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# CRITIC

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

EMAIL [CRITIC@CRITIC.CO.NZ](mailto:CRITIC@CRITIC.CO.NZ) TO CLAIM YOUR VOUCHER

## LETTER OF THE WEEK:

Hi there,

I know this is not your doing, your responsibility, or perhaps anything for you to slightly care about, but I thought you guys would be the most accepting and consolidating outlet for a rant.

THAT PING PONG TABLE IN THE LINK.

I propose — and this is just a modest, humble, suggestion — to get rid of this absolute monstrosity over exam times. I can hear it throughout the entire east-end of Central Library! I know the link is not a quiet-zone, but with all the general small talk and complaining about the weather I can blur it out as background noise. The ever consistent 'nnnoc', of that opposite-of-ethically-produced, two-dollar-shop plastic orb, however, bounces around my head like a large fly stuck in a small glass room.

Thank you for any kind of 'fair enough' or 'mmm' that went through your head while reading this.

I better get back to the three 100 word essays I have due tomorrow and face the fact that this email definitely wasted more time than the distraction of that tiny bouncing sphere has done so far.

Love you.  
Regards,  
Auditorily sensitive and definitely a hypochondriac.

Dear Critic,

Each time I visit Dunedin I wonder what ever happened to the great University City I once knew. As the University takes over independent halls, acquires entire streets, shuts down parties, prevents modest initiation ceremonies, and acts as thought police, I wonder why the students don't just stay in Auckland and Christchurch, where being a total pussy has always been highly regarded.

Yours,  
Dunny Bland.

Dear Critic,

I would just like to say that I am very disappointed by the quality of jellybeans I received from the Young Nats stall on clubs day. For a group which promises prosperity, hope and quality to students and New Zealanders alike, I feel cheated and lied to. All I wanted was a sweet sugary snack to carry me through my day, to make me feel something. Instead I was met with a stale, tasteless, lump of sugar. It left me feeling hollow and empty on the inside. But then again, I guess that's how it feels to be in the National Party.

Yours sincerely,  
Jellybean Judith.

Dear Critic,

There is a severe lack of dogs around campus. Dogs are great for improving mental health so there should be more around North Dunedin. I know we have fluffy bois like Ella at student support but there should be more dogs walking around that I can pat on my way to class.

After some very scientific research I have determined that there is a lack of dogs because there is glass all over the pavement in North Dunedin!! The dogs can't be walked near us because they will hurt their paws.

I demand action to get more dogs around campus.

So if you want more dogs smash less glass!!

Kind regards,  
Protec our good bois.



**TUESDAY  
02 MAR**

An Evening with Marlon Williams  
GLENROY AUDITORIUM  
7:30PM / \$69 + BOOKING FEE  
Tickets from [ticketmaster.co.nz](http://ticketmaster.co.nz).

ANDY C w/ MC TONN PIPER, The  
Upbeats, Switch, and ShortBall  
U-BAR  
9PM  
Tickets from [ticketfairy.com](http://ticketfairy.com).

**FRIDAY  
05 MAR**

An Evening with Marlon Williams  
FEATURE EVENT @ GLENROY AUDITORIUM  
7:30PM / \$69 + BOOKING FEE  
Tickets from [ticketmaster.co.nz](http://ticketmaster.co.nz).

Mia Jay & Neive Strang  
DOG WITH TWO TAILS  
8PM / \$10

Solo Ono w/ Psychic Paywalls and  
Diana  
DIVE  
9PM  
Tickets from [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz).

**SATURDAY  
06 MAR**

Swallow the Rat, The Shifting Sands, Kāhū  
Rōpū & Die Musikband  
DIVE  
8PM  
Tickets from [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz).

Raw Collective - 'The Good Things' LP  
Release Tour w/ Optimist Mind, DJ  
Marze, The H3RD, & Rye Chi  
STARTERS BAR  
9PM / \$25 ONLINE / \$30 ON THE DOOR /  
\$15 WITH STUDENT ID  
Tickets from [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz).

Hospital Sports w/ Porpoise  
ADJØ  
8PM  
Tickets from [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz).

**SUNDAY  
07 MAR**

Dee Street Blues w/ Paul S Allen  
DUNEDIN FOLK CLUB  
7:30PM  
Tickets from [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz).





**FUCK  
WORKER  
EXPLOITATION**

# EDITORIAL: Students Were Exploited In Orchard Work

By Erin Gourley

Orchards called on uni students to make money picking and packing. Students were not prepared for the exploitative working environment they walked into.

When students set off for the orchards of Central Otago and beyond, it had been a rough year already. A lot of businesses limited the number of summer interns they would accept, so many people's summer plans fell through. Seasonal work filled the gap, and the orchards were apparently desperate for workers. There were government campaigns encouraging orchard work and there was even free money on offer if you could 'tough it out' for the summer.

What students didn't anticipate was just how tough it was going to be. Apparently, 'tough it out' sometimes meant 'endure illegal and dangerous working conditions'. Annabelle Vaughan's feature in this issue, "The Fruits of Our Labour", takes a hard look at how the promise of a summer outside in the sun was true for some and deeply misleading for others.

One student who spoke to Critic was recruited as a year 13, while she was attending a Dunedin high school. A government agency came in and gave a presentation to the students, recommending specific employers. The student and her friends took recommendation and went to work for a large cherry packhouse.

What they experienced was a bit like a Dickens novel. They arrived on the first day and were moved into a packhouse, which was freezing. Because it was the middle of summer in Central Otago, they hadn't prepared for the cold. They stayed in accommodation provided by their employers, surrounded by workers who had been in the packhouse for weeks. Some of the other workers

were so sick, and coughed so much, that everyone found it hard to sleep at night.

In their first week, these students worked such long hours in the packhouse that they could not buy food, because the supermarkets would open and close while they were at work. This was meant to be their idyllic kiwi summer in-between high school and uni, where they could make money, get a tan, and prepare for the year ahead. Instead they faced exploitation and illness. The student who told Critic about this experience got shingles after the first week of working in the packhouse.

That was the most shocking story. But more mundane forms of exploitation were more common. Four staff members of Critic worked in orchards and they all agree it was a "shit time." Rather than illness and cold they faced employment law breaches and abuse. Managers tried to pay them for the quantity of their picking rather than the hours they worked, abruptly changed the amount of money they could earn per tree, and called one employee a "fucking bitch."

The worst thing about these stories is that they're not new. Migrant workers have been facing these conditions for years and nothing has changed. I doubt anything will. Boomers will think "university students these days are just being soft," and go back to their lives where they never have to work 14 hour days in a freezing packhouse, or think about the people who do. Now that employers have kicked up enough of a fuss to bring in workers from overseas, who mostly won't complain about the conditions they're working in, people will ignore this problem again.

If you have any stories to tell about your summer job, hit me up at [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz).

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# CRITIC

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# Drug safety club denied OUSA affiliation

Mature response by club members leaves Critic baffled

By Fox Meyer

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

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) is not allowed to affiliate with OUSA. The Exec rejected their application on Thursday 18 February.

The rejection was based on a subclause in SSDP's constitution that said that while the "social supply of drugs is discouraged", it is not "grounds to remove a member" of the executive committee.

Critic met with SSDP founding members Brin, Sam, Tiff and Jai. OUSA had publicly voted to deny their application, but they hadn't been notified yet, so Critic broke the news to the would-be exec. They were gutted, but "not surprised that OUSA took this position." Sam said that he expected some trouble to arise from the subclause in question, but overall their reaction was very understanding. Critic had hoped for fireworks and was sorely disappointed by their professionalism.

"There's a very strong reactionary position that organizations like the uni have to take when there's ambiguity [about drug use]," said Brin.

This is exactly the kind of policy that SSDP wanted to address. "What kind of policies are helpful or hurtful to student welfare?" Brin asked, "and when is it beneficial or detrimental for the Uni to take a hard stance?"

The denial by OUSA was "a helpful response, so long as it's part of an ongoing conversation," said Sam, adding that SSDP is happy to meet OUSA halfway to ask "hey, these are our aims in our constitution. How do we do that in a way that's acceptable for you?"

SSDP and OUSA are both committed to reducing drug-related harm amongst students. "But," said Brin "I understand that OUSA is an organization that has liabilities" — they can't affiliate themselves with a club that allows drugs sold by its exec members. The SSDP noted last year's Dunedin Fire and Circus Club (DFCC) scandal, in which the OUSA-affiliated club's exec was found to be, amongst other things, selling drugs to members, as context.

"OUSA doesn't want another DFCC, and we don't want to be another DFCC," said Brin.

SSDP had included this subclause "as a reaction to what happened with DFCC," as a way of saying something along the lines of "we will not accept professional dealing, but we don't want our exec to be forced out for giving a little weed to their mate."

"None of us are professional dealers," added Tiff, "we don't want people to think that we're the people you should go to to get drugs. We don't deal, and if [an exec] deals, and if they're caught dealing, they're out."

"There's no need for us to be another drug-infused club," said Brin, "we exist to be separate from the sesh and the froth." SSDP was founded in order to "advocate and provide information on behalf of students, and to improve policies and safety," according to their affiliation documents.

"Honestly," said Brin, "[membership] is for nerds. It should be a little boring."

OUSA did not comment on their decision before Critic was printed.



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## Student Union Turns Landlord

OUSA said “fuck it, if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em”

By Sean Gourley

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

Otago University Student’s Association (OUSA) is converting the space above University Book Shop, on Great King Street, into six separate apartments.

A resource consent from the DCC showed that OUSA will build three two-bedroom apartments and three one-bedroom apartments in the space. Pretty much every student Critic spoke to was pissed about this.

One student was “annoyed” by the move. “This is the first time I’ve heard of OUSA actually doing something and it’s potentially in conflict with my interests.” Another said “I think they should spend the money we give them on our interests rather than their own.”

“The building is in need of substantial redevelopment, it is important that the

redevelopment not only protects the assets for future generations of students, but is also commercially sound,” said OUSA CEO Debbie Downs. “We considered a number of options for commercial use of the building, before deciding on the development of apartments for the first floor.”

Plans by McCoy Wixon Architects show the details of the apartments. They will be accessed via a staircase on the left side of UBS. Each unit is fully self-sufficient with a combined kitchen and lounge area. In both the one and two bedroom apartments a hallway leads past the bedrooms into the kitchen. The lounge area leads onto an outdoor balcony.

“The apartments are not being developed with the student market as the intended end-users, however there is no reason why students

couldn’t rent them,” said OUSA CEO Debbie Downs. Critic takes this to mean the apartments are going to be very, very expensive.

The main concern of students interviewed by Critic was that there may be a conflict between student interests and those of OUSA as a property manager. The majority of students enrolled at Otago rent while studying, and while property is objectively a great financial investment in NZ, many found it hard to reconcile OUSA’s two conflicting roles, in terms of advocating for tenants while being a landlord.

“We do not believe there would be a conflict,” said Debbie. “We currently have a tenanted flat above Starters Bar that is managed through a property management company with no issues.”

## University Offering Online-Only Scholarships for International Students

Four Zoom links daily per year, for the low low price of just \$20,000!  
Don’t miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity!

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz)

The University of Otago is offering \$10,000 scholarships for international students willing to start their first year completely online.

The ‘Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship for International Students — Online’ offers a discount of \$10,000 on tuition fees for international undergraduate students “currently living outside of New Zealand” and who “intend to enrol for full-time study in the first-year of an undergraduate degree offered online in 2021.” With New Zealand’s borders currently closed to almost all international students, this means that anybody accepting this offer will likely complete their first year of study from overseas.

As all eligible students who have received an Offer of Place will receive a scholarship, this is effectively a \$10,000 discount for international students’ tuition fees. However, only some programmes can be taught fully online: these

are certain majors for the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Commerce, and the Bachelor of Arts and Commerce conjoint degree.

With international students’ fees for these courses ranging from \$27,156 (most Arts majors) to \$30,172 (for the Bachelor of Arts and Commerce), any international students taking up this offer will still be paying close to \$20,000 per year to attend lectures online.

Jason Cushen, the University’s International Director, called these fees “highly competitive and [...] good value when compared to competitor institutions.” Indeed, a quick check of other New Zealand universities found international student fees of almost \$30,000 per year to be depressingly common.

Jason defended the University’s approach, arguing it was a continuation of the “online/distance study opportunities” they had offered

for many years, that the costs of needing to deliver courses both online and on-campus are “similar, and higher in some instances,” and confirmed that any students who can return to campus from overseas “will be able to switch to in-person study.” When asked about whether he thought sufficient academic and pastoral support for online students was available, he simply replied “yes.”

Sam, a student, called the scheme “a bit messed up,” although he considered it probably necessary, as “we are in very special circumstances.” “God no,” added Josh, another student, when they were asked if they would want to do their first year online. Ash, another student, called the scholarship “interesting,” but conceded that if he was offered a discount on fees, he “probably would have” done his first year online.





## Two in the Stink: University Adds Twin Share Rooms to Halls

Say goodbye to your sex lives, freshers

By Alex Leckie-Zaharie  
Staff Writer // alex@critic.co.nz

In an effort to house two hundred more freshers than last year, the University has adopted an American college-comedy staple and added 24 twin rooms across multiple halls, including UniCol, Arana, and Aquinas.

In response to the influx of students, Stephen Willis, the University's Chief Operating Officer told Critic that the amount of subwardens (formerly RAs or residential assistants) has been increased.

