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**SUNDAY
19 JULY**

Accordion Crimes

DUNEDIN FOLK CLUB

7PM / \$5 MEMBERS / \$10 NON-MEMBERS

EDITORIAL: Reporting About Sexual Violence Sucks

By Sinead Gill

CONTENT WARNING: Sexual violence.



I hate the way I have to write about sexual violence.

It sucks because the legal process that comes with proving that sexual violence occurred is difficult, so few survivors pursue legal action. For the fewer survivors that approach the media with their stories - in the name of warning others, getting justice, or otherwise - they have to see their stories brushed with a thick coat of anti-defamation paint, obscuring some of the most powerful, but legally risky, aspects of their experiences.

The burden of proof is always on the survivor. Journalists don't say it out loud, but they have to assume that survivors that come forward are lying. Assuming they are lying is the only way to keep yourself, as a reporter, sane, and the only way for reporters to resist putting in information that might in any way give hints as to who the perpetrator may be. Especially if they are considered popular or powerful in their communities, like many of the claims in the Dunedin Fire and Circus Club's survey (see our lead news story) alleged.

See, I even have to do it in this editorial. Count the amount of times we use the word 'alleged' and

'claimed' in our news story and you'll know how often my skin crawled.

Making sure that a story about sexual violence doesn't in any way identify a person who may not, in fact, be a perpetrator, is important, but it also chills me to my core that the default has to be disbelief. My background is in sexual violence advocacy; I don't want to be in a position where I can't just take survivors' words for it. It feels wrong, but it would be wrong-er to ruin someone's life because someone claimed they were an abuser when they weren't.

That being said, there is one thing that going to the media offers: a chance to save people from encountering perpetrators, too.

There is a real privilege of being the student magazine of a student union, and the editor of that magazine. A risk averse publication might avoid unverified stories of sexual abuse with a ten foot pole. So long as I am the gatekeeper of what is acceptable and unacceptable risks that Critic takes, I'll take the risk that might save students, every single time.

ISSUE 10

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CONTENT WARNING: Explicit descriptions of sexual abuse, violent behaviours and emotional manipulation.

IMAGE: DAVID SMITH / RHYTHM AND FIRE / FLICKR

“Abusive and Predatory Behaviour”: Report Claims OUSA-Affiliated Club Had a Culture of Abuse

By Sinead Gill & Erin Gourley

After a member alleged they were sexually assaulted, the Dunedin Fire and Circus Club published a preliminary report on internal sexual and emotional abuse, and proposed changes within the community.

The allegations of sexual assault and “numerous instances of abusive and violent relationship behaviour” were first made to a member of the Club’s Executive. Brin Ryder, Club Treasurer, was tasked by the Club Exec with conducting a survey following the recommendation of an external consultant.

“[The report was] really just a way of pulling the fire alarm.”

On 1 July, Brin published the results of that survey in a 26-page report titled “Preliminary Findings: Abusive and predatory behaviour by members of the Dunedin Fire & Circus Club”. The report revealed the absence of “processes for identifying, addressing and preventing exploitation of members of the Club and community”, solutions to change that, and detailed accounts of alleged sexual and emotional abuse within the Club. The report also claimed that “threats and experiences of misogyny, assault, abuse and predatory behaviour occur without redress [throughout] the Ōtepoti flow arts community”.

“Complaints also note a culture where it is expected that survivors’ experiences will not be well-received or believed by Club members in positions of authority,” the report later stated.

“[The report was] really just a way of pulling the fire alarm,” Brin said. The evening the report was

released, the Club had a meeting to discuss the preliminary findings and ways to move forward. Brin said that the public attitude to the report from club members has been “universally positive”, but he is aware of claims that people have been privately threatened for speaking up about abuse, although these claims have not been verified.

Because the report contained anonymised complaints, Critic was unable to verify the specific claims made, some of which are set out below. Current and former Club members who spoke to Critic acknowledged that there were “dodgy things going on” and people who would take advantage of others within the club. Brin told Critic that there were situations where “[people who were] young, impressionable, from a background where they were done a lot of harm, [were] given family and direction and instruction. And in exchange for that they were sort of encouraged to indulge in really negative

behaviors, which have hurt people.”

“[An individual] used his status in the club to take advantage of me and preyed on me in my weakest times,” claimed one commenter in the survey. “I didn’t want to have sex with him and told him so ... he still pushed me constantly to have sex with him and made me afraid to say no...”

During consultation on the problem of sexual abuse in the Club, the Ōtepoti Collective Against Sexual Abuse recommended that the Club conduct a survey of club members and members of their broader community about their experiences with sexual and emotional abuse. The report published and anonymised the results of that survey, which at the time of the report’s release had 32 responses. The report noted potential biases and flaws in the survey methodology that limited how much the data could be generalised, but stated that the results offered a “brief glimpse” into experiences in the Club.

There were seven comments on the survey questions asking whether the respondents had themselves experienced or witnessed “abusive (emotional/sexual) or predatory behaviour”. The comments described alleged sexual assaults and physical assaults.

“[An individual] used his status in the club to take advantage of me and preyed on me in my weakest times,” claimed one commenter in the survey. “I didn’t want to have sex with him and told him so ... he still pushed me constantly to have sex with him and made me afraid to say no through manipulating me by showing his physical strength (pinning me to the ground etc) and saying (and demonstrating) how emotionally unstable he was that I felt completely trapped by him.”

“I was sexually assaulted by [an individual],” claimed another commenter in the survey. “I pretended it never happened because so few people believed and supported [another survivor] so why would they believe me.”

Another commenter stated that their partner was sexually assaulted at one of the Club’s events. “We had complete trust in [the individual] and were 100% blindsided by this event. Young and naive.”

Claims of drug use combined with sexually inappropriate behaviour was a repeated theme in the survey comments. “Been at a party and woke up with cum on me and a particular male member passed out next to me,” one commenter wrote. “Unsure of what happened and what I was actually given drug wise.”

Another commenter described that their ex-partner physically assaulted them and ignored consent boundaries. The couple broke up, but following one of the Club’s parties the commenter claims that the abuse continued. “[She] tried to grope me again and again as if it was a game to

her, I still continued to politely ask her to leave, to which she eventually did,” the commenter wrote. “During this whole experience I was tripping on acid and she was heavily intoxicated on ketamine.”

One commenter claimed that there was a culture of “[p]roviding drugs to women who are vulnerable” and “[p]aying extra attention to vulnerable women, especially ones who are new to the community.”

25% of people who responded to the survey had personally experienced “abusive (emotional/sexual) or predatory behaviour” in the Club. About 47% of respondents knew somebody who had experienced such behaviour.

“I have witnessed more abusive behavior than I can aptly summarise here,” said one survey comment when asked about whether they had witnessed abusive behaviour in the Club.

87.51% of survey respondents had either heard about or directly witnessed “abusive (emotional/sexual) or predatory behaviour” within the club. Just four people who responded were unaware of abusive behaviour in the club.

“I found DFCC to be the least safe community I’ve ever been in,” wrote one commenter. The “community doesn’t do consent very well / are pro-touching and pro-sex to an extreme where it can easily be nonconsensual,” they claimed in the survey.

Just one survey respondent believed that they may have carried out abusive or predatory behaviour in the Club. 59% of respondents had not carried out abusive behaviour but knew somebody who had. “I have not caused direct harm to my knowledge but have been complicit in allowing this behaviour to continue,” wrote one commenter.

The Club did not have processes in place to deal with complaints of sexual and emotional abuse. “[E]ffective and sensitive handling of this recent matter, and of other historic incidents of abuse and violence, have been hampered by the lack of process for addressing and preventing such occurrences,” the report stated.

Brin said “there’s been a twelve plus year history of these sorts of behaviour happening and then being addressed in a very individual sort of way without any kind of processes put in place for the whole club before for the whole community.” Brin believed that the Club meets the otherwise “unmet need for community and purpose” in Dunedin “for both young men and young women, which tends to reward some exploitative environments and behaviours”.

When asked how these behaviours emerged in the Club, Brin said simply, “it was allowed”.

“There will always be people who want to exploit opportunities for purposes, good or bad, and you have to have something in place that tilts that scale towards good. Otherwise, it will tend towards bad.”

That doesn’t mean that the community is split between vulnerable or exploitative people. “I’m not even saying that it’s a case of goodies and baddies sort of thing,” Brin said. “It’s more [like] evil being a relay sport.”

A club member alleged to Critic that just as young women were groomed sexually, young men were groomed for leadership positions. When asked if he agreed with this claim, Brin nodded. When asked if he felt he had been groomed to be a leader, he said, “yeah, I would say so”.

The Club has been described by its members as a club built on respect and freedom, open to anyone, student and non-student alike. According to Brin, this openness, on top of a lack of formal club processes, leaves members vulnerable to exploitation. He said that the students and “hippies” who lead the club and run the events embrace a culture of “deconstructing formal process, and letting people’s goodness and creativity shine through to fill gaps, which for the most part does work, but, unfortunately, it does leave open opportunity for people to exploit that environment.”

Brin told Critic that there are some people who are unhappy with sexual abuse being aired out openly with the report and the meeting. “To some degree, I say good,” he said. But to some degree he is just as sympathetic to the alleged perpetrators as he is the alleged victims.

“Everyone has been done a disservice here,” he said in reference to sharing this report widely in the fire spinning community. He is concerned that the report might have been the wrong way to address abuse in the club.

