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YOUR 2022 PRESIDENT

MELISSA LAMA

LET YOUR LETTERS LOOSE AT US

LETTER OF THE WEEK WINS A \$30 VOUCHER FROM UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP EMAIL CRITIC@CRITIC.CO.NZ



LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dear Critic,
I have been here a long time and seen a lot of change throughout the uni. Some good. some bad. So why then is the cellphone reception in the link so goddam awful!! On any given day there is 1-2 bars of cell reception, so bad that data cuts out, calls drop and my pokemon go glitches!

I get better cell coverage in the Wakari Pine Forests. I get better cell coverage at Aramoana, heck I get better cell coverage in fuckin Gore! Please fix this

Sincerely

Zucc

Hey critic I've got an idea to bring in the \$\$\$

I noticed you've been watching finance-bro hamster go, and I thought that you and me could suss some serious synergy. Here's the idea: Critic branded drink covers for BYOs, to cover the top of your wine glass. Now, I know what you're probably thinking. Jason, isn't that an incredibly neche product for an incredibly niche audience? And I would say "Not so fast: if there are 20k students at the university, and 10% go to a BYO each week, and 50% of those students don't enjoy having a filthy old pocket lint encrusted coin rammed into their nice glass of chardonnay, well thats a fucking ginormous audience." The best thing is? We can make our stylish and simple drink covers biodegradable -- thereby capturing both the ecology minded audience, AND make sure we have plenty of planned obsolescence for repeat business.

Can't wait to hear from you Critic. I look forward to seeing the money roll right in, like a cork on the wave, for both of us.

Cheers,

Jason Gunge

Dear Critic*

*Hey look this is actually a letter for Tracey Guach, shes blocked all of us on everything since she moved out and we can't contact her any other way.

—Hey there Tracey, we've got lots of stuff of yours still at the flat, and we were wondering if and when you could please come and get them? I know it all went to shit since Jan and Steve got back together, and you're probably a bit pissed that she poured fish sauce into the radiator of your car. Dick move on her part. But theres tonnes of your stuff here and you need to come and get them.

The fish aren't our responsibility to clean and feed, and theres a pile of clothes still in the hallway. I've found a whole lot of small white tabs in left around the flat bathroom too? They look kinda like an old-school iPod shuffle, and usually they have a few blue or pink lines on them. Not sure whats up with that? But Jan swears they're not hers and they're definitely not mine.

But if you could please come and get your shit, that'd be great. Not looking for any drama, just want it gone thanks.

Cheers, Mac Veet

Dear Critic,

I am writing with urgency because the RADICAL ANTI CAR campaigners are working in concert with UNELECTED COUNCIL EXPERTS to institute INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTISE. How dare they curtail my GOD-GIVEN RIGHT to get stuck in traffic. Also if I want to MAKE MYSELF MISERABLE by driving for more than 15 minutes, contribute to incentivizing WAR in foreign countries, and KILL children and the elderly with my FUMES, how dare these greenie pinko SCUM try and stop me. They must truly HATE humanity.

Regards,

Bume Mher

Dear Critic,

As the first person to buy a jug at the Starters Tavern, I have history over years of refreshing myself there despite the name changes. I believe u should build a performance band centre and side bar in the car park. Utilise the equipment you already possess. Possibly, when you take out the lounge bar equipment u could build a solid safe corridor and utilise the toilets either side and possibly the kitchen/cooking area. Please don't waste what you already own.

From Des



Editorial: Presenting Critic's Plan for George Street

By Erin Gourley

The DCC made a plan for George Street and boomers had a fit about it. We want to present Critic's plan, which should be implemented immediately to ensure maximum voter engagement at the next Local Body Elections.

George Street will be renamed Geroge Street.

There are trams, which are free to everyone.

Bottomless brunches only.

There will be a 1kph speed limit for all cars.

All food is gluten free and vegan. No real milk allowed. Farms all over New Zealand collapse as a result. Take that Fonterra.

Minions are banned.

Lime Scooters are back.

There are brightly coloured dots everywhere. No road markings.

All cars have to give way to pedestrians, skateboards, rollerblades, unicycles, bikes, Lime Scooters (not Neurons), stilts, and dogs.

Vaping and smoking are mandated, everywhere, at all times.

From 3am until 6am only boy racers are allowed on the street, to do sick skids and wreak havoc.

Kmart is back.

There is a one-at a time rule for the entire street. To enter Geroge Street as a car, you have to be certain that no other cars are on the street at the same time as you. This creates absolute mayhem and gridlock (the worst fear of any boomer) meaning drivers are backed up all the way to Milton.

Shop owners are not permitted to ban City Council members from their stores, because every store is now owned by the DCC.

Loud music is permitted at whatever volume at all times. Noise control is disbanded and reformed into a busking ska supergroup.

An alarm sounds whenever a car drives onto the street and people are encouraged to point and laugh at the driver.

There are no retail shops, only online shopping collected from click and collect stores. This include cafes and restaurants.

His Worship Mayor Aaron Hawkins' office is made of glass and is set above the street, so he can look down on Geroge Street, his creation.

Every time someone over the age of forty walks onto the street they have to pay a wealth tax of 50% on everything they own. This happens repetitively, e.g. if Derek walks onto George Street three times, it takes 50% of his wealth each time.

Businesses thrive.

People enjoy being on the street.

All of a sudden, Sharon woke up. She realised this hellish “Geroge Street” was just a terrifying dream conjured up by those pesky kids. But the one-way George Street was still very real. Gosh, she thought, I'd better write an angry comment about that in Dunedin News.

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Students Happy With George St One-Way Decision

Pedestrianisation would have been better, though

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

In an historic vote last Wednesday, the Dunedin City Council moved to turn George St into a one-way heading south, with construction beginning shortly. It has been over thirty years since George Street was last redeveloped.

Apart from that jeweller who is now using Aaron Hawkins' face as a dartboard, reception on George St has seemed pretty positive, with many cafes and bars posting support for the move on social media.

Local bar Woof! praised the announcement, posting on Facebook, "if a place has a great vibe, people will come to it." While not on George St itself, the pedestrianisation would boost foot traffic in and around Moray Place and other offshoots of George St, bringing added benefit to Woof! and other places like it.

Bakery and café Side on posted to say that they "applauded the Dunedin City Council for finally having the guts to make change for the better in

the face of rampant and disgustingly aggressive behaviour by many outspoken fossils."

"Those fossils are not the majority and their anger is purely from a place of fear, not knowledge," they wrote in the post. "Yes, some previous outcomes have been extremely poorly executed or off the mark (parklets, road dots, harbour basin concept) but we trust in the design process, the use of external experts and the process so far!"

Critic took to campus to see what students thought of the announcement. Most were behind the idea. Some believing that the council hadn't gone far enough and should have fully pedestrianised Dunedin's central stretch since cars would now be disincentivised to travel along George St anyway.

Even students who regularly drove up and down George were behind the move, with one telling Critic that "I'll be gone by the time this

is done, but even if I was here I can still head south and head back north via the one-way." One particularly aged student told the Critic, "back in my day, we didn't even have cars" which probably raises more questions than answers, but we'll let it slide.