"We recognise that in the current environment some students and their whānau may be concerned about paying the accommodation fees for 2021," read the email sent to first-year students. "Considering this, the University of Otago

is pleased to announce that there will be a limited opportunity in some Colleges for a twin shared bedroom option."

Students could pay \$120 less per week if they opted to share a room with another student. While that works out to a total discount of \$4560 for the whole year, student opinions are mixed.

A student who opted to stick with the single room said to Critic that "I don't see the point, it just sounds like the Uni fucked up and are trying to shift their problem onto us." Naturally, Critic finds this an implausible and absurd proposition.

On the other hand, a student living in a shared room also told Critic that "my fees

are like 11.5k, which is baller" while noting that even though her roommate hadn't moved in yet that their room was nicer and "way bigger" than other rooms. This student also reported that they were moved from Toroa to Aquinas upon accepting the offer, which means that students could potentially make their way into a preferred college by moving into a twin room.

Willis also told Critic that "in the University's budget for 2021, a total of 18,194 students were forecast for the year," but that number has not been confirmed as there are no official student numbers yet. Hopefully the 48 students entering twin rooms don't get partnered up with someone who has never heard of the word "hygiene."

## Dangerous MDMA Substitutes in Dunedin

It's not just weak MD. Do not take more of it.

By Erin Gourley  
Critic Editor // erin@critic.co.nz

Up to 70% of drug samples tested in Dunedin have been found to contain eutylone. Most of those samples were presumed by their users to be MDMA. Eutylone is a synthetic cathinone, part of a group of drugs also known as 'bath salts.'

KnowYourStuffNZ's testing during Christchurch O Week and Dunedin Flo Week revealed 40% of samples tested in Christchurch were eutylone, while 45% of those tested in Dunedin were eutylone.

That number may be even higher according to Brin Ryder, who volunteers for KnowYourStuffNZ. He said that "last Friday, [during Flo Week] a full 70% of samples presumed to be MDMA were not. [The] majority were eutylone."

He also cautioned that basic drug tests,

sold at stores like Cosmic, "can be fooled" and that students should not trust their dealers to provide accurate samples or to have had their gear tested. "Dealers are assuring folks that their stuff is tested, or are offering samples for testing first before you buy a bag — but unless you have tested what's in your hand yourself on the spectrometer, you cannot be sure," he said.

KnowYourStuffNZ's website said that Eutylone is "particularly risky" because the initial effects of "euphoria" are similar to MDMA. Users "may think it is weak MDMA and be tempted to take more." This can lead to being unable to sleep for 48 hours and feelings of paranoia, otherwise known as a Very Bad Trip.

KnowYourStuffNZ have been testing drugs at O-Weeks around the country. OUSA

has collaborated with the organisation to provide testing for students since 2019, but other students' associations waited for the law change last year that made drug testing legal like the cowards they are.

The law change meant that the testing in Dunedin could occur in OUSA's Clubs and Socs building. Previously the testing took place in a tent outside.

At the time of the law change, OUSA CEO Debbie Downs said that OUSA was "very supportive of the changes that the government has made to legislation to allow substance testing to take place. We do however hope that this is only the beginning and we see more sensible drug reform in the future."

## BP Tormented By Shitposting Page

Maybe cyberbullying energy corporations will stop them destroying the planet

By Sean Gourley

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



Shitposting page *The boys are what* has started a campaign to bring down international oil giant BP by tormenting them on Facebook. On 9 February, at 6.30pm, *The boys are what* opened their campaign with a post that said “good evening, fuck BP.”

Over following weeks, *The boys are what* shared content from BP’s page with instructions to spam the comments section with reference to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Followers of the page now comment on all of BP’s New Zealand posts.

*The boys are what* has issued a list of demands to BP, threatening to continue the harassment until BP asks them to stop, or they offer free pies from their stations for one day each year. BP has yet to respond to either of these demands.

“We don’t plan to stop until we’ve run them out of business,” said the admin of *The boys are what* in an interview with Critic.

The first BP post shared by *The boys are what* was a bizarre attempt at PR. It was a picture of 3 rows of 6 multicoloured ice creams, with BP asking followers to find the matching pair. It is unclear whether there is any context behind this post.



*The boys are what* told their followers to make jokes about the 2010 Gulf of Mexico Oil Disaster in the comment section of the ice-cream post. “My local does a crude oil free ice cream, have you thought of looking into this yourselves?” wrote Scott Chegg. “It’s pretty hard to tell the ice creams apart when they’re covered in 4.9 million barrels of crude oil,” wrote Ananya Shamihoke.

Further examples from *The boys are what* included sharing a post from BP describing their new car-washing technology which resulted in a barrage of similar comments. *The boys are what* do not even need to share BP posts anymore. Their followers

have taken it upon themselves to comment on new posts from BP.

BP has not responded to Critic’s request for comment. In response to the jokes about the Gulf of Mexico, they repeat a standard statement on most of the posts: “The Deepwater Horizon incident forever changed our company. We will never forget the tragic incident or the 11 people who lost their lives. We committed to become a safer and stronger company and we’ve kept that commitment”.

*The boys are what* has been assisted in its efforts by *28 Year Old Male*, an Australian shitposting page. *28 Year Old Male* now frequently comments on BP posts, asking in one comment: “The cones look kind of oily, did you spill some of your product on them?”

*28 Year Old Male* has taken on giants too. They recently took credit for forcing the Herald Sun (a newspaper owned by media giant Rupert Murdoch) to its knees through a relentless campaign of shitposting in their comments sections. The Herald Sun was forced to eventually completely remove all of their Facebook posts from their page.

Solidarity across the ditch in shitposting.



## Neuron Scooters Hit Dunedin Streets

There's a Neu Ron in town

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz)

The battle of Dunedin's e-scooters is well underway, with Singaporean company Neuron Mobility, Australia and NZ's self-titled "leading rental e-scooter company," heading into battle against Lime on Dunedin's streets.

*Their scooters are "visibly bigger and sturdier," with an attached helmet which releases when you unlock a scooter, and "voice guidance" regarding safety advice.*

As well as their striking orange colour, a few other differences set them apart from Lime. Adam Muirson, Neuron's regional manager, claims a "safety-focused" culture is the key difference from their citrusy competitor. Their scooters are "visibly bigger and sturdier," with an attached helmet which releases when you unlock a scooter, and "voice guidance" regarding safety advice. As well as that, they feature "topple detection," which can sense when a scooter has fallen over, and an emergency button handy to call 111 if things get really bad.

Neurons match Lime on price, at \$1 to unlock the scooters and 38c per minute after, but also have a "Student Monthly

Pass" allowing 90 minutes of riding every day for \$60 per month. You'll need a student e-mail to sign up for this. Non-students will pay slightly more, at \$89 per month, while there are also options available for 3-day passes (\$25) and weekly passes (\$33).

Shar Mathias, a student who rode a Neuron to South Dunedin, told Critic that they felt very similar to Limes, but slightly more stable due to their larger wheels and bases. She also felt the helmets were "a great idea." Although neither the Dunedin City Council (DCC) nor Neuron would officially comment on limiting e-scooter speeds, Shar found that they topped out around 25km per hour. For longer journeys, their relatively slow speed and lack of suspension was an issue, as was their pricing, which she felt was too close to that of an Uber.

Until this year, there were no council regulations around e-scooters, although the DCC had a memorandum of understanding (a slightly more informal agreement) with Lime. However, from the beginning of 2021, all e-scooter companies must apply to the DCC for permits. Lime and Neuron each received a permit from 1 January to 30 June 2021. This allowed each of the two companies to release a fleet of 250 e-scooters onto Dunedin's sidewalks.

The permit conditions mean that e-scooters can't be used in the Botanic Gardens. Nor can they be operated between 12am-5am, according to DCC Compliance Solutions Manager Ros MacGill. Although there were no commitments to introducing permanent speed limits, the DCC are open to introducing them in areas where events are happening.

The six month permit will serve as a trial period of sorts for Lime and Neuron, with the DCC evaluating their performance around their promises (such as "dealing with poorly parked e-scooters within two hours") as well as collecting data around e-scooter activity (including number of scooters, as well as the duration and distance of trips).

Neuron stated that apart from providing data to councils, they would generally only share rider data if asked to as part of a police investigation, and would also be open to sharing it as part of Government contact tracing efforts. Muirson did not indicate whether this was likely, but said that "obviously New Zealand is in a good position when it comes to the pandemic."

Lime did not respond to a request for comment.

# SHIFT HAPPENS

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## Nine Students Suspended For 2020 Flat Initiations

Flat-out flat initiations inflate, make Proctor irate

By Erin Gourley

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

Two flats of students are unable to attend Otago in semester one because of flat initiations they organised at the end of 2020. The Proctor's 2020 Discipline Report sets out the details of these initiations and the punishments students received.

One flat initiation involved four second year students hazing their incoming tenants, who were a group of six first years. Another flat of five students initiated five incoming tenants. The 2020 tenants (the ones who did the initiating) all got suspended for semester one of 2021.

***The breaches included “forced excessive consumption of alcohol,” “demeaning initiation tasks that jeopardised their wellbeing and safety,” and “burglarising neighbouring flats.”***

It was not just the hazers but also the hazees who the Provost (the guy above the Proctor) decided to punish. The six first year students who were hazed “were referred [to the Provost] following a flat

initiation event” hosted by the tenants of their future flat.

The event, the report notes, “descended into several breaches of the Code of Student Conduct.” Those breaches included “forced excessive consumption of alcohol,” “demeaning initiation tasks that jeopardised their wellbeing and safety,” and “burglarising neighbouring flats.”

The group of six first years were each sentenced to 40 hours of community service and given a final warning by the Provost. The other five first years who were caught “willingly participating” in their own initiation were given the same punishment, although they had not burglarised their neighbours’ flats.

At least two other less serious initiations were punished by the Proctor. The Discipline Report records that two first year students appealed their sentences of 30 hours for willingly participating in flat initiations. One student’s appeal was denied by the Provost and they had to complete their community service. The other student received a reduction to 20

**No one was referred to the Provost for flat initiations in 2019 or 2018.**

hours for unspecified “mitigating factors.” The Report does not specify the locations of the flats where these initiations occurred.

The report also includes the Proctor’s Report on 2020. He noted that the Proctor’s Office will continue their initiative of visiting two-storey flats to prevent overcrowding at parties. “Risks associated with hosting social events and overcrowding were discussed, and flats were encouraged not to use the first floor when hosting social events,” he wrote. The report notes that “students were very accepting of this advice” in 2020.

Further, he stated that the “Proctors met with 25 of the most historically problematic flats, neighbouring motels in early 2020 outlining rules and expectations for the year. This again assisted in improvement in noise related issues over the year.” Critic is working on getting a list of the most problematic flats. If you think your flat is one of them, hit up [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz).



## Three Students Disciplined For Sexual Misconduct In 2020

By Erin Gourley

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

A first-year student in 2020 was permanently excluded from the University of Otago after multiple sexual assaults against two students. This case, and three other allegations of sexual misconduct or assault, are detailed in the University's Discipline Reports for 2020.

Otago University considered alcohol and a "reasonable belief" in consent as relevant factors in assessing sexual misconduct cases under the Code of Student Conduct. These factors are relevant because "where an allegation of serious sexual misconduct which is capable of amounting to a crime is considered ... the University applies the same legal tests as a court would apply," said a spokesperson from the University.

That involves considering whether perpetrators had a "reasonable belief" in consent, as well as applying "legal tests around the presence of alcohol." Those include the principle "that a person does not consent to sexual activity if it occurs when they are so affected by alcohol (or drugs) that they cannot consent or refuse consent."

In three cases last year, they decided that a "disciplinary breach was established," meaning that sexual misconduct had occurred. "It is likely that these instances are only some of the cases of sexual violence on this campus," said Kayli Taylor and Jacquie Ruth from Thursdays in Black Otago.

The first year student was excluded from the University after three instances of sexual assault and an assault against two fellow students.

A fourth year perpetrator almost faced a similar result, but left the University before the discipline process concluded. The report noted that, if the student applied to study at Otago again, the discipline process would have to conclude before they would be allowed to re-enrol.

In one case of alleged sexual assault, there was no disciplinary breach because "the student had a reasonable belief regarding the presence of consent". As a result, there was no consequence for the first year student accused of sexual assault. The report notes that the respondent (who allegedly assaulted someone) was "supported by Residential College staff" while the complainant was provided support by "appropriate staff" and Te Whare Tāwharau.

Another case involved a first year student who made "an intimate visual recording" of a student on their cell phone. The report noted that alcohol was involved.

Instead of being resolved by the University's discipline process, the case was "resolved between the student and residential college". That meant the Provost did not make a final decision on the case.

A University spokesperson said that this was because "a lower level situation [of sexual misconduct] might be handled entirely "in house" by a College, with the consequences it imposes being

**"It is likely that these instances are only some of the cases of sexual violence on this campus."**

accepted as a sufficient overall response." However, situations "involving a serious sexual assault allegation" would be considered by both the University and the College.

"Sexual violence remains a significant issue on this campus. We can see this in this report, detailing multiple instances of sexual violence on campus in 2020," said Kayli Taylor and Jacquie Ruth from Thursdays in Black Otago. "Even one statistic is too many."

