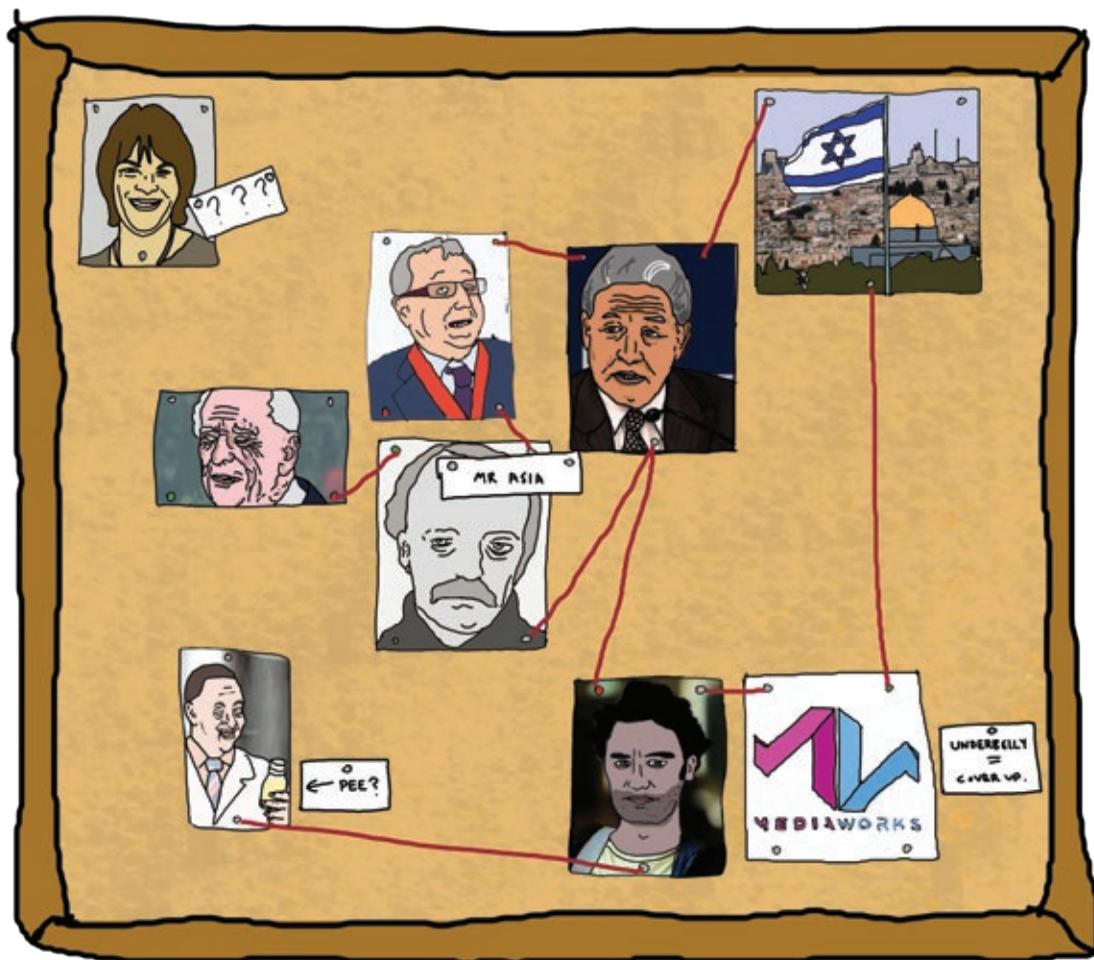
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Artwork by Jonathan Waters



How I Became A Shape Shifting Lizard

Uncovering the Guys Behind

New Zealand's Craziest Conspiracy Website

By Joel MacManus, Illustrations by Saskia Rushton-Green

Trigger Warning:

This article deals with anti-Semitic and transphobic conspiracy theorists. They are directly quoted, in their own words, using a number of offensive words and phrases.

January 19 2018 was a day that changed what normal meant in New Zealand's political history. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced her pregnancy, and changed perceptions across the world about what it means to be a working mother.

In the underbelly of the internet, gears started grinding. A team of secret writers sprung into action, published an article, and sent an urgent press

release to news outlets across the country. It was then promptly ignored by everyone who received it, because, well, it was fucking insane.

"Is Jacinda Ardern a Transvestite Man - Faking Her Pregnancy?"

The answer, of course, is no. There is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that. The article's claim was based on the fact that Jacinda looks different

now to how she did in high school – darker hair, more pronounced teeth, and a less rounded face. You know, like aging.

None of those observations are followed up in anywhere near enough detail to justify the author's bold claim, but that doesn't stop them from asking the big questions.

"Who is this person posing as our leader? What happened to the young girl? And perhaps most importantly, where are Jacinda and Clark going to get their baby from? The Ministry of Vulnerable Children?"

The article came from mediawhores.co.nz, a conspiracy website which has posted over 1000 separate articles since it launched in August 2016.

The website, which claims to be "the leading news source in NZ," is an eclectic mix of paranoia, anti-Semitism and transphobia. There's wild accusations thrown at almost every public figure in New Zealand, and a bunch of overseas ones too.

Their specific brand of conspiracy theory can mostly be distilled down to four major points:

1. That many celebrities and politicians are secretly transgender.
2. That many of them are also demonic reptilian shape shifters.
3. That powerful people (mostly Freemasons) are running secret pedophilia rings, protected by the police and the government.
4. Israel and/or Jewish people are controlling the media and other major world institutions.

Sometimes the headlines seem so absurd that it must, surely, be parody. But it isn't. The articles make little to no sense, but not in a satirical way. And they've just been way too committed for way too long. No one making a joke would put in that amount of time.

Did Hillary Clinton have advanced warning of the Christchurch earthquake?

Highlights include:

Is Simon Bridges another Homosexual Transvestite Inbred 'Jewish' Sodomite?

Is Jacinda Ardern actually Peter Thiel Dressed in Drag?

Simon Dallow is the Joseph Goebbles of NZ – a Degenerate Jewish Terrorist, War Criminal & Sayanim Spy

Is Mike Hosking a Transgender Woman?

Did Richie McCaw Conspire to Help Cover Up the Murder of Jerry Collins?

The website is registered to Wireless Media Ltd, which lists 44 year old Frankton man Cohen James Glass as its sole director.

When I first called Cohen, he denied any involvement. "I'm not involved in it. I run a website company with hundreds of domain names." He said, "I wouldn't touch it with a barge pole, it looks dangerous. I keep a close eye on it because I know it's quite shocking".

But almost immediately, he gave up on his denials and got distracted by threatening me. "They've been posting about shape shifting snakes. I'd be very concerned if I was you. I imagine you're probably one of them. I know the articles you write. They probably need to have a better look at your teeth. You can always notice shapeshifters by their teeth."

Any claim that Cohen was simply a website administrator quickly

dissipated, as he started spouting theories perfectly in line with the website, about government pedophilia rings, how the bible proved there was a species of reptiles that live among us, and Pizzagate, the debunked conspiracy theory that Hillary Clinton was behind a human-trafficking ring in the basements of a Washington pizza restaurant.

When I asked him for a second time if he was involved with MediaWhores, I got a different response. "I think you have an obligation to expose, to protect people from psychotic pedophiles. I said to [the people behind the website] that I would guarantee that if you register a domain, I'll back you up."

Before he hung up, he turned it back on me again. "There is organised Masonic child abuse in this country. You were probably raped as a child. You're a hop, skip and a jump away from 1000 years in the pits of hell. Be careful, or you might end up as our next front cover story."