In a statement to the ODT, OUSA's Political Representative Mhairi Mackenzie Everitt said that "Dunedin had fallen behind other cities in creating an accessible, welcoming and safer city centre." With approximately half the street now designated for pedestrian access, George St will now be a much safer place for those with mobility issues.

As seems to be the norm with progressive change, the younger generations seem to be overwhelmingly in favour while the most significant resistance to the move comes from Dunedin's older residents. We can hope that they'll have calmed down or died by the time the work is expected to be completed in early 2024.

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One-Way George Street: Worse than Hiroshima?

Boomers React to George Street Changes

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

The DCC voted last week to make George Street a 10km/hour one-way system. Predictably, the move was met with mixed reviews. The Dunedin News Facebook page was, as always, ripe with all sorts of colourful comments, including ones that likened the change to the bombing of Hiroshima. Here are some of the best BoomerPosts™ that we found.



1 Tune in weekdays at 12pm, 2pm and 5pm
91 FM or catch up at r1.co.nz/podcasts r1.co.nz

New Model for Student-Uni Collaboration Launched

Students and their unis: ride or die

By Denzel Chung
Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Student associations and the Government have developed a new model for collaboration between students and tertiary institutions. It is hoped that this model will better reflect the diversity of the student community, and eventually reshape how students and tertiary institutions communicate and interact with each other.

The Whiria Ngā Rau (Weaving the Leaves) framework, released on 30 September, was developed by the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA), Te Mana Ākonga, Taura Pasifika and the National Disabled Students' Association, alongside the Ministry of Education.

The framework is centred on four rau (leaves): whakapakari, (strengthening student voices), whakawhanaungatanga (building connections with each other, by involving and engaging

diverse taura), akoranga (learning from and with each other), and mahitahi (working together as partners).

In their report, Whiria Ngā Rau — Progressing from Student Voice to Partnerships, the groups say students often get generalised and lumped together as a "single, disembodied student voice," which leads to poor student representation and does not reflect the needs of students. "There's little satisfaction with the varied approaches to involving learners in decision-making. Inconsistencies usually mean that only some voices are involved in decisions that impact on taura ability to achieve. We see that as a threat to equity in our system and we know we can do better."

"A mindset shift is crucial to breathing life into student partnership and that is what Whiria Ngā Rau intends to do," said Taura Pasifika

President Jaistone Finau. An example of this mindset shift is encouraging a move away from the "one-dimensional stereotype" of the "single student voice," instead emphasising the diversity of the student community in Aotearoa. "We are whole people, with full lives. We are so much more than a disembodied 'voice', or a one-dimensional stereotype. We are a rich and diverse community, learning and changing all the time," says the report.

Ultimately, the associations envision a future where students can work collaboratively with their tertiary institutions as partners, rather than being relegated to a singular, generalised "student voice". "Dissolving barriers between tertiary providers and taura will help strengthen student-provider partnerships to create stronger relationships built on kotahitanga and whakawhanaungatanga," says Te Mana Ākonga Tumuaiki Takirua, Nkhaya Paulsen-More.



Less than Half of Students in Link Wear Masks

Good, we didn't want to see their ugly faces anyway

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

According to an informal Critic survey (conducted via the sophisticated method of tally chart), 42% of students are wearing masks in the Link. The survey, conducted last week, involved observing students at different times in the Link and on Union Lawn.

Fewer students were wearing masks outside, with an average of 34% of students wearing masks on Union Lawn. That is in accordance

with Alert Level 2 guidelines which recommend that masks be worn in enclosed spaces, but are less necessary in outside areas with better ventilation.

Masks are strongly recommended at all times on campus, but they are not compulsory.

A spokesperson for the University said that they "have really appreciated the large numbers of

staff and students following our guidelines, the key point being that while masks are not compulsory, they are strongly recommended where practicable."

They also mentioned that there is no mandate for masks on campus because the University is following Ministry of Education guidelines. Those guidelines state that face coverings are "strongly recommended" but "are not mandatory".

Place, time	Number of people	Percentage masked
Link, Tuesday 4:15pm	63	43%
Union, Tuesday 4:20pm	74	35%
Link, Wednesday 12:38pm	73	41%
Union, Wednesday 12:43pm	34	24%
Link, Thursday 2:44pm	43	42%
Union, Thursday 2:49pm	57	44%

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Australian Unis Mandate Vaccines on Campus

Otago doesn't seem to be planning to follow suit

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

Two Australian universities mandated last week that all students, staff and workers on campus be fully vaccinated. Otago University plans to follow Ministry of Education guidelines, which currently do not require this.

International students, who supply a significant amount of Otago's cash flow, have not been able to enter the country en masse since the border closed. When asked if international students would have to be vaccinated in the future, a University of Otago spokesperson told Critic that the Uni will be guided by the Government as to what to do about this. But that's all they said.

Mandatory vaccines are already required for several diseases for students studying at universities around the globe. International students planning to enter the country have to prove that they aren't carrying several diseases like TB or hepatitis. Professor Iain Martin, former dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland, suggested that a vaccine mandate may be a good idea. He is now the VC of Deakin University in Victoria, and said that Australian students ought to be vaccinated before studying on campus.

Aidan, an international student here at Otago, said that he'd "be willing to do anything to allow

the flow of internationals in and out of New Zealand, especially if it's something as simple as getting a jab." He followed that up by saying "I don't care if it has a microchip in it. I don't care if it'll give me 5g cancer. I just want to be able to come and go again, and if it's Covid they're worried about, I think a vaccine mandate would solve that problem and let us all breathe a little easier."

It is unclear what Otago will do moving forward, though their brief response to us suggested that they will follow whatever guidelines are set in place by administrative bodies. For the meantime, though, a vaccine mandate does not seem on the cards for our university.

Otago Uni Calling for Voluntary Redundancies

History never repeats

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

The University of Otago is calling for voluntary redundancies from staff.

The University will start accepting "expressions of interest" for voluntary redundancy from 4 October. The scheme was announced on Tuesday 28 September at the Vice-Chancellor's staff forum.

The email, following up on the forum, from Acting Vice-Chancellor Helen Nicholson said, "there is no good time to call for staff redundancies, even when it is voluntary. This has been a very difficult decision to make after all the sacrifice and hard work of University staff over the past 18 months."

All permanent staff (academic and professional) will be eligible to request redundancy, but their requests will not be automatically accepted. The requests will only be accepted if there are "clear cost savings" over the next five years. Heads of Divisions will make the final decision. Further information was launched on a website on Wednesday.

The email stated that the University "are making this decision now to ensure that the University remains financially resilient. The past few years have been incredibly challenging for many

reasons, and we are feeling the cumulative effects."

The email said that students will not be affected by the scheme, as they will be able to "complete the programmes in which they are currently enrolled or which they commence in 2022."

"The key point I want to make is that the University is facing a challenging financial outlook which needs to be navigated with prudence," Nicholson wrote in the email.

The reasons for the redundancy scheme are Covid-related, combined with the high costs of the University's capital development programme and the need to lease a new space for the Wellington campus.