"This report shows that the work towards campus environments that are safe for all students remains ongoing."

As of September last year, the University had only found "proven" sexual misconduct in two cases under the Sexual Misconduct Policy, according to an OIA provided to Critic. The Sexual Misconduct Policy took effect in May 2019.



## Cops Still Don't Get D&B, Gather Around Castle to Learn More

You'd think by now they would dress according to the party themes on Castle

By Alex Leckie-Zaharie  
Staff Writer // alex@critic.co.nz

If you haven't been permanently blinded by the flashing lights, sickly vape clouds, and freshers dancing like electrocuted cats along our favourite glass-paved party-street, you might have noticed the increased police presence during Flo and O-Week.

With cops lining either side of Castle St during the festivities, a loose night out quickly turned into a primary school disco, complete with watching parents to harsh your buzz. A police spokesperson said that "police have always had a strong presence at events around the start of the university year," and

that "this year will be no different. We want people to enjoy this time and celebrate safely."

They also said that during Level 2, this wasn't restricted to just student events but extended across the entire country. Police were noted to be looking to educate people on the required Covid restrictions "should something happen".

A student told Critic that it was entertaining to watch the assorted officers grimace at a particularly bass-laden section of the pounding DnB, noting that "clearly they don't understand what good music is these

days." On multiple nights police turned on their flashing lights, blockading either end of the street. The strobing from their lights, presumably in an effort to bridge the age gap, failed to appeal to the writhing mass of breaths frothing in front of them.

With police presence expected to die down as university kicks off proper, a return to normalcy may be on the cards, but don't be surprised if you see cops patrolling the streets letting you know what's what.

# ODT Watch

## An in-tents introduction to student life

Gotta respect the pun game in this article about Tent City. Maybe it was even fucking in-tents.

"I reckon local body politics is the new rock'n'roll — that's what they are saying and I'm going with that."

They're also saying that the new sex is STV voting and the new drugs is attending city council meetings. Sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll.

True dictators succeed where all others fail

Keeping the opinion section relevant and down to the minute. This opinion piece, for example, is about Hitler.

Both boys also associate themselves as vampires.

Drak says that a lot of what people know about vampires comes from movies and it isn't correct.

"I can't vanish or turn into a bat or anything."

Honestly Critic is just jealous that they got an interview with a vampire from Westport.

## Who is the funniest of them all?

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, the ODT is the place that everyone goes for their final determinations on comedy.

Association president Michaela Waite-Harvey urged students to acknowledge the place they now called home, saying Otepoti was

And finally, glad to see that the Independent Voice of the South is continuing its refusal to use macrons over Māori words like Ōtepoti in the year 2021.



# Med Entry Grades Rise Again

And the grades keep rising and they don't stop rising

By Erin Gourley

With additional reporting from Denzel Chung

The average mark required to enter medicine from the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) programme has increased for the sixth year in a row.

In response to an OIA, the University confirmed that the lowest average mark required for a first-round offer into 2021 med was 96.57%, up from 93.43% in 2020 and just 79.66% in 2016. This requires first-years to achieve A+ grades in at least 7 papers in order to enter med from the General Pathway.

"The Government funds a certain number of places for entry into medicine, so the required average mark reflects the level of competitiveness for the limited number of places available," said Paul Brunton, Pro Vice Chancellor of the Division of Health Sciences. He also said that the University's review of the medicine entry process is "under way," but there "will be no significant changes for students seeking admission into this year's health professional programmes."

The University also attributed the average

grade rise in 2020 to the Covid grade bump in semester one.

The tightening requirements result from a change in how admissions scores are calculated. Before 2020, two-thirds of your entry score came from exam grades, while one-third depended on your grade in something called the Undergraduate Medicine Admission Test (UMAT).

Being a good doctor requires more than just acing an exam, so the point of the UMAT was to reflect the personal qualities required from health professionals. It supplemented your exam grades, and entry scores on the UMAT between 2016 - 2019 generally hovered around the 80% mark.

Everything changed with the introduction of the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT), which in 2019 replaced the UMAT. Similar to the UMAT, the UCAT is a computer-based test designed to reduce the emphasis placed on pure academic performance. In 2020, the

University set a UCAT threshold for admission. UCAT scores are not considered beyond determining whether a student has met the threshold.

"The University does not consider that selection on academic excellence alone would produce the mix of graduates that the health workforce requires," Paul Brunton said. "The 'Mirror on Society' policy [was] designed to ensure the student intake ... was diverse and reflective [of New Zealand's demographics]."

According to another OIA, for 2020 and 2021, you needed to be in the top 80% for the 'verbal reasoning' section of the test, and the top 90% for the 'situational judgement' section, to gain admission. This change led to a sharp rise in entry scores, from 82.06% in 2019 to a staggering 93.43% in 2020, and a 96.57% this year.

The Otago University Medical Students Association (OUMSA) did not respond to a request for comment.



## PRESIDENT Michaela Waite-Harvey

### Kia ora e te whānau!

A big welcome to all new and returning students! I think I can speak for all of us when I say fuck 2020. This is gonna be our year and I couldn't be more stoked to be your president.

OUSA are ready to provide you with as much support, events, and representation to make your time at uni good as it can be. The last month I've been sitting on heaps on University committees advocating for you guys, and I'm excited to see the work my exec are all going to do this year in that space. We've also been hauling furniture for our drop for good sale which I hope you all got amongst. As I'm writing this

I'm prepping to man the bbq at tent city once again and gearing up for toga tonight, I hope you all had a great Ori and are ready to crack on with mahi this semester.

Throughout this year I'm going to use this column to talk about issues students are facing, initiatives I think you should all get involved in, or just have a good yarn about the good shit we've got planned for you all. But for now I'm just gonna leave it with a classic, watch out for your mates, remember that student support are a free service to help you with any problem, and scan in so we can keep having a great year!

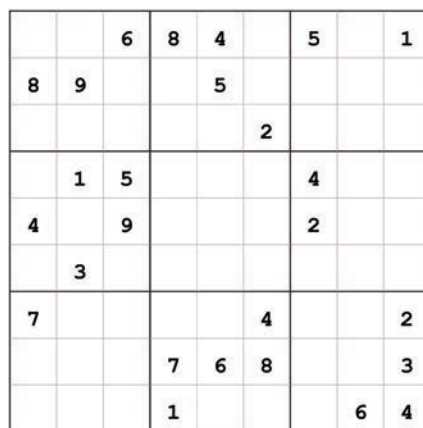
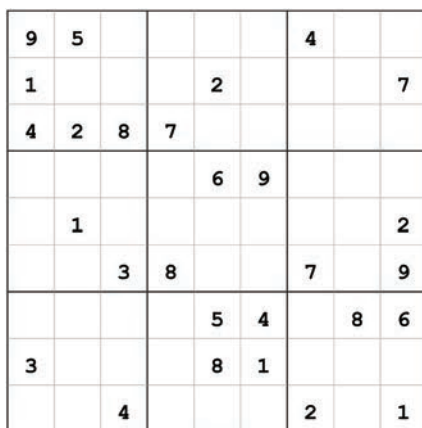
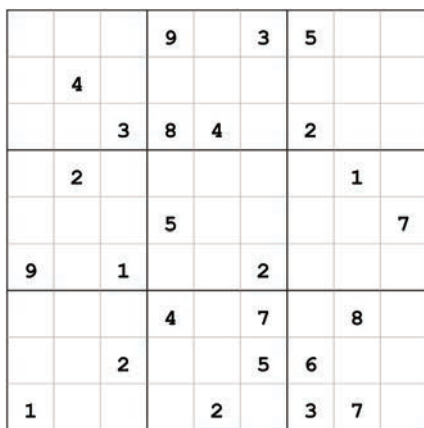
Michaela x

**ousa**  
EXECUTIVE

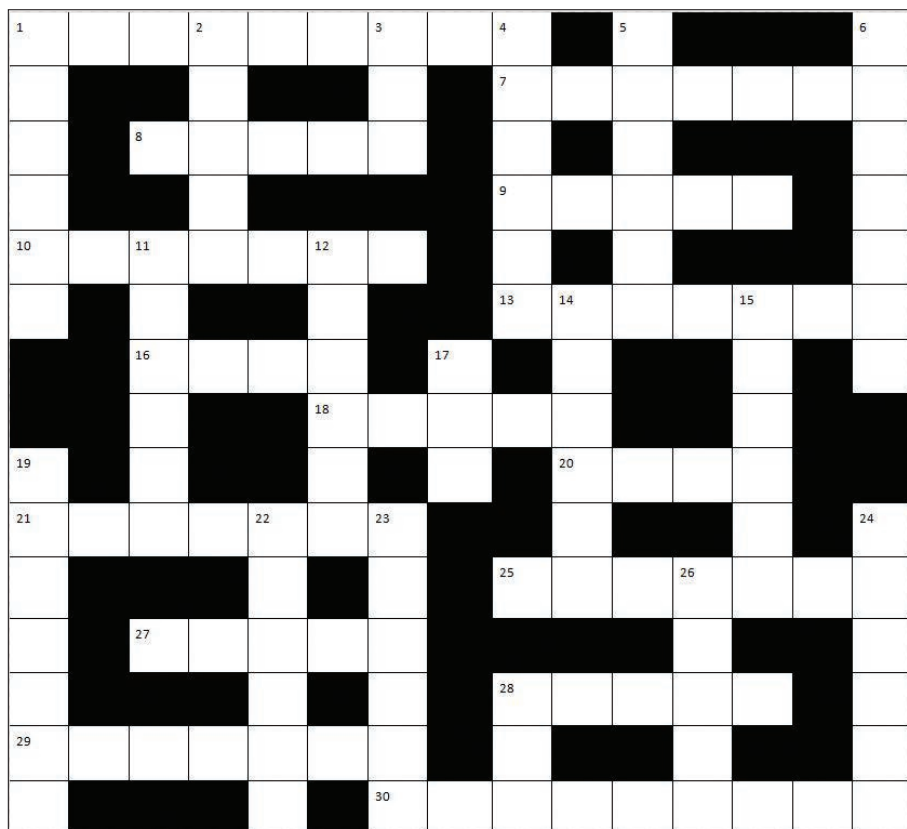


\*ALL ANSWERS WILL BE IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE\*

# SUDOKU



# CROSSWORD



## ACROSS:

1. Iconic O-week event (4,5)
7. Obvious (7)
8. Shade of blue (5)
9. Fits in front of these words to make three Dunedin places: street, liquor, river (5)
10. Trash panda (7)
13. Speak quietly (7)
16. Sad (4)
18. Prize (5)

20. Information (4)

21. Tomato sauce (7)

25. Bewitch (7)

27. Combination of coffee and chocolate (5)

28. Slow-moving invertebrate (5)

29. Fictional characters who live in the Shire (7)

30. 'Dunedin' comes from the Gaelic name for this European city (9)

## DOWN:

1. 'Student' in te reo Māori (6)

2. Oaty biscuit (5)

3. Type of grain (3)

4. Kōwhai (6)

5. Spongebob's home: \_\_\_\_ Bottom (6)

6. Dish made with noodles (4,3)

11. Baby swan (6)

12. Coastal town between Timaru and Dunedin (6)

14. Concealed (6)

15. Tropical fruit (6)

17. Macaroni in a pot, that's some \_\_\_\_ (3)

19. Dodgy (7)

22. Really busy (6)

23. Compliment (6)

24. Horrible smell (6)

26. Poem with exactly 17 syllables (5)

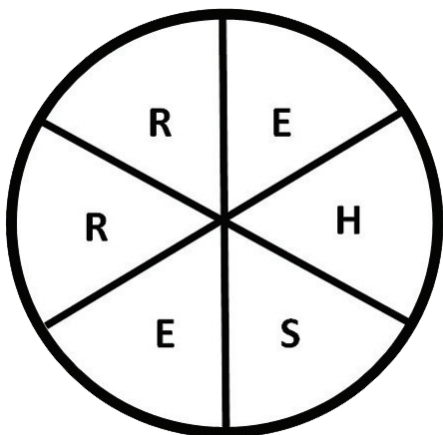
28. Snow sports equipment (3)



# LETTERSEARCH

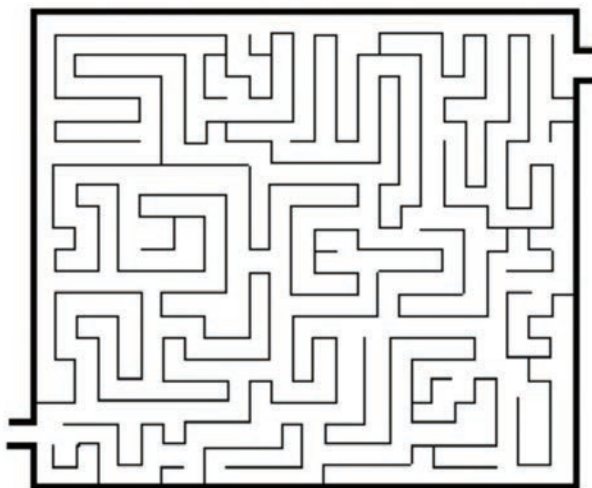
Find the letters hidden in the margins of the magazine's pages and unscramble them to find the mystery word.

## WORD WHEEL



Insert the missing letter to find the word that runs either clockwise or anti-clockwise around the wheel.

## MAZE



## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.





