

# CRITIC

TE AROHI





# LETTER OF THE WEEK WINS A \$30 VOUCHER FROM UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP

## LETTER OF THE WEEK:

I read with a certain balance of nostalgia & pride your editorial about bringing back the Mothra's. I actually created this auspicious event back in the early 1990s (the first Awards Ceremony was 1991). We gave out Freds (my middle name) rather than Oscars, and the idea popped into my head one evening while sitting and watching an awful film called Gothic at 208 Leith Street ~ students could make something far more entertaining than this, I thought, and we could give out prizes at a sort of OUSA Academy Awards evening. Anyway, yeah, the Awards Ceremony that year cost something like \$15 per student, and with that punters were provided with food and all the alcohol they could consume over the evening. Out of control, but in the best possible way! The competition died, I think, many years later because there were just so many different formats to submit movies on (i.e. technically very tricky), so yeah, I think it would be a lot easier to deliver nowadays, but someone more knowledgeable than myself would probably want to check that out. I always liked the idea because of all the reasons you mentioned, but also it was a little twisted something students could show their kids years down the track. Here's what your mum and dad are capable of ... now go to sleep...

All the best in your efforts to bringing the event back. Long live the Mothras (I rally out in a humble sort of way...!!!)

Stephen Hall-Jones

### What The Fuck Is Dunedin: An Auckland Uni Students Perspective

Only in New Zealand would a place as absolutely twisted and fucked up as Dunedin exist. Some nights on Castle truly feel dystopian in their lack of civilisation and The University seemingly has no power to deal with it, nor, objection to the substance abusing culture, whether it be alcohol, MDMA, ketamine or bath salts.

It may just be me but I find it completely whack that flat parties can be sponsored by alcohol companies (although frankly I'm just jealous) and I'm grossly surprised the flats themselves can even surpass the poverty bar. But okay if you can't beat 'em, join 'em right? So that's exactly what me and many others did and continue to do every FI-O, O

and Re-O.

Dunedin is a place so cold, a fridge is unnecessary and dry clothes are hard to come by. Where the sidewalks glisten in the morning sun from the shattered glass blanket like a hot sandy beach on a summer day and the crisp scent of dried beer and vomit takes rest in your nostrils.

Forgive me if my timeline is muddled because the whole Re-O blurred into one as anyone in attendance will be familiar with, but my first memory of the crookedness starts with walking into a random kick-ons where the floor was thick with pigs blood, the source of which could be spotted throughout the week on top of flats and cop cars. I also witnessed many other obscenities including piss, shit and vomit used in all ways imaginable, goldfish swallowing and butt funnels.

Although I can only speak from a males perspective, it would be rude to talk about Dunedin without mentioning the sheer amount of talent around and the friendliness that comes with it. I've been getting sort've sick of the shore girl archetype and Dunedin certainly provides some variety if that's your vibe.

Everytime I come to Dunedin I meet numerous people that are incredibly easy to get along with, I create and build on long lasting friendships, and I always leave with a sadness in my stomach that can only be removed by booking more flights down. To all the randoms I met that I'll never see again, you were a right treat to yarn with and to all the friends I had to leave, I'll see you very shortly. I love you Dunedin.

By: not a Jafa, I just go to Uni here.

Kia ora Critic,

Loved the investigation into Sal's/Captain Cook's claim to be #22. I've realised why 22 keeps popping up - the number two looks like the letter z. Pi22a. They're trying to make our subconsciousnesses think of pizza when we see the 22. A numerical conspiracy theory!

~Sals is too expensive anyway

**RAD TIMES  
GIG GUIDE**

**1**  
91 FM

**RAD TIMES  
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**TUESDAY  
11 AUG**

**Distances - Mini Music Fest #1 Featuring  
Nathaniel Otley, Annie Hsieh, Liza Lim,  
Mark Menzies, Salina Fisher, and Luigi  
Nono**  
DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY  
7PM / FREE ENTRY

**WEDNESDAY  
12 AUG**

**Lunchtime Concert - Feeling Lisztless?**  
MARAMA HALL, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO  
1PM  
Tickets from humanitix.com.

**Open Mic Night w/ Lara Robertson**  
DOG WITH TWO TAILS  
7PM / FREE ENTRY

**THURSDAY  
13 AUG**

**The Upbeats, State of Mind, Concord  
Dawn, Flowidus, Trei, and Sly Chaos**  
U-BAR  
7PM  
Tickets from ticketfairy.com.

**FRIDAY  
14 AUG**

**Jake Baxendale and Bill Martin**  
INCH BAR  
8PM

**Tuscoma - 'Discourse' Album Release w/  
Methchrist and Swamp Dweller**  
THE CROWN HOTEL  
8:30PM / FREE ENTRY

**SATURDAY  
15 AUG**

**The Big Lawn, Būda, Grexit & Horatio**  
DOG WITH TWO TAILS  
8PM

**Dunedin Youth Jazz Orchestra**  
HANOVER HALL  
7PM / \$10

**SUNDAY  
16 AUG**

**Kaye and Read Hudson**  
DUNEDIN FOLK CLUB  
7:30PM / \$5 MEMBERS / \$10 NON-MEMBERS

**Jake Baxendale Group**  
DOG WITH TWO TAILS  
1PM / \$10



# EDITORIAL:

## Things I Heisted from OUSA President Jack Manning's Office

By Sinead Gill



OUSA President Jack Manning is a very trusting man. He wears his heart on his sleeve, and he often keeps his office unattended with the door wide open. Often when he does this, it's because he is in a nearby office or - more likely - in the Critic office being negged by our culture editor Caroline Moratti, host of the Critic Bachelor. During one leisurely afternoon visit by Jack Manning (during which he went hard on my staff's hard earned vape juice), I wondered: what and how many things could I heist from his office and into mine, all while he was present, all without him noticing? Here is my haul.

### THIS GAVEL:

This was my first steal. My heart was pounding. Next door to Jack's office is the CEO's office and I kept imagining that she would walk in on me. I was in too much of a rush to actually read the plaque on the stand that the gavel sits on, but after half a dozen later heists I felt comfortable enough to duck in and have a proper read. "Presented to O.U.S.A By J. Bruce Robertson, President 1967-8, And His Wife Lyn." Curious, I googled him, and turns out that Bruce is the G-est of Cs. He was President of OUSA during a time where Otago Uni made it mandatory for flats to be gender segregated, and one student actually got expelled for breaking the rules. He organised a 1,500-person strong sleep-in at the student union building in protest, which actually works out to be over 26% of the student population at the time. That would be like having a sleepover with 4,500 students today.

Bruce later became a lawyer, then a judge, then a High Court judge, then sometimes the acting Chief Justice and Chief High Court Judge, and in 2010 got knighted for his services. King.

Retail value: Hard to tell, but Trophy Center sells a similar product for \$108 so we'll run with that.

### A STAPLER LABELLED "PRES":

This is probably the one thing I heisted that I won't return without a fight. This is like the Rolex of staplers. The Rapid S17 - it's red, Swedish, and built like the stapler equivalent of a strong jawline. It was still 4/5ths full of staples which means he either keeps her locked and loaded, or he doesn't use her that often. Baby girl, I'd treat you so much better.

Retail value: \$49.99 from Warehouse Stationery

### HIS WHITEBOARD ERASER:

Like other things in his office, this is a fancy piece of stationery. This

OfficeMax eraser is magnetic and is in the shape of a computer mouse because, according to OfficeMax, it "offers a better grip". The eraser material has thinned down from overuse and when you look closely, you can see all of the OUSA secrets that have been written and removed from his whiteboard.

Retail value: \$10.43 ex GST

### HIS LANDLINE PHONE:

The phone was nestled in the furthest corner of his office from his desk. You'd think that would be a hassle, but it was soon clear that the landline is dead and probably never got used. Interesting choice of decor.

Retail value: \$119 from Noel Leeming

### THE PRESIDENTIAL KNOB:

This knob is an OUSA Presidential heirloom that gets passed from president to president. It was originally stolen from a staircase bannister and later returned to its owner (well, renter. I wonder if this cost them their bond?) That owner? Grant Robertson, the 1993 OUSA President. It is just as much a tradition for the President to have this knob as it is for the knob to be stolen. Jack and I would know - I stole it from him not 10 minutes after he'd been gifted it at the 2019 OUSA Christmas Party. His eye contact fell out and he asked 2019 Critic Editor and I nicely to hold on to his knob while he fixed it. His back comically turned from us, I ran. I returned it near the beginning of the academic year for [redacted reasons].

Retail value: Priceless

### THIS OUSA BRANDED PILLOW:

The pillow is a stiff, expensive-feeling fake leather. For something branded to the students' association it's ugly and uncomfortable af. Who ordered these?? It's a super old OUSA logo, which means this pillow is over a decade old. Would it hurt a President to redecorate? President is a full time job bro, you can afford it.

Retail value: Although it's definitely not real leather, the people who helped me cost this all agreed that it seemed like a high quality fake-leather. That, plus the fact that it is branded, means we retail these at around \$50 each.

## ISSUE 14

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# CRITIC

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# Landlord “Nit-Picking” to Keep Bonds from Tenants

“Trust no one” -- Karen Brown’s tenants, probably

By Erin Gourley

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

A lost kitchen sink plug, dirty chairs, blown light bulbs, and a missing oven knob were among the reasons a Dunedin landlord claimed her tenants should not get their bond back.

Since August 2016, Karen Brown has appeared in 31 orders from the Tenancy Tribunal and one District Court case about her properties in Dunedin. Critic spoke to five groups of her tenants from 2017-2019. Each of the groups had to appear in the Tenancy Tribunal because Karen made a list of small claims against their bond. Karen has been awarded thousands of dollars from her tenants’ bonds over the past two years.

Karen denies all of the claims in this article. “ALL allegations of yours, ERIN GOURLEY, and [the tenants’ full names] are 100% lies. P. O,” she said in an email. The subject line read “100% of allegations are Lies about Bond Refunds”.

Rob\*, one of her tenants from Hyde Street in 2018, claims that “there’s no fucking way she should be a landlord”. In his opinion, by withholding her tenants’ bonds until they go to the Tribunal, “she’s a scumbag landlord who plays the system to manipulate and extort money from her student tenants”. Jane\*, one of the tenants from Queen Street in 2018, described the landlord as “the definition of a nightmare really”. Karen denies all of these claims.

The Tribunal found that Karen harassed Michaela\*, one of her tenants from 2019. Michaela was allowed to leave her flat two months early, on 3 November 2019. The Tribunal found that “the emails provided by the landlord support that the landlord has committed an unlawful act by harassing the tenant” and that the “tone of the emails and language used points to a pattern of behaviour designed to intimidate the tenant”.

**“It was so much unnecessary stress and I was just so over it towards the end of the year, like no one should be treated with so much disrespect.”**

In some of those emails, screenshots provided by Michaela show that Karen wrote: “GOOD GET USED TO ME TELLING YOU TO SHUT THE FUCK UP AND ANY YELLING IS DUE TO YOUR BULLSHIT FALSELY ACCUSING ME SO YOUR OWN FAULT.”

“YOUR FILTHY DISGUST BAD MOUTH BAD MESSAGES ARE PUTRID DISGUSTING LIKE YOUR FILTHY ACTS. EVEN IF IT IS YOUR RIGHT.

I WILL TELL YOU TO STFU IF U WANT TO B A DISGUSTING FILTHY BAD TENANT AGAIN.”

“It was so much unnecessary stress and I was just so over it towards the end of the year, like no one should be treated with so much disrespect,” Michaela said. “I feel like she was just either really desperate to get her way or wanted to create as much trouble for me as possible.”

“[The Tribunal case] was really stressful with exams either side of it and of course I had no clue with the law and all that,” Michaela said, “so I had to spend heaps of time reading up on it and preparing.”

The finding of harassment by the Tribunal did not mean that Michaela was done with her landlord. Karen Brown still had her bond and she tried to claim it.

“I wasn’t really surprised at all, in fact it would be unlike her to return the bond without putting up a fuss,” Michaela said. “By the looks of things she probably tries to cheat all her tenants out of their bond.”

“She said I peed on the mattress and left stains,” Michaela said. “I didn’t take photos of the mattress at the start of the year so I couldn’t prove that the stain on the underside of the mattress was there already.”

Wanting everything to be over, Michaela agreed to pay \$200 for the mattress because she didn’t have the evidence that the stain was there when she arrived. Karen had photos and provided a cleaner’s receipt for the mattress to the Tribunal.

Karen also claimed that Michaela had damaged the “window screws” in the property. The Tribunal found that this was normal wear and tear, so the tenant did not have to pay for it.

**“Some of our most important advice [in these situations] is to always take photos, this should be done as soon as they arrive to show the condition of the property at the beginning and take photos again at the end of the tenancy.”**

said Sage Burke, OUSA’s Student Support Manager. “It is also important to complete entry and exit inspections (at the beginning and end of the Tenancy) using the appropriate form.” Sage recommends that if tenants find themselves in the situations described in this article, they should contact Student Support.

Another group of Karen’s tenants lived on Hyde Street last year. Karen reportedly became angry when the tenants moved a sideboard that was left in the hallway of the flat to a different location. “The only time that cabinet was moved was when we got a moving company to shift it out from one of the bedrooms to the lounge,” said Emma\*.

“AS YOU BREACHED CONTRACT BY DAMAGING MY SIDE BOARD AND IGNORE EMAILS ABOUT IT. PLUS LIED AND FALSELY ACCUSED ME THIS SHOULD BE SORTED FIRST. YOU SHOWN YOU ARE INCOMPETENT, ETC.” Karen wrote about the cabinet. That cabinet is one of her claims against the bond in the Tribunal.