In particular, Nicholson noted that: "Rebuilding the international student cohort is unlikely to begin until 2023 and it could take up to ten years for student numbers to fully recover." A media release from the University said that "previous financial forecasting included an assumption international student numbers would begin to recover in 2022."

Nicholson's email also noted that: "The closed borders have led to rising salary expectations

nationwide coupled with an inability to recruit staff from overseas." The media release emphasised that the University "wants to be able to fairly compensate its staff" in the face of the rising cost of living in New Zealand.

Craig Marshall, the University of Otago branch president of the Tertiary Education Union, said that "At the moment, we have only limited information about this and understand that the University will provide a web site tomorrow with more complete information."

Daniel Benson-Guiu, a Dunedin-based union organiser for the Tertiary Education Union, said: "As a Union we are supporting our members through this surprising announcement by the University. We have seen Voluntary Redundancies used as a bandaid tool at other institutions, our experience is that it doesn't work."

"Our members question how the University plans to improve staff workloads while reducing staff," Daniel said.

The University of Otago confirmed in a media statement that "the process will not impact on the ability of students to complete the programmes in which they are currently enrolled, or which they commence in 2022."

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OUSA and UOPISA Sign First Ever MOU

Like an IOU but different

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

For the first time, OUSA and the Pacific Island Students' Association (UOPISA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The MOU sets out that OUSA and UOPISA out the associations recognise each others' roles, and that they will "actively promote their parallel relationship... including but not limited to [in] the media and campaigns." Both associations agree to actively lobby the University to improve Pacific Representation at higher levels (@UniversityCouncil).

The MOU sets out with the precedent that the Presidents will meet at the beginning of each year to plan a strategy and develop a Working Plan for the Year. During the year, they will meet at least every fortnight (not the game).

Financially, OUSA will contribute up to \$2000 per year for UOPISA's annual Leadership Forum.

Melissa Lama, current President of UOPISA and future President of OUSA, said that the associations have been in talks about an MOU for a while. "I do know past UOPISA presidents planted the conversations on why we need to formulate an MOU between us. I have just come in and carried on that discussion," she said.

"Currently we have a very strategic/governance relationship, with this MOU we now have an opportunity for more operational collaborations," Melissa said. "What I love about this, is beyond the UOPISA president's seat on the OUSA exec, our executives have now got an opportunity to work more in collaboration."

Melissa said that the financial support for the UOPISA leadership forum "shows [OUSA's] willingness and genuine support in seeing our associations grow and be a part of the discussion." She said that the "leadership weekend is where we up skill and support our pacific associations in their plans for the coming year."

OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey said that the MOU would "solidify the relationship". "Without an MOU you often find that the relationship dramatically changes year on year depending on who is in charge," she said. "This MOU will ensure there is great consistent partnership," she said, and "it also embeds accountability measures for when agreed terms are not met which helps keep OUSA especially accountable."

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OUSA Referendum Open For Voting

The sexy part of democracy: reading documents to be an informed voter

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

This week OUSA's yearly referendum is up for voting, and it's time to exercise those sexy democratic rights. The referendum is divided into two sections: wider initiatives and amendments to the constitution. There are plenty of extremely important initiatives this time around, and we encourage you all to go and vote on what you think will help students.

There's a lot of financial mumbo jumbo, like approving the budget and affirming our auditors (PricewaterhouseCoopers, for those interested). Aside from that, OUSA wants to lobby the University for things such as free sanitary products around campus, definitive plans around Covid-19 alert level changes and grade bumps in the event of those changes.

They're also suggesting that they could lobby the Uni for a commitment to dual-delivery learning (i.e. permanently both Zoom and physical classes) and ask the Government very politely to let us put ourselves an extra \$1000 in debt to make ends meet over the Covid-19 chaos. OUSA did note that these latter two would incur significant financial cost, first to the University and secondly to our own bank

accounts, but with alternate aid unlikely to be forthcoming, it may be the only option students have.

OUSA are also asking whether they should push for flat hunting to start in semester two as opposed to extremely early in the year (a craze we're all familiar with). In the official referendum document, OUSA noted that "it could help reduce the number of flat viewings happening throughout the year for existing tenants and reduce student stress." It would also mean "landlords would be held more accountable for their poorer quality flats, as they would become available at the same time as better-quality flats and not signed out of urgency in the first semester."

On the contrary, problems arise with shifting the flat-signing culture and "would involve lobbying private landlords and property agencies to change their business plans." It could "also lead to a bottlenecking of demand for flats and to further stress later in the year for students." It's a potentially very high reward manoeuvre for OUSA, but would involve a lot of work hence it being put up in the referendum.

The constitutional amendments section of the referendum mainly revolves around changing individual words and clauses as if it were an episode of Suits, but many do have an impact on students. OUSA looks to change two clauses, which would allow them to solely post updates on social media as opposed to making announcements both on social media and physically on a notice board.

The Exec is also looking to further clarify who constitutes an international student and who is allowed to vote for certain Executive positions in yearly elections. While they note this may lock out fringe cases from being eligible under certain criteria, they hope that clearer definitions will make it easier to tailor services for those groups.

Another important constitutional amendment the Exec wants to change is the ability to validate constitutional breaches through necessity instead of just whether it provided a positive benefit to students. This would allow OUSA to justify breaches from situations arising from Covid-19 amongst others, but also potential opens the floodgates for a wider range of breaches being validated.



Erections Continue at New College

Te Rangihīroa College construction continues amidst Covid setbacks

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

There's a new residential college going up by Emmerson's brewery, in case you've been wondering what all the dramatic scaffolding is for. Te Rangihīroa College is set to be operational by semester two, 2023.

Chief Operating Officer Stephen Willis told Critic that the college will house 450 breathas (not the term he used). "It will replace the existing 125-bed college of the same name which sits on land earmarked for the new Dunedin Hospital." The building was registered by the New Zealand Green Building Council, which means that it will be "a truly sustainable building." We were curious to know if this meant that students would be asked to piss in the sink to save water,

but we didn't ask.

The college's name is in recognition of Te Rangihīroa, the University's first Māori graduate. "The name was gifted by his family for use by the University when the existing college opened in 2014," said Stephen. "The new college will incorporate cultural design elements developed with input from Te Rangihīroa's Ngāti Mutunga iwi and local Ngāi Tahu throughout the design process."

Teams have been working around the clock, including weekends, to keep up with schedule. The Auckland lockdown has made sourcing the building materials tricky, but the "structural steel

erection" is set to begin this week. Again, we were curious to know if that was a euphemism, but didn't ask. We suspect that there are many structural steel erections in Dunedin, and are excited to watch this one grow from a safe, but not-quite-voyeuristic distance.

The college is also located right across the road from the Gregg's coffee factory, well-known amongst students for the particular odour that it belches out a few times per week. This will provide a new olfactory backdrop for the fresher experience. Although, whatever stench may permeate the shiny new building may not be stronger than the smell of some of the residents' rooms.

\$15^{pp}

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New Residency Pathway Excludes Upcoming International Graduates

165,000 residence visas set to open, but internationals about to graduate will just miss the cutoff

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

International students about to graduate from the Uni will just miss the deadline for an exciting new residency visa application. Those who graduated before September 29 2021 will be eligible.