OI, GET  
BACK TO  
WORK  
DICKHEAD

*Come work at the sunny...*  
**Orchards of New Zealand!**



# Fruits Of Our Labour:

## Is Seasonal Orchard Work All It's Cracked Up To Be?

By Annabelle Vaughan

With the borders at a close thanks to the ripper of a year that was 2020, orchards across New Zealand cried out for help. Many Otago students answered the call to be a “Harvest Hero” and embarked on their agricultural adventure. For some, it didn’t turn out to be the experience they were promised. A summer of orchard work is framed as a sunny, exciting, adventure of a lifetime with guaranteed good cash and flexible hours to help you get through the summer months – but is it?

Some students described orchard work as a “shitshow,” while others considered it decent work. One student who worked at a cherry orchard said he simply “ate so many cherries I nearly shat myself.”

Jonte, a packhouse worker, recalled that there was an intense drinking culture in the packhouse. “If you love alcohol, or going to work hungover with all the other packhouse staff and pickers who are subsequently hungover, go for it,” he said. “My middle aged co-worker told me all about the whims and woes of her multiple divorced husbands and how one of them had had a stag party that ended up with a carrot covered in deep heat,” he said. He would “perhaps” recommend the experience, with the caveat that the seasonal work made him “slightly more mentally ill ... but it added just the right amount of casual trauma to drive my sense of humour to an all-time peak.”

Emma, another student who did seasonal work said “that you were treated like slaves,” and that the “working conditions are very reflective of [the orchards’] habit of mistreating foreign workers who can’t get jobs elsewhere.” Many of the students who spoke to Critic faced employment conditions that they were unfamiliar with.

**“They were having us work 8am to 10pm, with one half-day off a week.”**

Lily was sold on the idea that hours of orchard work would be flexible and she would be able to get holiday periods off. However, after a week’s worth of work in a packhouse in January, her and her friends left. She described the work conditions as “atrocious” and “shocking” saying her and her friends were “on the phone with lawyers all the time.”

“There was no communication. The conditions were awful. We wanted to leave right away. They were having us work 8am to 10pm, with one half-day off a week,” she said. For Lily, the horrible experience began on day one when management failed to inform them that the packhouse, where cherries are selected and processed, would be freezing. They spent the day shivering. This chaos was amplified because they were being asked to work up to 16 and a half hours every day.

“They disregarded well-being, and it was a big industrial environment, there were hazards everywhere. It was like a sweatshop, and I don’t like using that term lightly.” Lily described their break times as “barely legal,” with management only fitting them in at the last second. Alongside this, you weren’t allowed to bring phones or watches into the packhouse to keep track of time or breaks.

The conditions were so bad I got shingles. These were my healthy friends and they couldn’t talk,” Lily said. Her and her friends stayed in accommodation provided by the employer and “we would wake up to sounds of crying and coughing because of how sick [people] were”. She was put on three months’ worth of medication. “Alongside this, if employees wanted a day off, or were sick, the response of management would be “either work 14 hours or don’t come back.”

Supervisors talked openly about a waitlist of potential employees. Lily believes that they did this in order to pressure workers into staying in their jobs. After finishing work, Lily and her friends found they were unable to access their payslips, left unsure if they were even paid what they worked. “We couldn’t access our payslips, we didn’t know if we were getting the right pay. We had to leave, we couldn’t do it. We didn’t have the energy to fight it,” she said.

Lily said that managers would say things like “do it for the money.” “Everyone would say ‘do it for the money,’ it was a psychological thing,” she said. Much like Jennifer, Lily also grew concerned with the treatment that migrant workers potentially face in seasonal work. “Foreigners needed the money so bad and they were really being taken advantage of,” she said.

**“People were getting injured because you were on your feet all day, you weren’t told hours [in advance]. They weren’t giving us proper breaks.”**

Jennifer had a similar experience. She took up two different seasonal jobs over the summer period in Cromwell. Jennifer found the ability to get holidays like Christmas and New Year off and having flexible hours appealing. The job appeared to fit with her summer plans and financial goals. “I thought I could really do with something different [like] working in Central [Otago], and I thought because they were short on workers I’d be able to have some say on when I worked.”

After just a week and a half of work, she was made redundant. Jennifer reckoned that “90 percent” of those made redundant were also students. Jennifer and her co-workers were told this was because Kiwis had a higher job retention rate than seasonal migrant workers who often come here and leave after a short period of time. That meant the orchard work was completed faster, and fewer workers were required.

Soon after being made redundant, Jennifer saw that the government was making exemptions for seasonal workers to enter the country, due to apparent shortages. “It didn’t really add up to me,” she explained. “I gave up spending summer with my family, I had left home, got made redundant, then I saw they were bringing in all these seasonal workers, it just didn’t make any sense. It felt like a kick in the teeth.”

Jennifer moved onto her second seasonal job in a cherry packhouse. Again, she was met with precarious work, this time with questionable conditions. Her daily hours ranged from four to thirteen hours a day. Management often failed to tell her the start and finish times for the job. Workers were on their feet for the whole day, standing on wooden pallets, often resulting in injury. She described the work space as “loud, disorganised and ridiculous,” saying that “people would yell at you to work faster.”

“People were getting injured because you were on your feet all day, you weren’t told hours [in advance]. They weren’t giving us proper breaks. It’s hard because you need the money but it does take a toll on you,” she said. “I’m a student here for the summer on minimum wage, I’m tired, I’m hungry, don’t yell at me to work faster.”

The experience opened her eyes to the potential working conditions many of our migrant workers face. “If they’re doing this to us, imagine what they’re doing to seasonal workers who don’t know any better and are just as exploited as us. It made me angry.”



Orchard work isn't always doom and gloom. Two other students, Bella and Jackson, said they had great experiences, and would recommend the job to others. Bella worked in Te Puke, doing pollen work with kiwifruit. She chose the job because she had struggled to find other work, and didn't want to go down the hospitality route. "I just thought I better mix it up and do something like fruit picking," she said. "It was awesome." With a pay rate of \$25 an hour, Bella soaked up the sun and earned a total of about "four to five grand." She said "the employers were really nice and worked with us. We didn't have any problems. There were not many cons, apart from not being able to work when it was raining."

Alongside this, Bella said she really enjoyed getting to know her overseas co-workers, often "getting on the piss" after a long hot day. "I feel like orchard work can get a bad rep, so it's good to get a different experience," she said.

**"... you do need to go into it expecting it to be hard work, and it's good to bring a couple of mates with you," he said. "Otherwise it could be quite lonely in Central Otago."**

Jackson was based at an Orchard in Alexandra and has been picking since year nine which made him a "pretty rich high school student." He now works as an orchard supervisor making \$20.50 an hour. Although it's hard work, he recommended the experience to others. "Conditions are pretty good. It is hard work picking, but I've done pretty much every job," he said. Jackson has worked in apricot and cherry orchards in a range of roles from picking through to supervising.

"Honestly, it depends how you go and what the weather is like. I've always been happy with how much I make and recommend it to other students, but you do need to go into it expecting it to be hard work, and it's good to bring a couple of mates with you," he said. "Otherwise it could be quite lonely in Central Otago."

Although her experience didn't go to plan, Jennifer thought that "fruit picking was a fantastic way to make money." She cautioned that "it is hard work. It can get really hot, it's dry, it can be really taxing on you. If you're new it'll take you a while to get the hang of it."

Had she not been made redundant, Jennifer believed she would have made a decent amount of money. "You'll make a bit of money but not the big bucks they talk about." In terms of what you hear through the grapevine about orchard work, Jennifer said to "take it with a grain of salt. There's pros and cons, unfortunately we all feel taken advantage of a little bit. But because it's seasonal, it's not the usual."

One student, Eva, who went cherry picking wrote a poem on her smoko break that she reckoned "sums it up":

*Hey it's me  
yes I'm up a fucking tree  
I don't know why I chose this job  
I would rather join the fucking mob  
cherry picking makes me want to neck  
I don't even care about the cheque  
I'm fucking sick of waking up at five  
I'm going to find some rocks I'll do a dive  
in a week I'm going to quit  
then once again life will be lit.*

Red Bull  
PRESENTS  
ORI'21  
KICK ON'S

**KANINE**

Thursday 11th March  
8pm - 1am  
UNION HALL



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Thursday 11th March | 8pm - 1am

Thursday 11th March | 8pm - 1am



QUINEDIN DOE BOY IS THE  
WEREWOLF BOYFRIEND OF  
YOUR DREAMS.



# SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DORM: INVESTIGATING CAMPUS SUPERSTITIONS

BY ASIA MARTUSIA

Otago University is the mysterious old crone of tertiary education. Many spooky stories lie within her walls. She squats in her rocking chair and cackles ominously, regaling dementia-ridden urban legends and superstitions to gossipy students who love a bit of tea. Superstitions are beliefs that aren't founded upon any scientific evidence, and most of us have them. Maybe you think that four leaf clovers bring you luck, or that Leo boys will break your heart (true), or that watching anime in intermediate school wouldn't turn you into a loser with no friends (untrue). Either way, the university has a whole lot of ghastly tales it has collected over the years. Toss your \$40 lab coats into the bin and join Critic as we traverse the astral plane, investigating our campus folklore.

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## BIG BRAIN ARCHWAY

When I was a horrible little nerd getting swirlies and doing Hands-On at Otago, a campus guide once told me a secret about the wooden archway on Union Lawn. "If you run through the right way," she whispered, "you'll have limitless IQ points and pass all of your exams. If you run through the wrong way, you'll fail." I opened my mouth to ask more, but it was too late. She disappeared in a plume of smoke.

This haunted me. Which way was the good way? I put it to the test. I sprinted through the archway and out the other side. Great job: I got C's that year. I needed to remedy this and I definitely wasn't going to study, so I gave it another shot. Not to flex but I proceeded to get straight A+'s and nod wisely along to Rick and Morty. The bad news is, I forgot what the good way is. You can give it a go — if you're willing to risk it all.

## SECRET TUNNELS

Holy shit. There are secret bunkers underneath the Geology and Archway buildings.

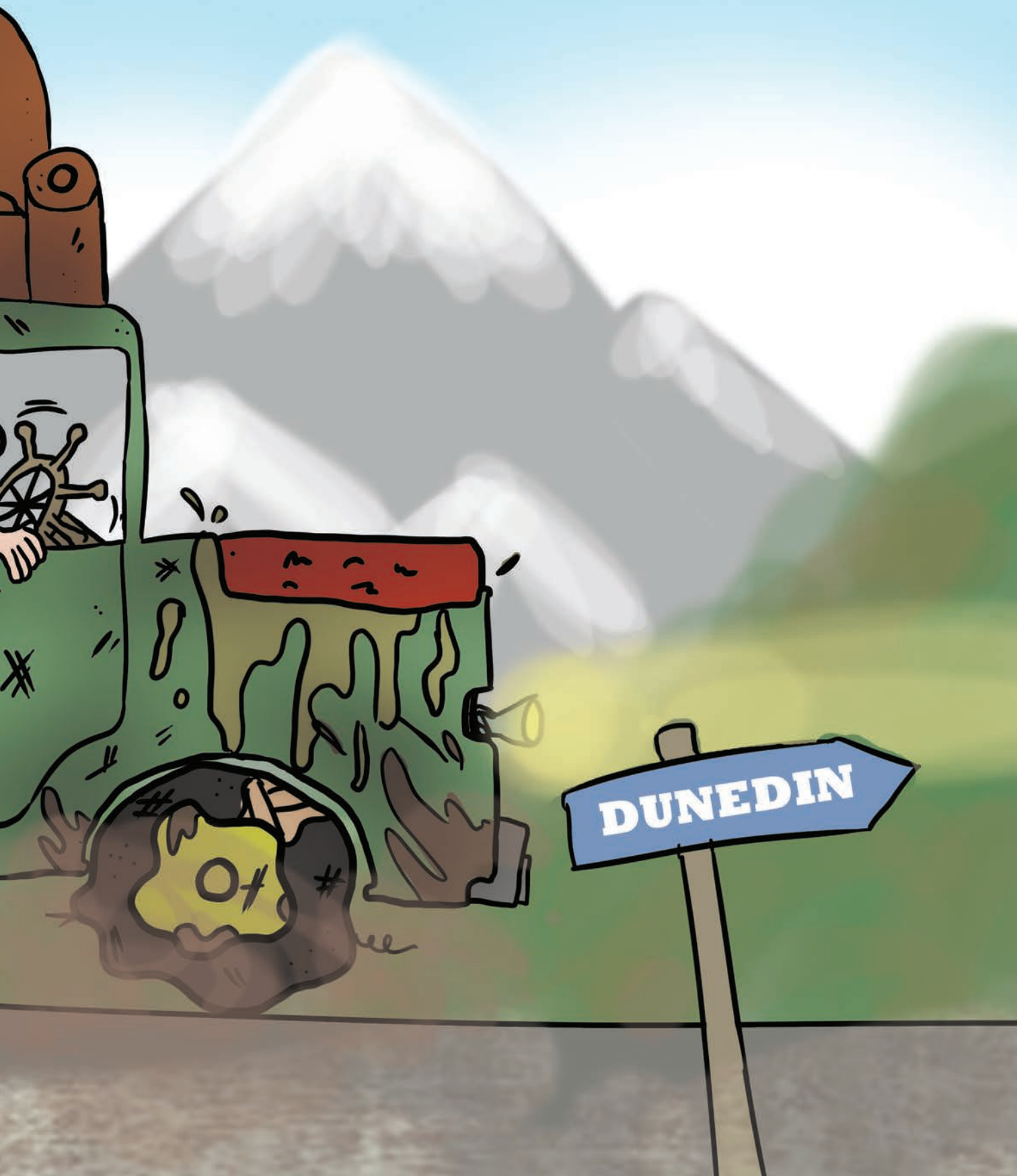
In World War II, when New Zealand thought they were important enough to be invaded, a series of bomb shelters were dug beneath the university. If you're burdened by having too many teeth then you're in luck, as one of these secret tunnels includes a radium room. Another bunker was converted from a morgue, which raises more questions, like why the Geology department had a morgue in the first place?