Brin said it “comes back to what people are allowed to do in pursuit of popularity and self-expression... there developed a culture within the club of doing whatever was cool or made a good time rather than what was safe and sustainable.”

He and others are disappointed in how the Club has evolved. Brin said that, in a perfect world, this community is perfect for people who don't have a sense of community or purpose. "There's a lot of people who need a sense of purpose and direction. [So when] opportunities are given to them ... that has the power to turn good people with good values into people who do some really bad things."

Brin also had a word of warning for the broader Dunedin community.

"I recommend that people be careful of who they follow and who they invite into their spaces because these people are still going around Dunedin, using their

talents to draw crowds to put themselves in the middle of people. And that's it, there's just too much popularity and excitement and good time[s] to be had that people are still really eager to invite these people into spaces and that's something that we need to address."

Brin's report included suggestions for reform too. He said that the Club's Exec "will not allow [the Club] to exist in a way that continues to

be unsafe. Safety has to come first." Options included in the report such as sober guardians at future club events were popular, with 93.75% of survey respondents in favour. About 72% of survey respondents were in favour of proposals to have mandatory training on preventing abusive behaviour for the Club's Executive and to form a Code of Conduct for the Club.

Brin was asked if he thought that complainants should come forward to the media or police: "I would suggest they come forward in a way that they feel safe first and then heard second. I strongly support the creation of ways for people to do that."

Student or non-student, if you feel comfortable, share your DFCC experiences with Critic at news@critic.co.nz. Your emails will be secure.

OUSA Sexual Misconduct Policy Two Months Away

By Sinead Gill & Erin Gourley

The development of an OUSA sexual misconduct policy began in 2019. Seven months into 2020, club leaders are still waiting. OUSA told Critic that the policy will be "achieved... during second semester" through OUSA's Affiliated Clubs Council.

"At the moment [responding to sexual violence is] entirely on an ad hoc basis and up to club execs, which are students with no experience in these things and often only here for a short period of time... the skills are not there to deal with these things properly."

Last September, Critic covered the stories of students who had been sexually assaulted in multiple OUSA-affiliated clubs. At the time, the OUSA Clubs Development officer said OUSA

expected club leaders to offer support to the best of their abilities, and to reach out to appropriate support services for help. An advocate at OUSA Student Support also recommended that club leaders sought professional development opportunities so that they could learn how to support survivors of sexual violence.

Ten months later, an OUSA-affiliated club had to navigate allegations of sexual violence without one. Brin Ryder, Treasurer of the Dunedin Fire and Circus Club (DFCC), launched an internal survey to investigate sexual abuse in the club at the advice of the Ōtepoti Collective Against Sexual Abuse. Other than that, Brin felt that "at the moment [responding to sexual violence is] entirely on an ad hoc basis and up to club execs, which are students with no experience in these things and often only here for a short period of time... the skills are not there to deal with these things properly."

Kayli Taylor, Director of Thursdays in Black Otago (TiB), another OUSA-affiliated club, said that they have been "in talks" with the OUSA Executive about this policy "since January 2020" but that "progress has been stalled". Ominously, they added that they "will let OUSA fill in the reasons for this delay". TiB are calling on OUSA to

provide training for club leaders in areas of "good hosting behaviour, how to create safe spaces, and appropriate handling of issues around sexual misconduct".

Brin believes that OUSA "need[s] to be more interactive with clubs as it relates to student safety and rights and making sure that people are that people feel safe". A combined comment from OUSA Welfare and Equity Representative, Michaela Waite-Harvey, and Administrative Vice-President, Georgia Mischefski-Gray, said "[t]he job description of the clubs and socs rep covers these matters. The Clubs Development Officer is employed to support clubs."

Josh Smith/Smythe told Critic that while he was the Clubs and Societies Representative in 2019 (then called the Recreation Officer), the development of this policy was "taken off my desk ... cuz [the OUSA Vice-President Georgia Mischefski-Gray] wanted to develop it."

Georgia's first quarterly report for 2020 gave a deadline of "August/early September" for the policy to be passed.

Brin hopes that when the policy is ready, OUSA makes following it "practicable" rather than just letting it be "a bit of paper that exists somewhere that [asks], 'everyone follow this, please.'"

Vibe Check: Political Debate Edition

From someone who doesn't pay attention to politics

By Sophia Carter Peters and Jamie Mactaggart

I care about things, but I know very little about politics. So when I was asked to attend and take some notes on the 'Response to Covid' debate in Union Hall (organised by DebSoc), I was confused, but intrigued. Honestly, I love a bit of drama and as much as David Seymour annoys me, he also brings that reality TV spin and potential for twerking that really spices up a dull debate.

Last Place: James Shaw/Jack Brazil Tag Team (Green co-Leader/Dunedin electorate candidate)

Shaw listed the usual Green party talking points, with the added bonus of their new universal income policy. He was serving a respectable middle level of spice, but left halfway through the debate to "actually do his job", which in the context of the debate seemed like a dig at Woodhouse. Unfortunately, what followed was like the worst kind of freaky friday. Shaw would have done a better job at representing the Greens by just leaving and not giving his platform to Jack Brazil. Brazil was not the vibe.

I hate to say it, because he actually made a lot of good points and clearly cares about people, but he needs to work on his delivery (and fast) if he wants to be taken seriously by normies.

He was obnoxious and came across like he was God's gift to politics. Speaking way over his time limit and refusing to stop talking even at the request of the moderators, after hefty applause from the audience to get him off the stage, was not classy at all. Even David Seymour had more respect for the audience and the debate than Jack Brazil did.

I went to the debate because I knew nothing about politics, but knew that I was probably more vibing with Green/Labour, HOWEVER, after Jack Brazil's insufferable performance, I would be more inclined to not align with the Green Party. R.I.P.

And that's a shame, because David Clark isn't looking so hot right now and it seems like the perfect time for the Greens to steal the seat. But how can the average student vote for someone who vibes like they are better than them?

Third place: David Seymour (ACT Leader)

Always a character (though not always a good one), David came in strong with his usual weird uncle banter, appealing to the kids and flexing his ass-kissing muscles. Because the debate was centred around recovery from Covid, it's obvious that economic issues would be a centre point, but David took it to another level.

The shameless self-promo of the ACT budget plan ("available as a print-out PDF on our website") began sounding desperate pretty quickly. He made sure to let everyone know that they had "worked really hard on it", and that we should all check it out.

Seymour checked his phone 10 times over the course of the debate, messaging, checking Twitter, his schedule, and various other social media, because he truly respects the marketplace of ideas created by political debate. He also solved racism, following a question asked about the Black Lives Matter movement to which he responded, "we are all the same underneath," which also happens to be the lyrics to his favourite song.

Between his bitch sessions with Woodhouse and looking like a duck (I tallied: he looked like a duck 30 times), Seymour wins this debate trophy for being a simp for attention.

Second place: Michael Woodhouse (National, Dunedin electorate candidate)

Between his sassy quips and charming speaking style, I could not tell whether I thought he was actually making good points or if I was seduced by his weirdly hot dad vibes. Unfortunately, this was slightly undercut by his kinda xenophobic take on immigration and calling poor people "paupers".

Weirdly, the highlight of Woodhouse's speaking time was his stance on BLM, where he basically said ACAB and was the only candidate to talk about systemic discrimination and oppression in the police force, which ruffled a sweater or two on the National side of the audience.

A key observation was that Mike's mic was

significantly louder than any of the other panel members, which I suspect he set up in advance and maybe gave the tech team a free button or something so he could win by volume alone.

Although, this was not the case in the Nat/ACT huddle when their quiet asides and snide looks cut through the soft tenor of James Shaw's environmentalism. With all of the energy of a conservative, middle-aged Regina George and Karen Smith, I would not like to sit with these two at lunch.

This Bad Bitch energy may have won Woodhouse the entire debate, but Critic decided to deduct points from his overall score for starting an urban myth that a homeless guy snuck into a managed isolation hotel in Auckland. (Or maybe it's true? I don't know, there is no proof and it seems shady as hell).

WINNER: David Parker (Labour, Attorney-General)

Compared to Michael's booming voice, Parker's soft-spoken quips and occasional heckles towards Seymour were refreshing. That being said, I cannot remember a single point that he made. Not that they were good or bad, just they were either incredibly bland or kind of boring? Then again, it's hard to compete with Seymour prancing around, especially when he looks so much like a duck (I can't ignore it, it's haunting me).

As a Dunedin native, Parker was on his home turf, with a sea of Young Labour members on the edge of their seats. Whether that was because they were so excited to hear him talk, or they were trying to hear anything, I could not say.

The only time I could hear him talking was when David Clark made a brief appearance, sporting some sexy NorthFace attire, and the room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. Even then, the moment was stolen by the presence of the scapegoat of a national public health fuck up.

Overall, Parker wins this debate for being the least annoying and having soft boi energy, but considering he's been an MP since 2005 I had expected a little more pizazz, but he stole my heart nonetheless. He also looks like he makes a sick roast dinner, so he passes the vibe check.



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Results Withheld Due to “Unprecedented Volume” of Academic Misconduct

Examsoft? More like Examhard

By Alex Leckie-Zaharic

Due to an “unprecedented volume” of potential academic misconduct cases across all four divisions of the University of Otago, many exam results have been withheld. The University aims to confirm all results by this Friday, 10 July. Students who show “above-average levels of concern” will have their cases prioritised.

In a statement to Critic, Pat Cragg, the acting Academic Deputy Vice-Chancellor, said that “our systems to detect potential academic misconduct during online exams have been effective”.