The next day, the story was up. They spelt my name wrong and accused me of being part of "the satanist vampire shape shifters conspiracy," because I had "Shapeshifting eye pupils – not circular!" and "Demonic shape shifting teeth!"

I was part of "the new breed of 'liberal' journalists who all seem to conspire to help ignore and/or cover up all of the never ending child abuse scandals in our Nation".

As by far the least high-profile person MediaWhores has ever accused of

shape-shifting demonic activities, I considered it an honour to be part of the same inner circle as Mike McRoberts, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Zuckerberg, and the entire cast of Game of Thrones.

Cohen had insisted that if I wanted more thorough answers, I needed to get in touch with MediaWhores through an official email address, which I did. That led me to a very long, very strange call from a man named Alex, who called himself a “MediaWhores Spokesperson”. While Alex wouldn’t reveal his last name, Cohen confirmed it as Bowden.

Alex describes the site as “truth seeking” and “anti-media,” but he rejects the term “journalism”. He says there are around a dozen people that regularly contribute to the website.

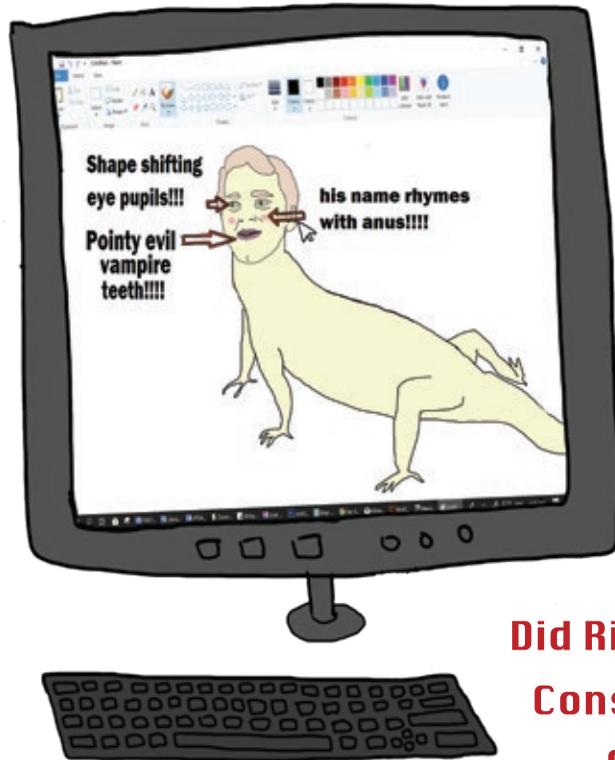
Alex speaks with a certain authority, like everything he says is an indisputable fact. He doesn’t sound like some kind of raving lunatic, he speaks slowly and rationally. For the forty minutes we spoke, he was never trying to convince me or change my mind. It was like he was a lecturer, simply informing me of the “truth”. He did however, warn me not to misquote him. “We have a very large audience, and you, your whole life in front of you.”

Alex speaks with the strength of his own convictions. Which is exactly what makes it so bizarre when he gets going.

Like when he got on to his theories about Winston Peters:

“Winston Peters is a Jewish streetkid. He was kidnapped as a child sex abuse whore. He’s a halfbred Jewish, just like John Key or Taika Waititi. They come out of nowhere, and they become very powerful and they’re always half Jewish, usually on their mother’s side.”

“Winston Peters is a drug trafficker. He’s the biggest heroin trafficker in New Zealand. The second is Prince Philip. He ran the Mr Asia syndicate



Did Richie McCaw Conspire to Help Cover Up the Murder of Jerry Collins?

with Peter Williams QC. And Media Works is owned by a Jew. They only ran that TV Series [Underbelly] as a coverup.”

Or his thoughts on women’s magazines:

“They’re pushing this trans thing. Trump is behind it even though he claims to be right wing. It all goes back to Israel. Almost everyone who has every been on the cover of a women’s magazine is secretly transgender. Brad Pitt, Jennifer Aniston, Angelina Jolie – that’s an obvious one, Melania Trump is a man. Justin Trudeau is a male to female trans man. Prince Harry was born a girl. I think there’s a lot of them. Like the [Otago University] Vice Chancellor, what’s their name? Harlene Hayne. Is that a woman? I’m not sure.”

Or the story he says was their most popular ever:

“Hillary Clinton had advanced warning of the Christchurch earthquake, her emails prove it. When we published

that, it was read 150 million times around the world. That makes it the most read of anything from New Zealand ever.”

The article currently has three comments and the online viewcounter shows 36,000 reads. MediaWhores insists that Google is “hacking” their website to show lower readership statistics.

At times, MediaWhores seems like a checklist of all the tinfoil hat movie tropes you’ve ever seen: Israel was behind 9/11, the earth is flat, the Sandy Hook massacre was fake, and the Freemasons have secret control of the government.

But some are just plain weird. Like that JFK and Jimmy Carter are the same person. Or that Julia Gillard is Jodie Foster in makeup. Or that Heath Ledger and Barack Obama are the same person... and they’re also a snake.

But according to Alex, they're not just a whole bunch of unrelated secrets and coverups, there is a logic to it all. He says it all comes back to astrology and the constellations. His theory is that the "powerful cabals" of Jewish people that control the world know that the sun cycles in a 2160 year period, and that when we reach that point "people will wake up".

"We are in the time when Jesus Christ should return and awaken man. If that happens, the overlords are fucked. And they know that, which is why they're fighting so hard to control us."

For the most part, the MediaWhores conspiracies are absurd enough to be harmless, simply because they fail the test of reasonableness.

It's what University of Otago Philosophy Professor Charles Pidgen calls "Cognitive Suicide" – the idea that they are so crazy that in order to believe them, you have to disbelieve so much about what we know about the world that they're no longer plausible.

"Why on earth would the Prime Minister be a transvestite? What about all those people who know her? What about all the people who can say they've met her? This is a small country,

a lot of people know her personally... all those people have got to be lying. At what point was she a boy who suddenly decided she was going to be a girl? And why, given she was doing that, would she go to the enormous trouble of faking her pregnancy? Why? What's the point? How could you get so many people to be singing from the same hymnsheet? What would be their motive, what could be the point?"

However, Pidgen is a staunch defender of conspiracy theories in general. He's got a personal gripe about people labelling valid arguments as 'conspiracy theories' just to dismiss them.

"A conspiracy theory is simply a theory that posits a conspiracy, that a bunch of people are attempting to influence events by secret means. When you have a crazy conspiracy theory, it's crazy because it's crazy, not because it's a conspiracy theory."

To dismiss a conspiracy theory simply because it is a conspiracy theory is, to Pidgen, "intellectually indefensible". Take the Trump/Russia collusion story. There are two competing conspiracy theories. One is that the media and the Justice Department are conspiring to make the Trump administration look bad due to political biases. The other

is that the Trump campaign conspired with Russian nationals to influence the US election. Both are conspiracy theories, one of them has to be true.

Alex is deeply paranoid that there is a government conspiracy to keep a close eye on him. "I know they're watching me though, every time I go to stay somewhere, by the end of the week there will be three new streetlights."

But he also privately thinks there are people within the government conspiring to disrupt surveillance and keep his website online.

"I'm surprised MediaWhores is still up. There's a degree of protection. There must be a small army of intelligence officers going against the government to protect us."

He says he's going to keep posting and trying to expose the government conspiracies until the mainstream media and the rest of the population catches on.

"We haven't been murdered yet, it's quite surprising. But if we do get murdered we've proved ourselves right."