(Other places that were once graveyards: Catacombs, Stafford Gables backpackers, Arthur Street Primary School and its adjacent playground still full of 19th century corpses.)

Mysteriously, singed maps depict even more tunnels throughout campus. We don't know if these were actually built or not, as the staff who knew those secrets have all been coincidentally "let go". Interesting.







## THE GIRL IN THE CEILING

Drama kids will know Allen Hall as the theatre opposite Unicol. It's the one with a charming red door, high-end technology, and a woman hiding in the ceiling.

"The girl who lived in the ceiling" is a story told to theatre freshers over the decades as they tour Allen Hall. The legend tells that an Otago student was in between flats and squatted amongst coat racks backstage.. She was only caught when her candles — the only source of light that wouldn't raise suspicion — became a fire hazard.

Although this sounds like white woman murder podcast bullshit, and I assumed that it was harmless hazing, IT'S. ACTUALLY. FUCKING. REAL.

And it was Miranda Harcourt, a popular actress and acting coach who played Olga in The Hobbit. Who the fuck is Olga? Who cares! It's The Hobbit, so she's basically kiwi royalty.

I looked Miranda up on Facebook. We had nine mutual friends (I hate New Zealand). I flicked her a message asking about the legend. She confirmed:

"Me and my flatmate whose name I won't mention but is an employee of Otago Uni, moved into the dressing rooms upstairs there for a while in between flats. Would have stayed for longer but one morning I came down in my bare feet and skimpy nightie to get some hot water from the front bit at the top of the stairs, only to find 100 students doing an exam. Busted! We had to move out xx"

What an absolute queen. By the way, a whole bunch of you DEFINITELY know Miranda's accomplice, and have probably been lectured by them. I promised I wouldn't nark though.

## DUNEDIN DOG BOY

To all of you who want to bone Mothman (is it just me?), you're in luck. Dunedin has its own sexy, slightly furry cryptid.

Dunedin Dog Boy is the werewolf boyfriend of your dreams. Aotearoa's top cryptozoology website, Paranormal New Zealand, describes him as a bipedal dog who lurks around Halfway Bush. He's tall and dark, with raven black fur and flaming crimson eyes that swallow you whole. Local youths whisper in hushed tones about how Dunedin Dog Boy lies crouched amidst the brambles and stalks his prey. Imagine you are walking home one night when a husky growl permeates the darkness. Goosebumps prickle along the nape of your neck. You swivel around, a cold chill engulfing your body as you meet those effervescent eyes. The Dunedin Dog Boy licks his chops and smirks. He lunges forwards and seizes you around the waist with strong hands, rough from the wild hunt. The musky contours of his body fill yours. His snarling muzzle glistens with flecks of saliva. He grabs a fistful of your hair and tilts your head back, exposing your throat. He bares his teeth and your legs tremble as your inner goddess purrs. A tingling sensation floods your yoni. You kiss, passionately, his tongue invading your mouth, loins aflame with desire.

Or whatever.

Other reports depict him as a small black dog on four legs who chases people down the street and nips at their ankles. I don't have proof but I think that it's just a dog.

I put this legend to the test by visiting Halfway Bush late at night in my Team Jacob lingerie, reclining gorgeously in the moonlight. As to what happened next, a lady never tells.



## RICHARDSON LIFTS

Rumour has it that if you get stuck in the Richardson lifts, you will become gay.

I never believed this until one fateful afternoon when the lift jammed. I picked up the emergency phone to dial help, but instead only “yaasss queen!” and “oh my Gaga!” streamed from my mouth. I panicked, then adopted a cat with the girl to my left.

**I imagine that, if you are already gay/bisexual/other, you will turn immediately heterosexual. Straight as a ruler. Here’s your complimentary The Office merch.**

## GHOSTS

**Two Cumby Health Scis in 2012 were scared pantsless when they noticed a nasty stank, a cold chill, and a dark apparition looming ominously beside a fire hydrant.**

Our university’s most famous ghost is The Grey Lady. Allegedly, after giving birth in the hospital’s psychiatric unit, our protagonist’s newborn babe was whisked away by a nurse who deemed her an unfit mother. The young mother passed away and proceeded to haunt the nurse’s residence across the road — today’s Cumberland College — in search of her lost baby.

The Grey Lady’s most notable feature is being smelly (same). Two Cumby Health Scis in 2012 were scared pantsless when they noticed a nasty stank, a cold chill, and a dark apparition looming ominously beside a fire hydrant. Freshers went apeshit. Chaplains were brought in, students refused to sleep alone, and actual, non-student, press got involved. Cumberland has been professionally exorcised numerous times since then. Residents should investigate a cleansing ritual, like sage but without the cultural appropriation.

Unfortunately, we did what we do best. We forgot about Hayward. Here’s a treat for you: more secret tunnels! Cumberland and Hayward are linked to both each other, and Dunedin Hospital, via an underground network, so they definitely aren’t safe from The Grey Lady’s visits.

Cumby isn’t the only hall with a resident ghost. Knox College’s ghastly grounds are haunted by Ollie, a man from the early 20th century whose apparition is credited as being due to one of two tragedies:

- 1) Ollie died in the war. Tragic, albeit a bit basic.
- 2) Ollie was squashed while playing tennis. Knox College was renovating its grounds at this time. Ollie was having a right jolly time whacking balls with a friend when a big boulder fell down, turning him into pulp. The match conceded as a draw. In the years since, Ollie’s fatal tennis court has been redeveloped into student living quarters, Arden House.

Personally, I’m partial to Option 2. Ollie dying in the war and coming back to haunt a university hall is mad depressing and has major peaked-in-high-school vibes. Imagine being stuck in your leaver’s hoodie for 100 years. I once had a scary dream about a ghost living in Arden House before I even learned about this incident, so I want my own That’s So Raven spinoff. Plus getting squashed during tennis is a little bit funny.

Studholme supposedly has a ghost too. This is a real and depressing story regarding infanticide, so respectfully research at your own risk.

## SPECIAL FEATURE: BUTT PINCHING GHOST

Next time you’re refilling your sertraline at the Gardens Pharmacy and feel a pinch on your bottom, think twice before slapping the person behind you in line. It might very well be the ghost of the pharmacy’s slimy old boss, who had a habit of pinching his female staff’s bums in both life and death. This tale has been documented by a reputable source, Andrew Smith, a man who wears a top hat and holds Dunedin’s Hair Raiser Ghost Tours.

Otago Uni’s superstitions may be better founded in reality than you think — something to consider next time you smell a putrid stench, or hear Miranda Harcourt in your ceiling. Truth can often be stranger than fiction. Now if you’ll excuse me, I have a date at Halfway Bush.

# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS:

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AS A PASIFIKA STUDENT

BY SUSANA JONES

I remember walking in to Student Health as a fresher many moons ago, feeling crook as fuck in all ways possible, just needing some help. I looked around for a brown face or name. There were none in sight. My name, pronounced incorrectly, was called out by the Caucasian doctor, summoning me to their office. I took a seat, and the first thing that came out of the doctor's mouth was "bula vinaka!" Because that ticks the cultural competency box, right? I talked about my stuffy nose and my stupid asthma lungs, and left out all the hard brain tings I was going through. In exchange, the doctor gave me a prescription for antibiotics and sent me on my way.

"Damn, this place is really built for and by white people, huh," I remember thinking to myself. This experience meant that I didn't step foot into student health again for the rest of the year (hehe x). I found myself completely ignoring my mental health.

"...it's not as easy for us to talk about stuff that's real personal. It probably comes back to the image of trying not to seem too soft."

Mental health is an already-sensitive subject. Being a Pasifika student at University, it can be even harder to talk about our mental health and begin to care for it for a multitude of reasons.

"We're in the South Island, which is predominantly European, and there are not many Pacific Islanders at Otago, so we tend to stick to our own groups. Sometimes you wake up and you're like, am I even supposed to be here?" said Moala. Universities are not places that have been designed for us.



Styles of teaching and the types of information that are valued in University spaces are different from what is valued in indigenous contexts. This makes it hard for us to identify ourselves as students and to feel a sense of belonging to Universities in some cases. A lot of Pasifika at the University also live away from home, physically separated from our families and communities.

"With PIs (Pacific Islanders), it's not as easy for us to talk about stuff that's real personal. It probably comes back to the image of trying not to seem too soft," said Lorenzo. There are unspoken cultural rules that prevent us from speaking about things that are bothering us, such as mental health issues.

There are also differences across generations in terms of these cultural rules, which may add to the stickiness of discussing mental health. "I feel like it's kind of generational. Like, we're having the conversation now, but my dad probably wouldn't have these conversations," said Afa.

**"I didn't know what mental health was until life got tough."**

Lorenzo hasn't struggled with severe mental health issues himself, "or maybe I haven't noticed it," he said, reflecting how sometimes we focus on our communities more than how we are functioning as individuals. Moala said he's had "times where I've just sat in my bed and had some bad thoughts." Afa has gone through "mostly anxiety" where he "found it hard to make friends."

Ray said he's "definitely struggled with mental health stuff," especially at "crunch time" with exams. "First year was probably the toughest year for me. I was at my lowest, but I'm grateful that I went through it because of the growth that comes out of it. I'm a stronger person."

**"To be honest, for guys, it's not really talked about. It's pretty sad."**

Faumuina Professor Fa'afetai Sopoaga, better known as Faumuina or Dr Tai among Pasifika, is an expert on the mental health of Pasifika students at the University. She and her colleagues set up a study called Ola Malohi, looking into Pacific students' mental health and well-being at Otago University. "The challenges for Pacific students are similar to those for all students starting or transitioning to higher education: homesickness, cultural adjustment, adjusting to a new learning environment, concerns about whether they could make new friends, difference in food availability, finances etc."

"To be honest, for guys, it's not really talked about. It's pretty sad," said Lorenzo. Many Pasifika may not be taught about what mental health is or what it means to take care of it until they face struggles themselves. "I didn't really hear about mental health until I was in early college (high school). I didn't know what mental health was until life got tough," said Ray. Moala thinks that "education plays a part in it as well, sometimes we don't fully understand what mental health is."

"It's taboo eh, especially for men. There's that stigma where it's weak to speak out and show signs of struggle, especially when it comes to mental health," said Moala. "As a man in the Pacific community, you're not really supposed to talk about your own mental health. I'm not sure if it's a cultural thing or if it's just a real taboo to talk about stuff."

“There is stigma around “mental health” in general,” said Dr Tai. “So far in our research we have not observed any significant gender differences on mental health and well-being.”

“As much as I joke around about talking about our feelings, for me and my group of boys, it’s good. We’re able to talk about stuff and feel comfortable in that joking space,” said Lorenzo. The humour of Pasifika people is unmatched — being surrounded by your people, cracking up at literally anything, sharing jaw-on-the-floor, tear-jerking laughter, produces an indescribable feeling. This humour can be used as a way to facilitate conversations about mental health. Our humour is used as a way to build connections with each other across the va (relational space), and to ease into conversations that feel uncomfortable.

“For a lot of us, it’s just family that helps us feel grounded, helps us feel better,” said Lorenzo. Family is an integral part of being Pasifika, and even though our families can often be some of our harshest critics, staying connected to them is central to caring for our mental health. When asked about what might help Pasifika students look after their mental health, Lorenzo said “for most of us, it’s family. Maybe one reason why I haven’t encountered anything is because I always try to keep a link with my family when I’m down here, at least once a week I’ll call, to make sure I’m good.”

We are each single fibrous strands woven together to form mats, representing our kāingas, aigas, vuvaes, communities, if you will. Missing strands make for holey mats, and nobody wants that.

A few people I interviewed said that they turned to self-reflection as a way to look after their mental health. “When you have a bad day, try and reflect on it and see what could’ve gone right and what you got out of it,” said Moala. Reflecting on personal growth and being grateful for the tough times he’s faced in the past helps Ray look after his mental health. “For me, I’ve been through the lowest of my life so I try my best not to get to that point again. Now, life is better and I’m grateful for that struggle.”

Pasifika traditionally and archetypally have strong connections to God. “Because I’m Tongan, our country is based on Christian beliefs, same with Samoa and many of the Pacific islands. A lot of their history is based on Christianity, and that’s kind of what has shaped my life and upbringing,” said Moala.

It’s not surprising, then, that faith may play a role in looking after mental health for some Pasifika. “When I do have bad days, I resort back to my faith. That’s a big foundation for me, my faith has always been a strong hold in my life,” said Moala. “Rather than seeking people first, I always go back to my faith.”

