

# critictearohi



THE  
CONSPIRACY  
ISSUE

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

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### LETTER OF THE WEEK:

#### A word on the SGM

The recent SGM left a very strange taste in my mouth, and most of it was because of Sign Up Club.

On one hand, I am grateful that the issue of better pay for TRM Tumuaki and OPISA rep was raised, and that the motioned passed. But on the other hand, I find it very jarring that the biggest applause that day came for the motion to allow Sign-Up Club members to cut in line at Pint Night, not this incredibly important win for a more equitable OUSA.

The whole vibe of Sign-Up Club is that of a April Fools day joke gone wrong. Ballot measures of 'cut the pint night line', 'add Sign Up Three Friends' and 'make Bill and Bill the OUSA mascots' are a joke. It was a waste of everyone's time that these silly and (as we all discovered) unconstitutional motions forced an SGM, and then everyone just left once it became apparent that the motions were

Meanwhile TRM and OPISA do an insane amount of important work for the student community. TRM, OPISA and the multiple execs they represent do an incredible amount of work, salaried or otherwise. Striving for better pay delivers better equity, adheres to a more Te Tiriti-led university and actually values their work. It's a start, but a good step in the right direction.

Frankly, I find it gross that all these motions were given a moral equivalence

Sign Up Club; pull your privileged heads in. You are privileged personified. You think that you can use and abuse OUSA time, resources and SGM privileges to enact whatever joke comes to mind? News flash. That ain't reality. It is really gross that you all used these privileges to advocate joke motions that cannot be passed, when there are real problems and issues on campus that don't convenience you enough to advocate for.

One OUSA member who actually gives a shit about meaningful change

I hate cheap laminated benchtops. I hate them so much. No landlord should be allowed to force a tenant to use a kitchen made from such disgusting material. It's the equivalent of having a linoleum floor in your bedroom. Marble, stone, wood, even concrete are all infinitely better. I just really hate laminated benchtops. That is all I have to say.

Yours hatefully,  
Kitchen bitch

#### Dear Critic,

Recently I have felt extremely uncomfortable in my lectures on racism. Pictures on the slides have included 'scientific' evolutionary diagrams, first nation peoples in human zoos and even a photograph of a lynching. These peoples are not my ancestors, but I was really upset by the blunt use of these images as if they were there to decorate the slides. I'm not saying let's hide from exposing racism, but I feel that not including a trigger warning before this material is wrong. Intergenerational trauma is real, and no doubt, these images can resurface that pain.

Exposing the dark past will not change society if we ignore the harm racist imagery can cause to students descended from this history.

Regards,  
Decolonise

Last week's letter by yours faithfully Anthony Skegg was the best letter Critic Te Arohi ever has ever received, and ever will print. It's a crime it didn't get letter of the week. In honour of its greatness, I am going to stop writing in each week trying to get that tasty UBS voucher. You win Anthony.

Yours dejectedly,  
Steve Grieve

#### Salutations Critic

I'm just writing to let you know that the gates at Starters are very dangerous because they close inwards not outwards. If they have been fixed by the time your magazine goes to print, I'm happy to take the credit.

Warm regards,  
Burt Dangerfield,  
Ex Worksafe Regional Co-Coordinator, Southern Southland Region (retired)

#### To Critic,

The 7th floor law library toilet flushes a lot and sprays everywhere. Toilet water all over the seat. Go take a look. The people need to know.

From,

Entitled Law Student

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**THURSDAY  
13 MAY**

**Jazz In The Pocket**  
DOG WITH TWO TAILS  
8PM / FREE ENTRY

**Hartshorn Benson Duo**  
ZANZIBAR  
9PM / FREE ENTRY

**FRIDAY  
14 MAY**

**The Dark Eighties**  
DIVE  
9PM

**Paul S Allen - 'And He Flies' Album Release**  
GALLERY ON BLUESKIN  
6:30PM / FREE ENTRY / ALL AGES

**Jay Clarkson And The Containers**  
THE GALLEY CAFE & BAR  
8:30PM / FREE ENTRY

**BO And the Constrictors - 'Woo-hoo' Single Release w/ Ollie and The Crooks and Clemintine**  
THE CROWN HOTEL  
8PM  
Tickets from [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz)

**The New Good, Hotdog, and Already Drunk**  
DUNEDIN MUSICIANS' CLUB  
8PM / \$10

**BEASTWARS - 10th Anniversary Tour w/ Earth Tongue**  
STARTERS BAR  
8:30PM  
Tickets from [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz)

**Bronwyn**  
ZANZIBAR  
5:30PM / FREE ENTRY

**SATURDAY  
15 MAY**

**Kōpūtai People's Party**  
DOG WITH TWO TAILS  
7PM / KOHA ENTRY

**SUNDAY  
16 MAY**

**Valley Bluegrass**  
DUNEDIN FOLK CLUB  
7PM / \$5 MEMBERS / \$10 NON-MEMBERS





# EDITORIAL: Please listen to me

By Erin Gourley

A few years ago it would have been weird to create an entire issue about conspiracies. They weren't that relevant. If you said conspiracies, people didn't think of vaccines or 5G, they thought of JFK and the moon landing. It was a simpler time. These fun little conspiracies didn't affect people's lives deeply or have an impact on the health of millions of people.

Oh how times have changed. They're fucking everywhere now. This morning there was a flyer drop of anti-vax bullshit on Castle Street, which is timely.

Maybe it was naive, but I didn't think conspiracy theories would target students. North Dunedin, where you know 90% of the population are studying towards a university degree or working at a university, seems a strange place to spread misinformation.

The truth is out there, sure, but we don't have a lot of time to look for it. Getting into conspiracy theories is kind of like deciding, voluntarily, to study something pretty intensely with no degree at the end of the road. Just coming up with theories and writing essays online for the fun of it. I sincerely hope that doesn't appeal to most students, it sounds an awful lot like uni.

I delved into the horrifying place that is Facebook conspiracy groups to write an article in this issue. And honestly, a lot of it went over my head. There are a whole lot of inside terms and references and dog whistles that I really did not understand. I think fully

understanding why, for example, some people in New Zealand believe that clouds are electro-magnetic frequency generated by the government, takes a lot of effort.

That effort shifts your entire perspective on the world. People who fully believe these conspiracies are operating on a pretty different plane to the rest of us, which must be tough to deal with. Denzel spoke to students about their experiences of trying to bring family members back from that brink. Most of them gave up, because it's difficult and draining to convince someone that the truth is not what they think it is.

Sean reached out to a #NoFap guy in Christchurch about why he reckons not masturbating helps him with women and working out. That may seem innocent as far as conspiracies go, but even these wellness philosophies involve a rejection of accepted science and can link to some pretty fucked up beliefs.

Then there are the more tangible real conspiracies. Elliot investigated attempts to explore for uranium in Fiordland, which is very real and very conspiracy-like. Fox and Asia investigated the cryptids of Aotearoa (I believe wholeheartedly in the Fiordland moose). And please pay special attention to our cover, inspired by the work of Richard Parry.

P.S. Make sure to look out for the Bills next time you're on campus :) Everything is fine.

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## critictearoahi

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## Admin Job Losses Actually Led to Larger Departments

"You were meant to CUT support staff, not double them you dingus"  
— Harlene Hayne, probably

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

The University initiative which cut 160 support staff jobs for "efficiency" has led to the hiring of at least 170 full-time equivalent staff to replace them.

The Support Services Review (SSR) was implemented by then Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne, and basically involved yeeting many services previously handled within departments into centralised, university-wide teams. The business case for the review claimed that these job losses, and the freed-up office space, would save the Uni \$15 million a year. However, an Official Information Act request from Critic Te Arohi shows that admin staff numbers have actually increased since the SSR was implemented.

For example, combining all departmental admin staff into Client Services (and allowing them to be yeeted between departments at

will) was meant to allow staff numbers to be trimmed from 340–380 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff to 284. Instead, staff numbers have actually grown to 373, or 31% higher than predicted.

Similarly, Finance Services has over double the number of staff they were expected to have following the restructure (53, rather than 24). The same trends appear in the Operational Finance, AskOtago and Student Experience divisions. Across the five largest divisions of the Department of Shared Services, 170 more staff were hired than originally planned, more than cancelling out the 160 job losses caused by the SSR.

The Uni's Director of Human Resources, Kevin Seales, did not deny that units have grown, saying "significant change and continued growth of student numbers has resulted

in a need for more staff to support this growth. The advent of a pandemic last year has also resulted in some changes too. It was always intended that the model would evolve and adapt in response to changing circumstances. This flexibility is one of the strengths of the model." According to the Uni's own figures, full-time equivalent student numbers have grown 0.68% since 2017, from 18,457 to 18,582.

Asked about whether staff needed to be fired in the first place, Seales said: "Changes were necessary because it involved a large restructure of the roles in the University. The changes were largely achieved through voluntary severance, rather than forced redundancies. All changes were managed in accordance with New Zealand legislation and the requirements set out in our employment agreements which are agreed with the Unions."

## Exchanges To Aus Starting Next Semester

Even Australia seems exotic at this point

By Fox Meyer

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Your Tinder pool will finally increase past 69 people next semester, as students will be able to jump back and forth across the ditch on exchange.

Danielle Yamamoto Kerr told Critic that Otago and its Aussie partner universities will resume the exchanges in the second semester after several meetings to establish their "appetite" for exchange students. Oh, to be the first new face on the Otago campus in over a year.

Danielle, who manages International Student

Services and Mobility, said that the universities have agreed on what measures need to be in place to make this opportunity safe and appropriate. The 420-or-so students from Otago who are keen on the exchange will have to abide by a few rules:

1. This only happens if the bubble stays open
2. If it closes, you need to have money to stay afloat overseas
3. MIQ costs are on you
4. Also insurance costs are on you

The opportunity is being offered to people who were already planning to study overseas in semester two 2021, at an Aussie uni or anywhere else that is now inaccessible. The Uni is open to applications for sem one 2022, if you're keen to go to Aus, but nowhere else.

"Otago will consider introducing exchange to other countries in line with government advice about safe travel and University policy on University-endorsed travel" in the future. Good luck getting to India any time soon, though.



**This Week on  
Radio One  
91 FM News**

**This week, the news  
team interview student  
groups doing good mahi  
in the community.**

**MONDAY**  
SOULS Tenancy  
Programme

**TUESDAY**  
Students for  
Environmental Action

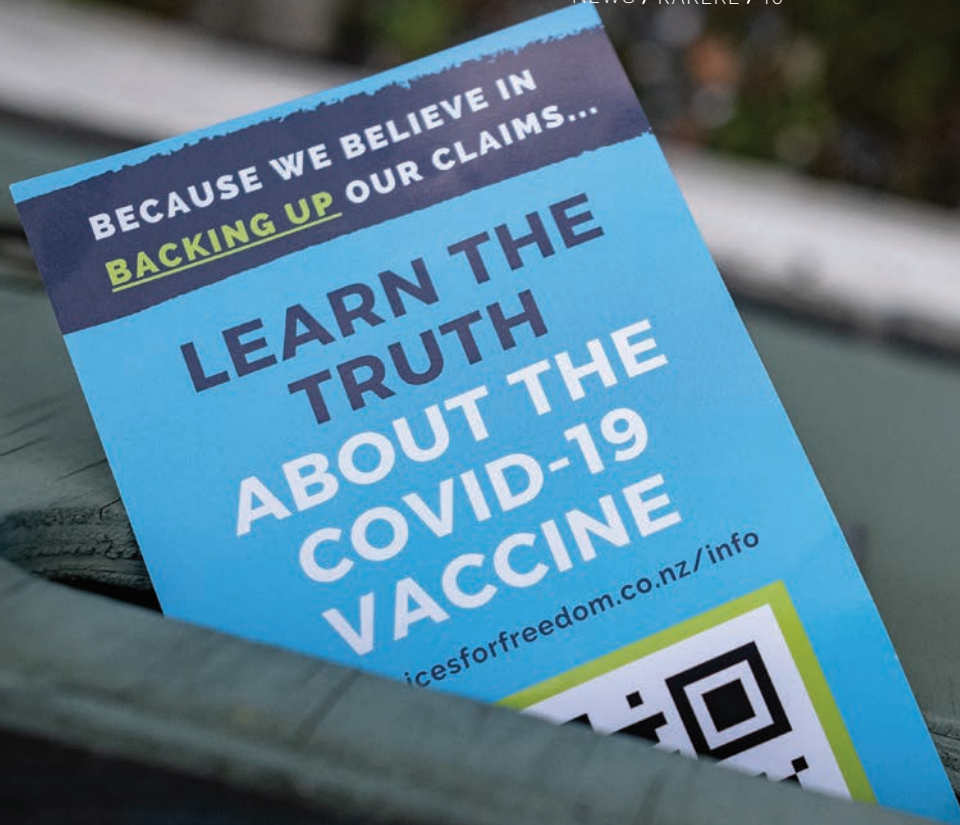
**WEDNESDAY**  
Otago Disabled  
Students' Association

**THURSDAY**  
Are You OK?

**FRIDAY**  
Silverline

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weekdays at 12, 2 and 5 to  
catch the Radio One News!  
r1.co.nz*





## Students Targeted With Anti-Vax Propaganda

Nothing says "trustworthy" like spam

**By Fox Meyer & Alex Leckie-Zaharic**  
 News Editor // [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz)  
 News Reporter // [alex@critic.co.nz](mailto:alex@critic.co.nz)

On Thursday 6 May, studentville was bombarded with flyers full of bullshit about the Covid vaccine. The flyers could be found on Castle Street, George Street, and Queen Street.

They were created by the anti-vax group "Voices for Freedom", founded by three "passionate Kiwi mums" who want to "amplify the often-silenced voices who dare speak up." Critic Te Arohi would like to apologise to their children for having such outspoken parents, assuming that those children weren't killed by an entirely preventable disease before the age of ten.

The group somehow managed to purchase, print, and distribute approximately two million flyers across the country at an estimated cost of \$60,000. That's a lot of money to decide not to donate to, say, a medical charity or a school board. Voices for Freedom definitely puts the children first.

The flyers contained eight "facts" about the vaccine, including statements as vague and stupid as "it is

unknown if the vaccine will cause cancer." It is also unknown if the jab will cause a love of disco. A lot is unknown.

In a letter this week, Marine Science Professor Abigail M Smith told Critic that "We need to expose this [flyer] for what it really is: harmful lies. The idea here is that the vaccine would cause more harm than not vaccinating – which is a lie."

"Underlying this leaflet is a colonialist racist and wholly invalid argument that somehow New Zealand won't get it because we are 'better'", she said. "We are somewhat guilty of this, in the southern South Island, thinking that we somehow, magically, won't get Covid like they do up north. We couldn't be more wrong."

The publishers of this flyer are far from academic. Like the man behind our earthquake conspiracy piece earlier this year, co-founder Claire Deeks is an ex-lawyer, a career path seemingly common amongst people who refuse to wear masks on

public transport with a desire to hold everyone else up with their complaints. Claire was also third on the Advance NZ party list behind such respected academics as Jami-Lee Ross and Billy Te Kahika Jr, so you know you can trust what she shoves in your mailbox.

The flyers were fucking everywhere on Castle Street. They carpeted the broken glass, making it almost safe to walk across. One student told Critic Te Arohi he was surprised at the audacity of the group, saying "do they think we're stupid?" while another said "some nutters wearing tinfoil hats got access to a trust fund and decided to go crazy with it."

Voices for Freedom, the conspiracy hub, is not to be confused with Voices4Freedom, which is an anti-slavery campaign. The Advertising Standards Authority has received four complaints about the flyers.

Students in front-line medical positions continue to get the vaccine in spite of the very convincing claims made.