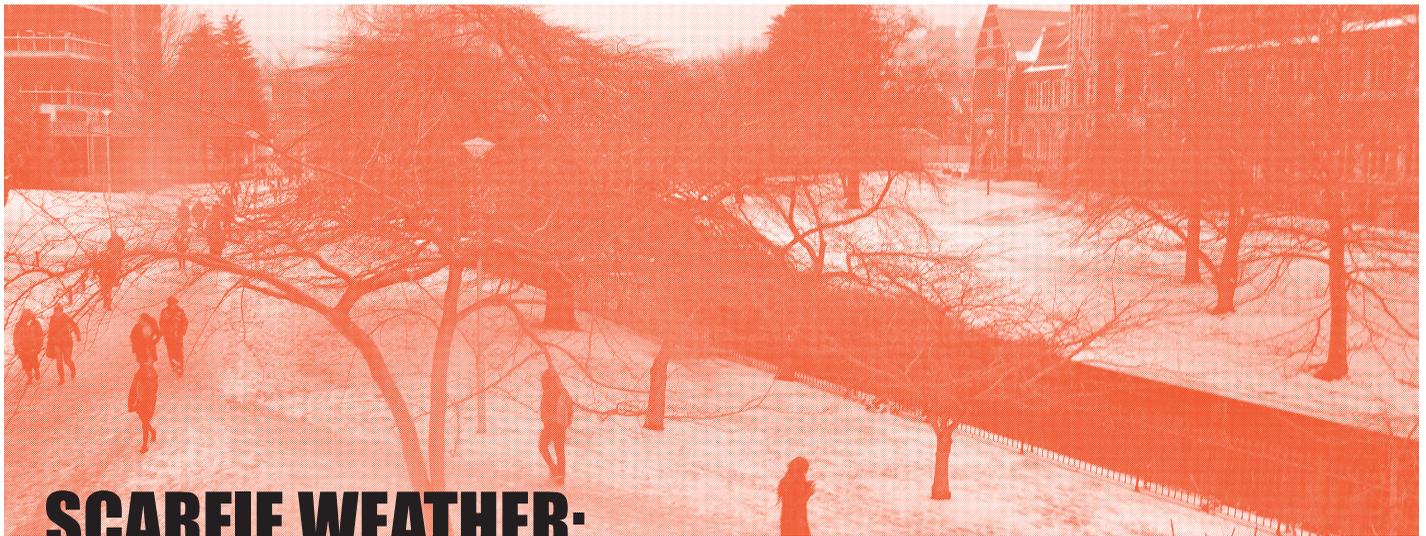
This Ain't a Meme, It's a Goddamn Arms Race

The People Behind Otago's Favourite Facebook Pages

By [Caroline Moratti](#)

In the glory days of the early 2000s, Facebook pages earned your likes by having hilarious names such as “I could tell you, but I’d rather show you through INTERPRETATIVE DANCE” and other such bizarre crap set loose upon the random XD quirky youths of the decade. Nowadays, no matter how mind-numbingly idiosyncratic a page’s name is, it’s the content that drives viewers to engage. The more relatable the content, the more the likes stack up, which frankly means more to me than any form of male validation. The most relatable content is the stuff that directly impacts Otago students, such as the weather, the thoughts and the humour within the students that linger in these hallowed halls. That’s right, “Bad Memes for Suffering Victoria University Teens” can go die in hell, don’t tag me in that generic bullshit, Alice. Dunedin students want Dunedin content, and that’s where the rise of scarfie-targeted memeage has come into the digital world.

But who are the people behind these pages? Who creates and manages the content that we so thirstily engage with? Critic spoke to the admins behind Scarfie Weather, UoO: Meaningful Confessions and Otago Uni Memes for Couch Burning Teens to find out more about their identities, why they started the pages, and their messages to students.



SCARFIE WEATHER:

If you too have crippling depression, then sometimes getting out of bed can be hard. As you lie in the dark, musty aroma of your bedroom at 1pm on a Thursday morning with only your right hand and a packet of Cheezels for company, it's fair to assume that you have no idea what the fuck the weather is doing outside. It's Dunedin; you can probably assume it'll be fucking freezing, but to what degree? Is it so cold that you have to pad your nipples with toilet paper to stop them from showing through your shirt? Is it mild enough that you can cut the sleeves off your off-brand puffer jacket and pretend you shop at Huffer rather than your flatmate's laundry basket? These are the existential questions that plague all Dunedin students. Enter Scarfie Weather. With a following of almost eight thousand, this Facebook page has experienced exponential growth. With a range of photos, posts and videos, the brainpower behind Scarfie Weather uses online weather maps (computer modeling) and isobar images from a variety of sources to derive their forecasts, sometimes three or four maps before deducing an accurate forecast and sticking it up on the page.

The admin describes himself as a 5th year dude studying a BSc in geography

and maths who is "gunning for an opportunity working at MetService in Wellington in the future, because, as all old and wise people say, it's important to follow ya passion, right?" He picked up his interest in weather from his childhood dwellings on the hills of Christchurch where "it was always fascinating watching the weather systems sweeping up over the plains from the balcony." Flash-forward to October 2015, when a big thunderstorm erupted in Dunedin. "Naturally I was fizzing, but I think my mates were getting pissed off with me always banging on about storms and what-not so I thought hey, why not start a Facebook page that a few of my mates and weather-passionate students in Dunners can follow?" Initially he was expecting about 100 or so people to have interest in it but after about a week, it had gained more than 1000 likes. He says the success is "mostly due to the colloquial nature of the reports". Now, three years later, Scarfie Weather is at the top of its game, (almost) ready to take on the big weather corporations. It's the classic success story of the underdog, like any movie starring Jack Black.

He describes his most popular posts as involving snow, saying: "as soon as the

S word is mentioned, a post gains a lot of traction and can often be viewed by 50,000 people around the region. On the flip side, 30 degree days in the summer get people pretty excited so I'd say it's usually the weather extremes that prove popular in posts". Yeah, turns out mediocrity is pretty dull content. Someone tell Salient.

When Critic asked, "isn't talking about the weather super boring?" the admin mostly agreed with us, saying that, "NZ weather is starting to test me, but super keen to go tornado chasing in Tornado alley in the Midwest USA sometime soon! Check out some proper stuff!"

Overall, the guy from Scarfie Weather sounds like a total sweetheart who is weirdly into weather. Whilst maybe not the best person to sit beside at a dinner party, it's oddly heartening to see someone so passionate about something in this day and age. "My message to the students who follow the page is mostly just thank you, to be honest. It's really fun and rewarding knowing that I can use my passion to fill in my fellow students on what sort of weather they can expect and hype them up when something exciting is going down!"



UoO: MEANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

UoO: Meaningful Confessions is like a low-budget Dunedin gossip girl, where Blair Waldorf is a pot-smoking pervert who lusts after randoms, while Serena van der Woodsen studies in the central library and constantly complains about people making out/talking/existing. The page currently has nearly eight thousand followers, and ranges from students ranting about flating situations, to complimenting strangers, to dishing out advice about depression, love and heartbreak. Hoes love anonymous content, anyone who ever had an ask.fm in year 10 can attest to this.

Whilst the admins like to remain as anonymous as possible, they did divulge to Critic that they are “a bunch of second and third year students,” with three of them doing medicine and the other two undergoing science degrees. Honestly: employable, into memes and knows everyone’s secrets? Not to sound workplace inappropriate but they’re more than welcome to leave a confession declaring their love to me at any time.

They started the page one day after “a bad bout of procrastination. We knew that Auckland had a similar page for their university, but Otago didn’t

have one, which was a shame because honestly, we think University of Otago students are definitely a rowdier, raunchier and more exciting bunch, so would definitely benefit from a confessions page!”