Many international students began a degree this year as a means of staying in New Zealand. Upon completion they will be eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa, one of several visa types that are eligible to apply for this new residency visa. However, they would need to possess this visa before the 29 September to be eligible for the new visa. That means anyone about to receive their qualification and apply for a Post-Study will be ineligible for this new scheme. They will have just missed the cut-off by a little more than a month.

To meet the criteria, applicants must either have been here for about three years, make over \$27 per hour, or work in a position on the jobs shortages list, in addition to possessing one of several work visas. But even if they met all three criteria, students currently studying will not be

eligible because they did not possess the Post-Study visa on 29 September.

"It just feels like a slap in the face," said Dan*, an international student who has been here since 2018. "I've done my whole degree here. I'm set to graduate in a month and apply for the Post-Study, and feel like I'm exactly the type of person that this was intended to help, but I've just missed the cut-off. It sucks."

He went on to say "don't get me wrong, I'm stoked to hear the news and stoked for the students who will benefit from it, my timing just sucked." Any international student who graduated at any point before 29 September will likely be eligible. "I wonder if they designed it to purposefully exclude the people that did a panic masters," said Dan. "I bet they did. And I get that. But it sucks because it also excludes any of us that have been here for years and just happen to be graduating at the same time."

Keegan, another international about to graduate, said that: "I feel that it's a bit unfair to all the students who have been here for three to four

years and have decided to stay and help as best we can. We could've gone home, but we stayed. I feel like this new visa is designed to support people who were here through Covid and who helped out, and this seems counterproductive in a way. Like, 'oh, just because you weren't working at this specific time means we aren't going to favour you.'"

Tajsha, who graduated last year and is now working as an occupational therapist, is eligible for the new visa. When we spoke to her, she said: "Oh my God, I can become a resident? Holy shit! Incredible!" However, she said that the fact that the upcoming graduate class won't be eligible is "kinda bullshit. Actually, total bullshit. [they're] already here, they've been here this long, why would they not be included? Why not just make the cut-off date the end of the year? That's rubbish." She expressed her condolences for those who missed the boat, but said that she was off to Google the application right away. "I've got to get a spot!"

Applications for the new visa open in late December.

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OPINION: A Decade On, VSM Bill Still Looms Over Students

More freedom, yes technically. But you can get fucked if you want representation with that

By Elliot Weir
Features Editor // features@critic.co.nz

Ten years ago, a controversial bill was voted into law that stripped student associations of their universal funding, leaving their futures in the hands of universities. Ten years on, should the bill be repealed?

Centuries ago, in 2009, ACT MP Heather Roy introduced the Voluntary Student Membership (VSM) Bill into parliament. The bill removed a requirement for students to join student associations and pay fees, meaning student associations would essentially rely on donations to function. The New Zealand Union of Student Associations (NZUSA) spoke up against it, and many people pointed to Australian universities as a reason not to let this bill pass, as Australia had recently passed a similar bill and had seen massive cuts to student services across the board.

Students protested on the grounds of Parliament, and Labour attempted to filibuster the bill. But in 2011 National and ACT passed the bill into law, just in time for Heather Roy to leave parliament and pursue a career with Big Pharma.

In 2012, OUSA President Logan Edgar locked himself in a cage on Union Lawn to protest the introduction of the bill. As a result of VSM, OUSA could have collapsed. We almost lost O-Week, Hyde Street, Clubs and Societies, Student Support, and all the behind the scenes advocacy that OUSA does on our behalf.

Fortunately, Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne saw the value of keeping OUSA in its full form. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was reached between OUSA and the Uni, meaning the Uni charges a student services fee to students alongside their course fees, and some portion of that fee goes to OUSA.

Otago Uni saved OUSA, but they remain an unnecessary middle man between students and OUSA. Ten years on, the Voluntary Student Membership Bill means the Uni decides how much funding OUSA gets, and so the continued funding of student support services, as well as events like Hyde Street and O-Week, remain at the whim of whoever is Vice-Chancellor at the time.

The Voluntary Student Membership Bill also led to NZUSA's budget being cut by more than half.

Albany Students' Association left NZUSA in 2020 and Auckland Uni Students' Association left earlier this year, both citing financial difficulties as reasons for leaving. These financial difficulties mean NZUSA is far less effective at standing up for students on a national scale and lobbying parliament for changes that help students.

Efforts to repeal the Voluntary Student Membership Bill have existed since its inception, but have faltered in recent years. NZUSA announced they were starting a campaign to repeal the bill in 2019, but little progress appears to have been made. At the time, Minister for Education Chris Hipkins told Critic that Labour does oppose the bill, but it wasn't "one of our most immediate priorities."

Ten years on, the Voluntary Student Membership Bill still looms over student associations, with their funding in the hands of the universities that they're supposed to be standing up to on behalf of students. Ten years on, there is still public support for repealing the bill, it just needs political willpower from student associations — and MPs to get the process started.

OUSA Dog Is The Sixth Best Dog with a Job

That's first best in dog years

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

Ella, who works for OUSA Student Support, placed sixth in New Zealand's Top Dog with a Job contest. There were 402 entries this year for the overall contest, up 67% from 2020.

Student support said, "firstly, we would like to congratulate all of the pups who were nominated and give an extra congrats to the winner, Rosie." Rosie is a Labradoodle from Palmerston North who works as a therapy dog. Ella did not mince her words about placing sixth, telling Critic: "Woof woof, arrrrf woof. Woof! (panting noises). Woof woof." What a classy response!

Her employers at OUSA student support were "just so excited to have Ella make it to the top six." They said that despite the announcement that she didn't come out on top, "Ella is and will always be the top dog to the student body here at the University of Otago." "Woof woof," said Ella. Students reported that they recognized Ella from around campus as "the friendliest, cuddliest dog I've met," and that "her belly is just as warm as it looks."

Ella never expected this type of fame, but was happy to use her platform to advocate for the needs of the student body. She's a rescue, originally from South Africa, who moved here with her family in 2019, so she is keenly aware

of the feelings of homesickness that many international students have, and is always happy to try to lift the spirits of people who may feel like a newcomer, or are otherwise overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of Dunedin life.

Following a successful interview with Student Support, Ella has been hard at work trying to turn people's moods around. She works alongside Support Advocates and participates in cuddle fixes, and in her spare time enjoys walks on the beach, a good meal, and chasing chickens. She was the runner-up last year in Otago's paw-etry competition and her book, The Hand that Feeds You, will be on shelves in January.

.....

Four Otago Uni Lecturers Take Out National Awards

After the upcoming round of voluntary redundancies, these might be our only lecturers left — but at least they're good at their jobs

By Denzel Chung
Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Well-known "Anatomy Mum" Dr Latika Samalia has taken out Aotearoa's top tertiary education teaching award. In a remarkable Otago Uni power move, three of the other eight national award winners were Otago staff members as well.