## "Where Them Students At? Students At?" Ask Protesters

Separate protest held conveniently downwind from the weed protest

By Denzel Chung

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

May 1 saw two protests happening in the Octagon simultaneously, with organisers lamenting a lack of student activism in a city once known for rowdy student-led protests.

The annual J Day protest, organised by the Ōtepoti Cannabis Collective, was designed to continue pushing for cannabis law reform, in light of the "momentum for change from the community". Held in the upper Octagon, activists relaxed in the sunshine, chatted and, yes, smoked from "High Noon" to 4:20pm as hip-hop music played. However, of the 20–30 protestors in attendance at the event, Critic Te Arohi could only count a handful of student-aged people, with most being in their 30s or older.

Phillip, who was at pains to point out "I'm a Gen-Xer, not a boomer," was happy to be out in the sunshine, "doing what we should be allowed to do anyway." Despite his cheer, he told Critic Te Arohi that the turnout was "disappointing", saying "it seems to be hard to get people out to speak".

Brin, from Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) said that these protests should be "another opportunity to show how many people support the movement." "The debate is done," he said. "We've seen how it's done all over the world ... [cannabis legalisation] is going to be overwhelmingly positive." Although admitting there weren't many students at J Day, Brin said "I guess that's why we're here, right? To be a student voice for this thing."

Student Thea observed that "there are a lot of students who smoke that aren't here, who are scared of the repercussions it could have on them." But she had a simple, positive message for people hesitating to get involved: "The more of us there are, the less they can do anything about it."

Just across the Octagon, Unions Otago was commemorating International Workers' Day by protesting to support those out of work, and struggling with a benefits system "where people aren't allowed to live properly," according to First Union representative Sonia.

Chris, who has cerebral palsy, challenged the Government to "stand by the history of the Labour Party ... we as a country are an egalitarian country," adding that "disabled people should be able to enjoy a dignified life, rather than a life of subservience."

Jen, from Extinction Rebellion, argued forcefully for systemic change, saying environmental consumer choices were mostly a distraction for the wealthy. "Don't shame and blame individuals for taking part in a system they may not like or agree with, just because they're trying to make ends meet," she said.

Of the approximately 50 in attendance just a handful of students were present. This fact wasn't lost on Jack Brazil, an activist who was the Green Party's Dunedin candidate at last year's election. Jack thought students "could mobilise a hell of a lot better. We saw them mobilise for a bong about two years ago. It'd be nice if they could do the same for

the more vulnerable members of our community, the more marginalised members."

Dave Kearns, Otago branch secretary for the Railway and Maritime Transport Union, agreed: "Young people could do a heck of a lot more. We've got a tradition of political and social activism." However, he felt the future of student activism was promising. "When I see students or high-schoolers at the protests, like the School Strike 4 Climate, I go 'Thank you,'" he said, gesturing to a vague higher power. "Because the people who are making the change are also heading it. That's your future you're fighting for, not ours."

When asked how students could make a change, Jack encouraged people to "find out about what you're passionate about, and talk about it to everyone you can. When you find people who are as passionate about it as you are, work together and make some change." A disciplined group united towards one goal can be immensely powerful, as any Sign-Up Club member would tell you (also, sign up and find three friends).

Dave was more hesitant to lecture, telling Critic Te Arohi that "there are so many different ways (to get involved), and it doesn't necessarily have to be through a traditional union. If it is, that's great, but at the end of the day you've got to find your own path." Since the protest, the Labour government has announced a three year cut on public servants' incomes, despite subsidising Jeff Bezos' Lord of The Rings prequels to the tune of \$160 million.





## "Democracy is Dead"

Sign Up Club fails to enact memes, succeeds at being an ally (maybe)

By Fox Meyer

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

Sign Up Club's 30 April OUSA SGM ended not with a bang, but a fizzle. The only motion to pass was an increase in pay for ex-officio positions at OUSA.

This raised the pay for the Te Roopū Māori Tumuaki Karamēa Pēwhairangi and Pasifika Students Association's President Melissa Lama, both of whom were in attendance.

Quorum was met, with club members pulling in students from the hallway. Many from Facebook were in attendance, and the quarter-full room waited with baited breath for the meeting to begin. Immediately, the motion to raise ex-officio pay was raised to be the first item on the agenda, so that the people who were there to vote on serious issues didn't have to sit through debates about cutting the pint night line.

But it didn't matter. George, who chaired the meeting, followed the vote to raise pay with an announcement that the remaining motions were in breach of the OUSA constitution and were therefore invalid. There would not be a second Hyde Street. Everyone could now go home. It lasted 20 minutes.

Financial Rep Josh said that he didn't want to "be a buzzkill". When speaking about why the Hyde Party motion violated rules, Josh expressed that while he had to uphold the constitution, he didn't want to prevent students from doing what they want to do.

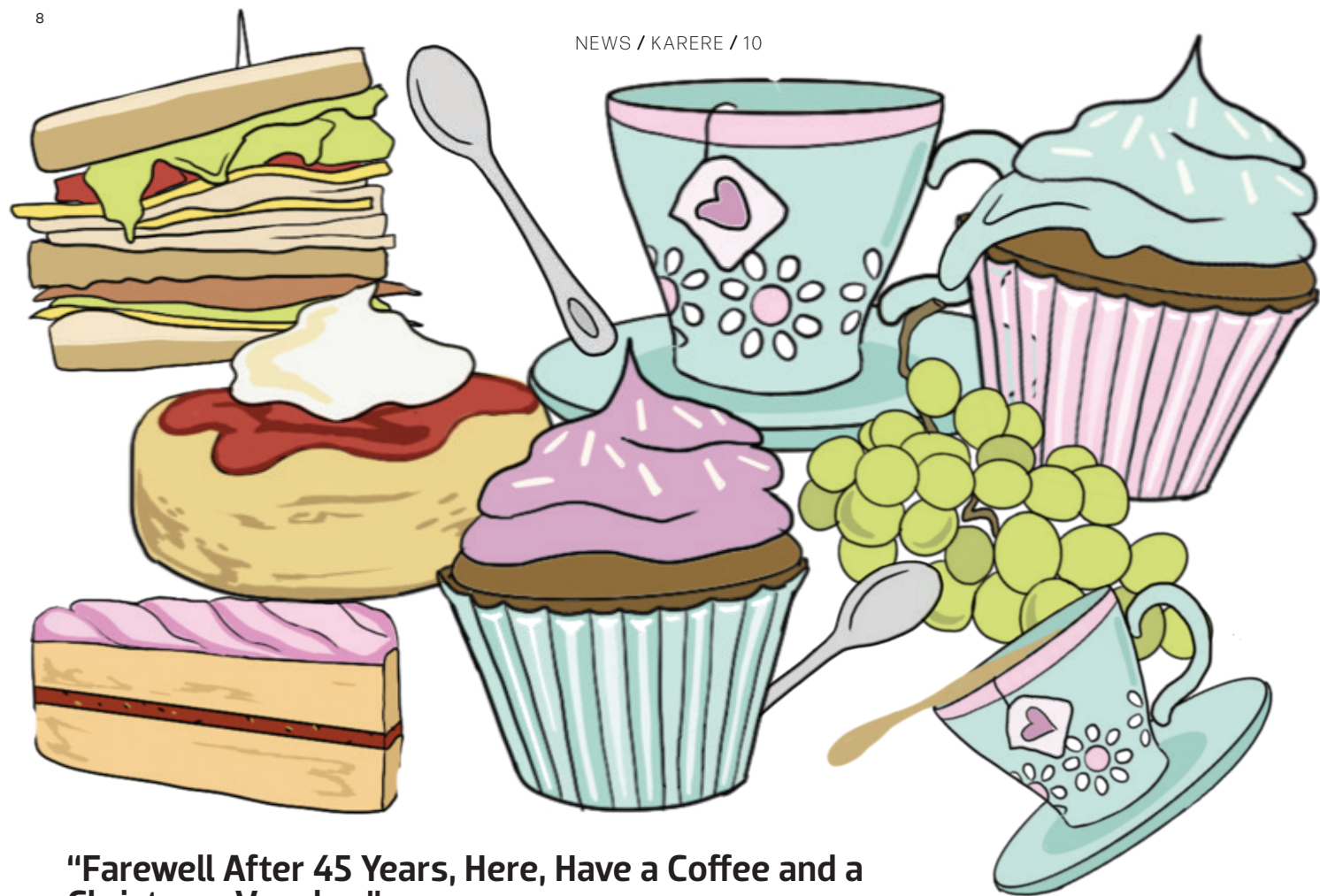
The obviously upset crowd requested to at least conduct a straw poll to demonstrate interest in the motions presented, which went ahead. Support for another Hyde Street was popular, but after it was straw-pollled, SUC president Reid and VP Devon announced that the meeting was more or less a moot point. "Thank you to everyone for coming," they said, dejected.

The motions failed to pass because the wording was "only slightly off". OUSA executives were heard immediately following the meeting expressing that had the motions been worded slightly differently, they would have been eligible and very likely passed. "Sign Up Club definitely had the support of the crowd. They had the numbers. I think they would've passed anything they had worded better," said SUC supporter, impartial observer, and Critic Te Arohi Editor Erin Gourley.

Two motions in particular did not violate OUSA's financial clause: Making the Bills the mascots of the Uni, and requiring all OUSA email correspondence to include "Sign Up and Tag Three Friends" in the signature. Had the Bills been motioned to be OUSA's mascot rather than the Uni's, it may have been an eligible motion. Critic still isn't sure what was invalid about the email signature bit.

OUSA has been trying to increase student involvement and voter turnout for years. "You'd think that they would have given us a heads up that we needed to change our wording" said one Sign Up Club voter. "You can't ask students to get involved and then shoot them down when they try to do exactly that."

The club's Exec were "not sure" if they wanted to try again, but students remained interested in the issues presented. Despite the invalidation, 100+ students still rallied and attended a last-minute SGM to vote on their interests. If nothing else, Sign Up Club has demonstrated the power of turning your internet friends into real-life friends.



## "Farewell After 45 Years, Here, Have a Coffee and a Christmas Voucher"

Critic hurriedly arranges gold-plated parachute for distributor Dave Borrie

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Just two months after asking for "a bit of respect, a bit of courtesy" from her workplace of 45 years, Sue Loan who previously co-ordinated delivery of newspapers across Dunedin, received a 15 minute coffee break and two New World vouchers left over from Christmas.

"We are extremely disappointed that this topic has been raised on social media once again nearly a month after Sue Loan has been treated with respect and felicitated on the Friday 9th April," said Allied Press who publish the ODT and The Star. This probably marks the first time the word "felicitated" has been used since approximately 1867.

In March, Critic Te Arohi reported on how Sue was suddenly fired after 45 years of service to Allied Press with a single letter. Fired along with her were the 60 children and disabled people she managed, who then had to reapply for jobs with Auckland-based Reach Media.

At the end of March, Allied Press held a morning tea to acknowledge their delivery contractors: Sue, as well as Dave Small, the other distributor. An article in The Star noted that "Sue Loan was also invited to attend, but was unable to do so, due to being out of town." This was true — Sue was visiting her

son in Auckland that week, on a trip planned before she even knew she was going to be fired. "They knew, I had told them about it! I did get back in the afternoon, but they carried on," said Sue.

The ODT did eventually invite Sue for a coffee. It was "the first time in 45 years I'd been invited for anything," she said, "so of course I said yes." They left her waiting in the lobby for 15 minutes, before inviting her up. After less than "a quarter of an hour" of small talk, "all of a sudden, it was time to go, someone had a phone call to make, someone was busy." Sue was presented with a plain white envelope before being bundled out the door.

"There was nothing inside the envelope," Sue said, except "two grocery vouchers which were [bought on] 7 December 2020. And I just threw them across the car. I was disgusted. I wish I'd opened them upstairs, because I would have just left it on the table. That was an insult. These had obviously been inside the envelope since Christmas time."

According to Allied Press, "Sue was contacted and morning tea arranged at a suitable date. We arranged for a large spread of sweet and savoury items, tea and coffee. The event was also attended by three other staff members of the Distribution

team and lasted close to 30 mins. She was also presented with a valid \$100 New World voucher. For obvious efficiency reasons, we do purchase gift vouchers in bulk and hold on to them to be presented when the occasion arises."

Stewing over it for a while, her husband eventually posted it on Dunedin News — as of a recent check, it had received 393 sad reacts and 169 wow reacts (nice), as well as 253, overwhelmingly outraged, comments.

Allied Press said: "It is disappointing that we have been subjected to this trial by Social Media once again, in spite of playing our part as a caring and responsible organization."

Sue was at pains to emphasise that, once again, this wasn't about money — just courtesy and respect from a company claiming to be at the heart of their community. "I didn't want any big money or anything, but not even a card with anything written on it?"

"We laughed, 'here's her gold watch for 45 years service'. I know I was a contractor, but you can still treat your contractors as people, and loyal workers ... To think that you count for nothing after all this time is pretty hard."



# Samoa Students On Why Their Country is Ready for Change

"We need change and Vaaletoa needs a break" – Davina

By Erin Gourley

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

The Samoan election was in a deadlock between a new opposition party, FAST, and the current governing party, HRPP. Another seat was added to break the deadlock, but it's not clear whether that was legal, and the Head of State has recently called for a fresh election, but it's not clear whether that was legal either. The current ruling party has been in power for nearly 40 years, and they've had the same leader, Tuimaleali'ifano Sualauvi Vaaletoa II, for the past 20 years. His deputy prime-minister, Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, split from the party and formed FAST last year. FAST are the first major challenge to HRPP's power in decades.

Critic Te Arohi spoke with three Samoan students at Otago about how they're feeling.

"It's very long, it's dragged on for a while," said Davina Suaalii, who is a first year health science student. She's not old enough to vote, because the voting age in Samoa is 21, but she's started paying attention to politics more in the past few years. "At first it was really intense, a new party and an old party, and it was like ooh, who's going to win? Now it's like ugh, is this still going?" she said.

"I think it's a good thing to have a new party in power. Samoa needs change, the world is changing and they need to change and adapt to the rest of the world," she said. "Vaaletoa is going to go down in history as someone great, but if he continues with this, maybe not."

Latu Kioa, who is studying his PhD in theology at Otago, said that FAST rose to power when the government started to interfere with customary land rights. "The current government were touching the very core of our culture, which is land, customary land," he said. "They have allowed 80% of customary land to be leased out to foreign investors, but these lands are owned by our family. Our chiefs, our matai, are caretakers. Every Samoan, we all have rights to that land." The land issue, Latu said, was the reason FAST was formed.

Latu explained that FAST have run on a grassroots platform, rather than focusing on the urban centres like Apia. By having a woman as their leader, they respect Samoa's bilineal tradition, he said. FAST are also campaigning to give the vote to Samoans living

overseas, so it's maybe not surprising that these students in New Zealand supported them.

Livingstone Efu, a law student, said that it was "really good to see Samoa grow its democracy through this election. We can finally see that there is a chance, the HRPP they're not dominant, there is a possibility of another party taking over."

"On the election day I spoke to my mum and dad, but it's not like you wake up and announce who you're going to vote for," Livingstone said. "That's the funny thing about Samoa, you can come from a family of like ten people and you won't say who you vote for. You have people who vote for FAST and people who vote for HRPP in the same family."

Latu wanted to emphasise that everything they say about HRPP and Vaaletoa is with respect. "They're our fathers, they're our mothers, and we maintain that respect and that space. This is our own personal opinion with what's going on," he said. Livingstone said: "It's not in a respect 'North Korea' kind of way. We actually respect our leaders."