They can receive around 20-40 submissions a day but during exam time or in the holidays it can get down to around 3-5 a day. Obviously, the demand for content has grown and the admins can find it busy to say the least: “we manage this page all in our own time and have to juggle coursework in between scheduling and responding to emails, so it’s really rewarding when we get a message from someone stating how appreciative they are of the page and what we do as admins. It really makes our day! Of course we manage this page to give back to the community. If the confessions we post make anyone smile, have a wee chuckle or generally brighten their day then I think we’ve done a great job!”

There are rules to what someone can and can’t post, which, like most things in life, follows the general rule of ‘don’t be a dick’; confessions with racist or overtly sexual content or specific names aren’t posted. So if you want to

be a dick, just rant to your flatmates like the rest of us. Or create a Twitter.

Overall, the admins have one last adorable message of love to spread: “Here at Otago University we have an amazing group of students. Sure, some of them do send in questionable confessions, but the majority are a super positive, funny and encouraging group of individuals that really do care about the people around them. All you have to do is look in the comment section of a post detailing a failing relationship, family issues, dealing with grief etc. Stay kind and weird and crazy you guys!”



OTAGO UNI MEMES FOR COUCH BURNING TEENS

Last but not least, the beloved scarfie meme page ‘Otago Uni Memes for Couch Burning Teens’ which is dedicated to all things Otago. The page holds the real hard-hitting meme commentary we crave as a society, from delving into Starters Bar, 8am lectures and how the media hates students. It’s hard to make a joke here because these are genuinely good memes, and over 16,000 others agree with me.

The admins describe themselves as “all dudes, two of us are computer science students, two of us are commerce students and one of us is in med. We are all 3rd year stereotypical students – we drink a lot and have impressive student loans. We are also firm believers that Josh Smythe is wasting his talent as recreation officer of OUSA and should be president”.

Whilst the inspiration for the page stemmed from a gap in the free market – if other universities have meme pages, why can’t Otago? – the admins admitted that the creation of the page “also opened up an avenue for us to talk about how much we enjoy disfiguring furniture”.

The majority of the memes are produced by the admins, who try to follow

a “quality over quantity approach,” which may not satisfy the greedy millennial suckling at the timeline-teat for constant entertainment and distraction, but does make for some memorable memes. Watching the page grow has been “sick,” with the most likes occurring around exam time. So that’s what all you seat-warming bastards have been doing in central, huh? Disgusting.

Not only do we get considerable enjoyment out of the admins’ hard labour, but the admins themselves have learnt a thing or two: “managing this page has definitely taught us group decision making skills, as well as enhancing our skills with Photoshop and improving our homie relations. Most importantly though, it has shown us that you cannot get laid through making memes...”

So what wisdom do these wise frothers have to bestow upon you, the humble Critic reader? “It’s apparent that a lot of students commenting on our memes show lack of faith in their abilities, frequently referring to how closely they relate to our memes about failing classes and living in perpetual debt. Given this, our advice would be to never drink spirits after beer, and

always pee after sex.” Frankly, that’s better advice than any of the hippy-dippy shit that Harlene Hayne talks during convocation ceremony about being true to yourself and studying hard.

At the end of the day, despite Critic’s incredible investigative skills, there are some things that remain shrouded in mystery. When asked, “Have you ever burnt a couch?” the response was: “for legal reasons we have decided not to comment on burning couches”. I guess some things are better left to the imagination.

IT'S A HOOCHIE WORLD, WE'RE JUST LIVING IN IT.

Words by Paul Whiley

There are very few gigs as riveting as Hoochie World. A high energy, sometimes erratic experience that epitomises the Dunners Breatha experience, Hoochie World's insane series of gigs are led by some of the front-runners of the new wave of "Dunedin Sound," including Marlin's Dreaming, Soaked Oats, Mild Orange, and Jack Berry.

Since Hoochie World 1 in September 2017, the gigs have been catching on as word of mouth spreads, and the third incarnation of the gig sold out its first round of tickets within 24 hours. Paul Whiley sat down with organisers Anthony Tep, Damian McCabe, and Riley Coughlin, to discuss their expectations, reactions and plans surrounding the "Hoochie World" concept.



Where did the concept of Hoochie World come from?

Damian: So, I did the Jack Berry stuff and so I wanted to host my own first gig and then kind of came up with idea to label it a different thing to have another thing going that we could work towards. The first one was really mellow. We had Hot Donnas and Bathsalts playing with us and with the second one, we came back and thought about how we could make it better, keep on expanding. But it all stemmed from me wanting to do a gig and have all my friends who were really keen to run this as its own thing. You have so much possibility with what you can do with an event and being able to capitalise on what's happening in Dunedin, with everyone now wanting to go to gigs. And last year, with our first gig, the venue situation in Dunedin was pretty limited, like "we'll just do it here at Refuel". We didn't manage to sell the first one out, then we did the next one, that sold out. Now for the third one, we

thought if that sold out, we can look at the fourth and start expanding it because we would know that we have that reach!

How does it feel knowing that you sold out your first round of tickets in 24 hours?

Damian: Yeah, 219 tickets in 24 hours, which is pretty crazy. I didn't expect it at all. I thought there was going to be a gradual incline, like we had a few \$5 ones, a bulk of \$10 and a few \$15 tickets. I expected all the \$5 ones to go because \$5 to go to a gig is beautiful. Then all the \$10 and so on, but all the tickets went at the same time, and that was crazy! We didn't know what to do. Normally, after we start selling tickets, we go and take photos of the bands, so we can get the event going and build some hype. But this time, it was right at the start. Because of that, we thought, let's incorporate some stage props.



Photography by Riley Coughlin

Riley: Yeah, because it's really easy to just put bands together so this time we are a lot more curious to try new things.

Damian: Yeah, since we solidified all our marketing with our ticket sales, we went and got Hamish Calder involved. He's in charge of all the stage design along with Silas.

Was stage design one of the ways you wanted to expand?

Damian: Yeah, this incorporation of different media and interaction.

Anthony: And, because of this we have kind of separated the vibes, like over here we have the DJ booth and the bar, making it the party area, then over in the next room, it's all setup differently with all the bands. When the band finishes, everyone will come over to the DJ side and vice versa.

Damian: We're utilizing the whole space. Because we've been to gigs where that hasn't really happened.

Where did the name "Hoochie World" come from?

Damian: So, we were all in a Facebook group with a hundred other people, which was called "the Hoochie Boys".

Riley: Some of the other people were involved with the group, like one of the admins of Hoochie Boys is Hamish Borland (aka Hamish Ballin') who's our DJ.

Damian: I had the Hoochie admins for the Hoochie Boys in my head and we just came up with Hoochie World. I feel it made it sound more like an event when it has "the world" involved and tied it off quite nicely!

So, is this the expansion of the Hoochie Boys?

Damian: Yeah, we took away "the boys" and put "the world" on there so it's like everyone is "Hoochie" now!

Did all three of you start working together through the Hoochie Boys group?

Damian: We've been friends for quite a while and have been trying to do stuff for years. Heaps of different things.

Riley: This was the first one that really stuck. It kind of really started with being in the same friend group, like last year at my flat and our parties, it was the first step for our DJ and getting all of his experience through that.

Damian: Yeah, we just went from there and all we've done is really just put a name on it!



What are your plans now for Hoochie World 4?

Damian: The first thing we want to do is increase the capacity and add a bulk of bands and artists that we, as a part of Hoochie, want to listen to. As well, we want to get a bit more out of Dunedin with some of its acts.