But figuring out what is legit misconduct and what isn't involves a lot of work. According to an email to uni staff leaked to Critic, approximately 2-3 hours per case is required to review all available evidence. It's so much work that the Academic Integrity Office is enlisting help from

“across the University”.

Cragg emphasises that students are being regarded as innocent until proven guilty, with many students already being cleared of wrongdoing or having their offenses graded as Level 1 misconduct (unintentional or naive misconduct, not deliberate). However, others have reportedly been invited to a meeting with their associated heads of division in order to discuss allegations of academic misconduct. Students who are proven to have committed Level 1 academic misconduct will experience a range of disciplinary actions, ranging from a warning to a grade reduction.

While the University is unwilling to punish students who made a genuine mistake, the statement says they will take a “very dim view

of anyone who attempted to use the changes to examination and assessment processes as an opportunity to knowingly cheat”.

OUSA Student Support manager Sage Burke believes that the increase in alleged misconduct is “likely due to the systems involved with moving exams online and not because a whole heap of students suddenly decided to cheat”. OUSA Student Support has seen more students accused of misconduct “than ever before” and “the volume is entirely unprecedented in my experience”.

Cragg confirmed that students who are experiencing above-average stress levels will be prioritised in the investigation as the University desires “to minimise the stress level that some students may be under”.

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Southernmost Foosball Club Launched and Free to Play

Defying all odds, foosball lives on

By Sophia Carter Peters
Staff Writer // sophia@critic.co.nz

Amidst a global pandemic, a collective social upheaval, and the general decay of the 21st century, there is but one truth: foosball.

Otago's first foosball association, the Dunedin Foosball Association, has finally broken ground. The association, led by Paul Szyszka, has now received their regulation foosball tables from Germany. It was a perilous journey for such significant instruments, but the tables have safely

arrived into the waiting hands of their owners, and have now taken up residence in Unipol.

Available to all, the professional foosball tables will be a bonding place, fulfilling the dreams of community and inclusion held by the Dunedin Foosball Association. Paul and his fellow foosball enthusiast, Steffi, will be providing free coaching once or twice a week for those eager to learn about the sport.

Foosball is not (YET) recognised as an Olympic sport, but it did gain 'Observer status' in 2017, along with less sexy sports like pole dancing and poker. With the encouragement of the German Foosball Federation, Paul hopes to start a New Zealand league, and aspires to one day compete with the world's best.

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OPINION: Please Don't Make the OUSA Exec Even More Boring

What kind of nerds would set rules for themselves?

By Erin Gourley

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

The OUSA Executive, in a move that can only be described as self-sabotage, are thinking about creating a Code of Conduct (CoC) that would apply only to the OUSA Executive. The reasons why they want to do this are unclear. The content of the Exec CoC is also unclear.

OUSA's Administrative Vice-President Georgia Mischefski-Gray is the current member thinking about an Exec CoC. But the idea has been hanging around in OUSA reports since the end of 2017, without ever being voted on by the Exec. Georgia aims to present her CoC to the Exec this month, according to her second quarter report.

In March, when she first mentioned the plan, Georgia wrote in her report that "I have read through other codes of conducts and created a list of things which should be in the document". It sounded like she had a clear idea of what she wanted to propose and why she was proposing a CoC.

But when Critic asked last week why she wanted to introduce a CoC and what kind of behaviour it would apply to, she said "[i]t is currently in basic draft form only so we therefore cannot answer the below questions". She did confirm, however, that the CoC would apply to future OUSA Execs and maybe the current Exec, depending on when the policy was passed.

Because I don't actually know what is in the draft Exec CoC, what follows is mostly wild speculation about why this is a terrible idea.

Presumably, the proposed CoC would regulate the behaviour of the OUSA Exec in some way.

It would probably say something about what they are allowed to do and say. Like "don't burn couches" (although we already have another CoC to tell us that) or "don't do drugs" (which is the law) or agree with your colleagues (seems to undermine the Exec's purpose).

If you like useless rules and controlling the people around you, this might seem like a great idea. But if you think the Exec is meant to be democratically accountable to students and not subject to arbitrary rules that stop them from advocating for their own ideas of students' best interests, it might seem less good. My hot take here is that useless rules are all well and good until they stop people from doing the jobs they have been elected to do.

If the Exec really thinks someone has fucked up, then they can call a motion of no confidence, and then the student body gets to vote on whether or not they get kicked out. Democracy isn't that hard.

The most likely situation that the CoC would target is one where, say, an Execie took on a leading role in a protest that the rest of the Exec had formally decided not to endorse. Josh Smith did exactly that in 2018 to protest the Proctor's actions in unlawfully taking bongs from a student flat. The Exec threatened him with a no confidence vote for his support of the protest. Realistically, they knew they couldn't follow through, because the majority of students actually cared about the issue and Josh would have survived the no confidence vote. So the Exec just did nothing; their hands were tied because they did not have the support of students.

In my opinion, that's the way it should be. Execies should be able to adopt different views of what students want without being penalised. Look, I really believe that Georgia thinks she is doing a good thing by proposing rules for the Exec. But students don't need a set of rules to tell us when an OUSA Execie has done something wrong. If the Exec really thinks someone has fucked up, then they can call a motion of no confidence, and then the student body gets to vote on whether or not they get kicked out. Democracy isn't that hard.

It's unclear what the consequences of breaking the proposed CoC would be. A telling off for the Execie? That's useless, and can already happen. The threat of a no confidence vote from other Execies? Sure, but again, that can already happen. Trial by battle? There is nothing to stop Execies from challenging other Execies to duels, and Critic would endorse this option.

I think the most likely proposal is one where an Execie who breaches the CoC is reported to the Exec (presumably by the Exec or Critic, who will be the only ones that care enough to monitor compliance with the rules). The Exec would then pass that onto the student body. That's a nice, democratic process. But it's also exactly the same process as a no confidence vote.

A motion of no confidence is enough for the Exec to hold their colleagues to account. If it's not, then they need to figure out how to get students on their side. So if the Exec are struggling to convince students that other Execies are behaving badly, that's not a problem with the process, it's a problem with the Exec.



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SOCIAL EXPERIMENT: Critic Commits Crime

Hahaha just kidding OUSA CEO Debbie Downs

By Sinead Gill

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

Last week, Critic received an anonymous tip from someone claiming to be "member of the student community" about a certain "hack" (crime) that allowed people to get Victorian Bitters (VBs) beers for free from Countdown. A week after exposing this "hack" (crime), however, people are still Free-B-ing without consequences.

This "hack" (crime) involves using the self-checkout scanner at a Countdown supermarket and, instead of scanning the drinks using the

barcode on the plastic wrap, scanning a barcode on the glass bottle itself.

There was much conversation in the Critic office as to whether or not we should publish this information. On the one hand, we didn't want students to try this "hack" (crime) and get in the shit. On the other hand, we determined that by publishing and making it public would mean that people are less likely to commit the theft, so we were like bootlicking and less likely to be dragged

by young boomers.

BUT IT WAS FOR NOUGHT. A week after publishing, and Free-Bs are still a thing you can get away with. We sent an undercover agent to Countdown and they successfully "hacked" (crimed) the self-checkout. They called on the self-checkout supervisor on shift and pointed it out, only to be told "oh, yeah, that happens all the time," and then re-scanned the beer properly.

For legal reasons this article is satire.

ODT Watch

By Kayli Taylor

Words are funny. I like words. And for a group of people paid to write words, you think they'd have more skills at stringing words together. This isn't the case always for the fine people at the Otago Daily Times. Here are some of their best words.

New chief executive takes charge at SIT today

I read this as STI. Please, students, take charge of your STIs and get tested. Preferably more recently than second sem 2018 x

FEMALE VOTERS
GO OFF TRUMP

Uh, where the fuck has the ODT been for the last 4+ years?

Health champion dies

Rip. Not such a good thing on your CV for a health champion.

Killer interview

Someone at the ODT has a high opinion of their interview skills. Or I do of my cropping skills.



The seed for this pun was sown 100 years ago, and it's just ripened.

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WORDFIND

Stars

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How to Celebrate Matariki and Simultaneously Fix Your Whole Life

By Kaiya Cherrington

Matariki, or Puanga for some iwi, is the integral time in the Māori Lunar calendar when a cluster of nine stars become visible in our sky during Winter, signifying the New Year. This year, Matariki is observed from 13 - 20 July.

Matariki was an important time for Māori ancestors to guide their harvest methods, for example, the disappearance of Matariki in late Autumn meant Māori would preserve their food for the colder months. Matariki was also a predictor for the year to come, as Māori often associated brighter stars with a Winter that would be warmer and more plentiful.

Each star has different qualities: Matariki (the star) is connected to people in terms of hope, the environment, and health and wellbeing. Pōhutukawa is connected to those who have passed; our ancestors. Waitī is connected to fresh water and the food within it. Waitā is connected to the ocean and the food within it. Waipuna-ā-rangi is connected to the rain. Tupuānuku is connected to crops which grow from the land. Tupuārangi is connected to what grows up in trees, such as fruits and birds. Ururangi is connected to winds, and lastly, Hiwa-i-te-Rangi is connected with granting wishes and aspirations.

The colonisation and urbanisation of Māori has kept Matariki out of the mainstream, but there has been a revitalisation of Māori culture in the 21st century, and the significance of Matariki is getting it's overdue respect. As well as tending to crops, this period is about celebrating our lives and culture, spending time with loved ones, having a feed, reflecting on ourselves and those who have passed on, and looking towards the future.