“We are currently in the process of sorting out our bond from last year as she’s claiming an excessive amount for some damages to her flat that we never caused,” said Emma. “Our hearing was supposed to be a couple weeks ago but she never showed up to court so it’s been rescheduled for next month.”

Emma agreed to pay \$10 for smoke alarm batteries, but she will still have to face Karen in the Tribunal again next month for a claim of \$591.59 against the bond.

Karen is claiming “1 DAY RENT” at \$63.86, “DAMAGED CHAIR, stools, WALL UNIT” at \$193, “cleaning, rubbish removal, put handle back on mower” at \$250, “remove couches and make wall unit as safe as possible as left dangerous without connecting piece” at \$74.38, and the two smoke alarm batteries for \$10.35.

The email listing the damage concludes: “Either pay it now or sign and return refund form and after that i will get it refunded.”

Tenants from both Karen’s Queen Street and Hyde Street properties in 2018 had to wait until July this year to have the dispute over their 2018 bonds resolved in the Tenancy Tribunal.

The Queen Street tenancy with Karen did not begin well. “When we got in the place was a filthy mess with mold, food on the benches and a dry moldy smell in the rooms,” said Dave\*.

Callum\* said that there were “black bags of rubbish lying around, as well as some rubbishy shelves”. He described this as “something you would find at the dump shop”. The tenants moved the bags, which they assumed were rubbish, out to the front of the property.



\*Tenants' names have been changed.



## Government Monitoring

This course will be taught at two Chinese campuses this semester, and so we expect that Chinese governmental agents will have access to this material. If you are from China, have family there, or plan to visit or do business there in the next few years, be aware that your activity may be monitored. This particularly applies to the weekly Discussions. We advise students in this situation not to bring up topics that may endanger them, such as:

Tiananmen Square; Uighar concentration camps; Hong Kong democracy; Taiwan; Tibet; Falun Gong; criticism of Xi Jinping, etc.,

# Discussion of China Could “Endanger” Auckland Students

## Critical thinking class doesn't want to be too critical

By James Joblin

A lecturer advised students taking PHIL105: Critical Thinking at the University of Auckland not to discuss issues that are controversial for the Chinese government, because of a risk of danger from “Chinese governmental agents”. The course is taught on two campuses in mainland China, as part of the University of Auckland's response to border restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We advise students not to bring up topics [in discussion] that may endanger them, such as: Tiananmen Square; Uighar concentration camps; Hong Kong democracy; Taiwan; Tibet; Falun Gong; criticism of Xi Jinping, etc.,” said the lecturer in a post on Canvas (the equivalent of Blackboard at Auckland).

This message was directed towards students from China, who have family in China, and who plan to visit or do business in China. The post warned students to “be aware that your activity may be monitored”.

Nina\*, a student taking PHIL105, said: “I'm fucking spooked. Why would the University set up a program they knew could endanger students?”

The PHIL105 syllabus states that students will learn how to apply reasoning tools in areas including morality and law. The weekly discussions are the leading cause of the lecturer's concern.

“We expect that Chinese governmental agents will have access to this material,” wrote the

lecturer.

The University of Auckland confirmed that they were aware of the lecturer's note on Canvas. “We do not see this as suppressing free speech, rather a general warning to all students that social media comments and conversations can last long beyond a class discussion and may not be appropriate out of context,” said a spokesperson for the University.

“We also understand that there are cultural differences across many of our international partners and our academics have the freedom to address these as they see fit. This is part of our role as critic and conscience of society,” the spokesperson said.

“The universities need to take a clear line on this ... I can report that the message given to students in PHIL 105 reflects the contradictory and very unsatisfactory situation we are placed in being required to teach into China,” tweeted Associate Professor Matheson Russell from the University of Auckland's Philosophy Department. “It is certainly not an endorsement of that situation or acquiescence to it.”

“Neither the CCP nor any government power ought to be allowed to influence what is taught in NZ universities and if the freedom of students to freely discuss ideas in our universities is compromised we will be in a dire situation.”

Uighar Muslim concentration camps, democracy in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, and Falun Gong

(a religious movement labelled a “cult” by the Chinese government), are topics that should be avoided, according to the lecturer's post. Criticism of China's President Xi Jinping is also listed.

Students were warned against discussing Tiananmen Square, the student-led 1989 protest where over 10,000 people were reportedly massacred while exhibiting their right to free speech. This estimate has been disputed by the Chinese government.

Last year, a Tiananmen Square memorial event, organised by Chinese students at AUT, was cancelled. It was later reported AUT's Vice-Chancellor made the decision at the request of China's Vice Consul General. AUT deny this was why the event was cancelled.

In June, China's legislature approved a new security law which has implications for both non-Chinese and Chinese communities abroad. Anybody found committing acts deemed subversive could be sentenced to life in prison. It's why the New Zealand government has cancelled their extradition treaty to Hong Kong.

“Obviously in a time of precarious university 'revenue streams' there will be a financial incentive to be 'entrepreneurial' and push into new 'markets',” said Associate Professor Matheson. “But this can't compromise the university's fulfilling its primary purpose in NZ.”

\*Name changed.

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YONA LEE *Lamp in Transit* 2019 (detail). Object, stainless steel. Courtesy the artist and Fine Arts, Sydney

A Dunedin Public Art Gallery Visiting Artist Project supported by Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa. Project partner, Dunedin School of Art

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## PSYC SOC Targeted by Facebook Scammers

Wine and Cheese with a side of tea

By Kaiya Cherrington  
Staff Writer // [kaiya@critic.co.nz](mailto:kaiya@critic.co.nz)

The Otago Students' Psychology Society (PSYC SOC) has been targeted by scammers trying to sell unauthorized Wine and Cheese tickets using fake Facebook accounts.

PSYC SOC advertised their Wine and Cheese night during late July, to be held on Thursday 13 August at IBs. The event promises three free drinks (for PSYC SOC members), heaps of food, a DJ, and professional photography. Tickets were released on 29 July and sold out within 48 hours due to high demand.

However, the PSYC SOC Executive and students following the page noticed an influx of people trying to resell their tickets on the Wine and Cheese Facebook page. Some comments stated "I've got tickets for sale dm me if you are interested" and "lmk if you are interested in 4 tickets, I am looking to resell mine x".

The profiles of those who commented were private and showed little information about them. "When we checked the vendors' names against our list it was clear these comments were fake as these people had never purchased a ticket," said a representative from the PSYC SOC Exec. The Exec have deleted all spam comments and will continue to delete these comments if they reappear.

The PSYC SOC representative added that they "made a post the same day advising that any ticket re-sales must be done through PSYC SOC" and they would be "happy to provide refunds". The post stated: "DO NOT sell your ticket to someone else without going through PSYC SOC. The person who buys it will not be let in. No name on the list, no entry!"

There is now a waiting list for people who would like to attend but missed getting a ticket. If someone decides to return their purchased ticket, the waiting list will work on a "first in, first served" basis.

One Psychology student, Grace, said it was "odd that a random Psychology wine and cheese page is being targeted by scammers" but is glad that the Exec team are being proactive with deleting the comments. "From the looks of it, the profiles look fake as" but they said it would "definitely suck if someone was scammed".

It is unclear why the PSYC SOC event was targeted. Grace said it could be because of the popularity of the wine and cheese events, saying that the "last wine and cheese was so good, so surely the one this year will be even better".

## No Visa Applications For International Students

By Sinead Gill  
Critic Editor // [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz)

From 10 August, applications for "most visitor, work and student visas" will be suspended for three months. Immigration New Zealand (INZ) announced this change in their 31 July update.

The suspension means that tertiary students who have been studying online from their home countries will be excluded from applying for a student visa for 2021. It also means that students who leave the country over the summer break will unlikely be let back into New Zealand unless border restrictions are changed.

"To date, INZ has not been processing visas for individuals who are offshore unless they meet the strict border exception criteria ... As the border is closed, students will not meet entry requirements and

as a result, we are unable to process and decide offshore applications."

In the July update, INZ said that applications that have already been submitted would not be processed. "Suspending the ability for students to apply for a visa if they are outside New Zealand is the right thing to do given the current border restrictions."

Unless it is required in order to commence offshore or online enrolment, INZ "strongly encourages education providers to stop issuing Offers of Place to prospective students who are offshore, until there is greater clarity over the border and their ability to travel to New Zealand".

"Between 1 April and 27 July 2020 INZ received 1,767 fee paying student visa applications from students who are outside of New Zealand. These applications are not being processed and it is unfair to continue to allow students to apply. Students can apply to withdraw their application and they can request a fee refund. Refund requests are considered on a case by case basis."

While border restrictions remain in place, INZ said "the government is looking at ways to help maximise the study opportunities for those here in New Zealand, particularly when there are still constraints to travelling back to their home country".

\*If you need help, contact OUSA Student Support, 03-479- 5449.



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## Man Floor-Sucked Own Piss in the Zoo

Not exactly what we mean when we say “sink piss”

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

During the 2 August rugby match at Forsyth Barr, the tragic loss of the Highlanders to the Blues was briefly interrupted with a student literally drinking his own piss.

In the middle of the Zoo, a little before halftime, a breatha unzipped his pants and peed onto the seat in front of him. There was an eruption of screams and cheers.

Then, the chant “floor suck” began. The breatha then knelt down and drank his own piss from the hollow part of the seat, becoming the Bear Grylls of the Zoo.

Video footage obtained by Critic showed the young man with his hands on his peen and the stream falling into an empty seat in front of him. Thankfully, the seat’s occupant had been standing at the time. The second video showed him licking his lips with a small amount of pee dripping from

**Although the full mechanics of the act went unrecorded, Critic assumes that the unidentified man dipped the lower half of his face, from the nose down, into the puddle and slurped. The cries of disgust were masked by the encouraging yells of the nearby breathers.**

his nose.

An eyewitness of the event said that it was “absolutely fucking feral, and it was a Sunday game”.

The individual who filmed the video said, “I mean tbh was pretty creepy, the guys were the most breatha you can get. He did suggest we drink his piss but he did the honours himself”.

Considering this was a Sunday game, the rowdiness of the pee-suck did not match the general vibe. The witness also said, “we are literally all freshers and most people around us weren’t even that drunk so it was deffo the most interesting thing I’ve witnessed in the Zoo”.

The pee-petrator continued his tirade against innocent rugby-goers, the same witness saying, “oh not to mention, he then did steal my chips [a] half-hour later”.

When asked what the witness would say to piss boy, they replied, “honestly just god why? best of luck with your future buddy. I don’t know if he’s gonna get any credit with chicks saying he drunk his own piss, but how about maybe not freaking about a bunch of freshers on a Sunday night?” “Honestly just puts us all off breathas but hey, for sure funny to look back on.”

Dunedin Venues Management Limited (DVML) manages Forsyth Barr stadium, and a spokesperson said that they were not aware of this incident and do not condone it. In future, witnesses to inappropriate behaviour are encouraged to approach venue staff who will be stationed in all stands. Alternatively, there is a text message service. “We would certainly take action if this sort of antisocial behaviour was witnessed and/or brought to our attention,” the spokesperson said.

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## OPINION: Crunchy Peanut Butter is the Best Type of Peanut Butter

By Annabelle Vaughan

Staff Writer // [annabelle@critic.co.nz](mailto:annabelle@critic.co.nz)

Crunchy peanut butter is the superior type of peanut butter, and if you disagree with that, then you should take a good, hard look at yourself.

There are some big issues going on in the world, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for debate about peanut butter. Usually, I wouldn't get my feathers so ruffled about something so small. But after hearing that OUSA President Jack Manning, who could be described as a well-respected figure on our campus, prefers smooth to crunchy, I thought it was about time that this debate was settled once and for all. Crunchy peanut butter is superior, and here's a list of reasons why.

### Texture and Taste

Smooth peanut butter is like your high school boyfriend. It is tasteless, unreliable, boring and completely full of shit. You open a jar of smooth peanut butter and it just sits there, waiting for you to do all the work. You spread it on your toast, or dip an apple into it, and there it is. A gloppy, uninspired mess. When you put it into your mouth, there is no effort or simulation. When you're done, it sticks to the roof of your mouth, coating your teeth, clinging on for dear life screaming "please don't leave me" like some desperate guy on a night out.

Smooth peanut butter is for those who do not understand the importance of true grit, hard work or determination. It can't make up its mind, and it definitely has commitment issues. Is it peanut butter? Is it just butter? Is it made from real peanuts, or the gross processed shit? Absolute fuckery if you ask me. For all we know, there could be peanut shells in there.

Crunchy, on the other hand, is like the man

of your dreams. It's full of texture, taste and crunch. It doesn't lack substance, it's full of chewy, delightful goodness which transports you to another dimension. Every bite is a new adventure, providing a different ratio of crunch-to-salt and smooth-to-sweet, no matter how small the morsel.

Crunchy peanut butter radiates big dick energy, it makes you work for it. You open a jar of crunchy peanut butter, and it takes centre stage. It is the Leo star sign of spreads. You spread it onto your toast, the crunchy nuts rising to the surface, while the smoothness melts into the bread. You take a bite and it hits you like the first time you did gear. You feel unstoppable yet warm and fuzzy. Your jaw is out of control, trying to wrestle with the substance which has overtaken your body. Crunchy peanut butter will never let you down. There is no time for bullshit, it gets right to the point.

### Crunchy Peanut Butter is Better for You

Not only is crunchy peanut butter superior in taste and texture, but it is also healthier for you. According to actual nutritional facts, crunchy peanut butter has more folate and fibre, as well as being lower in saturated fat. Now, I'm no nutritional expert, but those ingredients seem like pretty important things, and there's no way you can argue with science. Crunchy peanut butter doesn't want to hurt you, she wants to heal you, fuel your soul with all the nutrients you need to get through this dark and dangerous world. Smooth is nutritionally inferior.