At the Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony on 20 September, Dr Samalia was awarded the top honour, the Prime Minister's Supreme Award. She also won an Award for Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching, as well as an endorsement for the Excellence in Supporting Pacific Learners Award, for her work as the Pacific support person in Anatomy for the School of Biomedical Sciences. The awards count for more than honour and glory as well, with the Anatomy lecturer set to collect a combined prize pot of \$35,000.

Of the other eight national award winners, three were Otago staff members. Head of the School of Arts, Professor Tim Cooper, and Professor Hazel Tucker from the Department of Tourism, both received Awards for Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching.

Professor Cooper was acknowledged for the ability of his teaching in the Theology Department "to unsettle existing assumptions, and to stimulate further thinking and critical interpretation for his learners." Professor Tucker was recognised for "a deeply held commitment to developing critical consciousness amongst her learners," and her commitment to "challenging western-centric practices and applying this through culturally responsive pedagogy."

Associate Professor Diane Ruwhiu, of the Department of Management, also won an Award for Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching, in the Kaupapa Māori category. The awards profile noted her ability to "focus on the potentiality of Māori knowledge and worldviews that sit outside learners' existing disciplinary knowledge," allowing her to "equip them with the necessary cultural and linguistic tools to negotiate this space." The trio don't miss out on dosh either — they are set to collect a cool \$20,000 each.

The other awards were won by teaching staff from Auckland Uni (two), as well as Canterbury Uni, Waikato Uni and Otago Polytechnic (one each). Otago Uni has had a successful run at the tertiary teaching awards in the past, with previous Supreme Award winners including Faumuina Professor Fa'afetai Sopoaga (2018), Professor Jacinta Ruru (2016) and Professor Suzanne Pitama (2015).

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Mental Health Awareness Whiteboard Sabotaged With Humour

We're not hiding emotions behind a veil of humour. I'm fine thanks and you?

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

Sometimes, as a treat, OUSA will do something with good intentions that is nonetheless destined for disaster. Setting up a whiteboard in the Link for Mental Health Awareness Week and allowing people to write whatever they choose on a Post-It note, anonymously, is one of those things.

The mental health awareness whiteboard asked (in 60pt Times New Roman font): What do you do to keep yourself well?

Some people responded with the wholesome things that OUSA was probably aiming for. Those people said: rock climbing, surf, eat, mix DnB, take my antidepressants, wine night with the girls, therapy, drink tea, deep breath work, anything to keep my body moving, call my

parents, and learn a new song on guitar.

The rest were less wholesome, but equally valid:

Ur mum <3
Masterbate <3
MOCK CHILDREN
Bongs
Flick da bean
MY FARTS (my butt hole has anxiety)
Talk shit
Ketamine [drawing of horse]
Mock my 4'5 friend
Drop out :)
Hook up with my flatmates

A WANK?
Watch pornhub
Ruin my ex's day
PLAY FORTNITE - ADD ME OZMAKAPPAA
I like watching my flatmates sleep
Get naked and run round
Get with my ex
KEGELS
Hook up with a dude you don't even like for validation, 100% recommend <3
Mariokart!!
Push people away
Commit atrocities in Costa Rica
Heaps of cones
Speights

ODT Watch:

"Please ensure that what you're burning, and the size of your burn-off means the smoke won't cause a nuisance to your neighbours and community."

In other words, invite your neighbours to the sesh.

A bird, a plane? No, it's a flying digger

I just think that when you have a flying digger as the source material, you can do better than an outdated Superman reference.

Focusing on lunch

Every day at 11am.

IT sounds like a dystopian film. The sun is beating down on a quiet, picturesque valley surrounded by high mountains and bubbling rivers. Suddenly, a buzz in the distance rises to a roar. The whole valley quivers as a huge aircraft makes its final approach to land. For lovers of Central Otago, particularly those who live near Tarras and along the upper reaches of the Clutha River close to Wanaka and Hawea Flat, such a scenario might actually be more like a horror film.

This describes a proposed new airport, for planes. Not terrifying UFOs or anything. Bonus points for use of the word "quivers".

E-buses are great but let's make them smaller

So you want e-buses to be ... cars?

shop if you like one. "What's this other photo? Doesn't look very sporting." "No, not too impressive, are they? It's the Dunedin City Council of '21. Couldn't find the money to support the Sports Hall of Fame. Shameful, eh?"

The punchline of a longwinded joke (?) about the DCC not wanting to support the Sports Hall of Fame.

I SAT outside for a while last night with a glass of vodka. Vodka is my new best friend, the distilled essence of what I've been moving towards for half a century without quite realising. It seems close to the thing itself, as near to the truth as I've come so far. And I sat and I sipped in the cold night air and I listened to the frogs.

The ODT column section, where you can get drunk and write all your thoughts about frogs. That's the dream

She had taken "168 photos of loo paper at Craighburn, Lake Hawea, and there was a loo there".

I would love to take 168 photos of loo paper. Truly living the dream.

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Ph: 03 440 2028
Email: work@ssco.co.nz

We've moved! David Clark MP for Dunedin

My team and I can now be found at 544 Great King Street in North Dunedin, next door to Oaken Café.

If you require advocacy, information or support, please drop by our new office, or get in contact with the team.

Dunedin Office
dunedin@parliament.govt.nz
03 474 1973
f /DavidClarkMP



PRESIDENT Michaela Waite-Harvey

Kia ora taura ma,

Like most of you over lockdown, I was waiting for the government announcement that they we're going to double course related costs for students. Equally, like most of you I was disappointed when all we got was a hardship funding increase, a system that is marred by red tape that disincentivises students and places high thresholds on support. Since then, OUSA have been in contact through our local MP and emailed Minister Hipkins' office to express our upset at this lack of universal student support. Similarly, every other students' association and youth adjacent group have been hitting up Chippy about increasing student support.

We've all had no reply. This government does not care about students, in their eyes

the \$25 increase to loans and allowances is sufficient. All that has done is move us from not being able to afford our bills to slightly not being able to afford our bills. This snub from the government is made even harder when you think of those in charge, Chris Hipkins was NZUSA President, Grant Robertson, Ayesha Verrall, and Rachel Brooking were OUSA Presidents. These politicians built their careers off the student movement and now that they have real power they have turned their backs on us.