Matariki is our mid-year opportunity to forget our failed 'New Year's Resolutions' and start our year for real.

Let's be honest, 2020 is fake. Matariki is our chance to get it right this time.

You may ask, how can I get it right? How can I start the Māori New Year with a bang? And most importantly, how can I fix my shambles of a life in the mess we call 2020? Fair questions, I'll do my best to answer these concerns.

1. Cleanse Your Body

Having a shower goes without being said - at least I hope so. By this I mean give up the rark over this time. I know, an absolutely mad suggestion, but giving up the piss for a bit might give your body the opportunity to replenish itself and recover from endless nights of drinking Nitro and Billy Mavs. Not only will you have the opportunity to be more hydrated, get into a healthy sleep schedule and make your kidney super happy, but you'll have some extra money to spend on food, which is what Matariki is all about.

Treat yourself and splurge on some Pad Thai or a roast for the flatmates. Maybe you could shout a family pack from KFC with extra coleslaw so you seem super healthy.

Whatever food you decide to buy with your leftover onits money, your organs will thank you.



2. Call Your Whanau

"Call your nan, don't be a dick."

Being around your family and loved ones around your kāinga is a huge part of the Māori New Year, and unfortunately for a lot of us this isn't possible. But FaceTime was made for a reason. There is no excuse to ghost your mates this week. It doesn't have to be deep and meaningful - even just talking about what you had for dinner, or that you gave up the piss while your body recovers from years of neglect. Ask them their plans for the Māori New Year and let them know you're gonna be a better person this time round. In the words of my dad; "call your nan, don't be a dick".



3. Realise Your Goals and Make Them Happen

It may be easier said than done, but forming goals can be motivating as long as they aren't too crazy. Resolutions can cause unnecessary pressure and almost always let you down.

Forget goals like growing four inches in two months, or getting 'Hannah Montana' famous by age 16.

Perhaps you can make goals like doing three hours of study a day instead of playing Fortnite with the boys, eating a broccoli, getting a good grade in a certain class, going to the gym a couple times a week, or spending more time on your wellbeing.

In terms of making them happen, you could have a chat to Hiwa-i-te-Rangi real quick and ask them to grant your wishes. Hopefully they can get you that B+ you need to get into postgrad or solve your intergenerational trauma. For real though, look at the stars and let them know what's up. They're pretty cool.



4. Buy Maori Made

I don't know about you, but this year has robbed my money, I have no idea where she went. But as the New Year begins and literally everyone seems to be turning 21, direct your money towards Māori owned and made businesses to boost their economy and support the locals. Buying Māori puts your fake StudyLink pūtea (money) straight into the pockets of tangata whenua. There are no disadvantages.

Get your friends some mean Māori gifts for their birthday and treat yourself along the way. Do your research first. Join the Facebook group 'Buy Māori Made' and definitely do not take out your extra course related costs and definitely do not spend it all on their products.



5. Educate Yourself on Te Ao Māori

Reflection and planning is a key part of Matariki, but how about learning something new about the Māori world. Gain knowledge on a topic that peaks your interest. You could start with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Treaty's repercussions. Here's a piece of information surprisingly little people know: It was signed in 1840. Who knew?

Start little, do 5 minutes or 50 minutes of reading. Look into Matariki, learn a couple phrases in te reo Māori, or for fellow Māori, find information from outside of your iwi that may broaden your perspective on a topic. Let's get some big brain energy going. We love growth.



6. Time Travel to Pre-Colonial Aotearoa

I guess the only way we can really experience how our ancestors celebrated Matariki, and consequently become our best selves, is to jump in a time machine and throw your eyes around pre-colonial Aotearoa. Sing some waiata, have a feast, and harvest the crops. Soak up life without toxic masculinity and white supremacy. If you happen to find a time machine, let me know. Otherwise move on to the next suggestion.

7. Overthrow the Government

This one is crucial to fixing your life throughout Matariki. Imagine going back to a world with Māori autonomy and respect towards successful Māori self-governance. Unfortunately, it's pretty unlikely that we could take down a system such as the New Zealand Government. Therefore instead, send our leaders an email telling them to consider making Matariki an official holiday, just in case they decide to choose a bogus Eurocentric one instead. Hear me out Aunt Cindy, surely give some recognition to the Māori Lunar calendar and let us have some me-time to celebrate how stunning Matariki is. Thanks in advance.



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GIRLS WHO GAME

By Naomi Seah

Women have hobbies. That seems like an obvious statement, but in some ways, it's radical. Since the dawn of time, women have been persecuted for enjoying the same things that men enjoy—whether it's comic books, certain TV shows, or gaming. For some unknown reason, the thought of sharing interests with women seems repellent to some men, to the point where some people in some communities will actively discourage women from joining.

One of the more notorious communities for excluding women is the gaming community. Most people engaged in gamer discourse already know what #GamerGate is; don't worry, this feature isn't about that. But for those who don't know, the long story short is that only a few years ago there was an entire movement dedicated to harassing prominent women in the gaming industry, releasing their personal information online and sending rape or death threats.

Despite #GamerGate, conditions are changing, and the presence of women in the gaming community is rising. The gaming industry has realised that girls who game aren't going away any time soon, and the industry itself is becoming increasingly inclusive. Critic spoke to five women about their experiences in the gaming community, and gathered some tips for anyone who is not a cis white man looking to get into gaming.



As with men, the women we spoke to discovered gaming through a variety of channels. Ella grew up with gaming, saying that her dad was really big into games, which normalised gaming in her household. She played a lot of Sims growing up, which was ultimately an entry point into the gaming community for her. Ella said that she didn't want the fact that she was a girl to be a big deal, as many people in her household were gamers, so it "[didn't] feel like a weird thing, and when people make a big deal out of it, it's like come on, just treat [my gender] as normal." Cat discovered gaming as she had lots of friends and family members into gaming, so she'd "played games in some capacity for as long as I can remember". Gaming was "almost like a family bonding thing". Indira also discovered gaming partially through family members, specifically her male cousins, and she remembers being aware of the gender divide in gaming very early on. Indira had to "beg" for a gaming console for her birthday, and she remembered one year when her male cousins got new editions of the Nintendo DS, but she didn't. "For them it was their hobby, but for me it was a cute little side thing," she said.

Other women we spoke to got into gaming later in life. Ceri, who wrote her honours thesis on a video game, got into gaming towards the end of high school as she didn't have access to video games growing up. Sera got into gaming through her partner

“You have a girly voice and the way you’re treated changes completely. You’re either criticized way more or you’re fervently hit on by a swathe of white-knighting simps. The worst bit is they’re so distracted by the femoid on the team that you end up losing anyway, rip.”



for much the same reason. Both Ceri and Sera said that the only video game they had growing up was SingStar, of which Ceri said “I stand by SingStar being a great video game franchise”. All games are valid, y’all.

Cat believes women are “held to a higher standard than men with equal talent, equal skill and equal followings”. Indira felt similarly, and said that “when I play games with guys there’s an expectation that I’m not as good at it”. She said that it was noticeably worse for her friends to lose games to her rather than to each other because “I was a girl”.

They each agreed that women tended to face backlash on online multiplayer games. Ella said that men would be surprised when she spoke on comms, and would exclaim “What the hell! You’re a girl?” Similarly, Ceri described going on comms for online multiplayer games as “abysmal”.

“You have a girly voice and the way you’re

treated changes completely. You’re either criticized way more or you’re fervently hit on by a swathe of white-knighting simps. The worst bit is they’re so distracted by the femoid on the team that you end up losing anyway, rip.”

You might think this kind of chat would begin and end online. That isn’t the case. Cat has encountered people who would unironically say “Oh, you like Nintendo? Name every console.” She said that it created pressure to present herself in a certain way to “prove” that she was a “true gamer” with valid interest in games. She is constantly needing to prove that she isn’t in it “for male attention”, which she said was, “really fucked up”. Indira experiences the same thing, and is often made to feel like she must have “an ulterior motive ... related to a man” to like games. “It’s super hard to get taken seriously,” Ceri said. Men will ask her for her top five games “as proof of my gamer credential and then argue with my choices”.



"You can list five critically acclaimed games and then you'll get asked about the choices you made in those games etc, and I guarantee you one of those will be unacceptable and proof that you're making it up to impress the stinky drunk man negging you," she said.

Women also faced stereotypes around being a 'gamer girl', leading to a reluctance to identify with the term. Sera said that girls who game have to "either be super into it and know everything," or else "you're just pretending to be into it, faking it to look a certain way to the community." She also said that she dislikes the term gamer girl. "I'm not a gamer girl, I just enjoy playing video games." Ceri said she doesn't love to describe herself as a gamer girl: "it's not an identity I'd give myself, but then again, I wonder how much of that is a defense mechanism so I don't have to explain myself every five minutes."

However, despite all of these issues that women have in the gaming community, things are looking up. Ella said that it's an "industry problem that lots of games are male dominated". She feels as if a lot of games are designed for men, so it's "hard for girls to see themselves in the game. It's getting better though." Cat agreed, and said that "gatekeeping and hostile attitudes" keep women away from games as they decide that it's not worth the hassle, but that there are plenty of women and gamers and streamers that can give a woman a sense of community. Ceri said that girl gamers should "make a difference in the moment, when the moment happens." Calling out the 'little' things is a tangible step in the right direction."

For women looking to get into gaming, the advice is simple: "Just play games." They all agreed that games don't have to be gory, graphic, or violent in order to count, either; ignore those who tell you that what you like to play isn't a 'real' game.