If you still eat smooth peanut butter, then you're probably also the type of person who orders a half shot of vodka or drinks Tui.

### Crunchy is More Compatible

Peanut butter is so much more than just a spread. Peanut butter is a versatile substance, which can add flare to any other food, creating the most delightful and surprising of combinations. But, yet again, crunchy peanut butter takes the cake in terms of its compatibility and adaptability with other foods. Crunchy peanut butter reminds you that you are, in fact, eating nuts. Think of all the great flavour combinations. Chocolate and peanut butter. When smooth, cocoa goodness collides with its salty, crispy counterpart. You can't have smooth on smooth, that just screams 'I'm a lazy, boring fuckwit,' who wouldn't understand a good flavour combination if it was shoved down their throat.

Take the classic peanut butter and jam. The sticky, sweet, berry-filled goodness smushed together with its crunchy, grainy sidekick. It's kind of like the pairing of a Virgo and a Pisces. Analytical logic meets a whirlwind of emotion and romance. It screams innovation, and shows incredible character development.

Crunchy peanut butter is superior, and there is really no other way to put it. It has everything you could possibly want and need in a spread. It's got taste, texture, character, nutrition, providing an experience of no other.

The masses also agree with me, according to a highly reliable statistical source, being a recent poll on my Instagram. If you still disagree, and continue to go through life as a smooth peanut butter fiend, then I seriously think you should take a good, hard look at yourself. If you disagree, feel free to square up with me outside the Pic's Peanut Butter Factory or email [annabelle@critic.co.nz](mailto:annabelle@critic.co.nz). I will be waiting, fist full of peanuts.

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**Nando's**



# Putting the “Toxic” in “Intoxication”

## THE CHEMISTRY OF DRINKING

By Fox Meyer

Alcohol is a chemical drug, and our bodies are biological machines. When you put too much of that drug into your body, it becomes difficult for the machine to function properly. And even though our bodies process alcohol subconsciously, there are a few decisions you can make to help your biological machine out quite a bit. Critic consulted Pharmacy students and staff, and public health researchers for some practical and scientific advice on how to drink.

## AVOID ENERGY DRINKS WHILE DRUNK

### The Science

Alcohol is a depressant. It makes you drowsy and works to slow your heart rate. To counteract this, you might be tempted to have an energy drink. This is not a good idea.

By blocking adenosine receptors in the brain, chemicals like caffeine mask the drowsy symptoms of alcohol without actually nullifying the effects. These chemicals also speed up your heart rate. Combining depressants with stimulants sends mixed signals to your heart and puts it under increased strain, putting you at risk of developing arrhythmic heartbeats.

### The Practical Advice

The best way to counteract the sleepy feeling you get while drinking is simply to drink less. Energy drinks affect your body, but by keeping that body awake longer, they also give you more time to make stupid decisions. A vodka Red Bull may not immediately give you heart problems, but it will keep you awake for enough time to buy another few drinks and send some questionable texts, leading to heartache in more ways than one.

Also, unrelated, but alcohol fucks with the density of your inner ear fluid, which controls balance. This is why you get the spins.

## EAT FRUIT

### The Science

When you digest alcohol, organic compounds called “free radicals” proliferate in your body, and they're part of what makes you feel shitty the next day. Your body uses antioxidants like vitamins A, C, and E to deal with free radicals, and you can replenish your supply of antioxidants by eating lots of berries or other nutrient-dense fruits. Electrolytes also help the recovery process.

### The Practical Advice

Sometimes clubs have containers of fruit behind the bar. While it's tempting to reach over and help yourself, do not do this. It is rude. I suggest you BYOB (bring your own berries) to be safe. Stuff your pockets with blueberries before hitting town as a convenient snack and offer them to strangers on the dancefloor. If you're in a bar and they offer nuts 'n stuff, eat them. Your body will thank you.

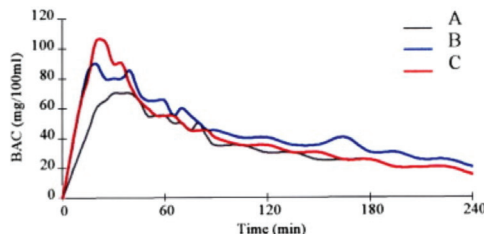
# AVOID FIZZY DRINKS (MOST OF THE TIME)

## The Science

The graph below shows the rate at which the same amount of vodka was absorbed by people who drank it mixed with still water, fizzy water, or straight. Carbonation seems to increase the rate of absorption, meaning fizzy alcoholic drinks “hit” you faster. Spirits take longer to enter the bloodstream when taken straight than they do in a mixed drink, assuming both drinks are ingested over the same amount of time.

Alcohol seems to enter the bloodstream fastest when the drink's concentration is around 20%. Generally, your body can process one standard drink per hour, which would put you at the upper legal limit for driving. If you double the standard drinks per hour, though, you more than double the concentration of alcohol in the bloodstream, so be careful when counting your drinks.

Digesting ethanol produces sugars, which contributes to raising your blood sugar level. Sugar seems to slow the rate at which stuff passes from the stomach to the large intestine, where most alcohol is absorbed. Highly sugary mixers are correlated with lower breath alcohol levels. If you have type 1 diabetes, be aware that your blood sugar levels will plummet when drinking, as your liver will be too busy processing alcohol to produce glucose.



## The Practical Advice

There are heaps of variables at play here, so it's hard to say what holds true for everyone. It's best to know your personal limits, and stick to those limits regardless of how or what you're drinking. Like with cars, everyone's biological machine ticks a bit differently.

That being said, there are some small changes you can make to mitigate some of the effects of the drug you're ingesting. A noncarbonated gin and juice, for example, will hit you slightly slower than a gin and tonic, and provide some vitamin C to boot. Drinking diet mixers would lead to faster absorption rates, as your stomach would not have to digest sugars or carbs at the same time as the alcohol.

Also, while low-percentage drinks, like beers, are generally safer than spirits, the higher volume of liquid taken in makes you pee more. This dehydrates you faster and means you'll have to drink more water to avoid feeling like shit the next day.

Regardless of the mixer, if you're drinking on an empty stomach, your alcohol absorption rate will skyrocket. Make sure you fill your stomach with more than just alcohol if you don't want to give your liver more than it can handle.

### Key:

A – Straight alcohol (37.5 vol%).

B – Alcohol diluted with water (18.75 vol%).

C – Alcohol diluted with carbonated water (18.75 vol%).

Citation: Roberts & Robertson, 2007. Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine. 14, 7. 398-405.

# THINK ABOUT YOUR MEDS

## The Science

Meds and booze both interact with the liver and the brain. Your liver works to detoxify your blood better than a juice cleanse could ever hope to, but it can only work so fast. By drinking too much too quickly, you create a queue for liver processing. While alcohol molecules wait in this queue, they damage the cells around them. By combining alcohol with liver-processed medications, you make this queue even longer, and increase the risk of liver failure, though your liver will prioritise the alcohol.

Once in the bloodstream, alcohol heads to your brain. Your brain is protected from harmful agents by its own sort of N-95 mask: the blood-brain barrier. This physical barrier prevents some chemicals and bacteria from reaching your think-tank, but not alcohol, and not any other drugs that have an effect on the brain. Once in the brain, this cocktail of drugs can have a variety of effects, not all of which are dangerous.

When taken together, sedative drugs like alcohol and benzos like Xanax produce an effect that is more than the sum of their parts. This synergistic effect can lead to prolonged blackouts and inhibited consciousness, to the point where you may not continue to breathe. The antibiotic medronizone, prescribed for dental work and STIs, will produce a killer hangover even with only a few standard drinks.

## The Practical Advice

Not every medicine is dangerous to combine with booze, and if you're on a prescription, just ask your health professional for personal advice. However, no matter what medication you're on, remember that your normal alcohol limits will not be the same as when you combine booze with another drug.

Often, drugs like antidepressants will make you drowsy or dizzy in the same way alcohol will, and combining the two can increase this effect dramatically. If you must combine painkillers and booze, go for ibuprofen. Many painkillers like paracetamol are processed through the liver, but ibuprofen is passed through the kidneys.

You can endanger yourself without any chemical interactions. For example: your birth control pill may not have a harmful chemical interaction with booze, but if you take your pill at 9pm and then spew on a night out, that pill might not have had time to fully absorb, and now you've missed a dose. The behavioural effects of med-booze combinations can be just as dangerous as the chemical effects.

### To Summarise:

*None of the experts Critic consulted had any problems with alcohol, nor did anyone suggest avoiding it entirely. Problems and dangers arise when personal limits are exceeded and alcohol is combined with other substances in an uncontrolled environment. Everyone's different, so know your personal limits, and definitely don't drink if you're on benzos.*



## OUSA Reviewing Clubs for “Inappropriate Behaviour”

By Erin Gourley

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

OUSA has begun a review aiming to understand and deal with inappropriate behaviour within affiliated clubs.

OUSA's CEO, Debbie Downs, listed several aims for the review. “To understand the extent of inappropriate behaviour within OUSA-affiliated Clubs and Societies,” is the first one of those aims.

Other aims include ensuring OUSA, as well as its affiliated clubs and societies, “meet [their] legal, moral and harm prevention obligations”, ensuring “those who have witnessed or been personally affected by inappropriate behaviours

have clear pathways for seeking support”, and ensuring that “the responsibilities of the Clubs Development Officer and the Clubs and Societies Representative are clearly defined and understood by both OUSA and Affiliated Clubs and Societies members”.

As a first step, OUSA wants to understand the extent of inappropriate behaviours that they are dealing with.

“To gather the information a survey will go out to all students,” said Debbie Downs. “The information gathered in the survey, will to a large extent shape the next step in the process.”

The review comes after allegations of sexual misconduct were made against former OUSA Clubs and Socs Representative and former President of the Dunedin Fire and Circus Club, Josh Smith.

An investigation by Critic showed that the club had a history of sexual misconduct dating back to 2009.

OUSA still has no sexual misconduct policy to deal with “inappropriate behaviour” in clubs or other parts of the organisation.

## No More Dedicated Stationery Shops Near Campus

Not exactly what we mean when we say “sink piss”

By Jack William Gilmore

Critic Intern // [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz)

In recent days, it has come to Critic's attention that there is no large-scale supplier of stationery goods anywhere near campus for our pen and paper loving students.

In 2019, Warehouse Stationery closed the doors of its Central Dunedin premise. The land was bought by the Government for the new Dunedin hospital. The building has since moved to the strip-mall near the Chinese Gardens, ever so slightly out of reach from the sticky hands of students.

Now the closest large scale seller is OfficeMax which is, according to Google, an 11-minute walk

from Central Library. Warehouse Stationery was only eight minutes away. Outrageous. Also, Critic hates to say it, but OfficeMax just doesn't hit the same as Warehouse Stationery.

Students around campus do not share Critic's sentiment on the travesty that is the loss of stationery shops with one saying: “I don't really need stationery. I just use my MacBook for everything.” Another said “I hate paper and I hate pens”. Critic is currently keeping an eye on this student.

“Where will I buy refills for my fountain pens now?” asked a student who described themselves

as “passionate about stationery”.

“Well I guess because we have the smaller stationery shop on campus, do we really need a big one near us?” asked one student while checking out books. “Also was the Warehouse Stationery even near us? It was like a ten-minute walk.” (It was eight, you absolute buffoon.)

One student said that this claim is inaccurate because Campus South Store (in the Link) sells pens. “I have spent like \$50 on stationery this year,” she said. “Who needs stationery anyway?”

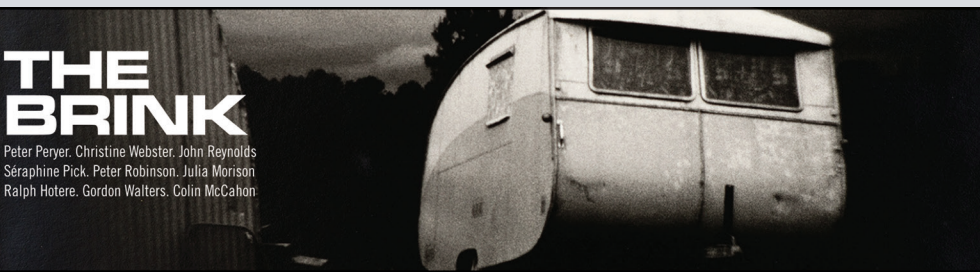
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PETER PERYER **Mars Hotel Portfolio VI** 1975 (detail). Silver gelatin print  
Jim Barr and Mary Barr loan collection, Dunedin Public Art Gallery

### THE BRINK

Peter Peryer, Christine Webster, John Reynolds  
S  raphine Pick, Peter Robinson, Julia Morison  
Ralph Hotere, Gordon Walters, Colin McCahon





ESCAPE ARTISTS  
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# WORDFIND

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DRUNK  
WHISKEY  
BOOZE  
MIDORI  
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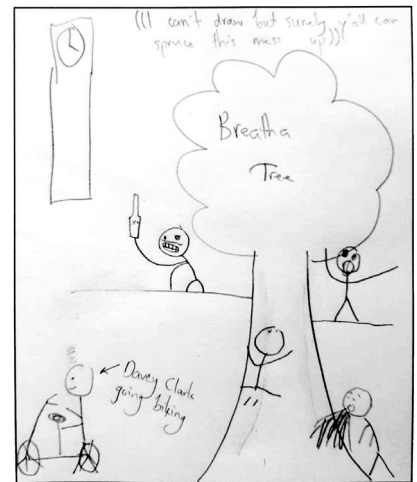
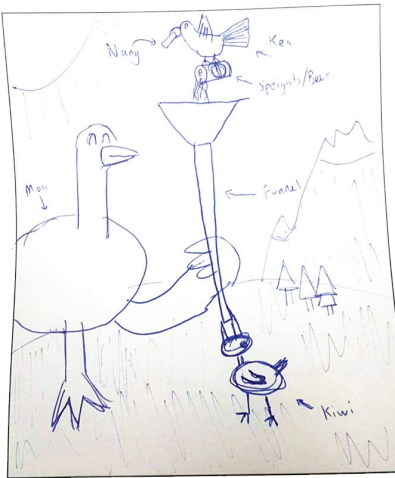
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# FEATURED ENTRIES



Thirstymural





## CRITIC COVER COMPETITION

Draw us a cover related to the trivia theme, and send a snapchat of it to @criticmag.