Riley: Try to get acts that won't normally be in Dunedin

Damian: Yeah, get them on the bill along with a bunch of local bands, to kind of build the hype a little bit. So, for the fourth one, if we can get some acts that aren't Dunedin-based and be able to fund that to get them down, then hopefully by doing that, it opens up those people coming down to a new platform where they can perform. Then another idea we had was to almost have a Hoochie World greatest hits. So have all the bands, or as many possible, from these three gigs, play and try and take it upstairs into the main common room to have more capacity or possibly move it to a warehouse. That is looking to the long term so we're mainly trying to expand to the bigger spaces available to us.

In your own words, why should people care about Hoochie World?

Damian: Ok... well doesn't everybody say you don't have to care? But I think that people should care because this is just what we are doing right now. If we keep going, there will be a whole lot more with music and some totally different events.

Anthony: Just come along for the ride!

Damian: Yeah, just come on down for a party!

Love it or hate it, the Hoochie World's events and what they have put into organizing the venue by fully immersing you in their aesthetic, elevates all the performances. This makes Hoochie World worth your while, even if you're only going for one band on their list.

See you at #4.

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I READ ALL 54 ANIMORPHS BOOKS IN FIVE DAYS AND IT NEARLY DESTROYED ME

WARNING: This article contains serious Animorphs spoilers.

By Charlie O'Mannin

Animorphs is a "children's" book series by K. A. Applegate about a group of teenagers who learn about a parasitic alien race, the Yeerks, secretly taking over the earth and simultaneously gain the ability to 'morph' from a different alien race, the Andalites, who do not like the Yeerks. Morphing is the ability to turn into any creature you touch, although for a maximum of two hours at a time. The group, the Animorphs, become guerilla (and gorilla) resistance fighters against the Yeerk invasion.

When I was a child I got into Animorphs in a big way. I ordered every one individually into our community library, pissing off a lot of librarians in the process.

One of the things I remember liking most about Animorphs, was that while everyone assumes they're for small kids, they're incredibly dark. Also, because they look trashy no adult is going to read them to tell you you shouldn't be.

I always remember them fondly. So, when I saw someone selling their entire Animorphs collection on Trade Me for \$100, I bought it up, lickety-split.

I then read the entire series over the course of five harrowing days. I learnt two things. One: Animorphs is amazing. Two: Animorphs is fucked.

Note: I will not be reading the 'companion' books, like Alternamorphs or Megamorphs, because they are stupid and not canon and we should all forget they ever existed.

DAY 1

Ok, this is very nineties. Also, the whole first-person 'talking to the reader' thing at the start of each book is pretty cringe.

Also I can't stop reading them.

I remember Animorphs being fairly traumatic, but kind of thought the traumatic stuff would ease its way in as the books progress.

Apparently not. In the first few books Tobias stays in morph for longer than the two-hour limit and is stuck forever as a red-tailed hawk. He tries to still live with humans for a while but his hawk instincts overpower him and he kills a mouse and eats its fresh corpse in graphic detail, which fucks him up. He tries unsuccessfully to commit suicide.

Oh, and then he's torn between a hot lady hawk that his hawk body totally wants to fuck and the ethical implications of bestiality. It all works out in the end though because the lady hawk is killed before he can fuck her. This is literally the third book. It only gets worse.

Like in the sixth book, when Jake gets infested by a Yeerk, which are grey-green slugs that crawl in through the ear and wrap themselves around your brain and we go through the first person horror of Jake being trapped within his own mind watching helplessly as his body is controlled by an alien being that taunts him and then the slow, agonising pain of starving the Yeerk out.

In non-nightmare news, Ax, the stranded Andalite youth the Animorphs rescue from a crashed spaceship, is a delight. His normal form doesn't have a mouth, so when he morphs human he just runs around eating things and making weird sounds. Genius. Of course, he also has some fucked views, like absolute devotion to Jake, his "Prince," and a tendency to disregard civilian casualties as inevitable. He's still the coolest Animorph though.

DAY 2

The constant killing and horrors are starting to mess the Animorphs up way more than I remember.

Cassie, objectively the nicest and also most annoying character, tries to reject the Animorphs' increasingly cruel methods. In Book 16 there's a cannibal Yeerk serial killer, who survives by kidnapping humans infested with Yeerks, splitting the hosts' heads open, and feeding on the Yeerks inside. The Animorphs decide to let him go,

because he's killing Yeerks, even though he's also killing people in the process. Cassie is the only one who's not just fine with it.

While Cassie is just generally annoying, the most annoying thing about her is that she's kind of right; the Animorphs do horrible things, even if they're 'justified'. The Yeerks are literally just trying to survive, and so are the Animorphs. Shit's fucked.

Animorphs is also more weirdly funny than I remember. The unusually PC '90s youth banter is sometimes actually funny, although painfully '90s in some of its gender stereotypes. It also reads in places like a middle aged person trying really hard to imitate what 'kids' talk like by only watching '90s highschool movies. It's fantastic.

DAY 3

Most of the books I read today weren't the best. The series seems to be slowing down a bit, with a lot of random books where they go to a specific location, like an animal testing facility or the North Pole, and then return without advancing the story.

Also, the Helmacron books are stupid. Being shrunk down to microscopic size and having to battle your way through a human's anatomy is far too educational. What is this, the Magic School Bus?

The exception is the David trilogy. Basically the Animorphs try to increase their ranks by giving a random guy from their high school morphing powers. He turns out to be even more of a sociopath than the regular Animorphs and tries to kill them all, completely disemboweling Jake in tiger morph and leaving him to bleed to death. Following some excellent twists and counter twists, David is eventually trapped forever in the body of a rat and left to live on a tiny island in the middle of the sea. Boats passing by months later could still hear him mind-screaming.

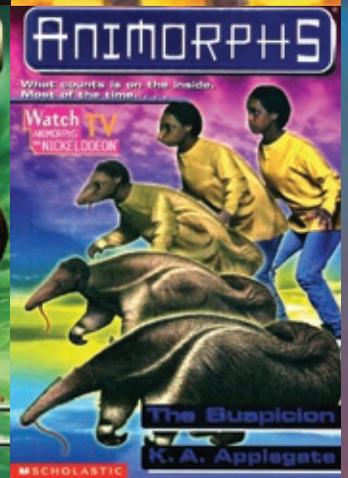
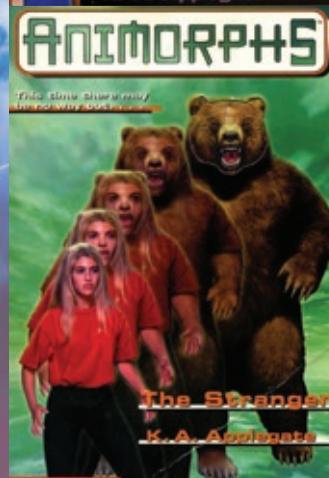
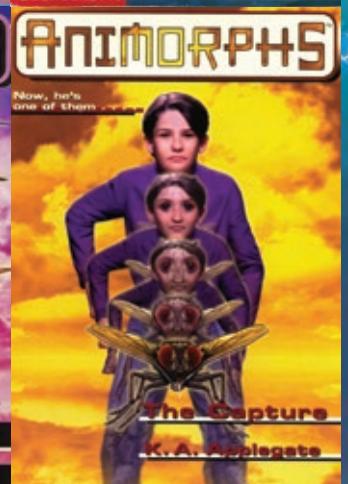
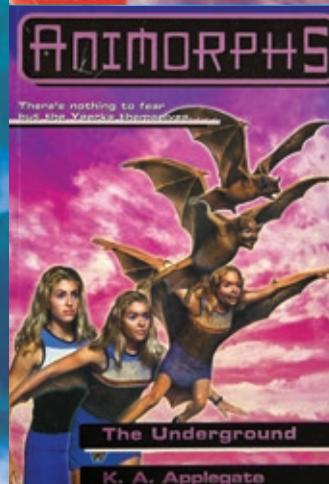
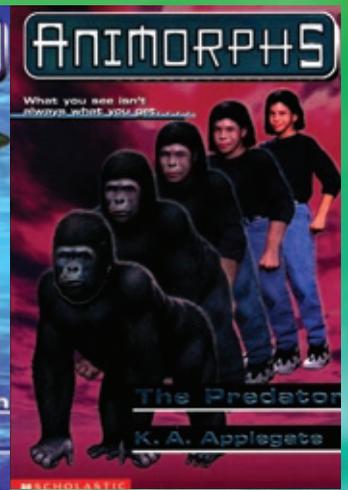
DAY 4

At the end of today I took a long cold shower. I thought about how the painful cold was nothing compared to the Animorphs' pain. About how nothing in my experience, nothing I could conceive, compares to the horrors of war. About the cage of trauma and the smothering blanket of guilt. Today was not a good day.