"You're a true gamer if you play video games and you enjoy it. That's it. Play what you want, have fun with it, and don't give a fuck what anyone else thinks."



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Horsin' Around:

Ketamine on Campus

By Asia Martusia

**In March, I
got a Google
invite from the
University of
Otago.**

**2pm-4pm.
KETAMINE.**

Ketamine is an anaesthetic, known for its usage on horses as a tranquilliser. It also gets you fucked up and therefore is illegal for recreational use. Ketamine can be found on campus, but only if you are doing the official study with Dr Paul Glue. His study aims to cure depression. I discovered it from a sponsored Facebook post, right beside a Wish ad for willy warmers. I'd tried a handful of different medications and had given up, raw dogging reality in a serotonin-deficient limbo, so I filled out a preliminary depression questionnaire and passed with flying colours.

The sesh organiser is an Otago Uni Professor of Psychological Medicine and pioneer of weird and wacky treatments for miserable sods who hadn't much luck with standard antidepressants. According to Dr Paul Glue, the treatment works for about two thirds of those who try it.

A few meetings later I was sat in a La-Z-Boy, a gooey brain cap slapped onto my head, looking bald and sexy. After blinking at a wall for ten minutes to record my resting brain activity, a vial of ketamine was taken from the fridge. It was sitting right beside some yoghurt and orange juice (no pulp), then injected into my arm.

"How are you doing?" Dr Paul Glue asked me after a couple of minutes.

"I'm good," I responded. "I'm not even feeling iuuuuguughhhhhghh."

The world's frame rate dropped. I thought very hard about moving my hand but it lagged behind; it looked grotesque and

waxy, like the skin on cheese. I closed my eyes. That was a bad idea. I fell through my entire life and out the other side into death. It must have looked horrible, because a doctor tried to console me by reading a passage from her book: Prehistoric wombats were over six feet tall. This was too much. I threw up everywhere.

I left with crusty hair and forbidden knowledge of the universe, wishing that I had listened to Harold the Giraffe. But my depression had briefly subsided. Despite the rancid experience, it felt pretty okay afterwards. I staggered down George Street and didn't care that I looked (or smelled) like a goblin. I made mashed potatoes for dinner. They burnt, but I didn't even cry.

Standard antidepressants take around 4 to 6 weeks for mood to improve, and only a third of people totally 'recover'. Ketamine was hitting the feel-good part of my brain within a couple of hours, and I enjoyed a full week of functioning until the next dosage.

Ket was first experimented with for antidepressant purposes around the year 2000, when a group in the USA gave it to a group of 8 patients with treatment resistant depression, for what sounds like no real reason except a bit of a laugh. To their surprise, it improved their mood. A bigger study was done with similar results, and Paul decided to have a go as well. He's tinkering with other internalising disorders, too, those which manifest inside of a person – severe anxiety, OCD, PTSD, even injecting an arachnid-phobic patient with ketamine

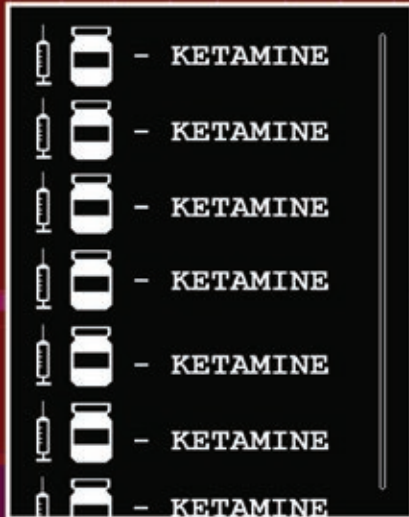
and throwing them into a horrifying virtual reality world full of spiders. These are all linked by neuroticism, a personality trait where stressful circumstances are often met with negative emotional states. He wants to understand what links these neurotic disorders together and is looking for biomarkers (physiological changes) in the brain that are associated with ketamine responsiveness, figuring out the best way to administer it. One of these methods includes slurping up ket with a cup of orange juice, hence the contents of the fridge. The yoghurt was probably just a snack.

Dosing uni students with ket sounds a bit dodgy, but Paul swears it's legit. As an academic, he can research whatever he wants so long as the ethics committee agrees. Good clinical practice states that worthwhile research involving humans requires informed consent, relevant

experience, good safety monitoring, and appropriate publishing of findings.

Depression feels hopeless at the best of times. When fluoxetine or sertraline don't help, it feels even worse. There haven't been many new antidepressants on the market since the first ones were discovered in the late 1950s; the new ones have fewer side effects, but they're no more effective. Eventually there is a point where you say "fuck it, let's do some horse tranquiliser from a Facebook ad", and it turns out horse tranquiliser isn't so bad.

I left with crusty hair and forbidden knowledge of the universe



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Don't even think about self-medicating through your dealer.

Paul thinks that an educational process needs to be rolled out; a national letter to help psychiatrists identify and treat their patients. If it worked, ketamine could be a ground-breaking treatment for the 650,000 adults diagnosed with depression in Aotearoa.

There's a pretty significant barrier that's standing between having some novel treatment available and seeing it used safely in practice, though. Ketamine has a stigma. Paul grimly recalled Trainspotting-esque images of black markets, of 1980s punks raiding veterinary clinics to get plastered. Don't even think about self-medicating through your dealer. It might be ketamine, but it's probably something more sinister, and likely won't be administered safely. Paul does regular checkups to avoid ketamine's side effects, namely memory loss, executive motor function and bladder issues. He hasn't seen any of it yet. People are getting a single dose once or twice a week for several months over the course of

treating their depression. Irresponsible recreational usage can be dangerous and only hurt ketamine's image further. "I'd hate to lose something that's potentially as important as [psychoactive drugs] where really, we have pretty sucky existing treatment. If we lose the ability to use that therapeutically, that's a huge loss," he says.

Ideally, ketamine would become a well-established antidepressant over the next 5-10 years. A nasal spray in the US has been approved by the FDA but it's pricey, at \$1400NZD for a single dose. It's still in the baby stage of becoming standard treatment. Doctors and researchers like Paul are working hard to help those who otherwise feel utterly unfixable.

The question still begs, however: does Paul ever dabble in his own supply? "No."

Sure thing, Dr Glue. Glue → horses → ketamine. Got em.

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Opinion: It's Fucked that Dunedin Clubs Don't have Cloakrooms

By Caroline Moratti

It's a Saturday night, and you've been bobbing to Glitter by Benee for the past three hours in Suburbia. It's been a good night but you're ready to call it quits and shelve some kebabs before passing out in your best mate's bed. The issue is that you have to survive the walk back to North Dunedin first. You're wearing a bralette, denim skirt and not much else. What follows is the most miserable half-hour of your life. This is a sordid tale that many of us know every weekend. But what if there was another way?

The idea that the freezing cold forever-Winter that is Dunedin doesn't have cloakrooms in clubs is archaic, barbaric, and simply inhumane. In case you haven't heard of the concept, cloakrooms are a place in clubs where you can store your coat and a bag, sometimes for free, sometimes for a couple of dollars, and is a thing almost everywhere else on the planet. My God I'm so fucking angry about this. Dunedin is a very, very cold place. What this means is that we are forced to either wear a coat to town and just awkwardly hold it whilst dancing, stash it somewhere and pray nothing gets nicked, or don't wear a coat and freeze your arse off on the walk back. All are equally bad options. But what if we ...changed that? Hehe. Cloakrooms are universally good for everyone. The biggest win-win of all time since dumping trucks started parking on campus.

Cloakrooms are an inherent good because:

1. The walk back from town no longer becomes an excruciatingly painful and bitter experience. Literally I cannot emphasise how much of a massive thing this would be. The flow-on effects from this alone are huge. Fewer colds and flus. Less money spent at Maccas as a reprieve from the outdoors. Your entire life will be measurably improved.
2. You're less likely to engage in risky behaviour like drunk driving or talking to that shit guy just to steal his flannel shirt.
3. Being able to carry around a bag is unbelievably handy. You can put in pepper spray, a sandwich, a hat, another sandwich because the first one was delicious. Having to limit your carried possessions down to some house-keys and a phone always, in some small way, leads to inevitable disaster.
4. Coats are cute. Everyone becomes 100% more attractive in coats.

We deserve to wear warm fluffy coats along George Street then comfortably strip off layers to reveal a sexy t-shirt underneath and dance-cry to Untouched by the Veronicas.

5. If you already take coats to town, you no longer have to worry about theft by leaving your coat under a chair. You no longer have to live in fear. It's okay.

Cloakrooms are good for club owners because:

1. If you charge for them you get money. Profits, capitalism, blah. For the purposes of my argument, I'm going to assume that profit is all club owners care about.
2. If someone goes through the effort of checking in a coat (either through paying for it, waiting in a line or just sheer physical exertion), they're more likely to stay in a club longer to make the whole experience worth it. You're not going to club hop if you just checked in a coat 5 minutes ago. That would be sheer madness. The longer someone stays in a club, the more likely they are to buy drinks, again leading to profits.
3. Students probably maybe won't preload as much, maybe, because the need for an impenetrable alcohol blanket has significantly lessened. Everyone knows that the chilling wind knocks about three standards off you, so you wildly overcompensate. Sure, the causes behind pre-drinking culture are much more nuanced than this, but like... just give me this. I'm writing an opinion piece about cloakrooms, I clearly don't have much going in my life right now. Anyway, if there's less pre-drinking, that means less shit behaviour outside towards bouncers and more money spending inside.
4. People are just more likely to go clubbing if the walk is more bearable. 99% of the time the reason I pussy out on going to town is because it's cold and I'm a little bitch. More club-goers, more ch-ching, babey.