Each week Critic will choose a winner that will be immortalised by our illustrators.

The trivia theme can be identified/interpreted through the following questions:

**THE THEME OF THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA (AND NEXT WEEK'S COVER ART CONTEST) IS:**

### 7 WONDERS OF \_\_\_\_\_ WORLD

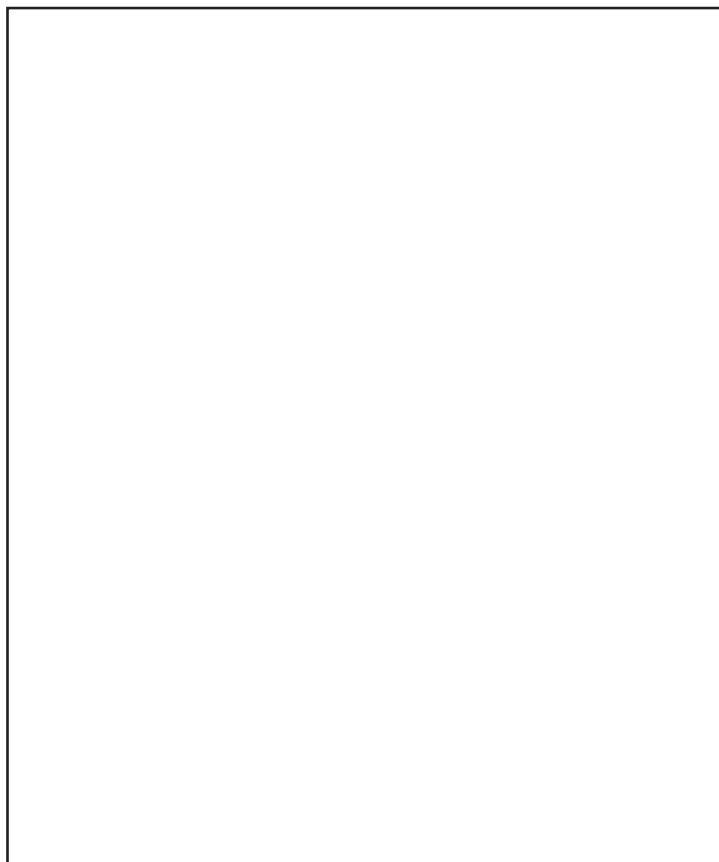
(Fill the blanks with the first letter of each answer)

1. What does the Greek word for "dinosaur" literally translate to in English?
2. Behind humans and mosquitoes, what animal kills the most humans in africa?
3. What's the name for the organic compound ( $C_2H_6O$ ) responsible for getting you drunk?
4. At 147 meters, "Sky Mountain" is the tallest peak of which country?
5. Alaska's annual sled dog race is called the what?
6. What London-based Scottish chef holds a black belt in Karate?
7. What is the doomsday device developed by Dr. Hoenikker in Kurt Vonneget's Cat's Cradle?
8. Due to its coffee content, which Italian dessert's name translates to "pick-me-up"?
9. Originally written by a slave trader, what song is best known by Judy Collins' 1970 version?
10. Who founded Scientology?

ANSWERS - THEME: 7 WONDERS OF THE DIGITAL WORLD  
 1. Terrible Lizard  
 2. Hippopotamus  
 3. Ethanol  
 4. Denmark  
 5. Iditarod  
 6. Gordon Ramsay  
 7. Ice-9  
 8. Tramsis  
 9. Amazing Grace  
 10. L Ron Hubbard



### YOUR DESIGN HERE



For those who want a head start on the competition, the theme gets shared during the Starters Bar quiz, 6-8pm on Wednesdays.



4/6

4/6

4/6

John 2 TV	Film 2 TV
Wade it Ralph	Wade it Ralph
The X-Files	The X-Files
Hanging from a Tree	Hanging from a Tree
Pond water	Pond water

not an  
extra  
credit



## Considering a cheeky quiz night? Here's what to expect from your local pubs.

Dunedin has enough pub quizzes to have something for everyone. From hardcore quizzes to pissups with a side of trivia, there's plenty to be found. The scores I've given are just a personal rating, so I've included some other metrics for a more specific idea of what these nights look like. I've collected data on the cheapest pints and chips, how likely you are to win a prize, and the quiz itself to help you figure out what pub quiz is right for you. This is far from an exhaustive list of pub quizzes, and often the best quiz nights are the hardest to find. If you know a great quiz that didn't make the list, let me know at [fox@critic.co.nz](mailto:fox@critic.co.nz). I'm always keen to explore more.

## MONDAY

### The Bog

The Bog's only got three TV screens, so unless you get there hella early, it's not suitable for those who need glasses or hearing aids. 30 minutes before the quiz started, every seat was taken except a booth in the back corner where you can't see a single TV screen. The Bog's quiz is incredibly popular and they're likely to run out of quiz books, meaning you'll have to join another team if you don't bring your own paper, and I don't feel like other teams would've been too keen on that. The vibe was very competitive, so don't go unless you're not there to fuck spiders. With spenny drinks and tough competition, the Bog's quiz is redeemed mostly by their immaculate host. Shameless and jubilant, he blitzed through the quiz faster than you could say "Guinness really isn't that great". They also have an impressive selection of craft beer.

**Host:** 10/10. Very accommodating but incredibly fast.

**Atmosphere:** 8/10. Packed, classic and desperately wants to be Irish.

**Ideal for:** Master's students and close-knit friend groups.

**Win-ability:** 2/10. Old codgers run the show, so good luck placing in the top half.

**We placed:** 10/16, with a team of seven.

**Duration:** 1½ hours. Started at 7:30pm on the dot, ran until 9pm.

**House pint:** \$8, fuck me.

**Chips:** \$7 for a big bowl.

### SCORE: 5/10

Expensive and difficult, but quick and rowdy. Probably a 10/10 for regulars.



# TUESDAY

## Dog With Two Tails

Dog's quiz is six rounds of six questions, always finishing with a music round. The questions are homegrown by Jamie Green of Radio 1, so props for keeping it original. It's a very laid back atmosphere, but you still have to get there an hour early to get a good seat. It feels a bit more like a café than a pub, and you mark the quizzes of the team sitting next to you. The original questions were refreshing, but twice was an answer disputed by the audience. Green was merciless and docked multiple teams a point in a dispute about the world's largest plant, which I find unforgivable. Regulars say it's gotten more popular in the last few weeks. Dog's quiz drew a fun crowd: Critic spotted a moonlighting Starter's quiz host, other OUSA staff, and the most stereotypical Kiwi bloke I have ever seen, sporting a Speight's tee, Swannndri button-up, Canterbury short shorts, jandals, and a bitchin' mullet. He was, without a doubt, the most spectacular part of the evening.

**Host:** 9/10. Point deducted for the unforgivable "world's largest plant" fiasco. Otherwise fantastic.

**Atmosphere:** 8/10. Great vibes, competitive without being cut throat, not there to get pissed. Few draught beers but the ones they have are solid.

**Ideal for:** Graduate students and anyone over the age of 25.

**Win-ability:** 4/10. You've got a good chance of getting a majority of the questions, but you're still gonna get demo'd by the professors. No points if you can't name the song and artist in the music round.

**We placed:** 7/9 though there were more like 20 teams. Many teams tie.

**Duration:** 2 hours. 7:30pm – 9:30pm.

**House pint:** \$9 but you aren't there to get drunk.

**Chips:** \$8 for a medium bowl.

## SCORE: 8/10

Laid back, informal and lovely, despite having tough competition and only one bathroom.

## Baaa Bar

The quiz here feels more like a background activity than the main event, which makes it ideal for an every-now-and-then sort of deal. Show up an hour early, secure yourself a booth, and get on the piss. The crowd here is younger and slightly more bogan. Just how I like it. Sometimes they have sport on the TV in the background if you get bored of the quiz, which is entirely possible. There wasn't any uproarious shouting, but like the Bog, there's pokies in the back. Unlike the Bog, not everyone is super invested in the quiz, and the host seemed either nervous or drunk. Also unlike the Bog, it took three hours. They've got cheap beer and cocktails, though the quality wouldn't impress anyone from Mad Men. If you're free Tuesdays, don't really care about quizzing, and don't want to spend too much, the Baaa is a solid option.

**Host:** 4/10. Bored, maybe drunk, had big trouble with the words "Swiss dish".

**Atmosphere:** 6/10. -2 points for playing "You Are So Beautiful" by Joe Cocker three fuckin' times in one night.

**Ideal For:** Friend groups that are still getting to know each other or anyone who played rugby until year 13 but had to stop due to injury.

**Win-ability:** 7/10. You're probably the only one with a degree. With a big team, you've got a shot.

**We Placed:** 7/12, despite being a tiny and inebriated team.

**Duration:** 3 hours. 7:50pm - 10:15pm.

**House pint:** \$7 (jugs only \$10).

**Chips:** \$7.50 for a big bowl.

## SCORE: 6/10

Cheap, but not engaging and poor tune selection.

# WEEDNESDAY

## Starters

Students: if you're keen on a quiz, this is it. It's a perfect way to pre for Pint Night, it's cheap as, you've got a shot at winning, and there's usually seating available. What's not to love? You're playing against your peers, which means that nobody has an age advantage, everyone's pretty much the same amount of drunk, and you can bring as many people as you can squeeze around the table. Get there at 5:30 for guaranteed seats, and get to work on the beer tower/platter combo. They've got plenty of cheap booze, but if you're someone of taste, there's a few bottled beers in the fridge to choose from. Before the first round, and between every subsequent round, there's a mini game. Brush up on your paper dart skills, coin flipping, and artistic talent. It's yet another Believe It or Not quiz, but that's the only major loss of points to be seen at Starters. It's rowdy and young, so if that's not your vibe, Critic would recommend somewhere else on this list. But it's our vibe, so Starter's takes the proverbial cake.

**Host:** 9/10. Capable, charming, bribable.

**Atmosphere:** 6/10. It's no wood-walled old pub, but it's buzzy enough. Massive exodus to Pint Night immediately after quiz.

**Ideal For:** Anyone on their way to Pint Night.

**Win-ability:** 8/10. Call it Battle Royale because it's students vs. students. You can also win considerable prizes between every round.

**We Placed:** 4/14, but I've personally won this quiz. Bring your artistic mates.

**Duration:** 6pm - 8:15pm. Start and end times vary.

**House pint:** \$6. Other deals abound.

**Chips:** \$3. Not a full bowl, but still a great deal.

## SCORE: 9/10

The only reason I'd encourage you not to go would be to preserve my chances of winning.





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# WHY GO DRY? STUDENTS TALK GOING SOBER FOR DRY JULY

BY NAOMII SEAH

"Drinking had taken a depressing toll on my mental health," said Sushanth.

It's a familiar story. Drinking has become so normalised in Aotearoa that sinking a few beersies with the mates is often the default mode of socialising. Although there can be nothing wrong with heading to the pub after work, sometimes a quiet one can turn into two, and then three, and then suddenly you're blacked out in front of the George St Maccas, four hours before an 8am lecture the next day. It doesn't have to be this dramatic either; sometimes you simply don't feel like drinking, yet saying no takes a toll on your social life, and suddenly you haven't seen your friends in weeks.

Dry July is one of the most visible nation-wide campaigns to counter New Zealand's pervasive drinking culture. People can sign up to the campaign officially and raise money with the support of family and friends; some do it unofficially, as a private challenge to themselves.

Overall the 2020 campaign raised just under a million dollars and had 7,618 registered participants. Of that number, at least five were students at Otago – Harri, Sushanth, Shannon, Indie\* and Pippa\*. Critic spoke to them about why they gave the challenge a go, how it went (or why they failed), and what they think about New Zealand's drinking culture at large.





**PIPPA NOTED THAT “90% OF THE TIME BEING AROUND NEW PEOPLE INVOLVES DRINKING FOR ME, AND BEING SOBER IN THOSE SITUATIONS MADE ME REALISE HOW BAD I STILL AM AT BEING FRIENDLY AND SOCIABLE.”**

Harri participated in the Dry July campaign to raise funds for cancer along with a mate, which meant that “us bitching out of it wasn’t an option”. Other participants, like Sushanth, Shannon, Indie\* and Pippa\* participated for personal reasons, such as mental health or supporting a friend through sobriety.

Participating in Dry July wasn’t always straightforward, as our participants found. One of the biggest roadblocks they encountered was peer pressure. Although Harri, Shannon and Indie managed to stay sober throughout July, Sushanth and Pippa ended up drinking again near the end during social events – they cited the pressure of drinking on a night out as reasons to quit Dry July. Sushanth said that “it felt punishing not to consume copious amounts of alcohol” for events like “my flatmate’s 21st, a DnB gig and going out to town, all of which I thought I could totally endure sober”.

Pippa had a similar reason for drinking towards the end of Dry July: “I did end up pretty much quitting towards the end, mainly because the whole experience was depressing,” as being sober at parties made her feel “socially inept”.

Even though Harri, Shannon and Indie stayed sober through July, all of them said that they had encountered peer pressure during their experience. Indie noted that “there’s been a few people who have given me a hard time... [but] those people have left me to it once I gave them a reason, which is lame because I shouldn’t need one.” Shannon noted that “Despite the fact that all of my friends know I’m doing this, I still get asked multiple times in a night by numerous people if I am having another drink.” Harri found that it was “best not to tell people you [aren’t] drinking, otherwise people tend to be less likely to have a proper yarn [or] they’ll treat you differently.”