May 13th - 16th  
7.30pm

May 18th - 21st  
7.30pm



Tickets from:  
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May 13th - 16th | 7:30pm  
May 18th - 21st | 7:30pm

Larry Thotter - The Capping Show 2021



University of Otago  
College of Education Auditorium

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## Fire Shuts Down Lectures

Redheads to be banned from campus from Tuesday

By Alex Leckie-Zaharic  
News Reporter // alex@critic.co.nz

The dreary walk into University up Union St East was made a little more exciting on Wednesday morning, with the already scaffolding-covered College of Education Auditorium surrounded by four fire engines responding to the sight of smoke.

According to a University spokesperson, a "small, smouldering" fire started up backstage in the Auditorium at 8.15am on Wednesday May 5th, at which point usual emergency protocol was followed, and 30 people were evacuated from the building. Another 32 were evacuated from the Childcare Centre, but around 9.30 in the morning the fire was extinguished by the fire department. No one was harmed in the incident.

Ironically, the cause of the fire was linked to contractors installing a new fire sprinkler system. The lingering smell of smoke has led the University to put lectures for the rest of the week on ice, both in the Auditorium and the neighbouring drama centre.

Despite the aftermath of the fire resulting in all lectures scheduled in the Auditorium being cancelled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, it hasn't stopped the Capping Show crew from completing their pack-in on Thursday night, after consulting with the University's Health and Safety team. The Capping Show will run from the 13th to the 21st of May in the Auditorium, so hopefully the

building is back in tip-top shape by then and also not on fire.

When informed of the incident, some students talked about the mythical "pass by catastrophe", where an automatic pass can be given in the event of catastrophe, such as a death, a natural disaster, and yes, a building burning down as a result of a fire.

While no fingers can be pointed yet, any students who were banking on the Auditorium being razed to the ground to get them through their paper will be sorely disappointed, as a) passing by catastrophe doesn't actually exist, and b) very little damage was done to the building.

## Uni Wants Some New Rules, OUSA Says "Mmmm idk about that"

Big debates about literal rubbish

By Fox Meyer  
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

OUSA pointed out a fuckton of problems with the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct in a 20-page submission to the University. The Uni is updating its Code of Conduct and received public submissions on the proposal until 7 May.

The very first thing that the Exec said in their submission was that they "oppose the University regulating students' off-campus behaviours," because it is an "extreme encroachment on the privacy and rights of students."

While "OUSA recognises the intention of the University in mitigating risks to student wellbeing," the Exec expressed concern that the University is going too far and acting as "judge, jury, and executioner".

The Exec said that there is a "complete lack of clarity" of the Uni's obligations to students. "This is especially ironic given the bold title on the second page of the Code of Conduct: "Your Responsibility, Our Responsibility." Shots fired.

OUSA also suggested that the Uni be clearer when communicating with students about technical matters, and highlighted that many students don't really know what a "provost" is anyway. They also suggested that rather than "him/her", the Uni just uses "the student", because gender neutral language is important and easier to read.

The rubbish issue was a major point of contention. The Uni wants to be able to fine students for litter on their property, even though that property is not in any way owned by the university. Not that having a shit flat is acceptable. OUSA reminded the Uni that there are tenancy laws very much already in place to hold tenants accountable for litter.

OUSA asks: what counts as rubbish, anyway? "Students have been known to keep non-aesthetically pleasing but functional furniture outside their homes." Yes, they're talking about you and your mouldy couch. OUSA also cleverly pointed out that "rubbish publically viewable" would include anything visible from the top of the Richardson, which is everywhere.

As far as sexual misconduct was concerned, OUSA said that the Uni was "taking on too much power and oversight into disciplinary and investigative roles than it could ever effectively operate." They recommended that the Uni let other officials handle criminal matters, and that a Deputy Provost be appointed to assist with sexual misconduct cases.

OUSA said that they want to be careful about initiations, but that a focus on penalty would be less effective than educational programmes focussing on harm reduction. Giving the Uni the power to determine what counts as "harmful" and the ability to police private property would be a dangerous step.

Other points of contention were "a glaring lack of cultural competency laid out in the Discipline Statute," recommending a free alcohol and drug counselling system, and incorporation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi from the outset of this policy.

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OCTAVIA COOK'S (seaslug), H (human), A (anaconda), L (loose wing), L (loose body), O (owl), W (wood) 2021 Acrylic, silver. Courtesy of the artist and Anna Miles Gallery



Octavia Cook  
Alexandra Kennedy  
Ed Ritchie  
Justin Spiers

**SUITE**  
A DPAG Biennial  
Contemporary Dunedin  
Programme: Part Two  
**20/21**



## Only 1% of Uni Students Don't Consume Caffeine

Study says: They prefer MD

By Fox Meyer

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

A new Massey study circulated by prominent science publisher MDPI found that nearly every single New Zealand tertiary student consumes caffeine on a near-daily basis. Caffeine was most commonly consumed as energy drinks, coffee, tea, or chocolate.

The real news here is that 1% of students somehow found a way to avoid caffeine. These people don't drink coffee or tea, and don't eat chocolate.

Most students surveyed reported negative side-effects of caffeine, with one third exceeding the healthy dose. Students also chronically abuse

deadlines, medication, and their livers — so this comes as no surprise.

Oscar, a fourth-year, reported that "many, many times" he has consumed enough coffee to fear having a heart attack. "I used to have this percolator that poured four cups of coffee. I'd start the day with one full perc. Sometimes I'd have two, and be incapacitated for the rest of the day. I'm not sure I should have been legally able to drive."

Anna and Aaron both reported that they commonly drank enough caffeine to feel sick. "Like, vomiting sick", said Aaron. "But it's worth it. You've gotta do what you gotta do."

Student Gabe reported that he and his mates would often take caffeine pills as a pick-me-up before a night out, "because coke is too expensive." They would crush the over-the-counter pills and snort them, immediately exceeding the healthy dose.

Caffeine is an addictive substance. People seem to have accepted that into modern society, but it is a drug nonetheless. The report by Stachyshyn et al noted that the harmful effects of excessive caffeine consumption combined with increasing availability of caffeine products are "causes for concern".

Bet they were drinking coffee when they wrote that though.

## There's Asbestos in the Biochem Building

Uni changes story after Critic Te Arohi investigates

By Alex Leckie-Zaharic

News Reporter // [alex@critic.co.nz](mailto:alex@critic.co.nz)

A routine story about the University proactively clearing away asbestos from an old building as part of an upgrade took an unexpected turn when the University sent mixed messages.

An earlier statement sent to Critic Te Arohi said that only the safer, "non-friable" form of asbestos was present, but after Critic found evidence to the contrary, the Uni admitted that a dangerous "friable" form of asbestos had been present in the biochem building for multiple years.

Critic originally requested comment from the University over the presence of asbestos in the aging Biochemistry Building after we were tipped off by a student to its presence. Asbestos, if you weren't aware, is bad for you. As in, it's a carcinogen with "no 'safe' lower limit of exposure [which] has been identified with certainty," according to [health.govt.nz](http://health.govt.nz).

A statement from Property Services Division Director Dean Macaulay said that "Our University is very proactive in eliminating as much asbestos as possible." Macaulay said that non-friable (safe-ish) asbestos was present in the building. Even though it was safe, it was being removed as a proactive precaution while the University upgraded the labs in the building, despite them having "no legal requirement" to do so. "The safety of building occupants and users is our main priority," the statement said.

This article was effectively done and dusted. Good on the Uni for being safe, yada yada. 10/10, full marks, ka pai.

But then on a whim, Critic checked the worksite in the Biochemistry Building and found, sitting in broad daylight, a folder containing copies of documentation created as part of the asbestos removal process. The documents said that there was friable asbestos (that's the bad kind) in more than five areas of the building — mostly within

acceptable levels. This was not what the Uni told Critic on the phone.

As Critic was examining the giant folder with all of the workplace documentation, a worker for Naylor Love (the University's contractor for work on the biochemistry building) arrived and swept away all of the paperwork. He cleared out, mumbling something about how it was left there by accident earlier in the day.

In an email sent to Critic just before publication, the University said that friable asbestos was indeed removed a while back but that the current focus was on getting non-friable asbestos out. "The asbestos has probably been in the building since it was constructed," the statement said. "The service riser (duct) [which contains the asbestos] has been closed to all trade staff — unless they took special precautions — for about two years because friable asbestos had been detected in the duct. The air was regularly monitored to ensure no asbestos was airborne."



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## Consequences of Bitcoin Debated

Crypto Club Prez has different views to the person with a PhD

By **Quintin Jane**  
Radio One News Reporter

You can buy a Tesla with it, and you can evade the feds with it, but recent reports from Cambridge University show that bitcoin mining consumes more power than the entire country Argentina, and accounts for nearly 1% of global power consumption. Actual, physical mining accounts for 4–7% of power consumption.

Bitcoin mining currently consumes 142.59 Terra-Watt hours of electricity annually. This is more power than is consumed by the entire country of Sweden, or enough energy to power all the Satisfyer Pro 2's in the New Zealand for 32 years.

Only 26 countries in the world consume more power than bitcoin mining annually. Dr Olivier Jutel, a lecturer at Otago University who specialises in researching bitcoin and blockchain technology was horrified by this, calling it an "environmental, moral, and ethical disaster". Campbell Miller, President of the Otago University Cryptocurrency Club pointed out the fact that our current financial institutions are very resource heavy anyway, and that bitcoin mining is just more obvious in its environmental impact. "Gold ... scars the earth, it pillages the earth, there's

just craters left. Bitcoin is just the free market deciding that this how much energy we should use to compute and solidify the bitcoin network."

Campbell argued that bitcoin is the future of currency. He believes that bitcoin will help put the power back into the hands of people, and free trade from the clutches of government regulation. "A few hundred years ago governments said 'this is what money is, and this is what it's going to be, any other form of money is not money.'" That gave them power over how much money there is, and fiscal and monetary policy."

He said that "Bitcoin is a way for the free market to decide what should be in money. Because it has true decentralisation, no one controls bitcoin." Not even Elon Musk, thank God. Dr Jutel's response was much shorter: "If I could, I would nuke it from space."

Dr Jutel said that bitcoin and the blockchain "naturalise the idea that we should have financial institutions not under any sort of democratic governance, that it should be a kind of cyberspace wild west." Anyone who has spent any time at all

on 4chan knows what a "cyberspace wild west" could mean.

Dr Jutel said that "this has the effect of creating new unaccountable concentrations of power that Jeff Bezos could only dream of", and alongside his dreams of Kindle-wielding hobbits and bottles full of workers piss, this dream would consummate a nightmare for the commoner.

Many argue that Bitcoin is too volatile to use as a regular currency, given that its value has gone up 128-fold in the last five years. Cameron argued that if you "look at the peaks and bottoms of each market cycle, Bitcoin is diminishing in volatility overtime." Campbell also pointed out that the price of gold was once volatile too, and stabilized over time when its market cap was realised.

Dr Jutel argued that "Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies do not serve the basic purposes of money ... every now and then a novelty bitcoin ATM pops up, or the dark web allows you to murder people, or order pizza through crypto currency."



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# ODT Watch

YOU would swear the giant African millipede on Ireland Jacobs' face was doing the hokey tokey.

It was putting its 100th left leg in, and it was putting its 100th left leg out again — a

"Barry!" "Yeah?" "What's a good joke about this millipede on someone's face?" "A millipede?"

"Has lots of legs." "Legs ... hmmm ... the hokey tokey!" The ODT does not disappoint in transporting its readers back to the 1950s.

A CLUSTER of mysterious bird deaths is ruffling feathers.

Nearly 30 birds in outdoor aviaries at three different properties in Dunedin suburbs Corstorphine and Concord were found dead in their cages this week.

Coincidence? I think not ...

"You're on one side or the other side," Baz Stevens said. "You can't be in the middle."

This week, in the ODT, a Vietnam War veteran compared a Palmerston town feud to Agent Orange.

The stress it caused exceeded what he experienced in two tours of Vietnam, he said.

"Tell that lady that u live with to do ur house work," she wrote in one message.

"Take some cooking lessons as u cant cook for s...", another read.

And once Birtles unleashed, others felt the heat of her anonymous wrath.

"u cant cook for shit" is a killer insult, I would never show my face in Palmerston again.

LICKING your classmates on the face is typically frowned upon.

Some good life advice.

Looking over the gate to one of the country's most spectacular cycle trails, they're fizzing with excitement.

"I can smell it," says Dave. "This is going to be next level."

I love to smell cycle trails and fizz with excitement.

"Climate change activists are again putting people at risk, this time putting 16-year-old youths on the track in hours of darkness.

This reads like the XR protestors chained a 16-year-old to the train tracks like a woman in a 1920s silent film.



## Te Roopū Māori Tumuaki Karamea Pēwhairangi


Kia ora koutou katoa, Karamea here from Te Rōpū Māori, ko te manako e pai ana koutou i roto i ngā tini āhuatanga o te wā. Just wanted to come on here and highlight some of the things that have been happening in our neck of the woods. By now we would have summited our submission on the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Statue. We as an association believe that it is quite unfair for the University to have so much self proclaimed mana over what we do in our personal lives. There are many proposed changes that ultimately don't sit right with us along with the lack of understanding that there can't be a one size fits all punishment implemented when there are so many inequities within our society, not to mention there is no consideration for Te Tiriti o Waitangi within these proposed changes. Just know that we are working hard to insure that our voices are heard during this process of review. We want to acknowledge OUSA and

UOPISA for working so closely with us in the creation of this submission and not to mention all the feedback we received from our divisional rōpū. Kaore i ārikarika ngā mihi ki a koutou. In other news Te Roopū Māori are continuing with our free Te Reo Māori classes that are taught by one of our senior students Zayyen Benson-Brown. If you are keen to get involved in those be sure to go to our facebook and click the link on the post to join the group.

Atu i tērā e mihi nui ana ki a tātau ngā manu taupua o te wao nui. Kia kaha rā i ō mahi katoa!