Basically, WE SHOULD HAVE CLOAKROOMS. Demand this of your local clubs! Email your local politicians! Harass your OUSA representatives! We deserve to wear warm fluffy coats along George Street then comfortably strip off layers to reveal a sexy t-shirt underneath and dance-cry to Untouched by the Veronicas. We can start a revolution, one coat at a time.

Please... I'm so cold.



THE TALE OF TWO TJ'S

THE OTAGO STUDENT LIVING THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

BY ANNABELLE VAUGHAN

TJ Zee, better known by his stage name 'ZExII', is one of Dunedin's best emerging artists, and is also just a generally cool guy. A Physiotherapy student by day, and a performer by night, one could even go as far to say that he is Dunedin's very own Hannah Montana. Who, in his own words, believes he does in fact have the best of both worlds. Given his astronomical talent, ability to live a double life, and to shine a light on his new projects, I figured it was only fitting to interview the man, the myth and the legend himself.

Like any great musician, TJ's love for music started at an early age. He recalls that his initial interest and curiosity began at the age of 5, when he used to steal pots and pans from his mother's kitchen and build makeshift drum kits. Much to his mother's dismay, he continued to bang on his inventions until he became exposed to more instruments at church. "I grew up in a Christian household, so when I went to church, me and my friends would go and play the instruments after service," he said.

His brother would make beats in his bedroom using software, but wouldn't let TJ in to watch. Instead, he would listen through the door "and just hear fire". Then one day, after pestering and pleading, his brother finally let TJ record.

ARTIST 
ZExII

He also said his brother fanned the flame of his interest in music. His brother would make beats in his bedroom using software, but wouldn't let TJ in to watch. Instead, he would listen through the door "and just hear fire". Then one day, after pestering and pleading, his brother finally let TJ record with him and his girlfriend. His first song? An original piece about diarrhoea. "I thought it was so fun using auto tune. It was funny." Unfortunately, this song remains unreleased.

Fast forward a few years. After winning big at his primary school talent show auditioning for New Zealand's Got Talent, TJ became a multi-instrumentalist who learnt everything by ear. It didn't take long into his music career before he began to be recognised for his skills. After briefly moving to Australia and playing in bands across the ditch, he returned to Dunedin where he and his friend created Carlyle Studios - a basement turned recording studio, where he still records today.

"I want to be written in the history books as bringing RnB and hip hop to Dunedin, despite how hard it is to break through."

Much like TJ's journey to music, his style is not linear and expands across a variety of genres. TJ credits his style and influence to the wide range of artists that his dad would play around the house. "My dad would play





ACDC in the morning, then Kid and Play in the afternoon, then 50 Cent, then he would end with house music. I have a wide palate, I literally like everything.” In order to continue expanding his repertoire, and exposing himself to new ideas, he listens to new music every day. “Sometimes people don’t believe that I listen to literally everything, but I do. I’m always humming a tune.”

However, TJ’s journey through music hasn’t been easy, especially when it comes to creating a genre in a music scene dominated by DnB and surf rock. Under ZExll he has been trying to make hip hop and RnB more mainstream in Dunedin. “It’s been hard,” he said, “But I want to be written in the history books as bringing RnB and hip hop to Dunedin, despite how hard it is to break through.”

TJ has hope for the future of the music industry post Covid-19: “I see us relying on more local acts, and I want to see more of that, rather than flying people in from other countries. I think in New Zealand we need to bump our own artists.”

As for the philosophy behind his music, TJ describes it as a form of therapy, and something which traverses beyond ourselves and our communities. “I have this philosophy where music is the only international language. Why learn parts when you can learn the whole thing? No matter who you are, you’re always listening to music. It’s a place where you can find pure refuge.” It’s also a place where you can feel emotion: “It’s okay to cry, to feel angry”.

TJ has no intention to drop his studies just to chase the one dream. He wants to be a walking example of how you can explore all of your passions: “As long as you continue to work hard. In a perfect universe, you can do both.”

This begged the question. Does he see ‘TJ’ as the Hannah Montana or Miley Stewart? After laughing for a few moments, he gave yet another deep and philosophical answer: “People see Hannah Montana, but no one sees Miley Stewart. I’m a hardcore introvert, but I have those extrovert characteristics.” He then admitted to me that he’s a Gemini, and given his ability to switch between two personas, it’s no surprise that he ticks every box.

If there was one message he could share with students, it would be to “Change how you listen to music, make sure you find what you like and someone with a message”.

You can stream ZExll’s latest releases on Spotify, and catch him performing locally. His EP drops July 17. He can also be spotted vibing in Central Library.







A White Woman With Bangs Tells You Which Planets Are Making You Sad

By Sophia Carter Peters

Astrology is like a personality test, but cosmic and mean. In the stars lies a horribly accurate character analysis chart that will expose your flaws and potentially make you reevaluate your past relationships. You haven't lived until you have your ass handed to you by the fucking planets. As a white girl who has invested way too much time into learning about astrology and checking the Costar app, I feel I have some authority to write this handy guide on the planets and how they'll fuck your life up.

Most people not of the star-crossed variety know their sun sign (the main sign that aligns with your birth date), check-in every now and then on a Facebook or Critic horoscope, but that's pretty much the end of it. That is only the tip of the cosmic iceberg. Your full star chart is a breakdown of the planetary positions in the sky in the location and at the time you were born. Those planets align with the signs and dictate specific aspects of your personality, as detailed by the traits associated with planets and signs. There are also houses, which is a whole nother thing that I will not be going into. Baby steps into insanity, right?

Feeling like being personally brutalized by the literal stars? Use a website like Cafe Astrology to determine your star chart, and then read on.

What planets (right now) are making me sad?

Cancer Season

Cancer season lasts from 21 June to 22 July. The sun is aligned with the crab and it's gonna make you sad. Cancer is a water sign and, importantly, the cardinal water sign - the first water sign to appear in the Zodiac year.

Cancer's ruling planet is the moon, so it makes sense that this is a very emotional sign, and is considered the matriarch or maternal figure of the 12 signs.

Emotional security, internal state, relationship with self and others are all dominating during Cancer season. Now may be a good time to rewatch *Midsommar* and ask yourself, "do you feel held by him?"

It's time to cry. Feel the things you've been avoiding (ties in well with the retrograde), let your inner water sign come out and just embrace the emotion. The fluid nature of water (and it's associated signs) mean mood swings will also be common during this season, so keep that in mind when you're feeling a little low.

Signs most affected: Cancer, Capricorn, Aquarius.

Although Mercury is the most infamous, all planets go into retrograde and it's rare that a celestial body isn't in retrograde.

What the fuck is a Retrograde?

The Mechanics Behind It:

When astronomers (the actual scientists) talk about retrograde, they're talking about the optical illusion that makes the planets appear to be spinning backwards, also known as a 'backspin'. Planets cannot actually do that, but it looks like they do. When astrologers talk about retrograde it has a completely different take on the astrological phenomenon. Astrologers interpret this backspin to mean whatever traits and interactions are influenced by that planet (like emotions or communication) will be in conflict.

The most common one you've heard is Mercury. If you suddenly find yourself taking a wrong turn where you never usually do, or you're having some serious communication issues, chances are, ol' Mercury is (appearing to) spin the wrong way.

Although Mercury is the most infamous, all planets go into retrograde and it's rare that a celestial body isn't in retrograde. Alongside the general complication brought by the change, it often resurfaces past issues that may have been settled before. That being said, retrogrades aren't actually the disaster zones we can make them out to be.

When things get confusing, as dictated by the planets, it provides an opportunity to slow down, do some self-reflecting and focus your energy on what's being affected.

The Benefits of a Retrograde

Although retrogrades can fuck your life about, there is a purpose to it, and it can be a productive amount of fuckery. When things get confusing, as dictated by the planets, it provides an opportunity to slow down, do some self-reflecting and focus your energy on what's being affected.

For example, when Venus is in retrograde, relationships and love life are going to take a hit. Dynamics may shift and old shit may be brought up that you'd prefer to bury. Instead of rejecting the discomfort and trying to hide from the negative feelings, take it onboard.

I've taken to considering retrograde as a difficult therapy session. It sucks, and you'll probably cry, but if you're willing to do the work and slog through the discomfort, you can come out of it with an improved outlook on your life.

Talking through things with your friends, taking some extra time to take care of yourself and re-evaluate your relationships with others and yourself can be great ways to take advantage of uncertainty. Although wallowing and cursing your phone for every bad text you've ever sent can be cathartic, it's unproductive. Retrograde is an excuse to slow down and reset.

Preparation and Aftermath

When a planet is going into and coming out of a retrograde, that planet is in the 'shadow' of a retrograde. It lasts for as long as the planet stays in the right position, which varies between planets, but for Mercury, it's about two weeks.

These are the easing periods of retrograde. The planetary influences will start and the beginning of the shadow and ease out at the end. It gives you a chance to settle into the retrograde period, and then have a steady return to real life.

Tired of Tinder: A Return to The Dating Websites of Our Forefathers

By Naomii Seah

It's 2am, and I'm lying in bed swiping through Tinder for what feels like the 100th time this week. It's post lockdown, and my rotation is getting a bit tight. At this point in my university career, it feels like I've gone through half the dating pool in Dunedin, and every second profile is someone I know, someone I've made out with, hit on, slept with, or knows someone that I've made out with, hit on, slept with, etc. What's a poor girl to do when she gets tired of the same three Castle Street breathas named Sam?