Book 33 is officially the most fucked book so far. The whole book is literally just Tobias in a tiny cage getting graphically tortured. He's hooked up to a machine that controls the parts of the brain that induce pain and pleasure and almost goes insane/dies after receiving heightened, alternating doses of painful and pleasant sensations and memories.

The thing is, Tobias doesn't get over his torture. He's able to function in later books, but he's never able to overcome the experience and it haunts him for the rest of the series.

I didn't think it could get worse. It got worse. The Animorphs create



DAYS

more Animorphs from disabled children, only to have Jake knowingly sacrifice all seventeen of them to achieve his goals.

Also, David comes back in his rat body and begs to be killed, which Rachel does. She just straight-up murders him. By this point it's been confirmed, Rachel is a violent psychopath. She just straight up enjoys killing. At the start of the series it's just played off as a love of excitement. As the series goes on you start to realise that no, she just loves killing things.

As a child I was always too scared to read the last book. Mainly because it was an easy way of making sure the story never ended, but also because the cover inscription on the final book was "It began with six. It will end with five..." and I didn't want any of them to die.

It's Rachel. Rachel dies. She volunteers for a suicide mission because she knows that, if the war ends, she will not be able to return to normal life.

What are you doing to me, Animorphs?

Comparatively, Rachel kind of comes out of the war pretty well; Jake, who was so competent during it, becomes completely useless;

Tobias just fucks off and reverts to being a hawk because it's way better than being who he was.

A lot of people didn't like the ending. K. A. Applegate responded:

"Animorphs was always a war story. Wars don't end happily. Not ever. Often relationships that were central during war, dissolve during peace. Some people who were brave and fearless in war are unable to handle peace, feel disconnected and confused. Other times people in war make the move to peace very easily. Always people die in wars. And always people are left shattered by the loss of loved ones."

In the end, Animorphs is goofy, inconsistent, and absolutely soul-destroying. It's also one of the greatest examples of children's literature in the history of the world. K.A. Applegate (and all your ghostwriters) I salute you.

"I felt my throat tighten and constrict. My hearts ached with a pain I could not describe. I wondered if I were dying. I felt not sadness. I felt pity. For myself. For us all. We were children no longer. And we never would be again." – Ax

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RIALTO CINEMAS, SAT 11 AUG, 6.15 pm &
REGENT THEATRE, THU 16 AUG, 8.45 pm

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WHY I SWIPED LEFT TO TINDER

We all know Tinder is a bit of fun, and that the likelihood of finding a cheeky bang after hitting town is far greater than finding your one true love (I've heard Heartbreak Island sign ups are out, so maybe there's your chance).

Here's a list as to why I ditched Tinder and am going about the "old fashioned way" to find a lover, asking hot people on the streets out in person.

1. The creepy catfish, seed, or DANGER, I mean, they can fuck right off.
2. You could be doing better things with your hands, all that strain for no gain? No thank you.
3. They have the same pick up lines for everyone. "You like whales?" "YES OMG!" "How about we humpback at my place?" (Please backspace this immediately, you will get no reply).
4. When you meet up and already know each other's life goals. There's no fun in saying "Yeah so how was your mum today?" You want to banter about what shit towns you come from face to face. Make them laugh, we like that.
5. Going out for a drink and thinking that they could be doing this just for sex. Yes sex is good, but if they have shit chat then they say "Movies at mine?" (you may now feel you are on different pages) You don't owe them "movies" just because you went for a drink and want to get to know them. Feel no guilt.
6. My final reason is that asking someone out on a date in person sober now seems

so out of the question. Why face all the adrenaline and possible embarrassment when we can show 'hot people' our 'hot selves' whilst behind a screen? Because people appreciate it!

Asking someone out in broad daylight fully out of the blue has to be one of the best things I have made myself do this year. Confidence is appreciated (even if it's fake). You know that person you eye up every week in your lecture/cafe/hall, chuck in a cheeky wee "Hey I don't want to be forward but did you want to get a drink sometime?" next time you cross paths. If they say no just laugh it off, all in all you really have nothing to lose.

The girl who you might say yes to
(*don't worry I won't propose straight away*).

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Gilbert's on Albany

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\$6.50 for Regular Hot Drink + Scone/Slice/Muffin on Mondays and Tuesdays

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Rob Roy Dairy

Free upgrade to a waffle cone every Monday & Tuesday

Sampan House St Andrew St

Get 10% student discount when you spend over \$20 or more.

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\$50 off tours over 14 days, 10% off travel insurance, 50% off ISIC student card when booking international flights

Subway

Buy any six-inch meal deal and upgrade to a foot long meal deal for free

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ACROSS

- 3. Are you secretly straight or bisexual? (8)
- 7. Christchurch Airport has a special terminal for people flying to this place. (10)
- 12. DnD players use polyhedral _____. (4)
- 15. An ion or molecule that binds to a central metal atom to form a complex. (6)
- 16. Many of Dunedin's churches are of this architectural style. (6)
- 17. Springfield's secret men's society. (12)
- 18. Japanese cherry blossom. (6)
- 19. Jupiter's largest moon. (8)
- 20. Hilton Hotel heiress. (5)

DOWN

- 1. Common name for the mineral halite. (4)
- 2. Branch of science started by Gregor Johann Mendel. (8)
- 4. One of Britain's most notorious murderers. (4,3,6)
- 5. Our furry four-legged friend. (3)
- 6. Common name for lysergic acid diethylamide. (4)
- 8. The founder of modern geology. (5,6)
- 9. Mariana is the deepest _____ in the world. (6)
- 10. Mathematician whose "Last Theorem" has only recently been solved. (6)
- 11. Easter Island. (4,3)
- 13. What the Ph refers to in PhD. (10)
- 14. Remnant radiation from the Big Bang, cosmic _____ background. (9)

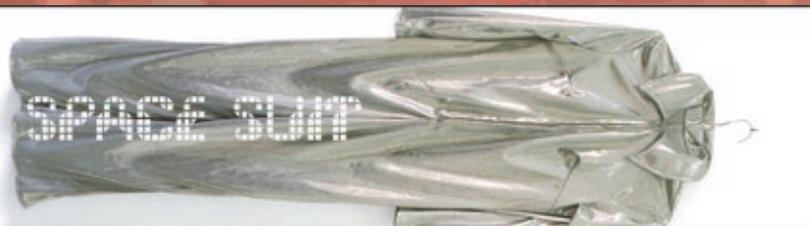
Answers:
Across: 3. Bisexual 7. Antarctica 12. Dice 15. Ligand 16. Gothic 17. Stonecutters 18. Sakura 19. Ganymede 20. Nicky
Down: 1. Salt 2. Genetics 4. Jack The Ripper 5. Cat 6. Acid 8. James Hutton 9. Trench 10. Fermat 11. Rapa Nui 13. Philosophy 14. Microwave

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CRITIC BOOZE REVIEWS

Lewis Road Creamery Chocolate Cream Liqueur

By Swilliam Shakesbeer



Booze and milky fluids don't typically go together at the same time – rather, they're typically separated by a few hours when you're deep-throating your flatmate's cousin in the backseat of his Nissan Sentra.