Karamea Pēwhairangi - Tumuaki of Te Roopū Māori

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**ousa**  
EXECUTIVE

WEEK 9 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:

1. Mawhero 3. Walrus 7. Copper 8. Via 9. Milo 10. Hipi 12. Alaska 14. Blue 17. Peach 19. Moat 20. Silver 23. Goon 25. Wear 26. Ate 27. Salmon 29. Doodle 30. Crimson

DOWN:

1. Miami 2. Rip 4. Avoid 5. Scarlet 6. Red 7. Coral 8. Violet 11. Harpy 13. Khaki 15. Shove 16. Orange 17. Emerald 18. Brown 21. Vowel 22. Green 24. Pam 28. Oui

WORDWHEEL ANSWER: Crimson

SUDOKU

sudokuoftheday.com

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

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

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

CROSSWORD

1		2					3			4			5	
	6			7					8					
				9										
10														11
			12		13				14			15		
			16							17				
					18									
19														
				20			21			22				
											23			
	24				25									
26									27					
	28									29				

ACROSS:

1. Do something on the fly (4,2)
3. One of these flying into your house is considered a bad omen (7)
6. Gloat, brag (4)
8. Istanbul is the largest city of this country (6)
9. An observant person can be described as \_\_\_\_-eyed (5)
10. Enemy (3)
12. The Bills are this type of duck (8)
17. Oven used to bake pottery (4)
18. Capital of Japan (5)
19. Bend quickly to avoid something (4)
20. Native bird that wants some extra bacon (8)
23. Anagram of 'low' (3)
25. King Julian is this type of animal (5)
26. Disappointment (6)
27. Type of noodle (4)
28. Coward (7)
29. Repeat back (6)

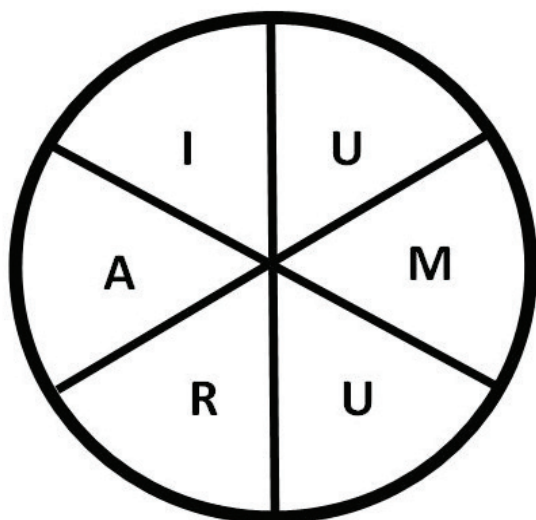
DOWN:

2. Courage (5)
3. Tricked (6)
4. Used to cover a bald spot (6)
5. Untruths (4)
7. Native bird whose name is an anagram of 'wake' (4)
10. Liberty (7)
11. Wear a hat made of this to stop the government reading your mind (3,4)
13. Fashion inspired by the past (5)
14. Slow motion (3,2)
15. New Zealander (4)
16. Wealthy (4)
20. Lunatic (6)
21. Tekau mā tahi (6)
22. Māori name for 20 across (4)
23. Scent (5)
24. Zn on the periodic table (4)





## WORD WHEEL



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

## MAZE

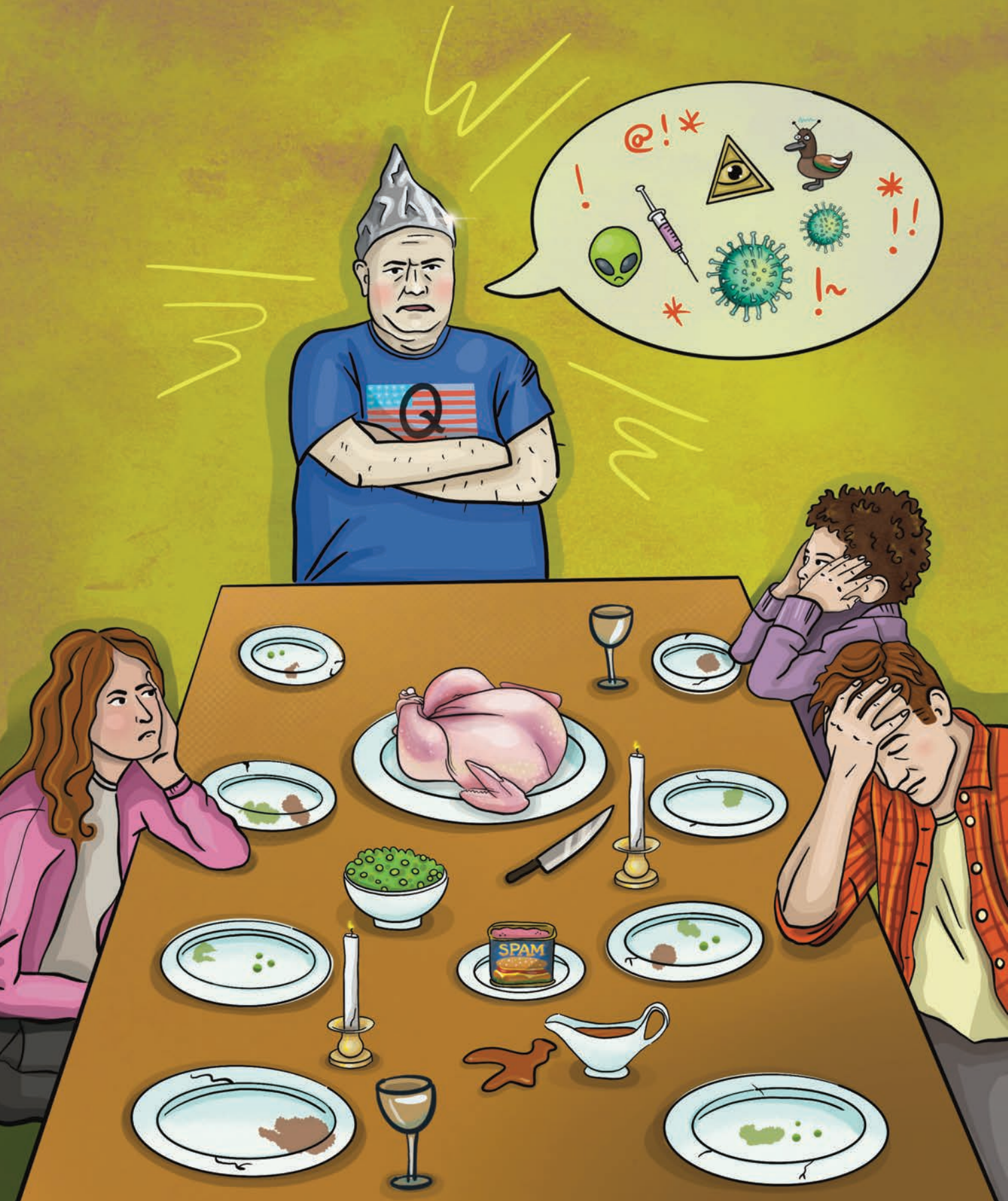


## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.









# **“I CAN’T BE FUCKED TRYING TO CONVERT HIM”**

**WHEN YOUR  
FAMILY  
MEMBERS  
ARE  
CONSPIRACY  
THEORISTS**

**BY DENZEL CHUNG**

Extensive “research” during lockdown revealed a terrible secret to Carlos’\* uncle. “The sun is sending diseases into our atmosphere because it’s losing energy and going out.”

It seems everyone has that uncle or kuia, gong gong or tita: one moment, they’re “doing their own research,” and the next, they’re railing against Comrade Ardern and her nefarious plan to implement fully automated luxury gay space communism. Conspiracies can be a good laugh from the outside looking in. But students who watched their own family members sink into the abyss of Covid conspiracy theories don’t feel so good about it. Most of them have given up even trying to talk sense into their relatives.

## “YOUTUBE IS THE LAST PLACE TO GET INFO ON ANYTHING EXCEPT A MEAN STUDENT MEAL RECIPE.”

Carlos certainly doesn't think his uncle will stop believing in conspiracies. He said that when his uncle first came to him with these theories, he “just zoned out because I didn't want a bar of it.”

Then he started trying to talk sense into his uncle. “YouTube is the last place to get info on anything except a mean student meal recipe,” he told his uncle, trying to guide him towards more credible scientific articles. He felt he couldn't get far, and eventually just threw hands. “These kinds of people just see things as they are on the surface and don't trust intangible evidence. In the end, I just can't be fucked trying to convert his beliefs, they don't have an effect on me. I guess it's just a thing for him to get excited about, like a little cult where he thinks “I know the truth.” I'll let him live in fantasy land.”

For Milly's\* mum, the spark was last year's lead up to lockdown, when life pretty much ground to a halt in the space of one week. “My mum got really scared about the first lockdown and fully freaked out,” she said, “so I think believing that it's actually a conspiracy theory helps her keep calm.” Over Level 4, Chorus (who runs most of NZ's Internet network) reported a 36% spike in Internet traffic. This huge rush online, especially from a lot of people who may not have used the Internet much before, creates problems.

She believes in the classic theory that “Covid-19 is caused by 5G,” but with the added twist that it is an “atheist virus”. Milly says that even having health professionals who work on the frontlines within her family couldn't stop her mum. “They've tried their hardest to explain what it is, but she sticks to what she wants to believe.” At the end of the day, Milly came to the conclusion that “It's okay to leave them

to their own beliefs, so long as it doesn't harm anyone else.”

Angela's grandma at least believes that Covid-19 is real, and is even willing to be vaccinated. But her grandma's distrust of government “got progressively worse over lockdown, being isolated and only having access to right-wing/conservative media.”

As Covid cases began to fall in July and life slowly returned to normal, the lingering distrust remained. When Angela's grandma didn't receive her regular mail on time, after hearing on the radio “that there were Covid cases at a post office and the workers were on a strike,” she put two and two together, reasoning that “Jacinda (who is a communist in her opinion), and the government, were lying and covering up Covid cases. So she walked around town, and called people, asking if they were getting their mail, and when they said yes, she'd come up with excuses for why they might be getting their mail — because ‘they shouldn't be, there's a strike.’”

Like Milly, Angela did try to convince her grandma at first, only to be rebuffed with “facts”. Her grandma said that the UN, being a “communist organisation”, could not be trusted, and neither could the Government, “because they were working with China and the UN to further their (unspecified) agenda.” With her aunt egging her grandma on, sharing ideas that “Covid-19 was manufactured in a lab in China,” Angela eventually felt like she had to give up.

“If she's willing to get vaccinated, there was no point in trying to set her twisted ideas straight,” she told Critic Te Arohi. “With the amount of distrust she has in the current governing bodies, there's no amount of arguing you could do without discounting her lived experiences, so we now just let her be.”



## “LET THEM SPEAK. UNDERSTAND WHERE THE FALSE BELIEF COMES FROM ... FIND OUT WHERE THEY GET THEIR INFO AND WHO THEY TRUST.”

Joe agrees. His aunt, after watching heaps of “doctors” on YouTube, “believes that the Covid vaccine has special nanoparticles in it, which will ‘alter’ anyone who takes it in the next 20 years. And basically all of the other vaccine conspiracies too.” He reckons that “usually the type of person to believe this stuff is the type to fall victim to conspiracy theories and really invests themselves into believing the lie. It becomes super hard to talk any sense to them,” he said.

After “multiple family members approached me to talk about Covid-related theories”, on everything from its linkages to 5G to the safety of the Covid-19 vaccines, Adam decided to try and take a more systematic approach.

“Never target (or attack) the person holding the belief. Just focus on their reasons, and why they think the conspiracy theory is true. Help them to utilise tools and think critically in order to challenge these beliefs,” Adam said with Zen-like self-discipline.

“Tell them you understand why they might hold the belief. Then sit down and chat about their reasons for the belief. They will probably show you an article or video featuring an ‘academic’ or ‘scientist’ ... Encourage them to look critically at all sources of information, to check that the supposed ‘academics’ are actually well-recognised and respected scientists. Show them how to look up the impact factor of a journal and assess the quality of its work.”

Dr Fabien Medvecky, from the Centre for Science Communication, says it’s important to realise “there

are many reasons for being drawn into conspiracy theories, [and] some are easier to address than others. If it’s because of an underlying concern that can be easily identified and addressed (e.g. how quickly the Covid vaccines seemed to have been developed), it’s pretty straightforward. If it’s deeper than that (distrust in state and official authorities more generally), then it’s more difficult.”

For both groups, though, Fabien says similar rules apply. Like Joe, he thinks it’s really important to assess the reasons why they believe what they believe, no matter how ridiculous they seem to you. “Let them speak. Understand where the false belief comes from... Find out where they get their info and who they trust.”

“Once you understand the false belief, you can’t just remove it. You need to replace it (or else another belief, likely another false one, will replace it).” Fabien points out, though, that you might not be the right person to be doing this. “You’ve got to have the right messenger to respond to their core concerns,” he says, and in some cases that will mean tapping out in favour of someone else — who, ideally, isn’t a conspiracy theorist themselves.

Most importantly: “Don’t outright try and convince them they are wrong, and don’t just correct them when they say false things.” Though it can be tempting to just fact-check and call someone out, at the end of the day, “no one likes to be wrong.”

\* All names have been changed to protect privacy.





# Nuclear Expeditions and Communist Plots

## Inside the Secret Government Hunt for Uranium in Fiordland

By Elliot Weir

There was a secret government expedition to Fiordland in 1944 to search for uranium for nuclear weaponry. I went down a rabbit-hole of archives, obituaries, and letters that took me from Fiordland, to Nigeria, to Norway — to find answers to the questions I had.

I was reading an article from half a century ago when I came across the shocking story of a secret expedition for uranium. The piece was from a 1971 issue of *Salient* (Vic's student magazine) and was about US military involvement in New Zealand. The paragraph is short and near the end of the article:

"According to Otago University geologist Dr. C.O. Hutton, when the Manhattan project for the development of the atomic bomb was undertaken during the war, an appeal was made to all allied countries to search for supplies or radioactive minerals. The NZ Government sent a secret expedition under the leadership of Dr Hutton to Fiordland in the hope that important discoveries would be made there ... The expedition failed to find any uranium."

I had so many questions. Who was Dr Hutton? Did the NZ government really send a secret expedition to Fiordland to find uranium for the Manhattan Project? What would have happened if they had found uranium?

A web search produced some promising results, biographies of New Zealand scientists who worked for the Manhattan Project, and records of the Atomic Energy Act. But the knowledge that kiwi scientists were intimately involved with the development of atomic weapons during WWII doesn't answer any of our questions. Further digging leads to an obituary of Dr Colin Osborne Hutton, courtesy of the Geological Society of America.

Hutton was a bit of a nerd. By the age of eight, in 1918, he built a two-way crystal radio capable of reaching radio stations in the US. At the age of 24 he was an acting lecturer of geology at Otago Uni. He then became the chief mineralogist of the New Zealand Geological Survey.

It seems he was also quite the genius geologist, but more importantly, during his time as chief mineralogist "from 1942 to 1946, he was officer-in-charge of radioactive mineral research. He was also officer-in-charge of the scientific personnel aboard the *New Golden Hind* [a ship] on cruises of geologic exploration." The obituary made it clear he had no relatives alive today I could contact, but it confirmed that our friend Hutton had worked in radioactive research and been involved in geological expeditions. So far, so good.

Tracking the New Golden Hind takes us to Te Ara, the government encyclopaedia of NZ. An entry titled 'Prospecting for uranium' tells us how in March 1945, the New Golden Hind was taken to Fiordland by the DSIR (an old government science agency) for a "secret uranium survey". This must have been the expedition Hutton led.

The entry goes on to conclude that the expedition found no uranium. Five months later the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, signalling an end to the war. Despite the war being over, a second expedition was carried out on the New Golden Hind in 1946, which also failed to find significant quantities of uranium. This second expedition was not secret, and there are botanical, paleontological, and historical records of the voyage. It appears that this second expedition was led by a geologist named Dick Willett, and Hutton was not involved. I was not satisfied. We still don't know what they found in that mysterious first expedition, or if the uranium they searched for was explicitly for the Manhattan Project, or what they would have done if they'd found any, or what Dr Hutton thought of it all. It was time to search the archives.

In searching the historical archives at the Hocken Collections for any trace of Colin Osborne Hutton or the secret expedition to Fiordland, I found a single item. A 1948 letter from Dr. Hutton, a year after he'd moved to Stanford University, to John Harris, an old colleague at Otago Uni.

While waiting to view that letter, I returned to the article that started this wild uranium chase in the first place. Published 50 years ago, there was a chance the author of the Salient piece was still alive and I could contact him for help. But alas, this was not the case. A quick Google search of his name revealed Owen Wilkes was far too important and far too dead to be replying to any emails. But he did become an important name in this web of uranium-exploring-dead-men.

## According to an old friend of his, Owen Wilkes "looked like an Old Testament prophet."

As I found out, Owen Wilkes was a big bearded guy who often wore leather shorts and bare feet. According to an old friend of his, Owen Wilkes "looked like an Old Testament prophet". He was a peace researcher and anti-war activist. He researched US bases in New Zealand in the '60s and '70s and founded the Anti-Bases Campaign and the Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa. In the '80s he worked in Scandinavia for six years, where he published a report on listening posts in Northern Norway that was sourced from open information, but led to him and his co-author being arrested, tried, and given a suspended prison sentence for

espionage. He died in 2005, preventing me from ever asking him about what Dr Hutton apparently told him.

The following day, I was given permission to read the single Hocken Collections letter from Dr Hutton to John Harris. Sadly, it doesn't blow this case wide open with revelations about a secret uranium conspiracy. Nonetheless, it provided some fascinating insight into the perspectives of both Dr Hutton and John Harris. John Harris was the University of Otago Librarian at the time, and a thoroughly cool dude.