Many participants felt that being sober highlighted the amount of socialising they did that revolved around drinking. Indie said that she was surprised by “how often casual drinking came up as a way to socialise, which in a given week could be almost every day”. Similarly, Pippa noted that “90% of the time being around new people involves drinking for me, and being sober in those situations made me realise how bad I still am at being friendly and sociable.”





However, being sober for a month was a valuable learning experience for many of the participants. Since giving up Dry July, Sushanth said that "I've been drinking on the weekends since and it's actually pretty [alright]," as he's managed to moderate his drinking with the experience. He does feel that participating in Dry July has made him realise that "I need to have fun without any intoxication to develop a healthy relationship with booze". Pippa feels much the same, stating that although going sober has highlighted her social anxiety, she's realised that "experiencing this has given me some clarity" around the ways that she socialises with new people, especially since her regular friend group is leaving at the end of the year. Although difficult, Pippa believes that going sober has "allowed me a bit of time to try and change my ways before I backslide [into my old drinking habits]". Overall, the experience has taught Pippa that she needs "to work on my social confidence and being friendly. I can't rely on having alcohol at hand to help me make friends and talk to people." Conversely, Shannon simply wanted to "prove [to] myself that I could do it," and has enjoyed the experience so much that "I'm considering doing a second month this year because I've really enjoyed not being hungover". Harri wanted to "force myself not to drink when everyone else is, [to] get on top of a long running habit," and learned that "it is possible to say no to a drink and [that] being sober isn't as shit as I thought. I don't even miss getting fucked."

Participants had mixed feelings about future participation in Dry July. Harri said that he was "definitely glad [that] we're almost at the end of this cunt of a month," and Indie said that she would "definitely do it again [as] it was nice to take a step back from everything and take stock on what I do [and] don't enjoy".

Although a daunting prospect, these students have shown that participating in Dry July can be hugely beneficial for personal growth, and friends and family are mostly supportive, with Indie saying that "my friends have started policing themselves on offering [or] buying me drinks". It also felt like an achievement for some students, with Shannon stating that she wasn't sure if any of her friends "could believe that I've made it this far".

Tackling social drinking in New Zealand is an ongoing and topical issue, and campaigns like Dry July have simply highlighted the need for more action. Although going sober can seem like drastic action, these students have proved that mostly it's not a big deal, and can lead to beneficial personal and social outcomes.

\*Names have been changed.

*If you would like to seek guidance or help regarding drinking, you can reach out to Student Health, OUSA Student Support or call the Alcohol Drug Helpline at 0800 787 797.*



OU SA ART WEEK 2020 CRITIC PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER: SCREAM BY CAITLIN ADDISON  
IG: @CAITLINADDISONART







Curtis Allen D



# The Cheapest Drinks in the Octy: An Investigation

By Kaiya Cherrington



I smelt a bargain, along with what can only be described as blue jelly beans.



Everyone knows the key to going into town is pre-loading. Without doing this, we would not only freeze to death, but be sober enough to realise that town is shit and we should be in bed. It's also the cheapest option, and can be the best part of a night out.

But regardless of how much you pre-drink, one thing is for sure: Every time we think it's a good idea to buy a drink, the bar robs us of our money and slaps us with an excruciatingly large bill, which we discover the next morning along with \$1.75 left in our account and chunnya next to the bed.

If you can avoid buying drinks in town, and are luckily hammered enough to go without a Jägerbomb from Suburbia, congrats. But if you're ever in the situation where you need a drink before you fall asleep outside the Trojan Turkish store with a lamb kebab in hand, then make sure you take notes of where the cheapest drinks in the Octagon may be\*.

## Ratbags/IBs

Starting the crawl, Ratbags was the first on the list. Because Ratbags and Innocent Bystanders are essentially the same business, and IBs is pretty much only ever open on Saturdays, Ratbags was the only option we could hit. Unfortunately, as much as I would kill for that half-price half-metre pizza, now was not the time.

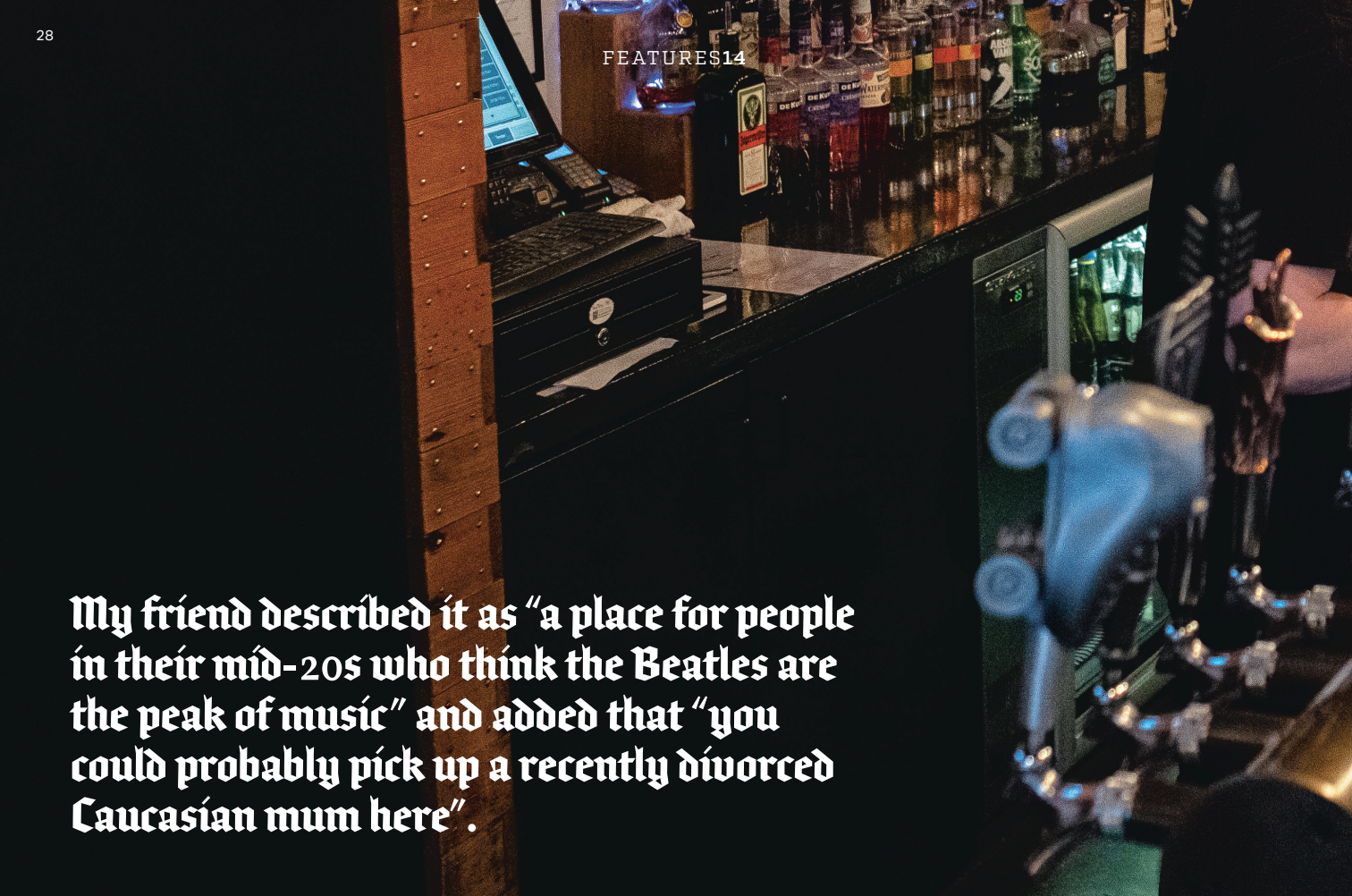
After casing the joint to find empty tables at a weird time of night, we questioned the drink prices in the bar. One of the cheapest options was house spirits, such as vodka or tequila, for a respectable \$9. Non-house spirits, like Bacardi, would be an extra dollar. Tap beer and cider, such as Speights or Mac's/Somersby were the cheapest option at \$8 a glass. Their special at the time was \$9.50 mulled wine, which would probably be like drinking hot piss, but would undeniably warm up people stuck in a crop top or muscle tee regretting every life decision they had ever made.

## Carousel

Next on the hit list is a place catered to the posh kids who had a university fund from birth. If you don't know where Carousel is then firstly, join the majority of other students below the age of 30, and two, you're poor (sorry). Climbing the stairs east of Suburbia, the warmth of the fire hit, the fairy lights were on, and I was immediately seduced.

As much as I would have loved an \$18 cocktail shaken by the lovely bartender, unfortunately my wallet said no. So, I made the ballsy decision to ask, in such an establishment, what their cheapest drinks were. Coming in at number one was a bottle of Corona or Heineken at \$9 each, but don't worry, the lemon for the Corona was free. Following in the footsteps of Ratbags, Carousel also offered mulled wine at a competitive rate of \$9 a glass. But would it be worth it? Doubtful. House spirits were a common \$10 per drink, and if you were feeling extra generous, feel free to indulge yourself with a lovely bottle of Laurent Perrier Grand Siecle at the StudyLink-ruining price of \$540. Poppin' bottles in the ice, getting slizzard.





**My friend described it as “a place for people in their mid-20s who think the Beatles are the peak of music” and added that “you could probably pick up a recently divorced Caucasian mum here”.**

## Biggies/Suburbia

I don't know about you, but Suburbia was my first year hotspot, my weakness. Every Saturday you would find me there, just trying to get into one of those goddamn toilets outside and standing in front of that massive fucking fan. Upstairs is cute, and their pizza is \*chefs kiss\*, but as soon as you topple headfirst down those dungeon steps - it's over for you hoes.

If you get in early enough, for example you want a big boy pizza and chill, they offer a litre of tap beer for \$10, which is almost two pints, therefore works out as a pretty affordable option. When we arrived, they informed us that they had \$9 house spirits, which is a win, however it was the same price for tap Speights or cider. That night, due to a massive stock of Alize for whatever reason (perhaps they were channelling the Far North), they offered us \$6 Alize Bleu mixed with whatever non-alcohol we liked. I smelt a bargain, along with what can only be described as blue jelly beans. Although it wouldn't get you as munted as tequila or any other non-fruit liquor, a sweet drink for \$6 was too good to pass on. Thanks, Suburbia.

## Mac's Brew Bar

Every time I look at Mac's, all I can hear going through my brain is the “Mac's Brew Bar, in the Octy” advertisement that plays on my car stereo at least three times a day. When will it end? I also recall the feeling of hot vom running down the back of my leg and never finding the perpetrator.

Mac's was pretty lacklustre on a Thursday night, however boasted pretty good tap beer, most coming in at \$7.50 a glass, not to be confused with a pint, which was between \$9.50 and \$11.50. Their tap cider was also the cheapest option. In terms of wine, you could snap up a \$9 glass of Lindauer, Sav, Noir or a Chardonnay but, let's be honest, the only time I'm voluntarily drinking wine is when I get a whole bottle from New World for \$8.99. Much like the other bars, their house spirits were \$9, however their resident deer head was free to look at. Weirdly, their real deals seem to be on Sundays, which isn't a good booze cruising day but with full Speights and Cider pints at \$7.50, and a pint WITH a burger at \$11 all up, I could be keen.

## Craic

Not going to lie, I had no idea this place existed until I locked eyes on it early Thursday night. Who is she? How do you say her name? Is she Irish? Niall from One Direction is shaking in his boots. She also was playing AFL on the telly, and for that, she lost in my books.

To describe the environment that night would need an essay. But to sum it up, they had the nicest bartenders who entertained my questioning, however my friend described it as “a place for people in their mid-20s who think the Beatles are the peak of music” and added that “you could probably pick up a recently divorced Caucasian mum here”.

The cheap drink ranking found Speights on tap the winner at \$7, but conveniently they were out. Therefore, tap cider as well as house beer (on tap) was \$10, and craft beer was a spicy \$11. When they get Speights back on tap, let me know, otherwise the presence of parent-types singing ‘Come Together’ and too many Ed Sheeran songs were enough to send me running.





## Vault 21

Vault 21 is a controversial club in Dunedin, purely for the fact it has the AUDACITY to charge a door fee. At the time I went, it was full of middle-aged couples, an indication of the fact it was way too early to be in town. But this place is nice, I had no idea. Was I going to save money in this place? Absolutely not.

The cheapest drink was a soft drink coming in at \$4.50, and by this point in the night, that's all I could afford. Beer on tap was on average \$10, with Pure Light beer, the 2.5% shit, the cheapest alcohol at \$8, with Speights Gold second at \$8.50. If you're wanting to buy drinks at a bargain, even though most places have similar pricing, Vault isn't it. But the atmosphere was cute and apparently it goes off on Saturdays, so just preload and hope for the best.

## Dunedin Social Club

Last but not least, the Social Club. Known for its pool table (probably not), it was chill on a weekday night. Not much to say, but I treated myself to a lovely lemon, lime and Bacardi before my walk home, only to be faced with a closed Macca's and a Pint Night line that didn't move at all. However, the Social Club had the cheapest non-special drink, so you win some and you lose some.

The Social Club has a consistent \$6 Beer of the Week. This week it was Speights on tap and, to be honest, it probably will always be Speights in this town.

Their cheapest wine was \$9, so if you fancy a glass of Sauvignon Blanc then you're in luck. Otherwise their house spirits were \$9.50, one of the pricier ones of the night. That extra 50 cents could have bought me an hour of car parking near campus. Haha, jk. Word on the street is that there's a local's discount that offers tantalisingly cheap Speights, check it out.