Having talanoa (conversations) with others who we relate to, who we have built and nurtured the va with, also came up as being essential in looking after mental health. Sometimes all we need is to feel heard, held and supported. “It’s good to know that someone’s actually listening and appreciates what you’re actually saying. If I say something and the fact that they actually listen, it makes me feel good and it’s off my chest. You just feel appreciated,” said Lorenzo.



“When you’re alone it can be very tough, but together we’re strong, we can deal with anything.”

Building strong connections with others and making your own, chosen kāinga/aiga/vuvale (family) also promotes good mental health for Pasifika students. Pasifika cultures are overwhelmingly collective — we function in groups and communities rather than as individuals with self-serving goals and behaviours. “Pacific, we’re very strong as a community. We feed off each other. When Pacific people are alone, it’s not really good,” said Ray. Being together, being meaningfully connected by our mutual understanding of the complex realities we face daily, benefits our mental health. “When you’re alone it can be very tough, but together we’re strong, we can deal with anything,” said Ray.

The research of Dr Tai and her colleagues revealed ways that Pasifika students look after their mental health. “Our research found that feeling connected to the University and the local community was very important,” she said. “This gave many a sense of belonging and was linked to their well-being. Feeling that the University “cared about them” and knowing where to access help were also important.”

Specific forms of support for Pasifika students were important too. “The Pacific Islands Centre was one of the most common sources of support the students had accessed,” said Dr Tai. “There is now a Pacific counsellor and well-being staff in the Student Health services.”

One theme stuck out in every talanoa I had with Pasifika students about caring for our mental health: we function as essential parts of larger collectives, not as singular, independent, or separated beings. We are each single fibrous strands woven together to form mats, representing our kāingas, aigas, vuvas, communities, if you will. Missing strands make for holey mats, and nobody wants that. Just as individuals cannot exist well without the collective, the collective cannot exist well without individuals.

“Our work with Pacific students indicates that health is viewed in a holistic way. Mental well-being is just as important as physical well-being, as well as spiritual well-being, well-being of whānau and the wider community. There is interconnectedness between these areas,” said Dr Tai.

At the end of the day, all we want is to see each other happy and healthy, and taking care of our mental health is part of that. “We’ve just gotta break the chain. As much as we joke around, like it’s weak to speak out coming from a Pacific background, and being male especially, I think it’s good for our generation to speak out,” said Moala. “Our generation is starting to get into breaking that chain, so it’s not taboo anymore.”

We need to start having those uncomfortable conversations and speaking up when we feel shit. Our kāingas, aigas, and vuvas have held us through plenty of shit times over the generations, and they will continue to hold us as we work through crappy-mental-health-brain tings too.

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MARGARET DAWSON *Kee, Nestor notabilis* 1990. (detail) C type print mounted and laminated on hessian. Collection of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.





**BY ERIN GOURLEY**

In the centre of Gore stands a giant trout. On the outskirts of Rakaia stands a giant salmon. The fish are perched in the same pose — frozen in mid-air with cavernous maws agape. Separated by 452km of State Highway one, these twin titans of the South Island road trip are far too far away to see one another. And it's just as well. If the two giant fish of the South Island did know that the other existed, they would have to fight to the death to preserve their reputation as small town landmarks.

Dunedin would inevitably be caught in the crossfire of this fight. As a place in between Rakaia and Gore, it might even serve as the battleground. In light of this danger, Critic decided to investigate each fighters' stats so you can make informed bets when you bet the flat food budget on the fight of the century at the TAB. Clearly there can be only one survivor. Our criteria are as follows:

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#### **Age and Life Experience: Gore Giant Trout**

The Gore Giant Trout is the OG giant fish. It was constructed in 1989 with funding from the Gore Lions Club, to celebrate their 25th birthday. The Rakaia Salmon was constructed just two years later, in 1991, with funding from the Rakaia Lions Club. Coincidence? Given the similarity of the two statues, their leonine origins, and their poses, it's safe to say that the salmon was at least inspired by the trout, if not stolen in an outright act of plagiarism.

The Gore Giant Trout has definitely seen some shit after spending 32 years of its life in the centre of Gore. The Rakaia Salmon might have seen a lot more cars driving past, but he has never seen the mean city streets of Gore. The Gore Giant Trout has two years of hard life experience on the Rakaia Salmon.

#### **Size: Rakaia Salmon**

The Gore trout is six-and-a-half meters tall, but hefty, weighing in at one tonne. The salmon statue is 12 meters tall, with an unknown weight. Even if the salmon is lighter, the trout is going to struggle to win a battle against a fish that is five-and-a-half meters longer. The size difference means that the salmon could swallow almost the entire trout. The Rakaia Salmon wins on this front.

#### **Google Reviews: Gore Giant Trout (wins by 0.1 stars)**

Random Google reviewers have assessed both monuments, giving us an indication of which side the audience is rooting for. The Gore Giant Trout comes out ahead, with a review of 4.5 stars out of 37 reviews. The race is tight, with the Rakaia Salmon having a review average of

# **WHO WOULD WIN**

## **IF THE RAKAIA SALMON AND THE GORE GIANT TROUT FOUGHT TO THE DEATH?**

4.4 stars out of a whopping 288 reviews. The Rakaia Salmon has its own Tripadvisor page while the Gore Giant Trout does not.

"Big big fish," said Aminah Ahman a year ago, of the Gore Giant Trout. Gerard McCall was more critical with his four star review. "Iconic to Gore. Always someone taking photos of this," he said, before dropping a bombshell with "Mores the pity that the fishery it is suppose to represent is so neglected and deteriorating with farm run off and effluent [sic]." McCall's analysis suggests that the Gore trout has been weakened by pollution. But the Rakaia Salmon lives amidst the dairy farms of the Canterbury Plains, so it probably faces the same issue.

"Attractive interesting sculpture. Classy version of the big fruit of Queensland," said Celeritas2 of the Rakaia Salmon. Unfortunately, classiness does not win the fight. Frankie Whaitiri said he loved it, but it "doesn't really look much like a salmon."

#### **Fighting Appearance: Gore Giant Trout**

There can be no question that both these fish are dead inside and will stop at nothing to win. Their gaping mouths and dull eyes tell a tale of years spent out of the water, watching the cars drive past on State Highway 1 for three long decades.

The trout has lived in the muddy rivers of Gore. That's how fighters are made. The Rakaia Salmon, on the other hand, is very clean and silvery. He has no teeth, like an old man with dentures. He has given up on life. The Gore Giant Trout has a lot of teeth, and it would tear apart the salmon's throat without hesitating.

#### **Expert opinion: Tie**

Dominique, a Zoology Masters student who studies trout, said that the result might come down to size. "I couldn't find out the size of the gore trout, but the salmon is 12 meters, and typically the bigger fish wins as fights are physical," she said. She also commented that a fight between the two fish was unrealistic, as they are "different species, they're not gonna fight each other."

Her final opinion, however, was that the "trout would win because they typically are more aggressive and territorial."

#### **Overall winner: The Gore Giant Trout**

The Gore Giant Trout Statue wins, convincingly. He would fuck the Rakaia Salmon up and cement his title as the best giant fish in the New Zealand. Although, all things considered, both are better fighters than the Ohakune Carrot.



# HOW TO PRETEND YOU KNOW CRICKET

## AN INTRO TO THE MOST BORING SPORT IN THE WORLD By Elliot Weir

From deliveries to dismissals, dabbly-dobblers to golden ducks, cricket is an elaborate and perplexing way to waste your time. There are a lot of made-up words involved, like 'inning' and 'wicket' and 'dilscoop'. Aside from white men over the age of 50 and people who actually play cricket, most people watching a match (note: do not call it a game, or the Cricket Men will come for you) of cricket don't know how the Duckworth-Lewis method works or how sundries are counted and it would take up the whole magazine if Critic tried to explain that. This article will give you the very basics of the cricket match, who to cheer for, and what to shout.

### THREE WAYS TO PLAY

Like stoats, syphilis, and systematic racism, cricket in New Zealand is a product of British colonialism. It was first played in New Zealand in 1832 and is now our most popular summer sport. The way the 200-year-old white dudes played cricket is now known as Test Cricket. That's one of three main formats alongside One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 (T20s).

Test Cricket is played over five days and matches often end in a draw. It's slow, boring, everyone wears white, and it's more of an endurance

sport than anything else. Don't bother trying to watch or understand Test Cricket.

The other two forms of the game are designed to be played within a day, with a certain number of "overs" in each "innings". An over consists of 6 balls being bowled towards the batsmen and is used to measure the length of these games. There are two innings in these matches, the first innings with one team batting and one team bowling, and the second innings where they switch. An ODI match has 50 overs in each innings and a T20 match has 20 overs in each innings.

### THE FIELD AND THE POSITIONS

The field is often referred to as the oval and has a 20-metre pitch in the middle where the ball is bowled. At either end of the pitch are the two wickets (also known as stumps), and three stumps (not the same as the previous stumps) underneath the wicket. A batsman stands in front of each one.

Each team has 11 players and at any point in the match one team will be batting and the other team will be fielding.

The referees are called umpires and wear a big white hat.

The batting team is easy to identify because there are only ever two batsmen playing and they both are trying to do the same thing — hit the ball with the bat, albeit not at the same time. The fielding team will have a bowler to bowl (throw) the ball, a wicket-keeper to stand behind the batsman to catch the ball if they don't hit it, and then 10 other fielders scattered around doing fuck all until the ball comes near them.

### THE RULES

If you remember one thing about cricket, it should be that the aim of cricket is to get more runs than the other teams. When you are batting you are trying to get as many runs as possible. When you are fielding you are trying to prevent the other team from getting runs.

You can think of a run as a point that you get every time you run from one end of the pitch to the other. If you smash the ball past the boundary of the field you automatically get four runs and you don't even have to move. If you do it without the ball touching the ground you get six runs.

Every time you're getting runs, or trying to get runs, you risk getting out. If a fielder hits the wicket whilst you're still running, you're out. If a fielder catches the ball, you're out. If the bowler hits the wicket with the ball, you're out. If the bowler hits your leg with the ball and you're standing in the wrong place, you're out. If you accidentally hit the wicket with your bat, you're out.

There are a lot of ways to get out but if the crowd gets loud and boomers start screaming "howzat?!" and the umpire raises one finger in the air, you know the batsman is out. Once you're out, someone else from your team comes and replaces you. Once 10 people from your team are out, the innings are over and you switch with the other team.

### WHO TO CHEER FOR

Regionally: The Otago Volts (men) and Sparks (women)

Internationally: The Black Caps (men) and The White Ferns (women)

Topics to bring up: The 2021 Women's Cricket World Cup, which will be hosted in Dunedin.

Topics to avoid: The 2019 Men's World Cup. Will get you either a disappointed sigh or a 15-minute rant.



# OPINION:

# Third Years Need to Stop Fucking Freshers

By Sophia Carter Peters

The fact that you already know what I'm talking about tells me all I need to know. We all have that one skeezy friend who jokes about buying a fresher too many drinks at Catacombs or picking one up on Castle. Their comments are usually followed by a couple of sheepish laughs and then silence.

Hot take: That's fucked up. Both the comments and the silence.

Being a fresher comes with a pretty hefty drop in your social status. Egging, chants, and the usual abuse are as much a part of your first year as taking on student debt. For some reason, being hit on by sexual predators and actual sexual assault are being normalised too. It's not just 'dusty' or 'weird,' it's rape culture.

Somewhere, in the evolution of student culture, the lines became blurred between 'showing off' to your mates, and abusing freshers. Men, generally in third year or above, use first-year women as tools for social status, to demonstrate some fucked-up form of masculine prowess. The predatory, alcohol-fueled 'hunt' of young women by older students, particularly older men, is disgusting and should not be normalised in the student community.

One young woman mentioned to me a sign that they remembered seeing in their first year, during O Week. It read: "Thank you for having your daughters." A kind of in-joke regarding the handing off of 'daughters' from their fathers, to the consumption of other men, which sounds a little 18th-century to me.

Alcohol and drug use is another major element in this problem. Case in point, a Reddit user on a Dunedin-centric thread claimed that "if you buy a fresher three tequila shots from Ubar, she'll sleep with you."

In my career as a bartender over the past three years, I've enjoyed an up-close, personal, and sober perspective of Dunedin's drinking environment. The number of dirty-haired third-year boys on Castle or Queen who find the youngest, stumblingly-drunk, wasted little thing in the bar, subsequently make her a target, is too damn high. The true core of all this bullshit is the inability for these perpetrators to view women as people.

When older men start viewing young women as 'new,' young, pretty and naive, they stop thinking of those women as people. Instead, the concept of a 'fresher girl' on O Week becomes a creepy Lolita fixation for older guys who have zero concern for their safety or wellbeing.

It's not just the guys who make you uncomfortable at parties who are the problem. There is also a particular strain of the 'nice guy' who participates in Dunedin's obsession with taking advantage of younger women. Sneakier, but equally noticeable if you're paying attention, these men will float on the outskirts, waiting for something bad to happen, and swoop in to 'save' women. A knight in shining armour who makes sure you get home safe, talking all about their incredibly boring hobby, and then tell you that they deserve to have their cock sucked for not raping you on the walk home.

The concept of a 'fresher girl' on O Week becomes a creepy Lolita fixation for older guys who have zero concern for their safety or wellbeing.