In an ideal world, I would dress up really cute and go to the grocery store, or to the bookshop and be able to find my perfect love match like the boomers did in the 80s. However, times have changed, and the world of dating has changed with it. After many unsuccessful attempts to meet someone in the real world, it hit me. Old school dating websites. I'm talking Plenty of Fish, I'm talking Match.com, I'm talking OkCupid. It's no secret that dating apps are unequivocally shit. But maybe we've been missing a gold mine all along. Fear not, if you're lonely and single like me, I've compiled a review of all the dating websites you could possibly want. Thank me later.

SeekingArrangement™

I don't know what I expected with this one, but SeekingArrangement seems to be full of male boomers, so if you're looking for a father figure, this might be the one. In fact, I'm pretty sure the first profile I clicked on was my fuckbuddy's dad. That's taking daddy issues to a whole new level. Sadly, it's pretty devoid of milfs, so my dreams of a sugar mamma were instantly dashed. I got a message within the first ten minutes of my account being verified from a man named Steve, 48, who offered me access to his "private photos". The men on this site are pretty sketchy and tend to be either married or fake millionaires.

Maybe that's overly cynical of me though, and they're really just looking to fund the local economy in the face of the looming recession. I never knew we had so many millionaires in N2 is all I can say.

Maybe I'll give this a shot next time my rent payment is due; my landlord is probably on here.

Rating: 6/10; Landlord/quasi-incest porn videos.

Relationship status: Non-ethical polyamory with a balding white man having a mid-life crisis.



This website has a really weird, old school interface. It feels like logging onto MSN as an eight-year-old to chat with your primary school crush. You can also only choose either men or women, which is pretty outdated. The list of interests you can select from is also weird as hell, with options like "dining out" and "exploring". I got the whole way through before realising you have to pay for a profile. If I wanted to spend money finding love, I'd pay for a singles cruise.

Rating: \$35 for three months/10

Relationship status: Getting drunk in the Caribbean.



First thing I noticed about OkCupid is their incredible gender and cultural inclusivity, which was a refreshing change from the general "I am a man / woman looking for a man / woman." You can choose up to five gender identifying terms and seek as many genders as anyone else would identify with. Go off queen. The second thing is that OkCupid has really pretty graphics and web-design. The profiles are incredibly detailed but the questions they ask you seem irrelevant, but who knows, maybe they'll find me my next bae. It gives you a match percentage, which is fun and reminds me of the compatibility calculators you'd put your crush's name into after school. Has the same pass/like feature as Tinder so I think it's attracted a younger user base, which is nice. There's also lots of babes on here.

Rating: 8/10 non-binary babes.

Relationship status: Single, too busy writing my personal thesis.



e-Harmony has by far the most bizarre dating quiz questions. It takes 20 minutes to complete and asks you things like which shape, flower or building appeals to you most. It inspires unexpected crises with questions like "what do you think of marriage as an institution?" Finally, it gives you imagines, like a twelve-year-old on Wattpad would write. For example, "imagine you slipped over a banana peel in the street, what would your reaction be?" The kicker is, after having multiple existential crises (and wondering, which shape do I identify most with?), New Zealand wasn't even a viable location on this website. If you want to date in the US, Canada, Singapore or Costa Rica, however, knock yourself out.

Rating: 3/10 existential crises.

Relationship status: Marriage is sham, anyway.



I'm pretty sure EliteSingles is a scam. You create a free dating profile, but in order to view photos of your next potential fling, you need to pay for a membership at \$34.95 a month. For that price, I could just buy a new dress and go to a posh bar. Fun personality profile though. Next.

Rating: 1/10 hidden dick pics.

Relationship status: My tear-stained right hand.



Plenty of Fish has a really scarily accurate personality test, so much so that you can't be sure the government isn't rerouting your data into personalised ads. I finished mine to find a pretty strong breakdown of all my strengths and weaknesses, all from questions like "do you like large gatherings?" These quizzes are pretty long, so they're fun to do if you're really bored; be warned though, there's five of them. As for the people on the website, plenty of fish is right. There's a lot of people to sort through, so if you're down for a hunt, or you're not scared of options, this site could be the one. However, a major downside is that Plenty of Fish only lets you choose if you want to date men or women. For the last time, I AM BISEXUAL.

Rating: 3/10 fish in the sea.

Relationship status: Buying my personalised sex doll off wish.com for \$3.99.

Winner:

OkCupid, hands down. Not even a contest. But also, I would be lying if I said I wouldn't keep my SeekingArrangement profile, for financial reasons.







bone appétit

with Caroline Moratti
& Alice Jones



MUSHROOM RISOTTO: THE PERFECT BOOZY MEAL

Not to promote cooking and drinking (sorry NZ fire-safety ads from 2012), but risotto truly is the one dish where a glass of wine in hand is practically essential, or at the very least encouraged. The art of cooking risotto is a long, slow, and savoury process. **There's very little pressure points other than the need for a strong hand for stirring, which is where you can finally put your teenage masturbation to good use.** Other than stirring the pot, no more than your usual group chat, all that's left to do is schmooze with a chardonnay over dim kitchen lighting. So drink up my pals, and after a couple of glasses you'll be perfectly poised to ravish this delicious little dish.

Ingredients

Serves: A dazzling four

- 2 stock cubes of your choosing
- 1 onion, 3 cloves of garlic, you know the drill
- 400g of button mushrooms
- 2 cups risotto rice (also called arborio)
- ½ glass of white wine (see, if the wine is already out, you might as well help yourself)
- 1 tbsp of olive oil
- 1 cup of grated parmesan cheese (tasty will do in a pinch)

Optional but encouraged:

- Crispy onions
- 1 packet of dried, sliced shiitake mushrooms



Steps

1. Boil the kettle and gently crush your 2 stock cubes under your fingers, breaking the cube within the precious tin foil. Pour 8 cups of hot water and the crushed stock into a bowl, stirring to dissolve.
2. In the largest pot you have, cook the sliced onion until translucent, then add in garlic and chopped mushrooms. Cook for about 4 minutes, seasoning with salt and pepper.
3. Once golden and delightful, remove mixture from pot and set aside. In the same pot, add your rice (JUST by itself, no water). You want those wee grains nice and crispy, so make sure they don't burn and stir quickly. Use a wooden spoon if you can, stirring for about 2 minutes.
4. Add the wine. This is going to help lift all those heavenly scraps of onion and garlic left behind. Keep stirring until wine is dissolved.
5. Now, add a ladle full of hot stock. Mmm. This is going to be a recurring plot point but: keep stirring. The stirring shouldn't be aggressive, but it should be relatively constant. Keep an eye on the bottom, you want that slimy trail of liquid to be mostly absorbed before you add your next ladle. This might take a good 5, maybe even 10, minutes between each ladle so, as you can tell, it's a fucking long process.
6. Keep stirring and adding stock until the rice is beautiful and creamy. Keep drinking, all this stirring is thirsty work. Make sure to taste in order to determine if the rice is cooked. I wish I could lie here but it'll probably take at least 30-40 minutes before done.
7. Once looking good, add back in your mushroom mixture from before. Grate in some parm, still stirring (I swear to God this is all worth it).
8. Serve with crispy onions and shiitake mushrooms if that's your jam. Enjoy this hot, creamy rice on a cold winter's night with friends, lovers and family. Finish your wine, you've earned it.

ousa

EXECUTIVE



Kia Ora all,

I'm sure by now you're all back in your cold flats in the middle of the Dunedin winter, what a treat. The good news is, it's now less than half a year away until you might be moving into a new flat (maybe it'll have double glazing this time round!), but now is probably a good time to start looking for flats if you haven't already.

OUSA, alongside Student Support and Critic Te Arohi, has put together a Flatting Magazine that should hopefully answer all the questions you have. In it, we've talked about flatmates and how important it is to talk about what kind of flat you want BEFORE you sign the flat, we've talked about what to look for in a flat, we've talked about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant, and we've even talked about how to throw a good red card, as well as a whole bunch of other stuff.

This is going to be available from Monday the 13th of July, and our team has been working bloody hard to get it sorted, so grab a copy while you can! In the meantime, Student Support has some great resources available on their website relating to flatting, and they're more than happy to have a chat to you about all your flatting concerns!

Jack Saunders
OUSA Residential Representative

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PRESENTS...

MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

WEEK TWO WITHOUT PORN: DESIRES OF THE E-FLESH

Things were happening to my body this week. I never realised how weird masturbating without porn was until I forced myself to do it. Firstly, it was hard to get a good hard erection going. I could get one that just did the job, but it wasn't the throbbing pleasure stick I wanted. I also found that it was really easy to take me out of the mood. One time I got an email while jacking off and then found myself a few minutes later browsing inbox with a flaccid penis.

My orgasms were noticeably better though. My theory is that because my brain wasn't being sexually satisfied, my balls kicked semen production into overdrive. This was backed up by the fact that my nuts were super tight when I woke up one morning, despite having ejaculated the night before.

After a few days of being a right horndog my balls settled down again. This led to another problem however. Cutting out porn no longer felt important. I had proven I can go without, so it couldn't hurt to watch some people fucking. I had to remind myself that none of my ancestors needed porn to get off, so I didn't either.