I implore you all to flood Chippy's inbox, it might help shift his mindset. Here's his email c.hipkins@ministers.govt.nz

Ngā mihi,
Michaela Waite-Harvey – President



WEEK 24 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:
1. Cheerful 5. Wasabi 9. Shabby 10. Macaroni 11. All 12. Instant 15. Leo 16. River 17. Alive 18. CEO 21. Barista 23. One 24. Uttering 25. Friend 26. Ejects 27. Siblings

DOWN:
2. Enable 3. Rabbi 4. Limited 6. Adapt 7. Adorable 8. Irish coffee 11. Agriculture 13. Novella 14. Neglect 16. Roulette 19. Bridges 20. Modern 21. Burnt 22. April

WORDWHEEL ANSWER: Neglect

SUDOKU

sudokuoftheday.com

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

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

1			2			3	4				5					6		
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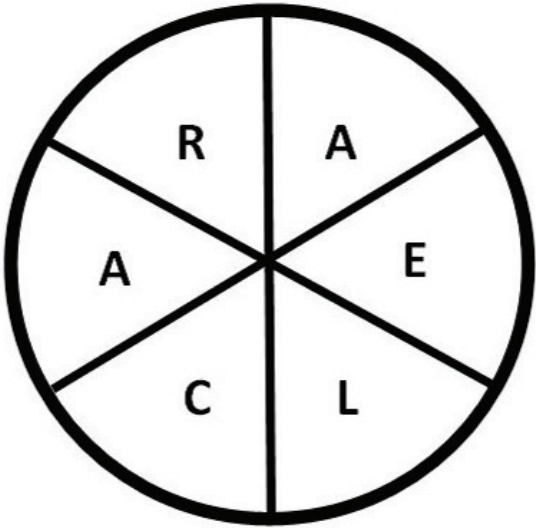
ACROSS:

3. Inventive (11)
7. Small (3)
8. Sweet quality (9)
10. Consume (3)
11. Possesses (4)
13. A flying animal and a piece of sports equipment (3)
14. Largest artery in the body (5)
16. Heals (5)
17. Another name for a feijoa is pineapple ____ (5)
18. Estimate (5)
20. Board used in a seance (5)
22. Words said at a wedding (1,2)
23. Food made with rice and seaweed (5)
24. Similar to a pickup truck (3)
25. Type of native tree
26. 'Year' in te reo Māori
27. Type of bread (9)
29. Nocturnal bird (3)
30. Happy but also slightly sad (11)

DOWN:

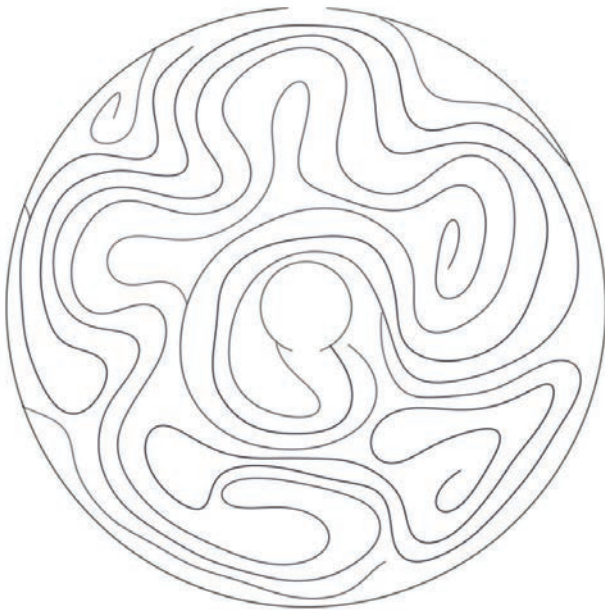
1. Chinese takeaway food: ____ pork (5,3,4)
2. Citrus peel (4)
4. Female sheep (3)
5. Uncomfortable (6)
6. Bloom (6)
9. ____ mai ngā iwi (6)
12. Distrustfully (12)
13. Yellow fruit (6)
15. Scrap of cloth (3)
16. Type of dairy food (6)
18. Floor (6)
19. ABBA song (3)
21. Whole (6)
22. Problems (6)
26. Taika Waititi directed a film about this superhero (4)
28. I ____ U

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.





Kmart **Dunedin**

LOST LEGACY OR WASTE OF SPACE?

BY DENZEL CHUNG

It used to be a rite of passage for students in the new year: the big flat furnishing shop at Kmart in Meridian Mall. Lines of students would hike piles of everything from duvets to dish racks to toasters and toilet roll holders down George Street. Cars overflowing with pillows and vacuum cleaners would snake towards North D, fresh-faced second-years peeping out back windows with their stressed-out parents at the wheel, getting confused about the one-way system.

It was a mecca of abundance in the retail wasteland that was North Dunedin. It was a place where you could go anytime, buy anything, and afford everything. And it wasn't just students feeling the love either. Ask my former landlady, who on my first flat viewing in 2018 proudly showed off the brand new microwave, "bought only this year" from Kmart. As far as I know, it's still going strong.

Kmart Dunedin is not still going strong, to say the least. They vacated their space in the Meridian in March last year, amidst complaints about earthquake-strengthening work and whispers about the mall playing hardball with rent. There were rumours of them moving to the old Warehouse store in Rattray Street or heading out to South D, but nothing has eventuated so far.

“I think Kmart has a nice appeal in that every store is exactly the same. It’s just a big empty space with lights that go brrr a little bit. Like a sensory deprivation chamber but with shitty monstera paint by numbers.”

Eagle-eyed observers may notice Kmart’s responses to Facebook commenters begging them to return has shifted. From the optimistic “We’ve shortlisted a few potential site locations in Dunedin, so we’re hopeful that we will have some good news to share soon <3” (May 28) to a jaded, non-committal “We’ll share this feedback with our team <3” (September 8). Asked for comment, a Kmart spokesperson said they “have no comments re Dunedin” </3

Stores come and go all the time, but the loss of Kmart hit particularly hard. People continue to message Kmart New Zealand and flood their Facebook posts, begging them to bring their Dunedin store back. Students still lament its loss, shifting boxes of Anko products from their hometowns or driving to Invercargill to get their fix. For a massive retailer which made AU\$10 billion last year, owned by an Aussie conglomerate which sells everything from hardware (through Bunnings) to explosive-grade ammonium nitrate, it holds a strange grip on our hearts.

What is it about Kmart that makes it so attractive? I asked my mum, the most reliable retail industry expert I could find. “Their stores seem very bright and clean. And their stuff is quite modern-looking, but also decent quality. It’s nicer walking around there than in The Warehouse and it’s usually also cheaper,” she said. Asked to name a favourite product, she struggled for a while, before finally settling on bedsheets: “Even the more premium stuff is still cheaper than most other stores, and definitely better quality.”

My mates are my second-most reliable retail industry experts. They agreed with my mum’s assessment. “I wouldn’t buy really pricey stuff from there, but the stuff I do get is pretty good quality, better than other places,” Nellie told me. She said the “indestructible” hair-ties were a particular favourite of hers, as were her sunglasses: “My first pair was from The Warehouse, and it fell apart in two weeks. So I got a replacement from Kmart, these ones — they’ve lasted six years.”

For Dunedin students, though, Kmart was more than just a discount store. Nights in North D can be pretty grim: with nearly everything closed, there’s precious little to do except drink and study. That was where Kmart really came into its own. Open until midnight seven days a week, it was a clean, quiet, and pretty much free flat-bonding destination. “Late-night trips to Kmart were always a fave. It was fun to browse around when you have nothing better to do and then just buy some cheap lollies and be on your merry way,” said Hannah. “I like the fun cheap aesthetic of their things. It’s a hell a cute store.”

“Kmart has great deals, unethical consumption aside, but mostly you’d go to Kmart for the experience,” Asia told Critic. “My flat would frequently go just to wander around and dissociate under the fluorescent lights, occasionally buying a shitty \$0.75 candle.” One of her flatmates chimed in, saying: “I think Kmart has a nice appeal in that every store is exactly the same. It’s just a big empty space with lights that go brrr a little bit. Like a sensory deprivation chamber but with shitty monstera paint by numbers.”