Putting young women in this male-dominated, highly pressured, alcohol-fuelled environment, and then telling them that sexual assault is 'just part of the culture' is not acceptable. Instead of the cunts that are raping women being held accountable for their actions, the victims are reassured that it is a normal part of the culture, and even that they are 'lucky' that a third year slept with them. Victims get the message that it's just 'how things are' around here.

Maybe instead of reinforcing that message, we could encourage young men to be decent fucking human beings?

Boys will not be boys, boys will be held accountable for their fucking actions. That has to be a community effort and I've seen it work. When men stand up to their friends, and women are able to communicate that they are in unsafe situations, then maybe the millions of dollars being poured into the ACC sexual assault claims can become less necessary. Getting raped isn't, and shouldn't be a rite of passage to live in Dunedin.

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# OG Lime vs. Lime Gen4 vs. Neuron

By Alex Leckie-Zaharic



Gone are the simple days when Lime scooters ruled the streets. Scootering in Dunedin is no longer a one-horse race, with Neuron entering the fray in early January and forcing the humble Lime to upgrade, Incredibles-style, to compete. Critic's self-proclaimed scooter expert took it upon himself to find the best ride, as well as the one least likely to be missed should it find itself in the Leith come a dusty Sunday morning.

## Lime-S – “The Original”

Speed - 3/5  
Acceleration - 2/5  
Handling - 3/5  
Aesthetic - 3/5  
Affordability- 3/5

The classic. The original. The one that started it all. The OG Lime will always have a special place in my heart for taking my scooter virginity, and while it may have been eclipsed by newer offerings, I'll never say no to a ride on old Faithful. However, I will also always complain about the seeming randomness in which some scooters can muster a performance over 20kms/hr, and I'm occasionally left disappointed by limping through the Dunedin streets at a paltry 10kms/hr and wishing I'd picked another. The Lime-S has its problems, but it's also a great introduction into the world of scootering, so don't feel dissuaded from giving it a try.

## Lime Gen4 – “The Big Brother”

Speed - 3/5  
Acceleration - 3/5  
Handling - 3/5  
Aesthetic - 2/5  
Affordability- 3/5

Whenever there's a new and improved model, it's often compared to the original. Unfortunately, the Lime Gen4 doesn't deliver for me. It feels like they fixed the already-fine parts of its predecessor, while still leaving the acceleration and handling with much to be desired. The increased size does make for a less fragile ride, but it feels like a missed opportunity to really improve on the classic Lime design. Don't be afraid to drive this one off a bridge and into the Leith, because why choose the upgraded Lime when you could have a Neuron?

## Neuron – “The New Kid on the Block”

Speed - 4/5  
Acceleration - 5/5  
Handling - 4/5  
Aesthetic - 3/5  
Affordability- 4/5

As an avowed fan of the classic Lime, I was ready to nitpick any flaw that I could find with Neuron. Instead, what I found was an impressive evolution of the e-scooter. While substantially bigger than the Lime-S and on par with the Gen4, that size adds sturdiness and I felt more comfortable taking on rough terrain (i.e. the most uneven footpath I could find near the Uni).

A massive selling point is that Neurons can go fifty kilometres on a full charge before they run out of battery. This is more than double the offering from Lime. You could almost reach Milton, the town of opportunities, on a Neuron.

The added helmet was a welcome safety feature, something that neither Lime scooter had managed to incorporate. The two speed modes reduce the need to constantly clamp your fingers down on the acceleration button. When combined with the dual handlebar brakes, it makes speeding up and slowing down feel exceptionally smooth. I thoroughly enjoyed riding the Neuron and will be making the effort to use them.

Result: Neuron is better

If you're looking for the best bang for your buck, you can't go past the Neuron. Not only is it six cents cheaper per minute than Lime, the offering of a helmet (although honestly, how many of you are going to actually use it), and increased battery puts it above both iterations of the Lime. If you're new to scootering through the streets and you're willing to splurge that extra six cents, the original Lime is a good starting point. But when you're ready to take it to the next level, Neuron is the way to go.

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# WHAT COPING MECHANISM ARE YOU?

## How long have you been in Dunedin?

- a. Less than 2 years (1)
- b. 2 or more years (2)
- c. Whole life (3)
- d. Summers up North (4)

## Where do you usually spend a Tuesday night?

- a. Carousel (1)
- b. Volunteering (2)
- c. At the gym (3)
- d. Underground warehouse rave (4)

## What is the longest you've gone without cleaning your room?

- a. Eh, a week? (1)
- b. I'm never home (2)
- c. 6 weeks (3)
- d. 5 hours (4)

## Have you talked to your parents recently?

- a. Define "talked" (1)
- b. Passively (2)
- c. Every. Single. Day. (3)
- d. Weekly check-in (4)

## Have you ever had a relationship where you felt known?

- a. What the fuck is that (1)
- b. I <3 my mommy (2)
- c. My partner is my therapist (3)
- d. I'm engaged (4)

## What is the best description of your current relationship status?

- a. Sunday Beezy (1)
- b. Making out in the Suburbia line (2)
- c. Engaged (3)
- d. Being ghosted by people less hot than you (4)

## How often do you go to the gym?

- a. Hah, no. (1)
- b. Passively (2)
- c. Every. Single. Day. (3)
- d. Does yoga and yoni meditation count? (4)

## How would you describe your bedroom aesthetic?

- a. Pinterest is not dead! (1)
- b. Saturdays are for The Boys (2)
- c. Tapestries. No wall visible. (3)
- d. The only colour is the navy blue sheets (4)

## YOUR COPING MECHANISM:

### 8 – 12: Oversharing to Strangers

You are known for getting a little too fucked on a Wednesday and justifying your absent relationship with your father to some random in the Pint Night line.

*Alternatives: Therapy, a sense of self, more vitamins.*

### 13 – 16: Substance Abuse

You don't get to live in Dunedin without having at least a minor substance abuse problem, call it part of the culture and hope it leaves when you do.

*Alternatives: Communicating with your friends, 0% Heineken, meditation.*

### 17 – 25: Repression

You have never once allowed yourself to experience a Single Feeling, I hope that allowing people to never get to know the real you is working out well.

*Alternatives: Fucking crying for once, sleepovers, hallucinogens.*

### 26 – 38: Volunteering

Wow, you really said, "let's make people-pleasing a hobby" and committed. I have to commend your spirit though because I fucking love those free churros.

*Alternatives: Getting a fucking life, masturbation, smoking a joint.*

### 39 – 52: Supplements

I don't know how to tell you, but going to the gym so you don't literally kill someone is NOT how you deal with trauma. Buying gym clothes and only talking about plain chicken breast is not nearly as impressive as you think it is.

*Alternatives: Therapy, hedonism, yoga.*

### 52 – 69 (nice): Past Life Regression and Herbal Cigarettes

The world in your head is as close as reality gets to a Lana Del Ray album. Stop being a pussy, smoke a real cigarette and get a sugar daddy. If you're going to do it, fucking commit.

*Alternatives: Having good taste in music, chewing tobacco, a Seeking Arrangements account.*



# Hazel from Copper Coffee

Food trucks are a terrifying concept. You take a whole cafe and squeeze it into a small box on wheels, then drive that box around to different places. Hazel Combs is a student who is out there doing that. She is in the final year of a Politics degree, and decided after the lockdown last year that she wanted to start a coffee truck.

Less than a year later, her business Copper Coffee is up and running. When Critic spoke to Hazel, and sampled one of her excellent flat whites, she was at a cute spot behind Dive. The next day the DCC told her she probably couldn't use that spot anymore. Running a coffee truck seems unstable and tough.

"I've got no idea what it's gonna be like, I just have my fingers crossed that it's gonna work out," Hazel said. She hopes her main market will be students, so that she can set up on campus and go to classes when she's not making coffee. But the students have not been around until now.

"I don't know how to balance the truck with studying," she said. "That is my biggest problem, I've got three papers. I've got a friend who has alternating lectures to me and can make coffee, so that could be manageable."

She had planned on setting up a coffee place on campus, rather than in a truck. "At first I was like 'oh no, a coffee truck is a huge mission.' There's an [electricity] generator and you have to back it into places and set it up," she said. "But I was keen to work for myself. I like the challenge of having something different."

The process of setting up was "daunting," she said. "You have to have a whole lot of things in here," she said, gesturing around her. "Like

two sinks. A bunch of stuff, tick all these little boxes."

"The whole process took six weeks," she said. It was finally complete in December. "I thought that once I got it verified, it'll would be a breeze. But finding the right location every day is still difficult."

The coffee is good. Hazel did her training in London. "I was making coffees and I thought my latte art was really good," she said. "But the lady there wouldn't send anything out unless it was completely perfect. Your flat white wouldn't even have been accepted."

And my flat white was pretty damn good. On the way back from London, she noticed how much money baristas were making in Australia. She ended up working in Melbourne for six months, where she made \$26 an hour.

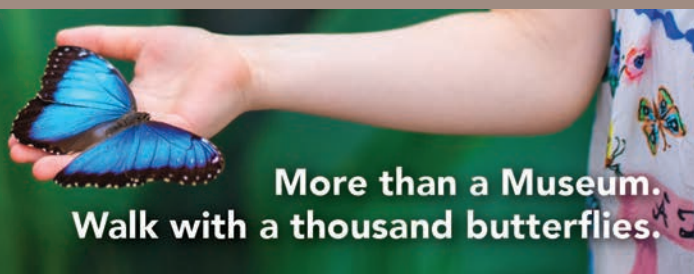
The coffee market in Dunedin is hard to crack into, with heaps of local coffee makers, Hazel said. She wants to focus on events and festivals, like Splore. It's hard because most events have "pre-established coffee people," she said. "They're like sorry we already have a local person doing it."

"It wasn't exactly a choice to do a coffee cart, but now that I've got it, it's awesome," Hazel said. "You can take it to events, you're not confined to one little spot, you can choose the area." She hopes to work at festivals, and is excited that she can drive the coffee cart wherever she wants. "If I can have a coffee cart that gets me into events, it's a win-win."

You can follow Hazel @coppercoffeedunedin for daily location updates on her coffee truck.



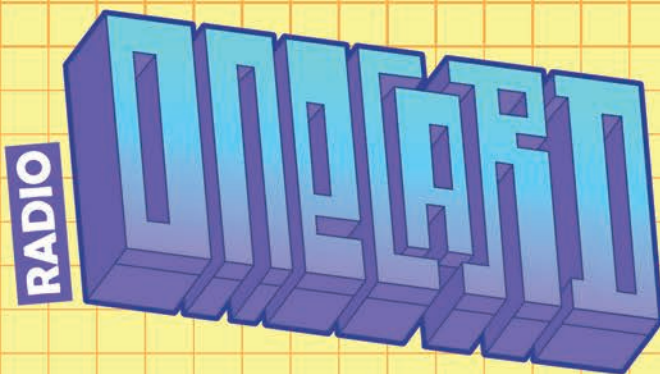
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# RATE

# OR

BY SAHSA FREEMAN



# HATE?

Starting the Macarena at parties. Bringing those year eight disco vibes except everyone's on gear and/or trying to pull.

**Breathas going out during level two even though there's 650 Aucklanders coming to town. It's called natural selection.**

Drunk yoga. Very cool, although my friend tried to do it in the line for Maccas and the security guard was not impressed.

**Surfers. Treat me badly, but do it with long hair and I'll marry you (@Joe from The Bachelorette).**

A quiet library. Nothing worse than people that have their ringtones on full when I have an assignment due in four hours.

**Campus Watch. Those guys are just doing their job and they provide mint banter on a night out.**

Nose rings. Never forget when 'Oi come castle bro' posted "why do chicks with nose rings be so fit". That's on male validation.

**Covid. #stayhomesavelives, but also @jacindaardern please just let me get on the rark.**

10am summer school lectures during Flo Week. Most people in the class are still drunk, including possibly the lecturer.

**Smashed glass. Seriously, just don't do that. We have to live in this filth.**

Waking up in the morning with massive bruises that you can't remember how you got. Maybe something to do with drunk yoga?

**Toxic masculinity. Babe, surely you've outgrown that by now?**

Seeing fresher couples and knowing there's a strong likelihood they'll be married in 5 years time.

## The Critical Tribune

### Breatha is "Sorry" After Stern Telling-Off From Dunedin News

North Dunedin resident and self-described "fresher-fiend" Jock Hunter has been reportedly left deeply remorseful after the litter left from a party at his flat was roundly condemned by local residents on the Dunedin News page on Facebook. The crusading hordes, none of whom have actually entered North Dunedin since 1971, expressed dismay at the pile of bottles outside Jock's Dundas St flat, calling it a "disgrace," lamenting the lack of "civic pride" and "community spirit" among the "youths of today," and called for students to be deported "back to where they bloody well came from."

Shocked into shame by the comments, Jock has committed to turning over a new leaf in 2021. "I never thought I would change my ways, but when Shirley commented 'how old our they my grandson cleaner than them and he's only 2,' that really affected me on a personal level." The tipping point reportedly came when local community leader Andrew Lee stepped in, commenting "North d will look like a rusbush tip after tonight and rate payers will get the bill for the clean up."

Upon seeing this damning indictment, Jock broke down into tears, distraught that his antics had resulted in such significant hardship for the 55,238 households within the Dunedin City Council boundaries.

At press time, Jock was seen lying face-down in a pool of vomit outside his flat, 17 bottles of Flame rinsed and neatly stacked in his glass recycling bin.