## Both the police commissioner and the US Embassy opposed his appointment to the fellowship, arguing he was a "communist agitator" and an "alien anarchist" who was plotting to, I don't know, become the Lenin of Libraries?

Harris spent the first few decades of his life studying at Oxford University and travelling through the Mediterranean and Canada, spending years as a homeless lumberjack, before moving to Auckland. In the '30s he became involved in the left-wing and anti-war political scenes, where he met Rita, his future wife. Harris represented the Auckland Civil Liberties League on the Auckland Anti-War Council and was a self-described journalist as well. In 1934, he married Rita and applied for a Carnegie fellowship with Otago University to spend nine months in London studying librarianship. Both the police commissioner and the US Embassy opposed his appointment to the fellowship, arguing he was a "communist agitator" and an "alien anarchist" who was plotting to, I don't know, become the Lenin of Libraries? Despite the pushback, Otago Uni approved his appointment and when he returned in 1935 he became the University of Otago librarian and transformed our library system, remaining in the role until 1948, when the letter from Dr Hutton was sent to him.

The following year, John Harris moved to Nigeria to found a library at the University of Ibadan, then continued through West Africa for another two decades, setting up libraries, sitting on university councils, and teaching as a professor of library studies. The John Harris Library remains the central building of the University of Benin to this day. He was described by numerous sources as the 'Father of West African Librarianship'.



# Dr Hutton would not have approved of his scientific expertise and efforts being used for atomic weaponry, even if he had led the secret uranium expedition.

The letter itself shows that John Harris and Colin Osborne Hutton were friends, exchanging the usual pleasantries in the tone you'd expect from a 1948 letter between two distinguished gentlemen. The letter shows what it was like for Dr Hutton, a year into his move to the USA. He is critical of the ongoing red scare, writing that "the political scene here is not pleasant," explaining how anything you didn't like could simply be denounced as 'communist' and shunned, and that "the newspapers are so distorting news that it is a most difficult task to find out just what is going on." Hutton recounts how he overheard a colleague say that "the sooner we dropped a few atomic bombs on the Kremlin the sooner we would fix this mess up," sarcastically adding "there was a chorus of approval to this gesture of international goodwill."

The letter shows the two men were intensely critical of overly-patriotic wartime propaganda, and we already know that Harris at least was actively involved in human rights groups, communist groups, and anti-war groups. If Hutton was friends with John Harris, it seems very possible that he would have talked to, or even have been friends with, Owen Wilkes. It also seems likely that Dr Hutton would not have approved of his scientific expertise and efforts being used for atomic weaponry, even if he had led the secret uranium expedition.

I was almost ready to wrap this adventure up, but then I noticed, in the top left corner of the type-written letter, a hand-written note. The note was subtle, but clearly said "How did Operation Jamaica turn out?"

Operation Jamaica? What was Operation Jamaica? Why was Hutton asking Harris how it went? A cursory internet

search found nothing on any 'Operation Jamaica' other than a dreadful looking 1965 internationally co-produced Eurospy film of the same name. Further investigation hit dead-end after dead-end. As far as I can tell, John Harris never visited Jamaica or worked with anyone from Jamaica. Maybe Harris planned to open libraries in Jamaica and promote literacy in the Caribbean before he changed his mind and went to West Africa instead. Maybe he and his wife simply wanted to go to Jamaica for a holiday, and Operation Jamaica was their playful nickname for their plans which never ended up happening. Maybe Harris' anti-war political activities and Hutton's radioactive expertise led to their involvement in a secret nuclear revolutionary plot dubbed Operation Jamaica. Or perhaps Harris was a stoner, who was struggling to find weed in Dunedin, and Operation Jamaica was his mission to find that sweet, sweet, ganja. We may never know.

Neither the secret expedition to Fiordland, which was likely led by Colin Osborne Hutton, nor any subsequent searches for uranium within Aotearoa, have found sizable amounts of uranium within Aotearoa, and our nation has been staunchly nuclear-free for decades — partly due to the activism of people like Owen Wilkes. We can only speculate what would have happened if Fiordland did in fact hold masses of uranium. It is entirely possible that if this was the case, the financial and military interest would have significantly changed the way the anti-war and anti-nuclear debates played out in the '60s and '70s. For what it's worth, I believe Dr Hutton would have joined many of the New Zealand scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project in denouncing the use of scientific progress for global violence and destruction.







I WANT TO BREATHE

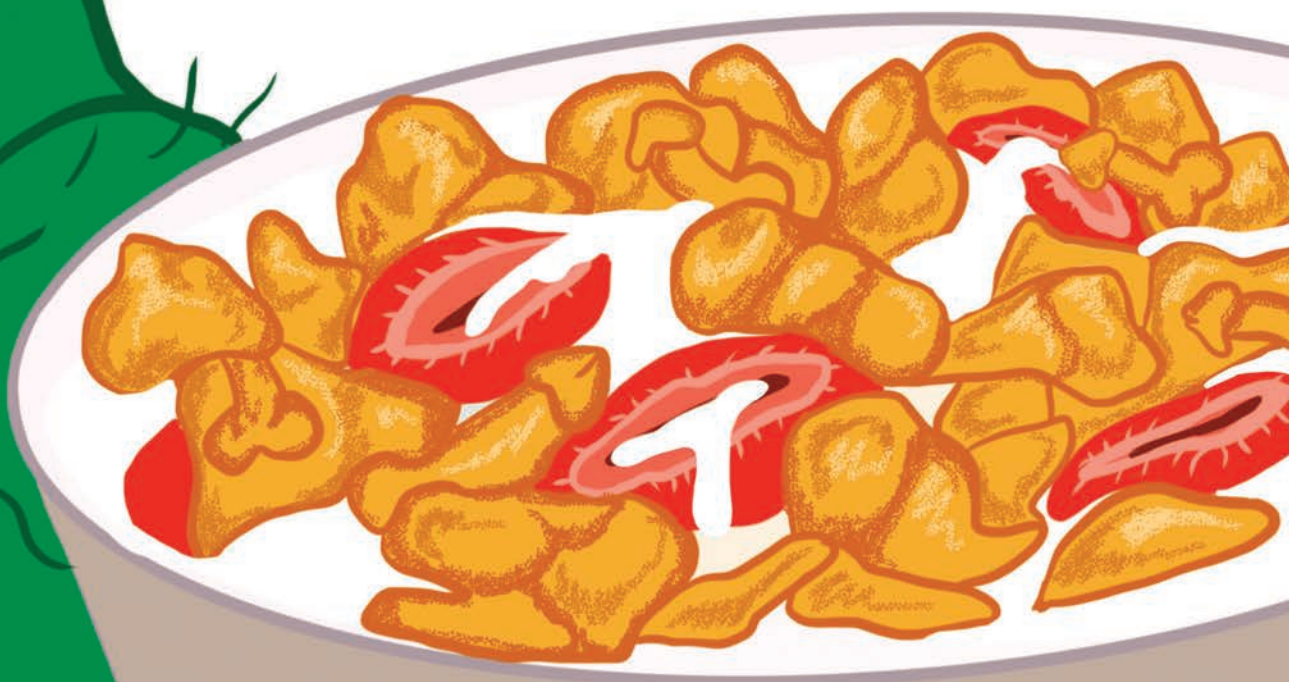
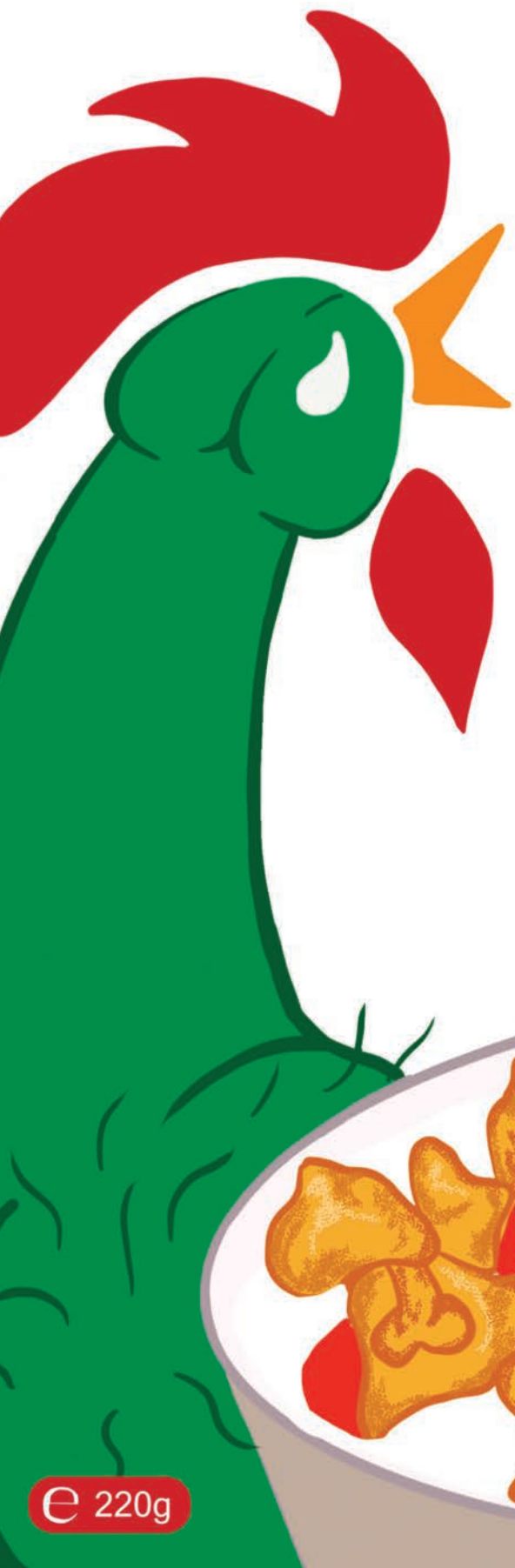


*By Sean Gourley*



# #NO FAP

WHY SOME GUYS REFUSE TO DO THE FIVE FINGER SHUFFLE



e 220g

Masturbating, fapping, wanking, marching the penguin, or making the bald man cry. Palm Sunday is a ritual for many a dusty Dunedin dude.

Most people don't notice any negative consequences beyond the occasional wave of soul-crushing shame. But no-fappers believe masturbation creates problems for men. Brought to wider public knowledge by the popularity of no-nut November, they have a unique and wank-free way of life. These guys band together against the evils of masturbation to battle porn addictions, to become more attractive to women, and to acquire supernatural sex powers.

The internet has allowed these groups of no-fappers to congregate. New Zealand no-fapper Matthew Kendall, who posts #NoFap videos to his YouTube account, discovered NoFap through YouTuber "BecomingAlpha". Kendall was in high school when he discovered the videos. "I saw a video about NoFap and just clicked on it. I found this one guy [BecomingAlpha] he was all about NoFap and I watched all of his videos. I was like 'this is so sick.'"

---

YouTube and Reddit are the centres of NoFap discourse. Their no-fappers, like Kendall, are predominantly straight men. The moderators of the subreddit r/nofap tout the page as being united by "simply a desire to stop masturbating and/or utilizing pornography".

The discussion can entail genuinely positive and supportive content which seems to be helping people battle their addiction to porn. Other users believe NoFap will make them better men. These users blame masturbation as the source of all their personal shortcomings. One user writes that "[b]efore NoFap, no women EVER trusted me - not even the ones I knew well. Now, for the first time in my life, women are actually comfortable around me, and I'm comfortable around them. There's something magnetic about a man on NoFap." At the root of the NoFap belief is the idea that if a guy can boost his stats enough, he will become irresistible to women.

NoFap is linked to pick up artist thinking, in which women are objects that cannot resist "alpha" men who overcome weaknesses like the urge to mangle their midguts. A popular

post on the page states that "Porn is a tool to weaken men." Users tout it as a way to achieve an imaginary level of manhood at which all problems disappear and you will be entitled to sex from women. Many of them become obsessed with the idea that they are struggling because they are not an alpha male. Rather than asking for help they blame themselves for not being strong or "alpha" enough.

Matthew Kendall's NoFap videos are in two categories. The first are long monologues about the benefits of NoFap, which describe a range of techniques someone can use to avoid the dreaded "relapse". The second are "infield examples", videos where Kendall approaches random girls around the UC Campus (or sometimes shopping centres in Christchurch) to demonstrate the charm and confidence that NoFap produces. These are uncomfortable exchanges. In one video, Kendall approaches two women and makes conversation in a mall. He talks for several minutes, on camera, to a third woman while the other two women look at each other in horror. In another video, he meets a group of geared girls in town. They quickly realise being on YouTube is not as great as it sounds.



# I was seeing this girl maybe two weeks ago, and she just wanted to have sex like every day and after the fourth day I was like ‘okay, goodbye.’ I can’t be doing that.

---

Kendall viewed NoFap as a pathway to better performance at sport. “I noticed when I was playing cricket that when I felt good I played well and when I felt bad I played bad. So I started looking into stuff that could help me feel better, stuff like diet, exercising more — even cold showers. I kind of experimented with NoFap and how I felt and I noticed that I always performed better when I was on NoFap,” he said.

Many pseudoscientific theories, like astrology and acupuncture, have their roots in medieval scientific reasoning which has been translated into the modern day. Beliefs about NoFap are no different. Most medieval thought, and especially that of the Catholic Church, was strongly against jerkin’ the gherkin in any form. The origins of this stance go all the way back to the biblical sin of Onan, who disobeyed God when he “spilled his seed on the ground” after he pulled out of his sister-in-law. Despite the lack of clarity over whether this one line in the Bible can actually be taken to extend to masturbation, the Catholic Church has used this for centuries as evidence that God hates it when you tickle the pickle.

But Kendall and many like him do not abide by any religious reasoning. For him, NoFap is only part of a broader lifestyle change aimed at making him a better and more confident person. “Bro, I just do everything, I want to feel like an absolute beast 24/7. Like recently I’ve been waking up at like 6am, straight in the cold shower, I’m doing breath work in the cold shower so I can stay in there for a solid three minutes, freezing cold. I haven’t had a hot shower in months. Then

straight to the gym after a quick ten minute meditation. Two cold showers a day, by the way, 8pm is my second cold shower.”

This wellness-based philosophy is also not new. The renaissance saw increasingly complex reasoning to justify the negative effects of cleaning your rifle. In his 18th century writing on the subject, Swiss physician Tissot wrote: “the loss of one ounce of [semen] would weaken more than that of forty ounces of blood.” He believed that the destination of the semen played an important part in determining whether ‘evacuations’ would have a good or bad effect on one’s health.

This thinking continued well into the 20th century. Cornflakes, the treasured breakfast cereal, were invented because their creator, Kellogg, thought that a plain diet minimised sexual urges, and stopped people from shaking hands with the unemployed. It was not until 1968 that the US medical association removed masturbation as a mental disorder.

Even having sex with your girlfriend can interfere with NoFap. While getting girls is one of the supposed key benefits to NoFap, the other benefits will apparently diminish if having too much regular sex. “Maybe with a girlfriend you put the NoFap on the back-burners for a bit. I was seeing this girl maybe two weeks ago, and she just wanted to have sex like every day, and after the fourth day I was like ‘okay, goodbye.’ I can’t be doing that,” he said.

## Cornflakes, the treasured breakfast cereal, were invented because their creator, Kellogg, thought that a plain diet minimised sexual urges and stopped people from shaking hands with the unemployed.

The supposed negative effects of charming the trouser snake are not proven. Most studies have found no link between masturbation and physical weakness or mental illness. Although testosterone does increase for roughly a week after abstaining, it then returns to normal levels. One study did find that “higher abstinence motivation was related to a higher perceived impact of masturbation, conservatism, and religiosity and to lower trust in science.” So while it may seem innocent, beliefs about NoFap can lead people into conspiratorial thinking and the creepy sex-power philosophies of pick up artists.