This combination of cheapness and aesthetic niceness is weirdly alluring. Alluring enough, it seems, that people are willing to go out of their way for it. Nellie told me that on a recent trip to see family and friends in Auckland and Palmerston North, she would make an effort to visit the cities’ Kmarts, sending photos to show off to her mates in Dunedin.

At the extreme end of the scale, at least three people I’ve interviewed have talked about going on road trips to Invercargill and Queenstown to visit Kmart. That’s at least a five hour hour round-trip by car. Just for Kmart.

Asia and her flat made one of those pilgrimages, a trip that she would call “spiritual”. Feeling Kmart’s absence keenly, they decided to shoot off to Invercargill. Although their car broke down within moments of departure, “some kindly bogans gave up a jumpstart and aided us on our journey,”

which seems a very appropriate way to begin a trip into our Southern heartland. “Walking back into Kmart’s hallowed halls healed my soul,” Asia said. “We made some boring purchases, like a shower curtain and a bath mat, stuff you need but is way too expensive anywhere else for some reason. There was also a sick as fuck lobster line they’d released, which we Dunedinites have been deprived of. We bought a dishcloth just because it had lobsters on it.”

Was the many hours spent on the road to buy from a massive multinational conglomerate worth it? Absolutely, says Asia, “it was a beautiful bonding experience. This was around election time, and we also stole a Judith Collins sign from Milton on the way home, who guards our front door. Kmart brought us — my flat, Judith, and a lobster dishcloth — together. Thank you, Kmart.”

It goes without saying that the sort of non-stop consumption that Kmart promotes can be destructive as hell. Whether it’s the \$10 appliances that end up tossed at skip day, the headphones which fail before the year is out, or the oh-so-stylish bookshelves that fall to pieces when you try to move them, their products are not exactly sustainable.

It goes without saying that the sort of non-stop consumption that Kmart promotes can be destructive as hell. Whether it’s the \$10 appliances that end up tossed at skip day, the headphones which fail before the year is out, or the oh-so-stylish bookshelves that fall to pieces when you try to move them, their products are not exactly sustainable. None of their stuff is designed to be repairable or even recyclable. You can’t make

a profit selling toasters for \$9 if the person who buys it won’t need another one for the next ten years.

But it seems that for many we talked to, buying from Kmart wasn’t so much an active choice of rampant consumerism, but a decision made out of necessity. Gina, the (lovely and wholesome) volunteer at the St Andrews Op Shop, said that despite the store being just around the corner from where Kmart used to be, its closure hadn’t exactly caused a spike in business.

“We did get a bit of extra foot traffic after they closed, and people would come in looking for wine glasses and things. But most people who shopped here would go to Kmart as well. It was the only place in town where you could get good-quality things for a cheap price.”

In her telling, the winner from Kmart’s closure wasn’t really the circular economy or the charity sector, but our old mates at the Ware-Whare — “except now you need to have a car to get there, which a lot of people don’t have” — and \$2 shops.

So maybe what made Kmart so special was the feeling that you can have it all. No one I spoke to was under any impression that this was some refined shopping destination for high-quality products. Pretty much everyone mentioned the word “cheap” to me at least once when talking about Kmart.

But while it’s a store full of cheap stuff, it’s a nice-looking store full of nice-looking things. As students, we’re used to settling, whether that means paying over half our income for a lousy flat because there’s nothing better, working a shit job because no one else will hire unless you “have work experience,” or seeing politicians screw us over and over again because boomers are the ones who vote. So it’s refreshing to be in a place where, for once, you don’t feel like you have to settle, and where you are allowed to have nice things too.

While you have the odd person relentlessly refreshing their houses with Kmart hacks or recklessly throwing out piles of cheap gadgets, the reality seems to be that most people who loved Kmart just loved it because it met their needs in a really neat way. It had comfy bedsheets, indestructible sunglasses and lobster bathmats, all under one set of elegant fluorescent lights.



HOUSING IS HELL:

ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET TO OWN HOUSES?

BY OSCAR FRANCIS

“Don’t wait, just go,” is Bernard Hickey’s advice to students who want the security of owning their own home. Bernard is an economist. He is perhaps even more pessimistic about the prospects of home ownership for young generations than the doomers themselves. If you don’t want to be a serf to a landlord class forever, either jump across the ditch or start looking for a partner whose family already has a property portfolio, he reckons.

The high price of housing is the end of the egalitarian dream, according to Bernard. “Half of the kids growing up now are growing up in rental accommodation. Half of the nation is being sentenced to live in cold, mouldy, incredibly expensive houses. That means more trips to hospital with chest infections, having mental health problems, not being productive. That’s an awful situation. It’s not success.”

A housing crash is unlikely to happen because politicians on both sides of the aisle are committed to maintaining house prices. “Most New Zealanders who vote, they think it’s a great scheme,” he said. “Why would anything change now? The Prime Minister is in control with a majority in parliament. She told us at the end of last year that she wouldn’t do anything that would drive prices down. She said her role was to protect the assets, which is the main home.”

The government switched on the money pump to stop the economy collapsing because of lockdown. We may have avoided another Great Depression, but instead we got petrol poured on an already overheated market. Was it worth it? When I started writing this piece in the first semester, the national median house price had risen 28.7% over the last year. The latest figures from August show a 31.1% increase.

According to a survey by the Building Research Association of New Zealand, almost a third of rentals were deemed by assessors to have been poorly maintained, compared to only 14% of owner-occupied properties. Across every metric, renters are worse off.

As of June, 63.9% of bank lending in NZ is tied up in housing. For comparison, 19.9% and 12.5% of loans went to the business and farming sectors respectively.

New Zealand house prices have risen, in real terms, 259% since 1989. That’s compared to 149% in Australia, and 98% in the United Kingdom. There is no end in sight to this nightmarish rollercoaster, according to Bernard. He sees “another doubling in the next five years” if New Zealand returns to its pre-Covid policies.

Ashley has recently dropped out of her postgraduate course to go into full-time work. She’s confident that her and her partner will achieve their goal of getting on the property ladder within a year. “My mum is a real estate agent,” Ashley says. “So that is a huge help, in terms of: she has all the contacts, she knows the good brokers and the bad brokers, and the good banks and the bad banks.”

Patrick, a recent graduate, got a house that was “partially burned down by a crackhead for the insurance money” at a mortgagee sale with some help from his parents. He was 23. “I want to get out of here as soon as possible,” Patrick says. “It’s a freak occurrence, this entire thing is accidental.” He knew that getting a foot on the housing market was now or never, and considers himself lucky to be a homeowner in “bumfuck nowhere”. Patrick lives in Milton. “I’m possibly the last 25-year-old to ever have a house,” he says. “I don’t know what’s going to happen [with the housing market] in the future. It’s going to get worse. It’s going to get worse and worse.”

Fourth year student Emily says, “I am very jealous of the previous generations’ housing security. Renting can really take it out of you. You have to compromise with a household of adults with varying needs and desires. A house you can mostly do as you please.” She says her “only realistic hope of home ownership is a tiny house” which she says would involve “effectively having to shit in a bucket.” Her parents have “almost paid off” their mortgage, “but won’t have the income, being teachers, to help me.”