### Fresher's Toga Has Pockets

Mikaela may be new to Dunedin, but her Toga sure isn't!

Spotted at Wednesday night's greco-roman bash, first-year Mikaela sported a handmade toga worn by three generations of family frothers. The sweat encrusted piece included proper waist fashioners, hand sewn leaf drapery, and most importantly: pockets.

"I've been dreaming of this day ever since I was a little girl," says Mikaela, "it's family tradition." She's been "practicing taking a piss in it for years. How to twirl. How to headbang without exposing myself. Everything." The youngest of the family, Mikaela's turn in the toga comes after a dozen family members have taken it for a drunken spin.

"I just shudder to think how many members of my family have been shagged in this thing. But oh well," she says, "at least it has pockets!" She then demonstrated where the pockets were for the Critical Tribune reporter. The toga did indeed have pockets.

# HOROSCOPES



## Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

Your birthday season went by so fast that no one realised it was all about you. Just think about the uneventful past month. Sorry.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Getting over your birthday depression.*



## Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

It's all about opportunities this year and it's super exciting. Except this will stress you out and you'll probably find yourself spending so much money on shit you don't need.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Going out without overanalyzing your own actions.*



## Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

It's been a while Aries. Hi sirrrr. You still kind of are the worst, sorry aha x

**Your O-Week peak:** *Nothing, you absolute menace.*



## Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

You're going to go way too hard on the piss this week. You will 100% embarrass yourself. But you should be in the right headspace to laugh it off. Who cares if you get carried out of Castle covered in vomit? That's a typical Tuesday night imo.

**Your O-Week peak:** *The two minutes you had some dignity.*



## Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

You've had a rough time lately but you're going to make some great connections with people, both on Tinder AND in your future career.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Hungover fried rice.*



## Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

You've been kind of AWOL and bailed on some parties but that's no problem. Find comfort in hiding away from the world. You'll be back on the streets in no time.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Not regretting any moments.*



## Leo

July 23 – Aug 22

Your own confidence can be overbearing to people who are not on the same level as you. It's ok to love yourself, but you're not better than anyone. Except literally everyone who went to Castle lol.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Looking fresh feeling fine.*



## Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

Hi God, Virgo again. Why, if I am such an organized person, do I leave everything to the last minute? (Fix your life, this isn't like you. Haha, kind regards.)

**Your O-Week peak:** *Stealing drinks from freshers.*



## Libra

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Nicki Minaj loves a Libra. Apologies to Queen Nicki, but I don't feel the same. You'll make some questionable decisions this week, watch yourself.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Taking a break from being shady.*



## Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

You're already in over your head and the year has just begun. Take a break, kick your feet up, and reflect on the things that make you happy. Like KFC Wicked Wings and going to the club.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Being a better dancer than everyone else.*



## Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

Right now it probably feels like you're drowning, but just swim. You'll probably avoid absolutely anything that will make you more stressed which will make you feel a bit better. Don't stay up late thinking about how you got kicked out of a club in the Octy.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Finding love, then losing them in the crowd.*



## Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Your usual Debbie Downer mood will be shaken up towards the end of the week, giving your friends a well-needed break from your pessimism. You'll be in a good mood, maybe you'll even do your dishes! Proud of you.

**Your O-Week peak:** *Being a lazy fuck.*





# Cheeky

## HARD ICED TEA

BY CHUG NORRIS

I consumed Cheeky on a stunning Saturday evening in Dunedin. The refreshing iced tea combined with the thirsty summer weather quickly saw me near the bottom of my box. Cheeky Hard Iced Tea is an instant classic. It has simple packaging and it's a simple idea, but it's well-executed.

The merger of tea and alcohol is a beautiful thing. In Ancient China, the only way people could get by without dying of some terrible disease was by sterilising their water by boiling it into tea. In Medieval Europe, the only way people could get by without dying of some terrible disease was by sterilising their water by brewing it into alcohol. Alcoholic Iced Tea is a combination of these two ideas. Because we live in the age of covid, I therefore believe it to be one of the safest drinks on the market — in fact, practically a preventative health tonic.

I found it hard to adjust to the taste on my first can. I'm not used to drinking non-fizzy drinks that taste nice (@wine). As I adjusted to the taste they just kept getting better and better. It was a dangerous game. The lemon and tea flavours pair better than OUSA and incompetence. Cheekys are not overly sweet, so drinking a lot of them is not a problem. Somehow each sip felt more refreshing, even though I was well into the box. Each can was a well-deserved reward, despite the fact that I had achieved nothing that week other than barely passing my summer-school exams.

Unlike most drinks, you can justifiably serve tea flat. This means Cheekys can be easily deleted without yakking them all over your bathroom floor two minutes later. They remained drinkable for the whole night and I never once felt put off by the thought of taking another sip. This is a huge achievement for any drink. These are possibly the most funnel-able drinks I've ever encountered.

Cheekys clock in at 6% ABV. There are ten 330 mL cans to a box, and they are 1.6 standards each. They go for \$27 at Henry's Centre City which puts them at a steep 1.7 dollars per standard. That isn't great, but it is pretty standard for RTDs and it would improve on sale. The golden ratio is becoming impossible to reach anyway. Even the mighty goon is struggling to reach a dollar per standard nowadays.

Cheeky Hard Iced Tea is incredibly drinkable. It's light, like Part-Time Rangers, but it doesn't become increasingly acidic and tasteless with each sip. The concept of the drink is also brilliant. It's an obvious step to mix tea and alcohol, yet there is no other drink on the market like it. They're a local company which started out at the Uni so it's great to support them. In the already saturated market of RTDs, Cheeky Iced Tea is a nicer change than the University getting rid of Harlene.

# FUCK, I CAN'T COOK!

By Alice Taylor

Today marks the first week of Uni for 2021. For those of you in your first flat, or even worse, in your fourth flat, a sense of doom has probably overwhelmed you. Yes, you may know the entire anatomy of a fucking foot, but you can't cook. Your new flatmates don't know yet. You're worried that once they find out, you will be shunned from Dunedin society.

Do not fear. We all have to start somewhere. And this recipe is a great place to do just that:

## ROAST PUMPKIN, GARLIC, LEEK AND LEMON RISOTTO:

This risotto recipe sounds fancy, but is extremely foolproof. It's more exciting than the go-to chilli or pesto pasta, but won't tire you out after day 1 of a hangover and lectures. For this risotto, just dump in the rice and all the liquid at once, simmer for a while, and you are good to go. None of that stirring-for-hours bullshit. The risotto's flavour is extremely adaptable: add whatever veggies, or meat, or cheese you want. It's the perfect place to begin your journey to developing some cooking self esteem.

### Ingredients SERVES 4-5

¼ pumpkin (if you are scared of chopping pumpkin, dice 2 kumaras, or half a butternut squash which you can peel with a peeler).	1 onion	1 can (400 ml) coconut milk	broccoli also work).
1 whole head of garlic	1 leek	Zest of one lemon	½ tsp ground nutmeg
	3 tsp dried thyme	Juice of ½ - 1 lemon	Oil
	2 ¼ cups arborio (risotto) rice	Large handful of spinach (any leafy green, peas, or steamed	Salt and pepper
	1.5 litres veg stock		

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 190 degrees.
2. Prepare the pumpkin: scoop out the seeds with a spoon, and slice. Use your knife to then cut the skin off each slice. Then cut into bite sized cubes.
3. Place pumpkin, the head of garlic, a splash of oil, salt and pepper on a tray. Toss to combine and bake for 25-30 minutes, until soft.
4. Peel and dice the onion.
5. Slice the leek in half and rinse out all the dirt in the leek under cold water. Slice.
6. In a large pot over medium heat, add a splash of oil, onion, leek, and thyme, season with salt and pepper, and cook until soft, stirring occasionally (around 10 minutes).
7. Add the risotto rice, stock, and coconut milk. Bring up to a boil. Simmer for 20-25 minutes, until the rice has absorbed most of the liquid, but it is creamy. Stir every few minutes.
8. Meanwhile, squeeze the garlic out of the skins and discard the skins. Use a fork to gently crush some of the butternut squash but not all of it. There should be some mashed bits and some whole pieces of pumpkin.
9. Once the risotto is cooked, remove from the heat, add the pumpkin, garlic, lemon zest, lemon juice, spinach and nutmeg, and stir. Taste and add more salt, pepper and lemon juice if needed.
10. Serve.

### First time in Dunedin? My classic go-to eats

- Start the morning off at All Press. Their cheese scone is the best in town, and the coffee is incomparably better than the library coffee.
- Need something sweet? Rob Roy is a must. Their cookie time pie hits the spot and is reasonably priced.
- Something for tea? For a fun BYO or nicer dinner, head to Jizo. Reasonably priced food, great vibe, fantastic veg options, life changing donburi.



# Dear Critic...

*I got 99 problems  
and this is definitely one*

Dear Critic,  
Here's one for you.

*I'm having girl problems. I was trying to get with one of my flatmates last year, but she's since come out as gay. All good, power to her, but things have gotten complicated this year. On Wednesday, she brought home a girl that I had been trying to get with earlier at the same party. Feels like shit man. Both of the girls I've been into have turned out to be gay, and they're getting together in the room next to me. Now my flatmate is going on about how great this other chick is, and showing me their texts and shit and I can't stand it. She asked me if she should ask her out. Fuck me, right?*

Thanks,  
Mr No-missus

Giddy Mr No-missus,

Rotten luck, buddy. I can understand why you'd be upset about it, but you didn't have much of a chance in the first place. You might not have exactly the right "hardware," if you know what I mean. If you're mad about it though, don't take it out on your flatmate. Does she even know that you were into her? Or the other girl — does she know how you felt? If neither of them know how you're feeling, you can't blame them for not trying to hide what's going on. You can't just sit there and fume about it if you haven't tried to communicate.

It sucks to have those texts dangled in your face, but she's not doing it on purpose. She's probably coming to you for advice because she values your input and wants your support, and I don't think she'd be so cavalier about it if she had any idea how you felt. It'll be weird to talk about, but I'd say that you've either gotta let your flatmate in on the fact that you were into this girl (and her!) or drop the issue. Otherwise you're going to feel like shit, and you don't want that.

Honestly dude, the situation would be pretty funny if it wasn't so sad. What are the chances? Maybe you'll be able to laugh about it with your flatmate once you clear the air, or maybe things will work out and you'll get a seat at that dinner date. Either that, or move out. BTW, bold move choosing to flat with someone you knew you were into — it's not like that's ever ended poorly before!

Cheers,  
Jenna Talia



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# MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

## Some Great Ass-bestos

It's very exciting to meet another gay in Dunedin, so when you do, you have to make the most of it. My girlfriend and I were in the U-Haul stage – we were already planning matching scissor stick n' pokes and she'd lent me her copy of *Fun Home*, so you could say that it was getting pretty serious.

She's managing a show at this time (ew theatre kids but let's be honest they FUCK) and we decide to meet at Poppa's Pizza for dinner beforehand. Hot take: Poppa's Pizza is pretty grody but we're still in the honeymoon phase, and something about the overpriced \$13.50 margherita is incredibly sexy on this balmy moonlit night. She begins to tease me under the table, sliding her fingers up my thighs, and I'm melting like Poppa's parmesan while conspicuously shovelling gluten into my mouth. I don't know what happens (probably ovulation) but a dark horny force possesses me and I'm overcome with the energy of butch tops of past, future, and present. I need to continue this literally anywhere that isn't Poppa's Pizza ASAP.

Quivering, I lean over the bench and whisper the ancient phrase into her ear: "Want to get out of here?"

I'm sopping wet and her flat is too far away, so we escape to her rehearsal room. It's in an old building, more in a gulag way than a hot dark academia way, and her cast is still off doing horrible improv shit somewhere so we're all alone. She picks me up and

shoves me against the wall, kissing me with my legs wrapped around her waist. Oh mama.

It's getting hot and steamy when I spot a mysterious ladder climbing up into the ceiling, to what I can only imagine is our perfect private honeymoon suite. I un-limpet myself and drag us both up. It's weird and dusty up here and the only piece of furniture is a grotty old chair, but I make do and push my girlfriend onto it, whipping her pants right down to the Doc Martens. I'm on my knees. I make my way downtown and before long I'm smoochin the cooch while she's speaking in demon tongues, blessing the building's theatre kids and primary school teachers for years to come. I am fucking good at this. I literally only did a useless Linguistics degree so I could make jokes about cunning linguistics and clitics. I made that chair my bitch and you will definitely get legnant (lesbian pregnant) if you have the misfortune to ever sit on it.

My girlfriend has the phattest cum of her life and I go home, like a gentleman, leaving her to spend the rest of her evening doing freeze frames and trust falls. Sometimes we reminisce fondly and laugh.

Then a few months down the line, the block gets condemned for demolition. Because of asbestos. In the ceiling. My girlfriend probably got asbestos pussy. She might have got mesothelioma, but she also got a great nut so who's the real winner honestly.

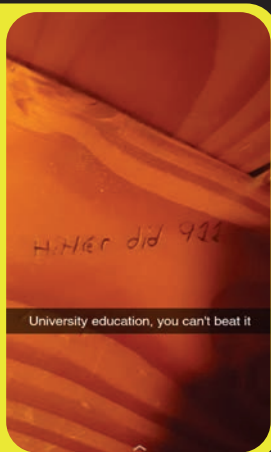
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