Like most pseudoscience, NoFap seems to make sense on the surface, but digging further reveals a lack of medical evidence. To believe in NoFap, you have to rely on some pseudoscience created by Reddit users and YouTubers, which can lead men further down the rabbit hole of conspiracy thinking. You also have to ignore the reality that masturbation is (usually) a healthy and enjoyable habit.

As the Greek philosopher Diogenes stated after being caught publicly masturbating: “I wish it were as easy to banish hunger by rubbing my belly.”



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# Aotearoa's Conspiracy Pages Are a Cesspit

By Erin Gourley

I went into this expecting to find some wild and quirky conspiracy theories. I found some. But it took a lot of trawling through the same racist shit to get there. New Zealand's conspiracy scene is warped, hateful, and absurdly ignorant.

## 1080 eyewitness.



This group is fucking huge for some reason. There are over 20,000 members and they all hate 1080. On the surface, this is a simple cause.

But it goes a lot deeper. Members of the group link 1080 to vaccines, Covid, and even Bill Gates. One commenter rails against fake meat and Bill Gates in one post about a new 1080 drop in New Zealand: "Killing all Animals so her mate bill gates can have his multi million dollar '3DMeat' enterprise to feed the world..they're 2 peas in the same rotten pod.. And together they're KILLING US." There is some opposition to conspiracies that aren't related to 1080. One commenter says "Study the science ! The vaccinations are safe!" on a post about the Covid vaccine. Overall, 1080 descends quickly into deeper mistrust of the government and science.

The group has rivalries, too. There is division between people who care about animals and people who want to hunt animals. One section of the group argues that 1080 is sadistic, while the others complain that it is killing the fur trade as there are no possums left for hunters.

**Likelihood of destroying normal people's lives:** 6/10, only relevant if you care about possums a weird amount

## Wake up New Zealand Now



No !  
 1: I don't consume synthetic medication , never have never will.  
 2: I've only had the standard vaccines children get .  
 3: I've never had or will get a flu shot .  
 4: I refuse to allow aluminum nano bots to change my DNA , period !  
 5: I certainly refuse to get a shot every year for just one flu , Of more aluminum  
 6: the expert doctor's have been telling us aluminum causes my diseases ?  
 7: there are 5 different strains , and only 1 vac for just 1 covid ?  
 8: do the maths ! 🤔

Like · Reply · 5d

The name and cover photo of this group are intriguing. Why did they not capitalise the word "up" in the name of the group? Is their cover photo supposed to imply that the Police are spreading Covid-19 on Jacinda Ardern's orders?

Billy Te Kahika videos are surprisingly unpopular in the group. They prefer even more wildly unreliable sources, like the group's admin, who makes claims like "apartheid is now prevalent in New Zealand." They also love Nigel Farage. The group are really angry whenever people use the word 'Aotearoa', and they love to talk about that. "NOT AOTEAROA IT IS NEW ZEALAND AND SHOULD ALWAYS REMAIN NEW ZEALAND," said one group member on a post about what to call Aotearoa.

**Likelihood of destroying normal people's lives:** 5/10, only appealing if you're already a racist boomer at heart

## Ufo sightings and stories NZ



hey guys heres a few pics of objects ive seen over last few years . first one was a multi lighted "wedding cake" shaped object that was stationary above my friends house for about hour-ish. second pic is of pandora pond napier and about 8-9pm and was a giant golden ball of light about size of a few houses and it was going back n forward over the estuary and bay view hills for about 30mins . definatly not a plane or what ever as its a restricted air space as the air port is li... [See More](#)

The vibe of this Facebook group is wholesome, but absurd. There are less than a thousand members who are pretty active at posting low resolution photos of lights in the night sky. People post blurry photos of lights in the sky and speculate about what type of UFO it could be. They even think there are cube-shaped UFOs in clouds. I want to believe, but Ufo sightings and stories NZ does not make it easy.

Their belief in UFOs is naïve, but it's reassuring as far as conspiracy theories go. The group simply believe that there are alien spaceships in the sky. It makes me yearn for a simpler time where I could look up at the sky without being freaked out by Elon Musk's Starlink.

**Likelihood of destroying normal people's lives:** 0/10, more like a fun if slightly strange hobby



## New Zealand Centre for Political Research



MEDIUM.COM  
**David Seymour Is A Communist**  
Anyone with any sense knows the Spinoff is a Communist, propaganda pushing pile of poo...

This group is conspiratorial, yes, but it's also just racist. The best conspiracy in this group is that David Seymour is a communist, which someone had written an entire blog post about.

One member posted a long joke about Jacinda Ardern talking to the devil. The punchline is that Jacinda doesn't get charged for the call because: "Since Jacinda Adern became Prime Minister of New Zealand, the country has gone to Hell, so it's a local call." You have to feel sorry for people who are still making jokes about landline charges — this post garnered 150 reactions.

**Likelihood of destroying normal people's lives:** 9/10, will make your boomer Uncle even more racist

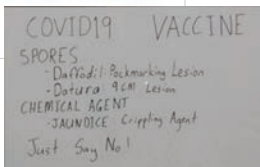
## Mysterious Aotearoa (& other mysteries)

Finance Minister and Labour MP Grunt Robertson finds \$996 million!.....TV news 4th May 2021.  
Lets remind ourselves and understand what this means in \$\$\$.

How Long Would It Take to Count to a Million? At one number per second — with no breaks, at all, for any reason — it would take 11 days, 13 hours, 46 minutes, and 40 seconds to count from one to 1,000,000.

The length of time it would take to count to a billion depends on how fast an individual counts. At a rate of one number per second, it would take approximately 31 years, 251 days, 7 hours, 46 minutes and 40 seconds of counting nonstop.

Source.....your guess is as good as mine.....media



**ELECTRICITY PAYMENTS NEW ZEALAND:** Are all payments for Electricity put into one persons bank account? Is the account in the GOVERNMENT COFFERS with account name THE JOHN BRIGAND ACCOUNT? I am the Arkangel Daniel and I am from Heaven.

The name of this group sounded good, like it was going to explore some spicy mysteries and conspiracy theories. I expected it to have a Dan Brown-novel illuminati vibe. Sadly it's just racist. There are some weird conspiracies peppered through, like that giants exist and someone suggesting that all electricity bills in New Zealand are paid into one bank account for sinister purposes.

"ALL INLAND REVENUE TAX FOR NEW ZEALAND AND WORLDWIDE including THE IRS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Does all tax World Wide go into one persons bank account in the New Zealand Governments Coiffers? Is the account called THE JOHN BRIGAND ACCOUNT?" the poster asks.

No?

**Destruction level:** 4/10, toxic but not coherent enough to convert people

## NZ Preppers

This will be good for keeping the roving mobs at bay 😊



If these are the people who survive the apocalypse, I don't want to survive it. They're obsessed with silver bullion (penis shaped blocks of silver) and figuring out which foods will last for decades. The foods which will survive the apocalypse kinda suck too. There's a lot of discussion about which pigs are best to keep next to your survival hut and which ones will eat the most possum carcasses for you.

Some posts are terrifying. "This will be good for keeping the roving mobs at bay" writes one poster along with a video of a fucking huge flame thrower.

**Likelihood of destroying normal people's lives:** 6/10, you could waste a lot of money buying pressurisers for canned food and water purifiers

## Geoengineering Watch NZ



This is a typical post from Geoengineering Watch NZ. "I woke up and [the moon] was right outside my bedroom large as life but glowing a weird orange colour. ... Last night the moon was back to its usual grey colour." A commenter reckons the orange moon is because of "reflective particles in that chemically induced sky shining through the moonlight." Clouds are not just water vapour, either. They're government radiation.

This group pivots hard into anti-vax thinking. One poster states: "c.o.v.i.d.v.a.c.c.i.n.e which is not a v.a.c.c.i.n.e ... it is a g.e.n.o.c.i.d.e w.e.a.p.o.n transmitting via emf/wifi from v.a.c.c.i.n.a.t.e.d to the non-v.a.c.c.i.n.a.t.e.d". They use dots in between all the letters to avoid the misinformation being detected by Facebook filters.

"Thank the sellout gatesadern govt born out of hate inspired by GREED and the Need to CONTROL.MAKE THE LIE BIG...MAKE THE LIE FREQUENT...AND EVENTUALLY HUMANS WILL BELIEVE IT..LIKE SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER..HITLER LIVES ON THRU THE GATESADERN GOVT.GO FIGURE," one commenter replies.

**Likelihood of destroying normal people's lives:** 10/10, sucks you in with some fun cloud watching and then escalates all the way up to Bill Gates and Jacinda Ardern, who are both apparently Hitler

# NZ CRYPTIDS

## WHICH WOULD BE THE BEST TO LIVE WITH?

BY ASIA MARTUSIA AND FOX MEYER

Flatting is expensive, and finding a good flatmate can be tricky. With environmental destruction plowing through the nation, many elusive figures of the wilderness have decided to hang up the spooky hat and make tracks into town. Some want degrees, some just want the ladies, but all are moving to Dunedin. Before you sign your next flat, here are eight contenders rumoured to have haunted New Zealand, looking to trade their no longer pristine wilderness for a cold, damp, Dunedin flat.

### #1 THE FIORDLAND MOOSE

Everyone's heard of the Moose, and at one point, this cryptid was very much a real thing. Probably. But, just like Sven, the Moose hasn't been seen in a little while, and people are beginning to wonder if he was ever here at all. Incredibly lanky, awkward, and always hungry, the Moose is hard to disagree with.

The Fiordland Moose is your chill Swedish exchange student. You haven't seen him in months, and he's always tramping or hogging the OUSA sauna, but everyone's excited to see him when he shows up to party. He's a phenomenally good time when he decides to rock up. The most problematic thing he does is walking around the house naked, but not in a horny way, just in a Swedish way.

### #2 CANTERBURY PANTHER

The first sighting of the Canterbury panther was in Twizel, 1996. A panther's average lifespan is around a decade. If it's still alive today, that means the Canterbury panther was pregnant upon arrival, and is the product of four generations of inbreeding. I've flatted with enough people from Gore to know that this is a bad idea.

You'd have to run her past your landlady first. Most flats don't accept cats, let alone giant ones. Inbred cats do have a significantly shorter lifespan, so make sure to consider backup flatmates when signing the lease.





### #3 THE GOAT MAN

The Goat Man is half-man half-goat, the product of a lonely farmer and a sultry farm animal. He was likely born as a product of lead poisoning in the '50s, when people had fewer inhibitions (see page 33).

He's reported as being around 7–8 feet tall, "putrid smelling", and covered in thick, matted fur. Sometimes he's clothed. Sometimes he's naked. It all depends on how lucky you are. While originating from Waiouru Military Camp/ Desert Road area, the Goat Man has been reported to hitchhike around the country. He can be either a good or bad omen. One witness account says that:

"You stop and give him a lift, but just a short way up the road he asks to get out. Sometimes he just disappears from the car, having safely gotten you past the stretch of road you were about to have an accident on. Just seeing him on a dangerous piece of road has avoided you from an accident about to happen, most probably right where he stood."

The Goat Man is the GOAT. Supposedly something bad will happen if you don't pick him up, but that's your fault, because all this mechanically-minded individual wanted to do was check your WOF. The only bad thing about The Goat Man is that he's very smelly. Out of all the cryptids, he's the most modern, having adapted to all current technology except spray-on deodorant.

Sometimes you don't even know that he's a goat until he gets out of your car, when you hear the clopping of hooves fading into the distance. Metaconspiracy: The Goat Man is just a Dutch man. He's very tall, smelly, and his feet go clop clop clop because he's wearing clogs.

### #4 MOEHAU MAN (BIGFOOT GUY)

You've actually already flatted with this guy. In fact, 20-30% of readers are this flatmate. First seen in the 1870s, these "big hairy men" of the West Coast have since interbred with kiwi chicks and their offspring are everywhere. They've essentially been domesticated. Some Aussie woman caught her first glimpse of a true Westlander and lost her shit and now we have a myth about them.

This flatmate is pretty much A-okay. He keeps to himself, he's got a problem with washing and cutting his hair, and has a preference for leather clothing. He's not an ideal flatmate, but he doesn't get in your way.

He also grows weed. He doesn't tell you this, but you know this. No, he will not share. Yes, it's as stinky as he is. Check out the cover of Critic issue two from February this year for a depiction of the Moehau Man's acclimation to modern society. Fastest yardie time of all the cryptids.

### #5 TANIWHA

The line between "figure of major cultural significance" and "cryptid" is blurry, but a white guy called Mark on Paranormal NZ says that Taniwha count as cryptids, so we're gonna run with it.

As a flatmate, taniwha are not awesome. They have an intense disregard for your personal space, and absolutely no qualms about stealing your food, especially potatoes. Taniwha prefer to lurk in their room, and while you rarely see them, the encounters that you do have are certainly memorable. Like when you left the kitchen in a tiff after a party and they retaliated by flooding your room.

Because they only leave the flat for \$2 wedges, Taniwha are easy to get along with, so long as you stay in your lane and respect their space. If you get on their good side, though, they can be the best flatmate you've ever seen. Absolutely nothing gets past them, and that skeezy dude that's been hanging around recently won't be a problem after ol' mate talks to him.





## #6 DUNEDIN DOG BOY

This is just a dog. But it bites. Not ideal. But it's still a dog, so...

## #7 WAITOREKE (OTTER SIGHTINGS)

The waitoreke is an otter, or maybe a beaver, or something in between. Captain Cook apparently first saw one from his ship in 1772. There are a few reasons not to trust this:

1. People in the 18th centuries were ALWAYS seeing shit in the water and thinking it's something else. Remember how mermaids turned out to be manatees? The waitoreke was probably a log.
2. Nobody owned glasses back then.
3. Captain Cook said it.

The waitoreke will lie to you on the flat application about its habits, degree, preferences, and anything else. Not for any particular reason, this is just the way they behave. They're here for a good time, but also for a long time. It's their sixth year at Uni, because they know that once they leave, they'll never have anything like this experience again. And neither will you, but don't think about that.

Waitoreke will spend all of their time outside the flat, mostly at the kayaking club, and probably get their eighth concussion this year because they "don't believe in helmets." Then they'll shit on your floor.

Waitoreke just really don't get it, and you don't get them.

## #8 PATIPAIAREHE/PAKEPAKEHĀ

Patupaiarehe, or pakepakehā, are fairy-like creatures from Māori folklore with light, untattooed skin and red hair. They're scared of the light, only emerging at dusk or in the mist. They go doot doot on a magical flute that lures in women.

This guy is the fucking worst. Haunted Auckland describes them as "unfriendly" creatures who shun intruders, surrounded by a cloud of mist. He's your flatmate who sets off the fire alarm with constant vaping. He thinks that he's a DJ, and forces tinder dates to endure hours of his doot-doot flute DnB.

"I'm a musician," he says to them. "Kill me," they respond.

One way to ward off patupaiarehe is by cooking food. They only eat meals raw, which fits in all-too-seamlessly with certain people at this Uni. All of his meals look like they've been vomited up once already. No, chicken can't be "medium rare", patupaiarehe. Yes, you do have to clean your Nutribullet. It's not like a cast iron pan.

Some wankers argue that patupaiarehe are evidence of pre-Māori pākehā existence in Aotearoa, because some wankers will sooner believe in literal fairies than the integrity of brown people. Your patupaiarehe flatmate probably votes New Zealand First and does not respect Te Tiriti. Also, he's ginger. Yuck.