I know what you're thinking - what about Catacombs/the ashy remains of 10Bar? That's a valid question. Unfortunately, on a Wednesday night there was no hope in hell of those musty doors opening. Thursday night saw a huge line for absolutely no reason, and it wasn't meant to be. Call up Catacombs. Or even better - just go get yourself a Cruiser and vortoke it on the dance floor while a first year elbows you in the gut for absolutely no reason besides the fact you're a better dancer.

By the end of the night, I guess we can say that the cheapest drink in town is the \$6 Beer of the Week at the Dunedin Social Club. Although my Alize from Suburbia was a winner in my heart, the uncertainty of ever being offered a deal at that price again crossed my mind when taking into consideration the results. Ultimately, there is no such thing as a 'cheap drink in town', so it's probably in your best interest to bring your box to town and hope no one catches you. Or just deal with the crippling realisation that you're 23 now and it's time to stick to flat parties, because they'll probably be better anyway.

**The Social Club has a consistent \$6 Beer of the Week. This week it was Speights on tap and, to be honest, it probably will always be Speights in this town.**

*\*Drink prices are what was shown on the menu or told to a Critic writer over loud music playing in the background, so Critic is not liable for any drink disappointment in the future.*



# OSA ART WEEK SUBMISSIONS

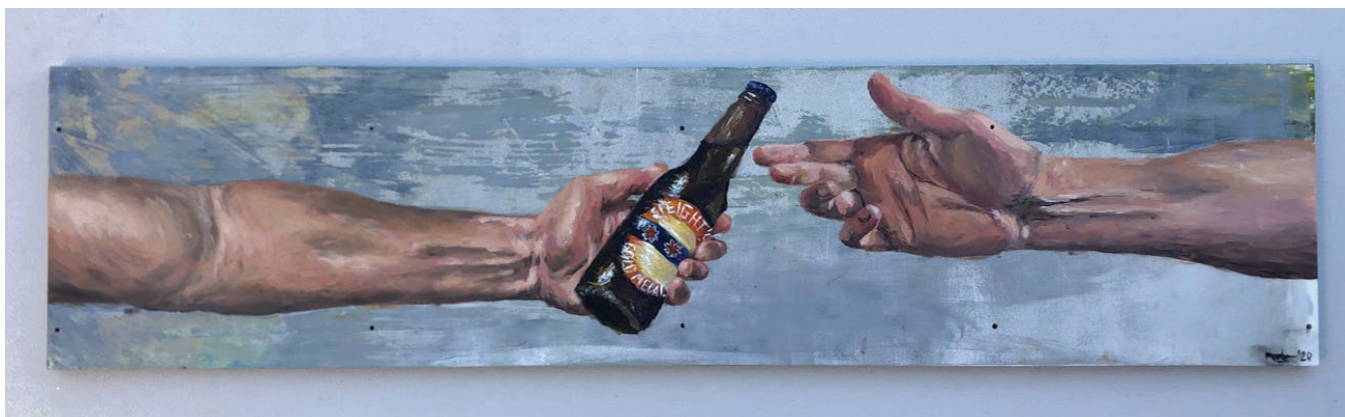
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# Tasting the Rainbow

An investigation into which coloured alcohol fucks you up the most

By Annabelle Vaughan

Picking out a weekend beverage can be stressful, but there is generally one common consideration: alcohol content versus cost. But there is a danger in living life that way - not all alcohol is created equal, and people swear that different types will affect them in different ways. Where one drink will make you loopy, another makes you tired, or cry, or forget a whole night.

Well, I have a theory. I believe these experiences can be traced back to one specific factor. Colour. Not to sound like your year 13 English teacher or anything, but colour is an incredibly important metaphor which can generally determine the fate of one's evening. For the sake of the future of your every Friday night, and after serious experimentation, analysis and consideration, I present to you the definitive ranking of which colour of alcohol fucks you up from least to most. The factors which have been taken into account throughout this investigation are that of taste, cost, feeling and overall experience. I would take this to be more of a warning than a guide.

## 5. Green

Although green is a colour which is generally associated with toxicity, germs, disgust and the Grinch, it is perhaps the most innocent flavour of the rainbow. Take for example green apple Scrumpty. This doesn't fuck you up. If anything, it just incinerates your throat and makes you a little bloated. Sure, it's cheap, but it's pretty useless in the grand scheme of things. Similar story goes for lime Cruisers, which are basically just sugar water and food colouring. It'll get you a little silly on the dance floor, but it does not make for a transcendent experience. Same goes for straight green spirits. Look at Midori. A whole bottle of Midori which will set you back \$40, and is only 20%. 20% may seem like a lot when it comes to an assignment, but not when it comes to alcohol. It is economically and physically inefficient. Overall, green is the colour of an innocent beginner beverage.

**Level of fucked:** 4/10

**Taste:** The rotting melon in the back of your flat fridge

**Overall Experience:** A quiet night in on St Patrick's day

## 4. Pink

Pink is green's bitchy counterpart. It appears to be fruity and innocent, but will fuck you up emotionally more than physically. Take Gordon's Pink Gin RTD as an example. Each can is only a single standard drink, and appears to be one of fruity sophistication, but it only takes a few meagre cans before chaos ensues. Same goes for Rosé. You can usually get a cheeky bottle with an average of 7.9 standards for around \$12 to accompany you at a BYO. The first half of the bottle goes down a treat. The taste is juicy and rich, the colour aesthetically pleasing, but the flirty fun feeling only lasts for so long. By the time you get to the bottom of the bottle, there is bound to be tears. Pink spirits are like the Beverly Hills housewives of alcohol. Take a look at the Bailey's Strawberries and Cream Liqueur. It's expensive (a whopping \$33 for 17%) low in standards, and tastes incredibly artificial and obnoxious. It's almost as if pink alcohol was put on this planet purely to stir shit. But, a little petty drama never hurt anyone, and it always makes for an interesting evening for those who are spectating. Also, if you do throw up for whatever reason, at least your vomit will be pretty.

**Level of fucked:** 5.5/10

**Taste:** Strawberries with a hint of cum

**Overall Experience:** BYO gone wrong

## 3. White

Clear or white alcohol is the most deceiving of them all. It's pure and harmless on the outside, but it sneaks up on you faster than student debt. White alcohol is the type of alcohol that completely makes you forget your limits and tolerance. Maybe it's because it generally tastes like diluted lemonade and slides down your throat like nothing. While drinking white alcohol, you feel on top of your game, completely in control. But you aren't, you're just being foolish. A premium example of this is literally any low-sugar soda RTD, like Great Whites, or Long Whites, or

Tui's vodka, lime and soda. They're easy to sink and at around mid-\$20s a pack, a justifiable expense on a night out. The red flag is that it takes so long for the alcohol to kick in that after a few bad boys, poor choices aren't too far away. To quote a fellow flatmate, a night on Tui's will make you feel "just straight up memory loss". But the fairest, and most fucked of all is without a doubt a cheap white wine. Any cheap white wine will do the trick. Just the thought of its bitter existence going down one's throat should be enough to trigger a tak-yak. To finish it off, I will leave you with this statement from a Sav drinker: "It makes me feel like a freak, like I'm gonna get white girl wasted."

**Level of fucked:** 8/10

**Taste:** Lies and manipulation

**Overall Experience:** Out of body

## 2. Black Brown

Darker alcohol is perhaps the foundation of this fine nation, being a businessperson, bogan and breatha staple across the land. Dark alcohol comes in many shapes and forms, and is for sure guaranteed to give you an experience like no other. Darker alcohol is never alone, generally being the second half to some kind of dynamic duo. Take for example Billy Mavs. For \$30 you can get 18 cans at 7% each, a respectable deal. Once a Billy has hit your lips, it hits hard, and the switch in your brain to stop you from sinking a whole box is immediately turned off. According to one consumer, they turn her "straight into a 'bruhi' girl" in an instant. Woodstock - Billy Mav's angry cousin - also has similar effects. If you're going to get in a bar fight with a conservative boomer, chances are the both of you are on Woodstocks. Slightly on the cheaper side, going at \$23.99 for a 12 pack, Woodstocks will unleash a side of you that you never knew you had. The classier, yet just as chaotic, side of this family is rum. Take Coruba Rum as an example. Coming in at \$41.99, and 37.2% it is a little more on the expensive side, but it provides a more sophisticated experience. In terms of fucking you up, it's more of a slow burn love. It takes a while to feel the full effects of rum, but in the end it wraps around you like the arms of a stranger in Catacombs. Dark beverages will leave your mind, body and soul kind of fucked up. You will forever be in search of the brain cells you lost along the way.

**Level of fucked:** 9/10

**Taste:** Soft, sweet and thick

**Overall Experience:** Either a full send with your rural cousins or an evening at Pequenio. There is no in between.

## 1. Purple

Whoever the fuck invented purple alcohol needs serious help. It's probably easier to just accept your impending arrival at the gates of heaven than take a single sip of this godforsaken substance. Dear God, if you're one of the poor souls who fall for this tomfoolery, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Purple alcohol is generally advertised as some kind of delicious, berry-flavoured fun. Take for example blackcurrant and apple vodka Cruisers. A 12 pack costs a humble \$21.99 and they come in at 5% each per bottle. This drink seems innocent, but that is your first mistake. Say goodbye to your memory for the night. Also, what's the go with Purple Goannas, who invented those motherfuckers? According to their advertising, Purple Goannas are a "refreshing soda that is best served chilled and straight from the bottle". This is perhaps the biggest lie modern society has ever heard, because you may as well just drink cough medicine. A 12 pack of Purple Gs costs \$25.99 for a 12 pack, which is ridiculous considering the state of this substance. However, there is one truthful trooper amongst these repulsive units. Turns out, there is a drink called 'Purple Death' which falls amongst the Port family. It's literally advertised as being "rough as guts," and is apparently best drunk "with teeth clenched to avoid foreign bodies". At least someone is being honest here. It's also only \$23.99, so it's easy on the wallet, but not the body. Please, my tender body

**Level of fucked:** 1000/10

**Taste:** Cough syrup, regret, nuclear waste

**Overall Experience:** Incomprehensible, non-existent



# ALCOHOL INTERVENTION=

“Alcohol in Aotearoa is super prevalent in all our social activities and our lifestyle. When you want to celebrate a good day, you sink some piss; if you want to get over a bad day, you sink some piss; if you’re bored, you sink some piss. That social behaviour around drinking is normalised and it’s ok to question where alcohol fits in and whether it fits in with you.”

These words come from Tom, who decided to go sober after realising that drinking was seriously impacting his life in a negative way. It’s not an uncommon story. Often, drinking can come with serious social and personal impacts that are hard to deal with in the face of drinking culture in New Zealand. At university, drinking is intertwined with student culture, and it can be hard to recognise unhealthy drinking habits, let alone begin seeking help for them.

For the purposes of this article, alcohol intervention is any action that an individual takes that interferes with their normal drinking patterns. For Tom, it was a self directed exercise, where he set himself small and then increasingly larger sobriety goals after he realised “I couldn’t remember a stretch where I’d gone without alcohol for more than one day for about eight years”. Joseph\* sought help from his church, where a local minister directed him to a support group where they spoke about their experiences with alcohol. Another student, Caitlin, sought help from Student Health after “a string of alcohol related incidents in which I’d put myself in a lot of danger”.

“The idea of what normal [drinking] looks like is so far away from how normal drinking is perceived that the standards [recommended per week] get disregarded as non-applicable,” said Tom. He sought alcohol intervention after realising that “I had to lie to my friends and myself to hide my drinking”.

Joseph agreed, and added that there was a “cultural barrier” to seeking alcohol intervention for most people. Joseph ended up seeking alcohol intervention last November, after a night out that he “couldn’t remember - at all”.

Caitlin added that often admitting there is a problem is the hardest step. For a long time, her drinking didn’t seem “big” or serious enough to warrant help, so she didn’t prioritise seeking it: “I didn’t know where to start, or who to turn to ... it was really daunting, [as it’s] a big thing to have to admit that you have an unhealthy relationship with alcohol.”

She said she had known “for a while” that her drinking was problematic, but it wasn’t until she woke up drunk in the middle of a weekday - missing both a lab and an appointment - that she decided she needed to start talking about her drinking problem: “That was when it really hit home that [drinking] was starting to destroy my life.”

Everyone we interviewed approached alcohol intervention in a different way. Tom gave himself a full 90 days off his commitments “just to see if I could do it”; he used this strategy because he knew he had an “addictive personality and I was a high functioning alcoholic” so he had kept putting it off. After 90 days, however, he resumed his normal drinking pattern, and was “gutted” at his “rinse and repeat,” so he decided to take a year off. Tom thought “maybe if I can do that then I can do the rest of it, sober.” He said that goal setting really helped him - goals were tangible, achievable, and suited him better than “a whole lifestyle change”.

Joseph’s experience with alcohol intervention was “chill,” but also “a bit of a weird experience, [because] there were a lot of people [at the church support group] who were obviously a lot sadder than I was.” However, Joseph said that the



experience made him realise that deciding to be sober earlier in life would make sobriety easier going forward.

Although Caitlin has not gone fully sober, seeking counselling was a “very positive” experience. She said that the counselling helped her to deal with the root causes of her drinking, and also helped her set guidelines in alcohol-present environments, enabling her to moderate herself without cutting out drinking entirely. Her relationship with alcohol is now “a lot healthier. I don’t use it as an outlet or escape anymore. While I slip up sometimes ... when I have gone out to parties or gone out drinking I don’t drink as much, I pace myself a lot more and I wake up the next morning with a better sense of where I was [and] what I was doing.”

“I don’t feel as guilty, or shameful, and I don’t have to piece together what happened.”