Then I had a really bad day. Something bad happened and I was feeling incredibly anxious. I was pacing around the house unable to concentrate on anything. I needed to reset my mood. The urge to use porn as a method of getting horny so I could orgasm was strong. But I was bound by my oath. I went and lifted weights instead.

**Just
Wing It**



**TEN FLAVOURS
TO CHOOSE FROM**

delivereasy

HOROSCOPES



Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

The stars say aim high this week and exceed all expectations. Buy a bottle of wine over \$9 and finish your readings on time so you may become the best person you can be.

Your choice of incense: Red wine.



Leo

July 23 – Aug 22

There is something missing in your life right now. Whether it be serotonin or a souvo wrap from Kebab House, find out what you need and go get it.

Your choice of incense: Self-discovery.



Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

Saturn is in your orbit telling you to rethink those friends you keep around in your life. Cut off those toxic people and cut some bangs while you're at it. It's water season baby.

Your choice of incense: Sea breeze and clarity.



Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

Why are there so many Virgos in this world? Too many parents had pre-Christmas relations. Anyway, keep being basic.

Your choice of incense: Caramel latte.



Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

Use the power of Cancer season to learn how to be sensitive and empathetic. Use the power of moisturiser to fix your ashy elbows this winter.

Your choice of incense: Sorbolene cream.



Libra

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Pluto told me to tell you to stop being a bitch. Also do some washing.

Your choice of incense: Laundry fresh.



Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

Your crush is watching manifesting videos on Tik Tok to make someone else fall in love with them. Sorry.

Your choice of incense: Bacardi.



Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Your turbulent emotions will be put to the test this week as the reality of your university workload sets in. Eat lots of carbs and don't take it out on others.

Your choice of incense: Cinnamon donuts.



Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

Your Tinder dried up a while ago now. It's time for you to leave the house, saddle up and go hit the streets. Good luck, your sex life needs it.

Your choice of incense: Desperation.



Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

Focus on your goals and stop letting your mind wander off. And for the sake of your degree, stop watching reruns of Kath and Kim, dummy.

Your choice of incense: Delusion.



Cancer

Jul 21 – Jul 22

Your birthday month is ending. Reflect on your accomplishments (or lack thereof). Was it all worth it? Consider dropping out and starting an ice cream shop, for a laff.

Your choice of incense: Chocolate vanilla swirl with cookie crunch please.



Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Your cynical personality is nowhere to be seen this week as you and your friends get drunk on the daily and tell each other how much you love each other.

Your choice of incense: Wholesome with a hint of weed.



BOOZE REVIEW: SMIRNOFF CRANBERRY CASK

If you're anything like me, alcohol that doesn't taste like alcohol is the best kind of alcohol ever. Smirnoff's goon sack of cranberry juice and vodka is that alcohol. I'd be convinced that it was just pure cranberry juice if it didn't make me send 3am 'u up? x' texts. This goon goes down dangerously easily and gets bonus points for helping cure my UTIs <3

If you thought this was sounding too good to be true, you'd be right. This wildly delicious drinky costs \$20.99 and the pay off isn't even that worth it. For 2L worth of liquid, I'd expect a lot more than 9 standard drinks. Like, you will get so bloated drinking this goon and for what? Unless you're abstaining from eating and drinking water for at least 12 hours prior to consumption, you're definitely gonna need to rax a few drinks to keep to mojo going for the whole night.

In spite of its low standard count, if you're prepared to sink this baby in less than 10 minutes you will be a liability to all of your friends for the rest of the night. Take caution with this approach; when I was young and naive I decided to try and finish it under a minute. I was successful, and proceeded to live out a bad bitch life for the next 20 minutes while everyone hyped me and my talents up. But then things took a turn for the worse, and I ended up passed out in the bath of a stranger's house with no idea of where I was, no phone, and some sifty guy tryna get on my dick. This gorgeous drink is a perfect example of when the things you love the most hurt you the most </3

Taste rating: 10/10

Pairs well with: Flirting with boys to get free drinks.

Tasting notes: Bittersweet.

Froth level: When you find out your UTI is finally gone.

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Vape Review: Duo Salts Apple and Watermelon

Look, in all honesty, I hate fruit. I've never tried most fruits, and I never want to. People ask me why, and it's mainly because the texture of fruit genuinely scares me. The feeling of biting into a crunchy apple or soft banana and feeling it in my mouth makes me gag. Artificial fruit flavouring is way better than the actual fruit itself. It's more concentrated and sweet, and you don't have to deal with the awful admin of preparing fruit and its messy aftermath. Fucking sue me. When it comes to fruit flavoured vapes, I can only offer advice on how good the actual flavour tastes, rather than its likeness to its physical counterpart.

God bless the Vaporium overlords for giving us a nic salts juice. They must've known that uni is going back this week and we needed an extra slap to the face of nicotine. The Duo Salts vape juice I tried was a 25mg nic salt juice, meaning it's nicotine content is pretty close to a pack of ciggies. With higher nicotine juices, the flavour tends to taste more concentrated to compensate for the amount of nicotine, which is a fucking win in my eyes. If you were to try some of this

juice without knowing it, you'd probably just assume it's a basic "fruit" flavour. It doesn't taste like any distinguishable kind of fruit, but more just like nerds. Experienced vaper Kyle however noted how "it tastes like grape, followed apple, then a lot of nicotine", while an anonymous flatmate said "fuck yeah can I rax some of that after you've finished", indicating that it must be good.

Overall, this has probably got to be my favourite flavour that we've reviewed so far. Maybe it's because there's some actual nicotine in it. It reminds me of if you were to eat a Chupa Chup after smoking a dart. If you're gonna get popcorn lungs, you at least want to enjoy the journey. This is the first flavour that I would happily use again, but I am glad this was given to us for free. I would highly recommend the Duo range. Splash out, treat yourself, and get two out of your five plus a day.

Tasting Notes: Those jelly cups with the bits of fruit in them.

Makes You Feel: Like you're in year 10 going to the canteen.

Pairs Well With: The sense of nostalgia you aren't willing to let go of.



Selwyn College – Te Maru Pūmanawa



Welfare Team Vacancies 2021

Sub Wardens provide supervision, guidance and support to members of Selwyn College. They foster College spirit, uphold the best of traditions and provide exemplary leadership. They are positive, well organised people – enthusiastic about Selwyn and keen to contribute.

In addition to taking responsibility for the pastoral care of residents, Sub Wardens take charge of a specific portfolio; sustainability, community outreach, returner/exile liaison, formal occasions and more.

Applications are invited
from senior tertiary students
Applications close Wednesday 22 July

Visit selwyn.ac.nz for an
application pack and job
description

Interested applicants are
encouraged to contact Luke
McClelland, Selwyn College
Warden

Email: luke.mcclelland@otago.ac.nz
Phone: 021 418 809

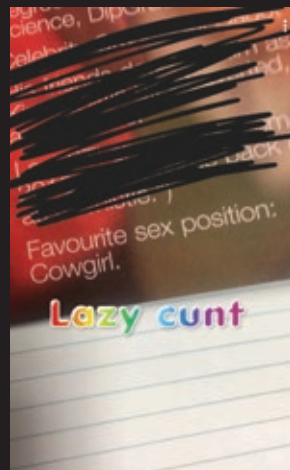
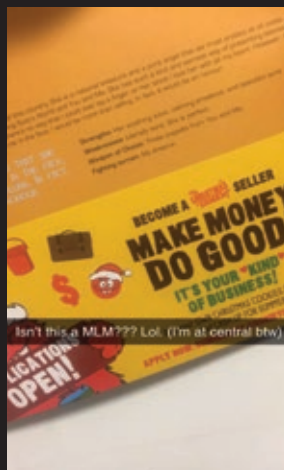
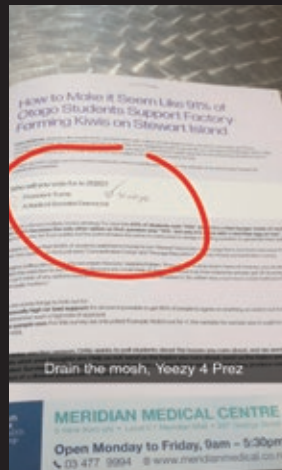
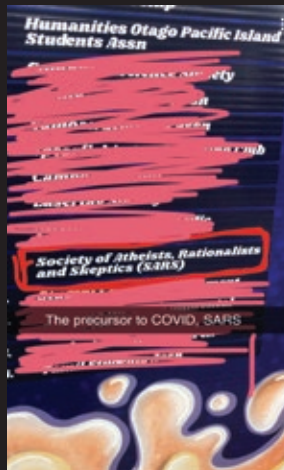
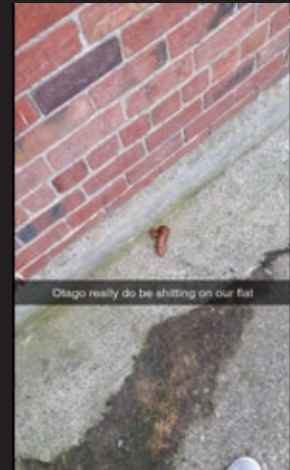
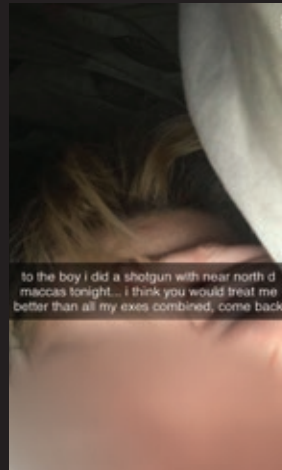
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