# WARNING:

## In 20 Years, There Will Be Crime

### THE LEAD CRIME HYPOTHESIS

By Asia Martusia King

The 1960s were a beautiful time. They gave us tie-dye, ketamine, hippies, the Manson Family, and the beginning of an unusually violent global crime pandemic. I don't mean to alarm you, but it could happen again. And it's going to happen in Waikouaiti and Karitane.

Let me explain. Around the time Cher released her debut album, we saw a huge surge of crime around the world. This continued over three decades, peaking in the '70s. Murder rates quintupled. Robbery rates escalated by whatever quintupled is but for the number 14. It was a bad time for people who don't like to be murdered or robbed.

The felonies gradually tapered off by the '90s, and now we have a nice normal amount of crime again. But there's a theory as to why everyone during this time was fucking batshit. Spoilers: It wasn't because of Cher. It's called the lead-crime hypothesis, and you can thank it for the sensationalised murder podcasts that white women love so much.

The Ted Bundys of the '60s-'90s all had something in common, and that was having consumed colossal amounts of lead as children. Lead used to be in everything. Lead was in the walls of their childhood homes. It was painted onto the toys that your grandpa directly put in his mouth during his Freudian oral stage. Most importantly, lead was in the gasoline fumes emitted from their sexy seatbeltless cars. You might decide to suck on lead toys, but gasoline isn't a choice. More crime was reported in communities living next to major freeways, who were exposed to more emissions.

"Lead contamination of the environment is insidious," says Dr Mike Palin from Geology. "First there was plumbing — the fucking word is Latin for lead! Then came projectiles, paint and petrol. As a society, we've decided it's too pervasive to clean up so we just continue to live, eat, and drink the shit."

Lead poisoning is often undiagnosed, which is unfortunate when you learn that even moderate amounts of lead poisoning can lead to aggression, impulsivity, and lower IQ: The perfect recipe for cooking up trouble. After people realized lead was bad and phased it out, America reported 58 million fewer crimes. This correlation can be seen in every country without exception.

Here's the bad news. You might remember that the Dunedin City Council detected elevated levels of lead in Karitane and Waikouaiti in August last year. They only bothered to mention it a few months ago, after people had been slurping up lead water for much longer than you ought to be slurping up lead water. This fucking blows. It's not the residents' fault. And water has mauri. Don't mess with it.

It's probably not just limited to Karitane and Waikouaiti, either. Dr Palin points out that "until recently, plumbing that was sold as 'lead-free' could have up to 8% lead in it. That's eight parts out of a hundred — the action level for lead in water is ten parts out of a billion. Who the fuck decided that?"

Please note that the victims here are not all going to become criminals. It's correlation, not causation, between lead and crime. However, there is causation between lead poisoning and inhibitions in the brain. We already know that there's a link between head injuries and propensity towards violent crime, so if you're at risk, just don't become a professional boxer. Wear a helmet if you need to.

We can only assume that the lead was planted by Serco in order to increase the New Zealand prison population. Lead → crime → prisons → profit.



# What CONspiracy Theory are You?

BY ELLIOT WEIR

## 1. What is your favourite Wii sport?

- a) Bowling
- b) Boxing
- c) Tennis
- d) Baseball
- e) Golf

## 2. What're you ordering first at Maharajas?

- a) Papadums
- b) Naan
- c) Mango Lassi
- d) Butter Chicken (mild)
- e) Rogan Josh

## 3. What's the best Tuesday Night n Day deal?

- a) Criss-cross fries
- b) Wedges
- c) Waffles
- d) Pies
- e) Hot dogs

## 4. How're you getting that essay that's due tomorrow done?

- a) Pure adrenaline
- b) I already finished it
- c) No-doze
- d) Coffee
- e) Copious amounts of blue V

## 5. Which one of these do you have that you should really throw out?

- a) Clothes that are way too small
- b) Broken technology
- c) Books you will never read
- d) Your exes' colognes
- e) A bag of half-eaten maccas

## 6. Pick a board game

- a) Catan
- b) Monopoly
- c) Snakes and Ladders
- d) Scrabble
- e) Candy Land

## 7. What's your biggest fear?

- a) Failure
- b) Ghosts
- c) Heights
- d) Snakes
- e) I have no fear

## 8. You get glandular fever but the wait for student health is three weeks, what do you do?

- a) Wtf the wait for student health is three weeks?
- b) Go to the hospital
- c) Go to a private practitioner
- d) Wait it out in bed with some soup
- e) Wait it out in bed with a trusty vape

## 9. Which NZ cryptid are you?

- a) Dunedin Dog Boy
- b) Goat man
- c) Moehau man
- d) Fiordland Moose
- e) Waitoreke otter

### Mostly a): The CIA Killed JFK

Listen, I get it. Out of all the big conspiracy theories this one makes the most sense. Any Wikipedia Cold War historian will tell you that after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, and JFK shut down Operation Northwoods, the CIA acted all kinds of sketchy in the '60s, and no doubt hated JFK. But that doesn't mean they were behind his assassination, and there is little evidence behind this. Why focus on a conspiracy theory about the CIA when you can focus on all the fucked up shit that they have actually done? Operation Paperclip, MKUltra, torture, death squads, and the actual assassinations of multiple world leaders. Go talk about that shit to your friends. Mainstream conspiracies are boring dude.

### Mostly b): Alien Abductions

The thought that there is alien life out there is terrifying. The thought that we are completely alone in the universe is equally terrifying. We get it, you're lonely. But you can believe that there are aliens somewhere out there in the universe without putting on a tinfoil

hat and storming Area 51. You believe people, maybe even yourself, are being experimented on by alien probes because you are struggling to find meaning in this world and think extra-terrestrial interference is an enticing alternative to a meaningless life on earth.

Alternatively, you're just into some kinky shit and if that's the case who am I to stop you.

### Mostly c): 5G Causes Covid-19

The idea that a global elite cabal wants to control your mind, body, and freedom through 5G, coronavirus, vaccines, and lockdowns is more comforting to you than the idea that some slight discomfort and inconvenience to you personally may be necessary for the betterment of society at large. Your vapid, conceited, narcissistic personality complex maintained by your instagram and blog require that you are the one being oppressed, you are the one being targeted by the government, and only you can save everyone else with this truth that somehow only you know.

### Mostly d): Climate Change Isn't Real

Have you been under a rock for the last few years? We're fucking up the planet dude. Anthropogenic climate change is real, unprecedented, and poses drastic implications for the future of us and our planet, and a cold Dunedin winter is evidence for, not against, the scientific consensus. Don't give me any of that "natural ice age" horseshit, you're problematic and should limit how much you post on Facebook.

### Mostly e): Elvis is Alive

You're not worried about climate change or global pandemics. You just wanna get jiggy with the idea that the King of Rock and Roll is still out there drinking mai tais and crooning away. The notion that Elvis never died, and instead went into hiding, is backed up by irrefutable evidence like guests at Legoland seeing Elvis impersonators and thinking they were Elvis, and someone vaguely resembling Elvis appearing as an extra in Home Alone.





# THE TITANIC NEVER SUNK

JP MORGAN AND JAMES CAMERON IN LEAGUE WITH BIG ICE

BY FOX MEYER

I don't know about you, but I've never met anyone who was on the Titanic when it sunk. Strike one. Do they really expect us to believe that "the unsinkable ship", effectively a spaceship, really sank on its maiden voyage? The whole thing smells fishy, and I'm about to enlighten you.

Two things to remember when engaging in normal, social discourse on any subject: follow the money, and don't be a sheep. So that's exactly what we're going to do. Let's start with not being a sheep.

The sheep thing to do is accept the narrative being pushed by Big Ice. That the Titanic, a massive, metal behemoth of the sea, was sliced open by a giant chunk of ice. Ice, AKA frozen water, AKA the stuff that you can break with your teeth. That this multi-million dollar project (with quite the pricy insurance package) just haplessly sank to the bottom of the ocean. Because of ice.

A sheep would accept this. But we wolves, the members of society with our eyes wide open, will never accept this. Obviously there was an ulterior motive. Why else would a fully-functioning, state-of-the art vessel steer directly into a large obstacle? And, remember, if jet fuel can't melt steel beams, ice definitely can't.

Now we have to follow the money. JP Morgan, a famous rich white man, booked a ticket and cancelled at the last minute. Three of his rival millionaires perished on-board, paving the way for him to inspire Monopoly's Rich Uncle Pennybags™. So obviously he's involved.

Sinking a brand new ship would make no sense, until you consider that maybe the Titanic never sank at all. The vessel's sister ship, the Olympia, had just suffered massive damage to its hull and was deemed unfit for service. JP Morgan, ever clever, convinced the company to sail the Olympia under the name "Titanic", and sink it at the first

opportunity, reaping the insurance money for a useless ship.

"But we've all seen the pictures!" you cry. Who took those pictures? That's right, James Cameron, filmmaker. He makes movies, so he lies for a living. Obviously fake. Since ice can't cut steel, a bomb must have been planted and detonated to simulate a crash.

Big Ice is behind all of this. After making icebergs seem extra dangerous, Big Ice pumped money into the fossil fuel industry to melt all of the remaining ice on the planet. Then, when climate activists took note of the damage this would cost, Big Ice set up dozens of NGO's to collect money to "save the icebergs." Where did this money go? It was laundered through ticket sales of James Cameron's Titanic.

See? See how fucking crazy this sounds? This is how crazy you sound when you talk about QAnon or 5G.



# Rotuman Language Week:

**Time To Learn About Rotuma**  
By Susana Jones

Noa'ia (hello), baddies! This week, from Sunday 9 May to Saturday 15 May, is Rotuman language week. Some of y'all might be thinking, "what the heck and where the heck is Rotuma?" Read on rockstars.

Rotuma is a group of volcanic islands, made up of Rotuma Island and nearby islets (tiny baby islands), and is a self-governing Fijian dependency. Rotuma Island is 13km long and 4km wide, and is located about 465km North of Fiji. Rotuma is unique from Fiji, but continues to be thoroughly integrated with the rest of Fiji politically, socially, and economically.

I talked to some Rotuman students here at our Uni about their culture. "My favourite thing about Rotuma is the food. Nothing makes me feel more at home than making fekei (starch, sugar, and taro plant mixed together) with my dad," said Ruthie, who is a first year health science student. "It often starts a conversation about dad's memories of the island and where he was brought up. Stories of my grandfather working till he was 68. That is why I do my best in whatever I do."

Liah, another student said "growing up Rotuman has meant that I have always had a sense of belonging and a place to call home. Home is where my family is, which is largely influenced by the Rotuman culture and the value that is placed on people and community, which is probably my favourite thing about being Rotuman, I come from a big family and I belong to a community that values and supports anyone and everyone. These values continue to inspire me to give my best, daily."

"I stand on the shoulders of my parents, grandparents, and ancestors and am here today because of the sacrifices they

made for me and our community. I will continue to try and push boundaries and break barriers, so that whoever comes after me can stand on my shoulders and continue to reach higher and give back to our little community," said Liah.

Here are some common phrases and useful words you should use to celebrate the beautiful Rotuman culture this week.

Greetings/hello:	Noa'ia, pronounced noh-eye-ee-aah.
Please:	Figalelei, pronounced fee-nga-leh-ley.
Thank you:	Faiäkse'ea, pronounced for-yak-see-yah.
Sorry:	Hanis ma röt'äk, pronounced ha-nees-reut-aack. (Roll the r!)
maa-	
How are you?	Kaäe tapen? pronounced cah-aye-tah-pehn

The Rotuman language is listed on the UNESCO list of endangered languages as "definitely endangered". As someone with their first language as English, I have never had to worry about not being able to communicate with others, or having my words get lost in translation. This is a privilege that I know I have taken for granted at times, and is an issue others should keep in mind.

We need to make conscious efforts to speak indigenous languages, to ensure they are kept alive and functioning. When we lose our indigenous languages, we lose all the rich indigenous knowledge and stories that come with them. So go ahead, speak and educate yourselves about all things Rotuman this week, but let's try practice this beyond Sunday the 15th of May too, okay?





**LOCAL PRODUCE**  
By Annabelle Vaughan

## Jess Clarke

### Just Friends Jewellery

Jess Clarke is a history and performing arts student who produces all kinds of weird and wonderful earrings. Finding success at the Radio One Market Days, she has managed to turn her summer holiday hobby into one of Otago's newest trends.

Jess's work features all kinds of unconventional objects that most people wouldn't even think to turn into earrings. She got the idea last year from TikTok and has been creating ever since.

"On TikTok last year there was this trend that said lesbians can wear anything on earrings. People then got the most ridiculous shit and put it on earrings," she said. Inspired by the TikTok, one day when she was pining through Look Sharp with her friends, she stumbled across small dinosaur toys.

"We found these toys, and we were like, 'we should make these into earrings'" she said. That night on her flat living room floor alongside her friends, Jess began creating the dinosaur earrings using a candle and safety pin to construct them. After wearing them around university, she began to get complimented.

"People said they were cute, so over summer I kept buying things that I thought would look cute on earrings. My Dad, who is a bit of a handyman, then got his drill out and started helping me drill holes in things, which made things easier [to make]."

The title of her brand, Just Friends, is drawn from lesbian history. "There's this thing in history where if you're gay and have a partner,

it will say in textbooks they're your 'lifelong friend' or 'best friend'. It comes up a lot, but they're together, they just didn't want to say it," she explained. After conceiving the idea, Jess started up an Instagram page to advertise her creations. Her friend Kaitlyn helped her make the logo on Canva, and things took off from there.

Jess has found success selling her creations at Market Day, and wants to keep up her stall. Although it's mainly a hobby, Jess is eager to expand her business. "It was more for fun and friends over summer while I was working, but then I did my first Market Day, and loved it," she said.

"I put a bit of money into it, the earring hooks are expensive, but then things I put on the earrings don't cost very much money. It's fun," she says.

Jess finds inspiration from "random shit" she finds in thrift stores, her friends, or even objects that remind her of her own life experiences. As for her favourite pair of earrings, Jess says the dinosaur ones will always be a staple, but her personal favourites are the baggy earrings.

"I have baggy earrings, but I had white glitter in them, and I was like 'that looks way too much like gear, I can't sell that' she laughed. Other popular designs also include the toadstool charm earrings, and her skateboard earrings.

Just Friends earrings can be found at Radio One Market Days, and on Instagram @justfriendsnz.



**OTAGO  
MUSEUM**

**More than a Museum.**  
**Free galleries, free events, great coffee.**



# University of Otago Conspiracy Theories

1. Bill and Bill are holograms
2. There is a specialist Ghostbusters division of Campus Watch, which is why there have been no ghosts on campus since 2007
3. Archway looks fucked because it's a UFO that crashed into campus, and the government covered it up by inventing brutalist architecture
4. There was never a third floor to the science library
5. The University has teamed up with advertising companies so that we drink too much and fail more classes — so that we stay at Uni for longer
6. If you press the button on the drinking fountains to the beat of 'Waisake Naholo' three times, they dispense Speights
7. The Evison Lounge, like eVision, was actually named after David eVision, but an embarrassing typo meant they had to invent David Evison instead
8. Harlene Hayne was Critic's highest ranked secret informer within the Uni
9. The Link Poo Thrower is still out there
10. If you carbonate the water in the Leith, it turns into Southern Gold
11. No one has ever seen Dave Borrie and David Seymour in a room together. Draw your own conclusions, sheeple
12. Every time you sit in the celebrity squares in Central Library, the university monitors you as part of an experiment
13. There is no 666 Castle Street. This is genuinely real
14. If you flush all the toilets in the Richardson at the same time the elevator shaft collapses
15. Leith Liquor is the only outlet keeping the local economy going
16. The \$4 lunch programme is a money-laundering operation for a heroin ring
17. The 11th floor of the Richardson is a portal to another dimension, and you can access it through a secret elevator
18. Harlene Hayne did not exist. The evidence? Critic subeditor Oscar Francis never saw her, therefore, she does not exist. The conflicting evidence? Critic subeditor Oscar Francis is, in fact, a university psy-op placed inside Critic Te Arohi to fuck with us
19. QAnon wants to take over the university by ensuring their member becomes the new Vice Chancellor
20. The Uni is fronted as an academic institution but is actually a business

**\$4  
Lunch**

**Monday - Friday**

**12 - 2pm**

**OUSA Clubs & Socs Centre**

Full menu available at  
***ousa.org.nz***

*Monday - Thursday*  
**HARE KRISHNA DUNEDIN**

*Friday*  
**TANDOOREE GARDEN**

**ousa  
Clubs  
& Socs**



**NEW ZEALAND  
MUSIC MONTH**

**ON RADIO ONE 91FM**

**LIVE TO AIR**

**MON 10th MAY 9-9:15am Boaz Anema  
4-4:15pm Hannah Johns**

**TUES 11th MAY 9-9:15am Bob Scott**

**THUR 13th MAY 4:30-5pm Judah Kelley**

**FRI 14th MAY 9-9:15am Jared Smith  
4:30-5pm Black Sale House**

**r1.co.nz**

**ousa**

# HOROSCOPES



## Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

Vape juice isn't a substitute for serotonin.