For Tom, being sober has allowed him to be “a far better person” than he used to be. Sobriety has given him a “razor sharp clarity” about the problems in his life, because he was no longer able to “just dull them down” through alcohol. “Once you have to reckon with those negative thoughts sober, they are much easier to process and easier to get through.”

Similarly, Joseph said that his drinking was covering up an underlying mental health issue, and that going sober was “part of a holistic decision for my mental health”.

He recommends that anyone struggling with alcohol finds a “holistic” way to deal with your addiction. Joseph believes that abusing alcohol is “probably a sign of something deeper”. “There are people around to help you.

[If] you stop drinking it’s not a big deal, no one is going to care if you say you don’t want a beer at a party.”

Caitlin said that seeking help sooner rather than later is best, and to “try not to put it off”. “Easier said than done, of course, but try not to let it get to a point where it has a seriously negative impact on your life, [as] it’s a lot harder to deal with. But if that does happen then that’s ok too, it’s still a good point [in your life] to examine those issues.”

“It can be useful to examine why you are drinking. Addressing underlying issues like mental health can go a long way to mitigate unhealthy drinking habits.”

“You should feel empowered to question this drug that is advertised and sold to you,” said Tom. “I would encourage people to talk to their close friends about it. For a lot of young Kiwi men it can be seen as a weakness, [but] it’s not a character flaw to be impacted by alcohol. Normalise those conversations, because you probably aren’t the only one [struggling].”

“People should feel free to ease up on their drinking or give sobriety a try. It impacts your mental and physical health a lot.”

\*Names have been changed

*If you would like to seek guidance or help regarding drinking, you can reach out to Student Health, OUSA Student Support or call the Alcohol Drug Helpline at 0800 787 797.*

**ON RECOGNISING WHEN  
TO ASK FOR HELP** BY NAOMII SEAH



# LOCAL PRODUCE

By Caroline Moratti

## Neive Strang



Writing about music can be hard sometimes, much like a perfume commercial - how do you convey a sound, a smell, a sense? But to me, listening to Neive Strang is the same sensation as the first sizzle of onions in a pan. It's delicious, intoxicating and it's only the beginning. The 19-year-old sat down with Critic to talk about her latest album, *Moon Life*, and what's next for the dynamic artist.

Neive grew up in Dunedin, studying at Logan Park. "I've just always sort of been doing music since I can remember," she said. Her band, Painted Blind, placed second in the Smokefree Rockquest and won the Apra Lyric Writers Award, with Neive snagging the Smokefree Vocals top award. However, she made the decision to go solo to focus on herself and her song writing: "I definitely had a lot of ideas that didn't fit with the band that I just wanted to explore on my own kind of thing." In year 13, she released her EP 'Expectations' to critical acclaim by the ODT. She's currently studying horticulture and enjoys making mosaics in her spare time which, let's face it, sounds fucking cool. Neive describes her musical influences as Lucy Dacus, Ron Sexsmith, Julia Jacklin and Sharon Van Etten, but admits her taste is constantly changing.

Her album, *Moon Life*, was recorded between "a funny little room at King Edward Court" and her dad's house. Produced with Adelaide Dunn, Neive plays the rhythm guitar and piano on the album, whilst her dad plays the drums and her partner, Jack, plays the lead guitar and the bass. Over the course of the year, the album began to take shape, inch by inch. "The song writing process can take ages," says Neive. "Like, I can come up with a verse, and then sit on that for like honestly like up to a year and then come back to it and then I'll finish it."

Sitting somewhere between indie-rock and folk-pop, the album is best listened to on a long walk against moody skies. *Moon Life* is a collection of emotions; from the brilliant indifference of "I Don't Do This for You" to the drunk 2am sadness of the title track "Moon Life" and the bored, bitter edge of "I Need Water". "A lot of the songs were loosely inspired by mental health," Neive says.

In her music video for *Paradigm*, her lead single, Neive sits on a chair in her room, tapping black Doc's against floral carpet. "We've got a whole lot of time to be alone in this paradigm," she sings on the chorus. It's achingly personal yet simultaneously detached, her gaze coolly piercing the camera. That sentiment lingers in Neive's work, which she says, "a lot of it definitely comes from a personal place, but most of the time I'm also writing about other people's experiences". Taking inspiration from friends and family, Neive inserts herself into their perspectives and intricately dissects it. When you listen to a song, you're never entirely sure what's Neive and what's Other. It's an eerie feeling.

Neive's planning on staying in Dunedin for the foreseeable future ("I was actually thinking of moving to Wellington, but it's just way too expensive and just not worth it") and work in gardening whilst pursuing music part-time. She's torn between releasing singles from *Moon Life*, or releasing a new album, despite only publishing *Moon Life* at the start of June. "I haven't just stopped writing music, I'm still writing," she laughed. "It's a fucking wait so we'll see, we'll see. But I definitely will be releasing new music." In the meantime, stream/dance/cry/walk to *Moon Life*. Smell the onions.



# ODT Watch

By Kayli Taylor & Kyle Rasmussen

The Otago Daily Times is Aotearoa New Zealand's oldest daily newspaper. Con: it maintains many conservative tropes.

Pro: their funnies and overall buffoonery gives us something to call out.

**1610** — Captain Henry Hudson, seeking a new passage to the Pacific, discovers the bay which now bears his name.

The "Hudson Bay" they speak of has two other names: Wīnipekw and Wīnipâkw, and wasn't "discovered" by Henry Hudson but actually has a rich history of Indigenous life, settlement and hunting long before Hudson arrived/invaded. ODT, check yourself & your colonial tropes.

## Karen cartoon

WELL said, Karen Ratten (Letters, 1.8.20).

This is the second time in recent months I have seen the name Karen used in, what I would call, a derogatory way in a newspaper. The previous time was by a disgruntled Clyde businessperson.

I'm sure we speak on behalf of all other Karens. I know a few.

Karen Roughan  
Lawrence

Is writing a letter to the editor the same as wanting to talk to the manager?

**Penguin  
strategy  
unveiled**

I hope it's a plan to bring penguins to campus.

**Man found drunk, drowsy**

Us, on the couch, every Sunday morning.

Bus users swarming to collect new Bee Cards

Now that's punny.

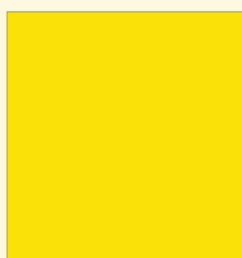
## PANTONES OF OTAGO UNI

BY ASIA MARTUSIA



**PANTONE®**

20-1890  
OUSA Green



**PANTONE®**

16-7469  
Dumpling Lady



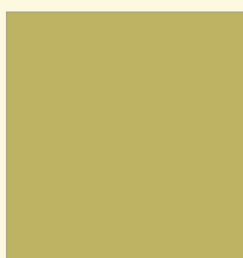
**PANTONE®**

19-2002  
Nap in the Link



**PANTONE®**

14-5980  
Mouldy Shower



**PANTONE®**

69-4200  
Bong Water Beige



**PANTONE®**

14-7479  
Richardson Ecru



**PANTONE®**

17-6893  
Glaucous Leith Water



**PANTONE®**

15-6348  
Bill Brown





**ousa**  
EXECUTIVE



**Kia ora!**

This week OUSA is running a politics week! This is an opportunity for you to engage with politics and learn a little bit more about what will be happening at the 2020 General Election. We are hosting a bunch of different events including a Political Clubs and Societies Day, Debates with Politicians (including Chlöe Swarbrick) and forums to learn more about the Cannabis Referendum and End of Life Choice Act from experts in their field! Alongside this, University of Otago Pacific Island Students' Association and Te Roopū Māori are hosting a Dunedin Electorate Candidates talanoa and will be sitting down with the guys from Paru Politics to have a taurua debrief session about the election!

We encourage you all to come along and get involved!

This year, OUSA has also produced a Politics Magazine. The Magazine is a crash course in everything you need to know about this year's election including what the fuck MMP is, a rundown of the Dunedin and Te Tai Tonga Electorate Candidates and everything you need to know about the Cannabis and End of Life Choice Act Referendums, including talking to a bunch of Otago lecturers about their opinions on it.

The events happening are:

- **11th August - Political Clubs and Societies Day - LINK - 12-2pm**
- 11th August - Youth Wings Debate – STARTERS - 7pm
- **12th August – Euthanasia Panel – MCR – 4pm**
- 13th August - Cannabis Panel – MCR – 4pm
- **13th August – Candidates Talanoa w UOPISA and TRM – TBC – 6pm**
- 14th August – MP Education Debate – MCR - 5pm
- **17th August – Tauria Debrief w UOPISA, TRM and Paru Politics - TBC – 6pm**

# POLITICS ★ WEEK ★

**11-14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**Political Clubs Day**  
Tuesday 11th August 12-2pm

**Youth Wing Debate**  
Tuesday 11th August 7-9pm

**Euthanasia Panel**  
Wednesday 12th August 4-6pm

**Cannabis Panel**  
Thursday 13th August 4-6pm

**MP Tertiary Issues Debate**  
Friday 14th August 5pm

**MORE INFO AT**  
**[BIT.LY/POLITICSWEEK20](https://bit.ly/politicweek20)**

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# CIGARETTES TASTE LIKE SHIT. STRATUS DOESN'T.

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## Vape Review: Fresh Farms Strawberry Farm Cake

How good was Strawberry Shortcake? She was an icon. The look, her attitude about life, a close group of friends to cause hijinks with, she was everything I wanted to be. I remember growing up, you could buy these Strawberry Shortcake dolls that smelt like strawberries. I was always so mad that real strawberries didn't smell like the doll believed them to be. Strawberries are an overrated fruit in my opinion. Like yeah they're nice and all, but they seem to get a lot of hype. No real strawberry has ever tasted or smelt as good as an artificial strawberry, and that's very apparent in Strawberry vape juices. Straight out of the box, this vape juice looks like the colour of piss when you haven't drunk enough water. That pretty much sets the tone for how the rest of this experience went.

In all honesty, I don't really know how the quantities of nicotine levels in vape juice works. All I know is that the higher they are, the more fucked you get from each hit. The Strawberry Farm Cake flavour is 35mg nic salts, which means it leaves you feeling a strong lunch punch of nicotine. But overall, this vape juice kinda sucked. It smelt sweet, and there was a slightly sweet after hit, but that's it. I could not taste a strawberry, farm, or cake, let alone a strawberry farm cake. It just felt hollow and lacking any real passion, or flavour for that matter. It

felt like deep throating some nicotine laced air. Critic Illustrator Asia summed it up perfectly, saying "all these flavours blend into the same after a while, I can't distinguish this from the others". Flatmate Carter said "what even is this", which were my thoughts exactly. There's almost nothing we can review this vape juice on, because there was no flavour for me.

Maybe my coil was burnt, or I mixed it in with a different flavour - I don't know. But I feel let down by this flavour. My expectations were set high by the appeal of what a strawberry farm cake is, but if this is what they're like then I don't want it. Over my experience writing these reviews, I would have to say to stick to the basic flavours of citrus, menthol, and maybe tobacco if you're a freak. Seriously, go to Vaporium and buy their Blood Orange flavour and thank me later. Don't waste your time trying this shit.

**Tasting Notes:** Slightly seasoned air.

**Makes You Feel:** Like pure shit just want her back.

**Pairs Well With:** A burnt coil and the resentment of developing a nicotine addiction.



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# The CRITIC BACHELOR

By Caroline Moratti

**The competition is slimming down, and with this emotional connection comes danger of heartbreak. “It’s so hard competing with two other gorgeous girls. I’m a big simp for him already, I’m entering dangerous waters. Gross! I must keep up my bad bitch appearance.”**

The coffee date is a staple of Dunedin socialisation: from the Radio 1 kids at Kiki Beware, to the stressed socialites at RDC, it’s a chance for everyone to find love. We sent Jack and his remaining lucky ladies on three separate dates to enjoy the intimate corners of Dispensary and the Staff Club. Will a connection be forged in the fires of caffeine and hormones?

First up was Jasmine, where the pair shared a brownie and a coffee on a brisk Monday morning. They talked about their medical histories— he’s allergic to apple skins, she’s lactose intolerant— and what they look for in prospective partners. Jasmine says she’s “mostly looking for a father figure for my goldfish, Suzie, she’s 2 years old, so it shows you I’m nurturing, maternal and can take care of a piece of shit”. Perfect girlfriend material. Despite the easy chat, Jasmine is beginning to stress about the other women in the competition, the euphoria of girl-power long gone. “I’m competing with funny bitches so it’s gonna be interesting,” she muses.

**“Jack and I saw the Bills, so I think that’s good luck, but if those bitches see the Bills, then I’m fucked.”**

However, her and Jack have begun to take important steps in their relationship: they followed each other on Instagram, she assisted him with an Insta story, and even invited him to a flat party. Jasmine’s not going down without a fight. After coffee, Jack had an important meeting to attend so changed in front of her (just added a blazer but sex sells magazines, babe). “My standards are so low, the fact that I saw Jimmy Choo men’s cologne and I was like, it’s not Lynx? What a man,” Jasmine murmurs. She’s pleased. In reflection, Jack enjoyed the date, and said “someone who is willing to be up at 9am for a coffee date, that’s a big sell. That’s someone who’s getting me out of bed, motivating me, making me a better person.” Aw.

Next up was Amelia, on a sunny 11am Tuesday. The pair had a “chinwag” (Jack’s words) about the woes of wearing glasses, and delved into some family history. According to Amelia:

**“I found out that he’s not a very good cook, and he can’t drive.” But like most women, she’s willing to push through his obvious flaws.**

Red flags can be festive decor, amirite ladies? He also offered to steal a street sign for her, which she refused, on record, for legal reasons. When asked about the vibe of the date, Jack thinks, hard. “It was relaxed, there wasn’t any tension or anything, very chill and casual.” So, no sexual tension? Interesting, Jack.