Creamy, chocolaty, and a smooth 17%, Lewis Road Creamery Chocolate Cream Liqueur is an exception. One might remember Lewis Road from a couple of years ago when everyone collectively lost their shit over their chocolate milk. They were sold out everywhere, Trade Me was exploding, and that sweet, sweet milk was hotter than the latest concert tickets. Nowadays, Lewis Road has upgraded to a sexy, alcoholic adult version. Think of your grandma wearing a V-neck sweater. It's comfortable, it's familiar, and those sagging breasts are about to feed you some clotted cream. There's history there, but an unexplored underbelly of forbidden fruits.

Liqueur is strangely comforting, like sex with socks. The chocolate is your warm, sweaty feet. Your naked body is the alcohol that lubricates your social anxiety. The orgasm will come quietly, with a warm aftertaste of a mother's love. The only thing that's hard to swallow here is the truth – it's fucking delicious and you've been wasting your time drinking shitty craft beer. You fools. Yeah it's probably a bit more expensive than the average booze, but if you can afford to spend \$17.50 on drunken Maccas every Saturday night, then you can splash out on this. It's called self-love, Samantha.

Lewis Road Creamery Chocolate Cream Liqueur reminds you of your childhood. The idyllic golden years of chocolate Nesquik and stolen spirits from your parents' cabinet. Going to birthday parties and having that cute thot from your maths class subtly grind against you in a game of musical chairs.

Looking away during movie sex scenes with your parents, but sniffing PVA glue behind the sports field with your mates. It's classy, but a little bit slutty.

I miss you every day Grandma.

Taste Rating: 8/10

Froth Level: Taking some cute photos with the girls before you hook up with your ex.

Pairs well with: Long lines, family reunions, V-neck sweaters

Tasting notes: The milk that flatmates keep forgetting to buy. It's been two weeks.



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HOW TO BE A LESS SHIT COOK

Scrambled eggs that will get you laid

By The Scarfie Chef

If you wanna turn your one night stand into a relationship or at least some morning sex, then knowing how to make a good, creamy scrambled egg goes a long way. We'll just say this: if your eggs are so dry that you need tomato sauce or aioli, you done fucked up. The secret to a creamy, succulent scrambled egg is cooking it low and slow, and stirring constantly – and of course, heaps of butter.

1. Melt a tablespoon or so of butter in a saucepan or a frying pan until it starts frothing like a fresher girl on Vodka Cruisers.
2. Crack two or three eggs into a separate bowl. Add a couple tablespoons of milk, do not add seasoning yet.
3. Grab a fork and whisk it all up hard. Your arm should be good and practised at this motion.
4. Turn the heat right down (or better yet, take it off the stove) and add your egg mixture in. You want the pan cool enough so that the eggs don't solidify as soon as they touch it.
5. Keep that temperature low, and keep moving the eggs around with a wooden spoon. Be patient, it does take a while, but it's worth it. The key is that

you're not just slapping them on a high heat and drying them out, you're keeping all the moisture.

6. When they're just about ready, but not quite, add salt and pepper, and stir it through. Take the pan off the heat, and the final bit of cooking should pretty much be sorted by the eggs' own heat.
7. Butter up some toast and spread it on. Eat it with a smug grin.

Bonus Tip: For a more advanced egg experience add some chives!



MOMMA ZO & AUNTY KELL

Dear Aunt Kell and Mama Zo, How Do You Uncover the Truth of Conspiracies?

By Zoe Taptikilis-Haymes, Kelly Davenport

Well let's start with the facts. Chemtrails are not a conspiracy, man never made it to the moon, Hitler is still alive and OUSA's \$3 lunch is laced with psychedelics.

The first things to identify are smoke and/or the number 666. Long-time conspiracy theorists always know to look out for shapeshifting monsters. A telltale sign of which are moving teeth, as seen on Critic editor Joel. Definitely a shapeshifting demon.

Here is an in-the-field-example of how to find a conspiracy. Have you ever noticed on your way to the gym that the air is loaded with the smell of 'burnt coffee' (dank weed). The smoke coming out of the Gregg's factory is actually the burn off from demon-grown hydroponic weed. You can tell it's grown by a demon, because if you look at the word "Gregg's," it's got three upside down sixes in it, a SIGN OF THE DEVIL (sometimes if you can't

make sense of something, you can look at it in the mirror, and the words become numbers, and that's called da Vinci). You can tell it's hydroponic because the smoke looks suspiciously like steam. Have you ever wondered why the "Gregg's" factory is so close to the university? The university agreed to let the "Gregg's" factory pollute our air with dank weed smoke because it makes us all mellow. And it is much easier to survey and control our minds if we are mellow. TRUTH.

Here is a checklist so you can protect yourself:

- 666 in numbers or upside-down g's
- Does it have a cross – SATAN HATING JESUS – another conspiracy
- Tinfoil hats will shield your brain from receiving txts, mind control radio-waves and the Nazis
- Stay away from Monster energy drink (for an in depth analysis visit YouTube: MONSTER Energy drinks are the work of SATAN!!!)
- Avoid people with bad teeth – they are shape-shifting devils
- Stay away from triangles

And that's how you can tell if something's a conspiracy of not.

**Cheers, Aroha, and Durries,
Aunt Kell and Mama Zo**



Love is blind

The hopeful lovers on the Critic Blind Date are provided with a meal and a bar tab, thanks to the Ombrellos and Cello. If you're looking for love and want to give the Blind Date a go, email critic@critic.co.nz

RICHIE

Self-respect, confidence, and the occasional solid banter. I possess none of the above sober. Imagine the awkwardness of Bill Cosby wearing a crop-top in a feminist club, and you're halfway to picturing my personality without a drop of God's Ale. Naturally I became a semi-alcoholic before arriving at Ombrellos to bring out my more subtle traits.

She walked in 15 minutes late and saw me smiling in the corner like Barney on fucking ecstasy. We chatted. We flirted. I went to the bathroom. Once back I found out that she was a fresher, did a BA in education and was from the outskirts of Oamaru. I'm a 3rd year, doing a BSc and am whiter than John Key in a snowstorm. You could say we mixed as well as a tourism degree and career prospects. Bathroom break #2. Anyway, we got talking about religion and politics, the classic dinner time gossip, when she brought up her tattoos. I'm all good with tats, except for the whole inked-skin aspect. Apparently they were all over her stomach which she hinted I would see later (couldn't possibly imagine what she meant by that).

3 toilet breaks later, we decided to make like an abortion and leave early. Coincidentally, her flat (for a fresher, what the fuck??) was en route to mine. For undisclosed reasons, I did not want to invade the pink fortress that night. I did not butter her biscuit nor ride the bedroom rodeo. Sorry to the sick bastards reading this hoping to read some poor man's 50 Shades. At the intersection of my place, I made the excuse "you're too young for me" before we headed our separate ways.

Cheers for the night Critic.

PS anyone looking for dating tips, slip into my dm's.

GEMMA

It all began at 6 o'clock with me unceremoniously downing the best Jacob's Creek wine that \$7 can buy, a couple of stolen Smirnoffs, and getting one of the most lacklustre pep talks of my whole life.