**Coping mechanism:** *Therapy.*



## Leo

July 23 – Aug 22

Drop out and become a stripper.

**Coping mechanism:** *Yoga.*



## Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

Keep having low standards, it's only up from here.

**Coping mechanism:** *Maladaptive daydreaming.*



## Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

Over analysing your relationship? Time to cut it off.

**Coping mechanism:** *Tarot card readings.*



## Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

Posting mysterious messaging on your finsta? Stop, attention seeker.

**Coping mechanism:** *Weed, you need to chill out.*



## Libra

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Stop stirring shit to stay relevant. Instead, try getting over yourself.

**Coping mechanism:** *Alcohol.*



## Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

Keep working on your tinfoil hat, fucking freak.

**Coping mechanism:** *Dark humour.*



## Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Start taking your rage out on a therapist instead of your friends.

**Coping mechanism:** *Essential oils.*



## Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

Other people have feelings. The world actually doesn't revolve around you.

**Coping mechanism:** *Online shopping.*



## Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

You've either caught feelings, an STD, or both.

**Coping mechanism:** *Napping as procrastination.*



## Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

You are either panicked or manic, there is no in between.

**Coping mechanism:** *Meditation.*



## Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Who hurt you?

**Coping mechanism:** *Low expectations.*



# Soju

Booze Review

By Chug Norris

Following in the footsteps of Marco Polo I embarked on a tasting of the Korean spirit soju. Originally brewed as a pure spirit, soju now comes in a range of fruit flavours. I selected three flavours from the Chateul Soorok brand for consideration. I'll be honest I had never even heard of Soju before today, but I do know that it gets you on an excellent level. Soju has opened my eyes to a whole new genre of drink, it is like wine but also ass-water. As I'm writing this at the end of my sampling session I can say the buzz is extensive and pleasant and, at the end of the day, isn't that what really matters?

## Original

The original soju is, just that, original. It is a neutral spirit with a very fruity edge. If we compare the drinkability of soju to vodka, it is clear that soju is the superior beverage. While vodka packs a punch with 40%, this is countered by the drinkability of soju, which comes in at 20%. You could down an entire bottle of soju without experiencing any pain whatsoever. Additionally, in true mukbang style, I ate an entire chicken from Nandos before embarking on my tasting session. I was struggling to move, but the soju worked fantastically in staving off my food coma.

**Tastes like:** An orchard

**Pairs well with:** Eating large amounts of food

**Froth level:** Vodka without the suffering

**Taste rating:** 7/10

## Peach

I can imagine that people who enjoy the peach flavour of soju are also the people that are seriously into Harry Potter as fully grown adults. It's fine, but you need to shut the fuck up about it and read another book. I couldn't help but grimace as I reluctantly downed the last half of my glass. These flavoured varieties are also only 14% so I'd expect an improvement on flavour for the reduction in strength, but it just tastes like that build up you get on your teeth after vaping.

**Tastes like:** Vape flavours

**Pairs well with:** Nicotine, fortnite, Dobby

**Froth level:** Targeted marketing

**Taste rating:** 4/10

## Moscato

I don't know what moscato means and at the end of this tasting session I lacked the reading comprehension skills to investigate further. The standout taste is reminiscent of Hubba Bubba grape flavor, however the sweetness is not too strong. Compared to the absolute failure of the peach variety, balance has been achieved between the sweetness and the alcohol. The general taste of this drink could best be described as the colour purple.

**Tastes like:** Purple

**Pairs well with:** Lo-Fi hip-hop beats to study to, sitting around doing nothing, not having a personality

**Froth level:** Those massive metre-long sticks of gum you could get as a kid

**Taste rating:** 8/10



# FUCK! I CAN'T COOK

BY ALICE TAYLOR  
@ALICEOLIVIAEATS



## Potato & Leek Soup

Congratulations my friends, we have unofficially descended into Dunedin's bone-chilling winter. As I struggle to come to terms with this reality, I have been comforting my soul with this Potato and Leek Soup. This recipe is perfect for those chilly days, and it won't break the bank either. If you serve it with bread (which is essential), then this recipe is a double carbohydrate meal, which is a big tick. No, it isn't particularly creative, or vibrant, or exciting. But it is warm, it is beige, and it is delicious.

### INGREDIENTS SERVES 4

A splash of olive oil	4 medium sized potatoes, peeled and diced into small cubes
1 white onion, peeled and diced	6 cups vegetable stock (I dissolve 6 OXO veggie stock cubes in 6 cups of boiling water)
1 1/2 Tbsp minced garlic	Salt and pepper
1 leek, washed and finely chopped	Warm baked bread, to serve (see below)
3 Tbsp dried herbs (I like thyme. If you have fresh herbs use those!)	

### METHOD

1. In a large pot over medium heat, add a splash of oil, onion, garlic, a pinch of salt and pepper, and fry until softened.
2. Add the leek and dried herbs. Stir, cover with a lid and reduce the heat to low. Cook with the lid on for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. After 5 minutes take the lid off and continue to cook the leeks for 5 minutes.
3. Pour in the stock and add the diced potatoes. Stir, bring up to a boil, cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until the potatoes are very soft.
4. You can leave this as is, or mash it roughly with a masher, or blend it until it is completely smooth (which is what I like to do).
5. Taste and season with salt and pepper if needed.
6. Serve with bread.

### WARM BAKED BREAD

Generously drizzle the loaf of bread with oil, and use your hands to rub the oil all over the loaf. Season all sides with salt. Wrap in baking paper like a present. You want the whole loaf to be covered in baking paper. Bake until crispy on the outside and soft and warm on the inside. How long depends on your bread, but I find it normally takes around 15 minutes at 180 degrees Celsius.



# RATE

The theory that Epstein DIDN'T kill himself. That's not even a conspiracy theory at this point it just simply was a cover up by rich American child sex traffickers.

**The JonBenét Ramsay theory: I am fairly certain that it was the brother and the parents covered it up. I feel like my parents would've reacted very differently if I did that.**

The theory that the Kennedys killed Marilyn Monroe. Personally if I was the president, and myself and my brother both had an affair with Marilyn, I might be inclined to silence her. Very suspicious stuff from John and Robert.

**The theory that Area 51 has aliens. I wholeheartedly believe this. The US federal government is so WEIRD they should just relax and let us hang with the extraterrestrial beings.**

The Canterbury panther theory. Many people have sighted this cat (said to be between the size of a large dog and a cow) and my goal is to be one of them.

**Any theories to do with Big Pharma withholding the cures for literally anything. Not only am I willing to believe this, I am willing to place money on it being true. FUCK Big Pharma.**



# HATE?

OR  
BY SASHA FREEMAN

Everyone thinking that David Bain did it. I really feel as if he didn't! Something about him just seems sad and innocent. However I do rate that red card idea where you all wear David Bain sweaters, do a shot in every room, and then run around the block.

**The theory that Covid is a hoax. Bro, you were THERE! Imagine having the confidence of a boomer on Facebook believing you know more than the government's scientists.**

The theory that Taylor Swift and Gigi Hadid were secret lovers. Just let women have strong female friendships. Taylor literally called Hadid a 'sister' in a song. It reminds me of when my mum thought me and my high school bestie were dating.

**The theory that earth is hollow. Surely people who believe that have seen how stupid everyone thinks flat earthers are. Also, just dig a hole and you can see that it's not hollow?**

The theory that aliens built the pyramids. It was the Egyptians, and they just built them from the bottom up.

## The Critical Tribune

### Medical Research Shows Getting High Does Not Make You A Conspiracy Theorist

A breakthrough scientific study has disproven any linkages between getting high and believing in conspiracy theories. The Otago Medical School study, conducted by researcher Professor-Doctor Gnuhc over a single Saturday afternoon, was funded with \$5 million originally allocated as the Theology Department's annual budget. When asked why, the Acting VC told the Critical Tribune: "Medicine good. Medicine make money. Medicine make jobs. Arts no make jobs."

Riding in a luxury sedan and sipping copious amounts of champagne, the medical researcher visited the highest places in Dunedin and found an almost total lack of gibbering, frothy-mouthed people hell-bent on burning Huawei 5G towers.

"It was very strange," Gnuhc noted from his gold-plated desk in Medical School headquarters. "Whether it was the top of Signal Hill or all the way up Baldwin Street, from what I could see in the back seat of the med school's Lexus, not a single human being seemed sufficiently affected by hypoxia at those altitudes to impair their logical reasoning and consciousness," he said, briefly shuddering as his \$15,000 OGAWA MasterDrive massage chair hit a sore spot.

"Cutting-edge medical research is hard work, especially on the tight budgets medical schools struggle with in New Zealand," he said, shortly before inviting reporters to the department's weekly sushi buffet.

At press time, Professor-Doctor Gnuhc had received Uni funding for a follow-up project, investigating whether getting high by hotboxing a Gulfstream G650 private jet would be more likely to make you a conspiracy theorist.

### Local Boomer Instantly Identifies Conspiracy Video as BS

On the outside, Chadwick seems like just an ordinary "pale stale male", but the 61-year old Dunedin man has an ace up his sleeve that few other boomers do. He has the ability to near-instantly identify fake news and conspiracy videos as bullshit.

Like most others his age, he whiles away his time on Facebook looking at pictures of his grandchildren, while jumping on YouTube occasionally to watch videos of people restoring vintage motorcycles. Unlike most others, though, he is able to instantly see through the tired, click-bait tactics that have trapped many of his friends.

"For starters," he says, "the title being in all-caps with typos is a huge red flag for me. And if the video makes nothing but opinion statements while vehemently distrusting every government agency and scientist as 'part of the plan', you can't prove or disprove any of their claims anyway. It's just a self-fulfilling prophecy." Fact-checking is second nature to him, but knowing many of his friends struggle to identify trustworthy information, he's vowed to share only reliable, fact-checked articles from reputable organisations, while trying to tell them about common red flags to look out for when reading online content.

At press time, Chadwick was busily entering his credit card details onto his computer after an e-mail informed him that "new zeland postal is holding your international Parcel at AUKLAND," and that he needed to "pay customs release fee of US\$49 by PayPal IMMEDIATELY to receive".





# MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

## Like a Chainsaw

I had a lot of questions when I first came into the possession of some anal beads, courtesy of Critic for some prior raunchy content. I had delved into a bit of butt stuff before but nothing much more than a thumb up the bum or a weak and dissatisfying attempt at anal. This gift had my senses piqued and I was ready and willing to try.

Two issues came to mind. For a start, who was I going to find to use these on me? And how did I use them? I did what any self-respecting university gal would do and messaged the group chat. The conversation went like this:

"How does one even use anal beads, might have to search a tutorial."

"Like a chainsaw." \*gif of man pull-starting a chainsaw\*

"Do you just shove em in?"

"Slowly."

Now that I knew what to do (or at least, a very rough idea based on a chainsaw gif), I set off to find the man of my anal bead dreams. Turned out he really wasn't that hard to find, my usual Saturday booty call was pretty keen to come around and everything fell into place.

A tongue there, a finger here and all of a sudden, I was pulling my head off his very impressive cock to ask if he'd like to try something new. When I say that his face was like a kid in a candy store, I mean it was like Augustus Gloop in Wonka's choc factory.

I pulled out this packet of anal beads and handed them to him with a "Please go easy."

Turns out my group chat was right, it was very much like a slow chainsaw motion. I left him to his handy work as I positioned myself to return the favor so we could both have a good time. Plus having a large dick down your throat helps with the whole not being loud for the flatmates situation.

As I lay there in 69 with these little beads which increased in size each one up the string, I had a multitude of things going through my head. This actually felt really good, why had I spent the last 5 years having sex without these little wonders in my possession? Did I just shit myself? Oh no we good keep going big boy. Could this be something I could incorporate into me, myself, and I time? Oh, okay were going for the full string, deep breath, relax bitch, okay, yup, there we go.

He was really into it as well, like surprisingly so, maybe what you hear about guys being obsessed with your ass is true, or maybe it was just the outrageous head I was giving him. Gotta give what you take ya know...

Overall the anal bead experience was probably an 8/10. Highly enjoyable, and yes it does feel like you're lowkey shitting yourself but once you get past that, it's pretty satisfying. Give that toy a go you never thought you would, chances are you won't regret it.

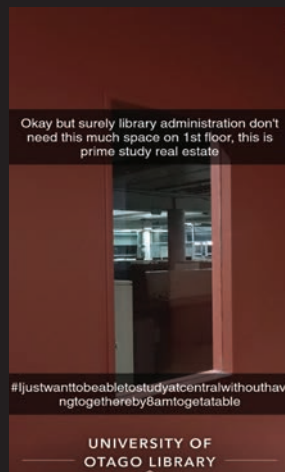
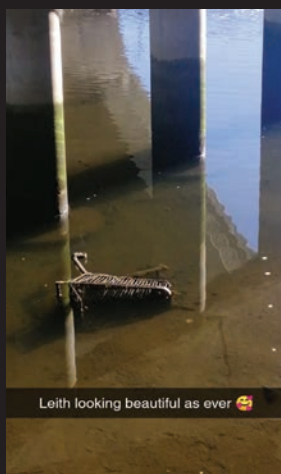
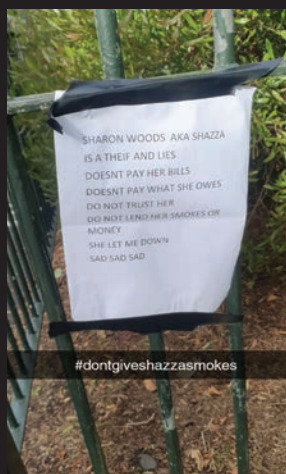
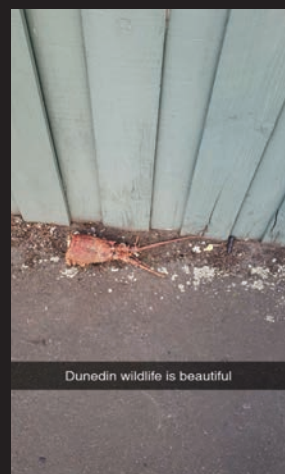
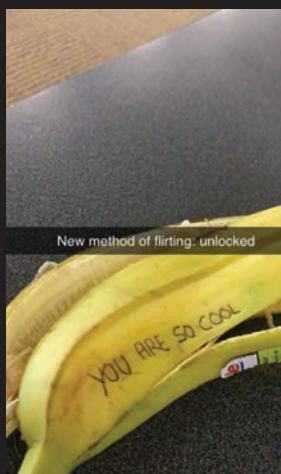


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