However, he finally admits: “She is very attractive, there, Critic! I said the silent part out loud!” His overall impression of her is: “high, good, yes.” Amelia, who Jack describes as “more shy than the other girls,” admits that she’s perhaps keeping some walls up. “We’re good friends, but there could be more, like we have a similar sense of humour. I won’t be too put out if I don’t get through, because the other girls seem really quite invested.” She’s somewhat pessimistic about her chances, saying “if none of this works out, if he doesn’t end up with anyone, he’s a sweetheart and girls should approach him”.

Finally, Amanda, at 3pm Tuesday. Dispensary is closing soon so off to the Staff Club the pair go. Rather than coffee, the lovers opt for a pint, perhaps giving Amanda a subtle edge. Sinead, Critic Editor, informs me that this decision means that Critic can’t reimburse Jack for the date, meaning he knowingly, and willingly, paid out of his own pocket for such a bold move. With their “brewskis” the couple sit outside, admiring the view of the Clocktower and the “duckies” (Jack, again). In the fucking funniest thing to ever happen in this competition, Jack pulls out his phone and plays “Low-Fi Hip-Hop Beats to Chill and Study to” from a Spotify playlist for some “ambiance”. I am speechless. Regardless, Amanda endearingly enjoyed the solo time: “I feel like I got a better picture of who he was, rather than in the group dates that can be quite overwhelming.” The pair talked about everything, from the cannabis referendum to euthanasia debate. “We shared personal stories, he definitely opened up his heart,” gushes Amanda. Jack admits that Amanda “had the best chat,” calling her “witty” and the date “romantic”. The competition is slimming down, and with this emotional connection comes danger of heartbreak. “It’s so hard competing with two other gorgeous girls. I’m a big simp for him already, I’m entering dangerous waters. Gross! I must keep up my bad bitch appearance,” Amanda laments. No one said this was gonna be easy.

With the single dates done and dusted, Jack is left to make a devastating decision. His small face crumples. “This is the hardest so far,” he whimpers. I feel bad for him, but not bad enough to stop me making a sex joke. Classic chat. Ultimately, he chooses to eliminate Jasmine. “It isn’t based off a flaw, it really isn’t,” he assures me. Unfortunately, Jasmine isn’t available to come in for an elimination. So, Jack is forced to break up with her over Facebook call, which he chooses to do openly, surrounded by aghast Critic staff. What occurs next is possibly the worst minute of my life. Jasmine looks confused, heartbroken, her soft face crumpling in the pixelated light. “I feel like Taylor Swift circa Joe Jonas breakup,” she confides to Critic afterwards, and proceeds to quote the song ‘Forever and Always’. Jack is eerily calm; some would say too calm. He exits the call, a slow, sinister smile spreading across his face.

**Next week: Hometown dates. What will Amelia and Amanda’s flatmates think of the President? Especially if Jack can’t drive to their flats, and can’t cook, will the young brunette boy be okay???**





**Presents...**

# MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

It was a cool autumn day. We were in level-2 and my balls were blue. The covid-19 lockdown and restrained me, but now I was free.

A girl messaged me on Instagram. I vaguely knew her from a martial arts group. She asked if I wanted to get a drink. I don't drink, but I accepted anyway.

We went to one of the bars in the Octagon, the one with all the fake plants. I love plants. I was already turned on. She was very pretty. Red haired, fair complexion. Tall with large, supple breasts.

We discussed our lives in the face of covid-19. She said she had been living in a flat by herself. I felt sorry for her, all alone in a house, only her and the vast quantities of porn on the internet. She talked a lot about watching porn on the internet which is, you know, Interesting?

Anyway, she asked if I wanted to go back to her house. I'd never wanted anything more. As we entered her apartment I noticed a pair of men's shoes. I didn't mention it.

She showed me some photos of a trip she had taken to Asia. It was pretty funny she had seen a panda in Japan but a Japanese monkey in

China. She made me a hot chocolate, which was honestly like the sweetest thing.

She invited me to her bedroom. She put on an Andrews Sisters vinyl and we were in the mood. We did some liberal over the pants stuff. She suggested we go a bit further. I couldn't decline. As we got undressed on her double sized bed, my one fear came to life.

I've often thought I'm kinda unique looking. Like I have some features, definite eyebrows, curly hair, all that shabang. But this guy that walked in, he looked just like me. Okay he was a bit taller, and vaguely a bit better looking. But jeez if I had seen a photo of him I would probably would have said it was me.

He started crying. Words were thrown from him to her. From what I could make out he had cheated on her just when we got out of lockdown and she was giving him a taste of his own medicine. Unfortunately for me, she wouldn't be tasting my medicine. I said I was just gonna go quietly. Neither of them noticed. I walked home as it started raining. I wish I could say I went back to the bar and picked up some other lady but I just felt so puzzled by the whole event I just went home and had a bath.

**Just Wing It**



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# HOROSCOPES



## Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

The stars said that the 11th is going to be a hard day for you this week, so prepare yourself mentally to stay in bed all day and avoid everything. Nothing bad can happen if you switch off the world for a bit. Love you.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Such a Taylor.*



## Leo

July 23 – Aug 22

Your narcissism reaches its peak this week, but I'm here for it. Soak it up. The stars also want you to get engaged or find a partner for life. Good luck with that.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Definitely Sharpay.*



## Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

The start of the month is supposed to be the best time to improve your diet. That means you've had enough Domino's deep dish pizzas. Switch to a thin crust, just for the month. Your body will thank you.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Kelsi lol know it all.*



## Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

You've been working hard and it's paying off. Your dedication might start to stress you out, so take a step back if you need to. Indulge in Sal's pizza, have a pint, and put on your dressing gown.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Troy because Virgo men really have the audacity.*



## Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

Mercury is bringing love into your life, and Uni is probably gonna take the backseat for a while. Mercury is making this whole month good for your social life. Enjoy the serotonin while it lasts.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Zeke, the crème brûlée king.*



## Libra

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Mars wants you to reach out to your family and connect with your friends, it might help your well-being and help you move through the month. I want you to fix your life.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Gabriella please stop crying.*



## Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

The beginning of August is a time for self-improvement and alone time. Ghost everyone that's hitting your phone and spend some time on yourself. Being a better person could be a nice change.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Chad <3*



## Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Over-committing to projects might be making you feel especially drained and frustrated. The stars stress that you need to reach out to people and talk about things. It also stresses to vacuum your room for the first time this year.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Coach Bolton.*



## Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

Mars giving you lots of space energy means that you'll actually come out on Saturday night and party. Thank you Mars. I've missed your company, Gemini.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Martha, the nerd that pops and locks.*



## Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

The planets are pushing for you to work aggressively and you will be rewarded. They keep talking about romance being strong and heartbreak inevitable. Remember to die before ever telling a man how you feel about them.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Ms Darbus energy.*



## Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

Money is coming your way this week and you'll be able to buy groceries for once. What isn't coming your way is the crush that you manifested.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *Ryan, you deserved better.*



## Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Moon vibes stress that if you aren't finding fulfillment in your relationship or friendship, it's time to leave for your own wellbeing. If you feel like your relationships are a drag, then now's the time to dip.

**Your Character from the High School Musical trilogy:** *The pasta that got spilled on Sharpay.*



# BOOZE REVIEW

By Sinkpiss Plath



Pals offers three gentle RTDs. They're unoffensive, decently strong, and come in pretty colors, just like the Powerpuff Girls and, just like the Powerpuff Girls, they're what I'd give my children to play with. They've got fruit in them! That's pretty good parenting in my books.

Look, if you don't like seltzers, don't bother. You already know what this is about to be. Pal's offers a watered-down version of your favorite yet mildly toxic RTD. But IMO that's not necessarily a bad thing because those RTD's can get really gross really quickly. These are way easy to drink, but they taste like they should sober you up - not get you drunk. This doesn't feel like the right way to consume alcohol in Dunedin in July; it's not grungy enough, it's not appropriate. When I drink these seltzers I feel like I'm cheating. It's too pleasant. It's something Bob Ross would drink. But if you're looking for some happy accidents,

this is a good way to go.

The best, most undeniable, thing about Pals is its branding. These babes just know graphic design! The name is cute, the logo cuter, and if this drink were a dog, it would definitely fit into my handbag. Sometimes, that's all that matters. Much like boys with cute sweaters around campus, the fact that they contain very little substance isn't enough to stop me.

**Tasting notes:** Fancy salad. Pass the balsamic vinegar, would you dear?

**Pairs well with:** Handbags and millennial pink.

**Froth level:** Like it would make me horny. But I'd be way too full of carbonated whiskey and gin to do anything about it.

**Taste rating:** 10/10 if you like Seltzers.

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with Caroline Moratti  
& Alice Jones

## SOLE FOOD: FRESH FISH, BEETROOT SALAD AND KUMARA MASH

It's beetroot season baby and with great power comes great responsibility. These bad boys are practically gagging to be pickled, candied and served fresh. The delicateness of the fish nestles into the warm, creamy kumara mash, but the punchy, vibrant beetroot salad takes this dish to a whole other level. Everything is easy to make but the overall impression is deceptively impressive; serve to a lover or a worried relative. This recipe isn't our cheapest, but consider reinvesting your cappuccino money into fish. It's healthy, yet fatty and truly delicious. So c'mon, it's been a warm winter, let's celebrate cheaper power bills and alcohol blankets with a vivacious fish dish.

### Ingredients

#### SALAD

Vinaigrette

(if you don't have this handy, vinaigrette is super easy to make. Just mix an oil, something acidic, and throw in a little salad dressing and seasoning. Consider: olive oil, lemon juice and mustard. We chose olive oil, pesto and vinegar. Taste along the way until you find your funk)

White vinegar

1 tsp of sugar

½ beetroot, finely sliced

½ bag of mesclun greens

1 red onion, sliced

Finely sliced carrot or cucumber, whatever floats your boat

#### MASH

This is really a collection of whatever root vegetables you have floating around your pantry at the moment. We used: 1 kumara, 2 potatoes, 3 cloves of garlic, but it can be anything. Carrots, pumpkin, whatever needs using up.

4-5 tsp of butter

Salt and pepper

#### FISH

1-2 fillets of white fish per person

Salt and pepper

Lemon to serve

2 tsp of butter and cooking oil (we like olive oil because we have no sense of self)

Look, salad is really fucking easy, just toss everything together. All I will say is, pickle the red onion and beetroot beforehand. To pickle something, just put it in a small bowl and cover with half vinegar, half water and a teaspoon of sugar. Leave for 15-20 minutes, but can be longer or shorter, it doesn't matter. When finished, take out of the vinegar and, boom, your salad just got slightly more interesting and flavoursome. Add some toasted nuts or seeds if you like a bit of crunch.

Roast the veggies in the oven until nice 'n' toasty. It'll probably take about 30 minutes. They don't even need a tray - just shove 'em in.

Once done, peel/pop the veg out of their skin and place in a bowl.

Using a fork, start going to smash town. Add in teaspoons of butter to help bind/add creaminess/ butter is delicious, I don't have to justify this. Add as much as you want.

Season to taste.

Mop some fish juice off the fillets using a paper towel before cooking.

Place a saucepan of oil (and butter if you have it) over medium high heat.

Cook the fillets for 2-3 minutes on one side, basting the top with the hot oil or butter until cooked through.

*Serve straight away, place fish over mash and plate salad on the side. Always make fish last, since you can heat up mash in the microwave but the fish... he's different.*



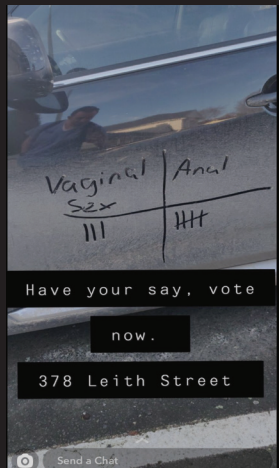
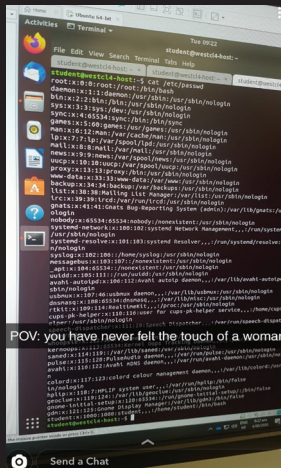
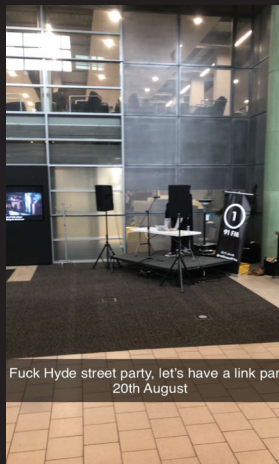
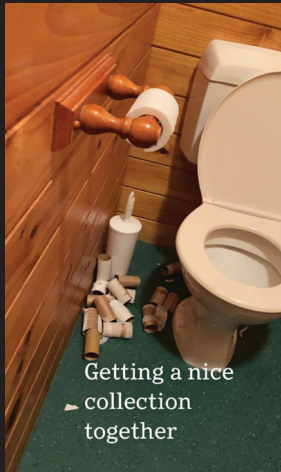
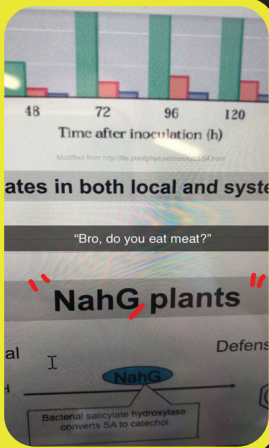


# SNAP TRAP

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## SNAP OF THE WEEK

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