I arrived a fashionable 15 minutes late, and was greeted by my date with a formal handshake, and a horrified "do you not drink?" as he nodded at my vodka orange. Once I sat down he began to guess my year level and I saw all light leave his eyes when I replied that I was a fresher, and I began to question the Critic's morals and ethics when I found out he was a third year exactly two years older than me right down to the day and hour. This later turned out to be a major problem.

After an hour and half of listening to my date talk about his studies (neurology) and interests (also neurology), and how much he missed high school (he definitely peaked there) we were finally seated for dinner thank God because at this point I was struggling to continue nodding at his stories and was hoping a change in scenery would lead to a change in topics.

As we began to look at the menu, he mentioned that he was a vegetarian, which sparked a debate about teeth and their purpose and we concluded that they are used for eating meat. He continued on by ordering the venison lol. I was super thankful that finally the conversation shifted and he began to open up, speaking of opening up this guy must've gone to the bathroom at least 5 times, which was great as I was able to message the girls a play-by-play commentary of what was happening, which was very little.

As the night grew to an end it was obvious that we would not be going back to either of our flats to further discuss neurology or other animalistic qualities, so we very uncomfortably parted ways with a salute and a "it's not you, it's your age". Awesome.

Cheers to Critic for putting on the spread, the lovely waitress at Ombrellos who shared my grimaces, and the nice lad from Tinder who picked me up after

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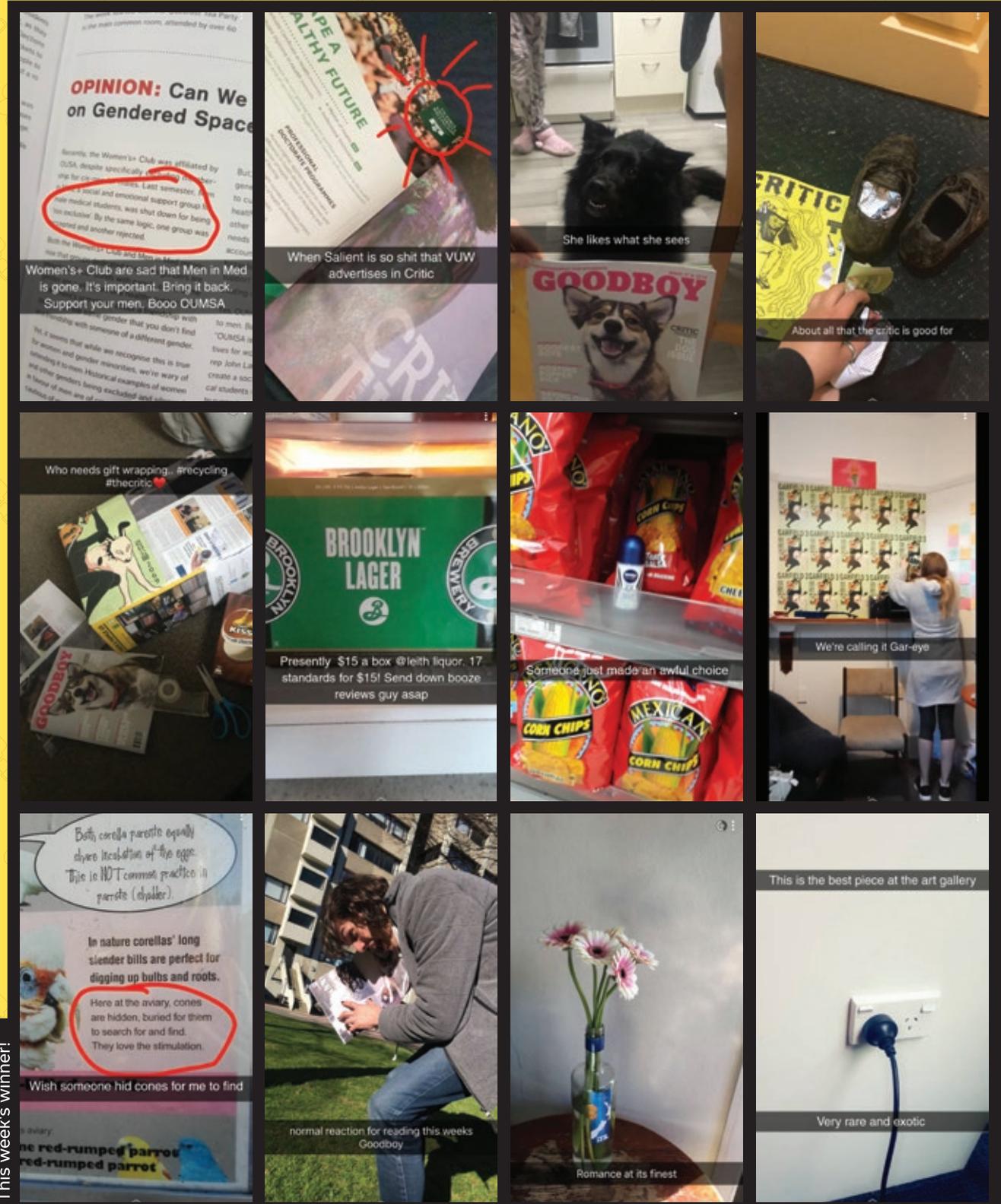
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SNAP, CRACK & POPPLE US



Send us a snap, crack open a Critic & popple up a prize. The best snap each week wins a 24 pack of V.



OPINION: Can We on Gendered Space

Severely, the Women's Club was affiliated by CUSA, despite specifically being for liberating for cisgender students. Last semester, the Women's Club's social and emotional support group for cisgender students, was shut down for being too exclusive. By the same logic, one group was created and another rejected.

Both the Women's Club and the support group account for the same gender that you don't find in a relationship with someone of a different gender.

It seems that while we recognize this is true for women and gender minorities, we're wary of other genders being excluded and the same of students.

But gender to health other needs accounts for the same gender that you don't find in a relationship with someone of a different gender.

to men. But CUMSA is a social organization for cisgender students for cisgender students. It's a social organization for cisgender students for cisgender students.

Women's+ Club are sad that Men in Med is gone. It's important. Bring it back. Support your men. Boo CUMSA

HEALTHY FUTURE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

When Salient is so shit that VUU advertises in Critic

She likes what she sees

GOODBOY

She likes what she sees

About all that the critic is good for

About all that the critic is good for

Who needs gift wrapping... #recycling #thecritic

Who needs gift wrapping... #recycling #thecritic

BROOKLYN LAGER

BREWERY

Presently \$15 a box @leith liquor. 17 standards for \$15! Send down booze reviews guy asap

Someone just made an awful choice

CORN CHIPS

MEXICAN CORN CHIPS

Someone just made an awful choice

We're calling it Gar-eye

We're calling it Gar-eye

Both corella parents equally share incubation of the eggs. This is NOT common practice in parrots (diphther).

In nature corellas' long slender bills are perfect for digging up bulbs and roots. Here at the aviary, cones are hidden, buried for them to search for and find. They love the stimulation.

Wish someone hid cones for me to find

the red-rumped parrot

Wish someone hid cones for me to find

normal reaction for reading this weeks Goodboy

normal reaction for reading this weeks Goodboy

Romance at its finest

Romance at its finest

This is the best piece at the art gallery

Very rare and exotic

This is the best piece at the art gallery

Very rare and exotic

This week's winner!

ROOV

SOUND



CHECK

16.08.18



FEAT.

SET MO
SOAKED OATS
JACK BERRY



CONNOR TOMOANA DISLOCATE
DOWDZ B2B MALLOY
WITTERS & MC CRAFTY

UNION COMMON ROOM
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