Housing advocate and architect Jade Kake reckons that “we almost need a managed crash, which people don’t want to hear because their savings are tied up in property.” She reckons “we need some pretty serious government intervention,” but is optimistic about the likelihood of Labour effecting real change. “I’d rather be advocating to a government that is doing broadly well, and really just focusing on how to improve what they’re doing, rather than when they’re way off track,” she said. “I think this government’s tackled some things that you would think would be quite politically unpalatable, but still somehow got them across the line.”

According to Bernard, it will take 100 years to return to affordability following the government’s current policy settings.

Wealth inequality researcher Max Rashbrooke is more optimistic. He says the best case scenario for a return to affordability is 15 to 20 years if a year-on-year decrease of around 5% could be managed. “I wouldn’t look to engineer [a crash]. Any government that allowed that would be immediately voted out.” He concedes that for young people starting a degree or graduating it’s a raw deal, but emphasises that “there is nothing inevitable” about the current state of New Zealand’s housing hell. A 30% fall would only wipe out the last year of capital gains.

“They have been saying a crash is around the corner for years,” says Emily. “A clean slate would be good. The state of New Zealand housing is disgusting anyway, both in regards to quality and ownership standards. How can one family own over 160 flats in Dunedin alone?” But she reckons “a crash wouldn’t change much unless it came with substantial and progressive housing policies, such as raising insulation standards to match the UK’s.”

Ashley says, “I’d be lying to say that once I was a homeowner, I would want the property market to crash the way that I would want it to crash now.” She believes that while “everybody needs access to affordable housing” and “you should probably be capped at how many homes you’re going to own, and therefore how much you can make from rentals and shit like that,” she can “100%” see herself becoming a landlord in the future.

“Just because I disagree with it, doesn’t mean that I won’t use it to my advantage if I get there. I want to be able to provide for my kids. And if that means I have to own three homes so that I can send them to uni without them incurring \$50,000 of debt, well, so be it. I will do that,” she said.

“The important thing is that we start encouraging, incentivising, and actively pursuing collective ownership. I’m not really too fussy about the scale, I think we could accommodate a range. We need to move away from individual ownership, I think that’s the only way we’re going to stop treating housing as a commodity.”

“I don’t think there should be private landlords,” Jade says. The point of homeownership shouldn’t be to make massive capital gains, but should rather serve as a base for a broader social wellbeing, she says. “If you’re benefiting from a deeply unequal system, somebody else is losing out.”

“I do think it’s incumbent upon us to really think about the consequences of our actions and understand the structural factors, rather than just thinking ‘I’m going to make my own life better,’” Jade said. The problem with moving to Australia is that it moves the problem around, to a different set of appropriated indigenous lands with a discriminatory immigration policy.

For Jade, a paradigm shift is needed in the way Kiwis look at housing. “The important thing is that we start encouraging, incentivising, and actively pursuing collective ownership. I’m not really too fussy about the scale, I think we could accommodate a range. We need to move away from individual ownership, I think that’s the only way we’re going to stop treating housing as a commodity.”

She points out that collective ownership and living is good for wellbeing, an aspect of housing hell underlined by Patrick, who finds living in the sticks, as well as home ownership, isolating. “I’m painfully self-aware, to the point of probably beating myself up on a daily basis, about how privileged I am. And I don’t want to talk to people about that. Because it seems like I’m gloating,” he said.

“I think political activism is really important,” Jade says. “I don’t think that trying to get on the ladder is a good idea.” Rather, she advocates that today’s youth try to change the ladder so the system works better for everyone. “I’ve got a bit of optimism, at the speed of change, just from what I’ve seen in my lifetime.”

“There’s less chance I’ll be able to own my own home than a fresher trying to get home from Toga without being egged. I feel as optimistic as a Lime in the Leith,” said Adam, a postgraduate student. “Prices have to come down. Right now they’re so expensive we’re not going to be able to afford them full stop. If the government cares about students, the prices have to come down, it’s as simple as that. There’s no room for half measures. That’s why the decision to abandon the capital gains tax was so cowardly. We know we need a wealth tax. It’s just slamming us down in the gutter and forcing us to rent shitty flats with mould on the windows for the rest of our lives.”

So what is the answer to housing hell? It seems like there are four: you can jump ship or jump aboard (if you’ve got the privilege to burn), you can resign yourself to having a Quinovic-branded jackboot resting on your face forever, or you can join with others to make a change and banish suburbia to the shadow realm where it belongs.







You Gotta Cheat It to Win It:

IS TRIVIAL CHEATING SLOWLY KILLING PUB QUIZZES?

BY SEAN GOURLEY

Pub quizzes are one of the more wholesome sides of student drinking culture. With pubs back open in Level 2, there's nothing like testing your knowledge and your friendships by battling other teams for a bar tab or some Speights tees. However, in recent years cheating has reportedly become more and more common. Spurred on by easy access to information via cellphone and complacency from organisers, cheating threatens the competitiveness of pub quizzes. But has it become an unavoidable feature of the pub quiz scene in North Dunedin?

Anecdotal evidence would suggest that cheating occurs at most student pub quizzes. The vast majority of students interviewed by Critic either admitted to cheating themselves or suspecting another team was cheating in the majority of quizzes they had been to. One quiz writer, Fox, believed the problem was worse in student bars. "At one bar it was old folks, and they didn't cheat. But the other student bar, yeah, definitely happened there. Either that, or people know way more about Chilean coastal geography than I

thought they would."

Jamie Green, a veteran host of pub quizzes at Dog With Two Tails says that he has rarely caught cheaters. "I've only ever had one confirmed cheater, they were caught by another team. I banned them for a month, and then gave them shit on the mic for another month. Of course more will be [cheating]. Not many, but you'd be silly to think otherwise."

Professor Ronald Peeters, an expert on game theory and behavioural economics at the Otago Business School, expected high levels of cheating in the absence of enforcement. He said that: "a pub quiz is a game, which means game theory can provide insights. The game is a contest with one winner. Clearly all players (groups) prefer winning to losing. If cheating is a possible action, and is beneficial, all will do so, if they strive for winning the game." So while perhaps morally wrong, it makes sense to cheat if there is no penalty to deter us.

Rather than being annoyed that another team was cheating, one pub quiz veteran, Lucy, said that “if I were to find out other people were cheating, I would probably be annoyed that we didn’t cheat — like, we may as well have.”

Even when Critic hosted a quiz online during lockdown, the host of the quiz, Elliot, suspected cheating was occurring. He said “we didn’t have any prizes or stakes so we didn’t care too much because if you cheated it would just mean it was less fun for you, although I’m a little bit skeptical, personally, at the few teams who got a near perfect score [out of 100 questions].” If people cheat without any prizes up for grabs, it is hardly surprising that cheating occurs when a bar tab is on the line.

Motivation for cheating can vary. One fourth-year student, Josh*, thinks that he would be more likely to cheat at some quizzes than others. He said, “it’s the quizzes that drag on for hours. The Baaa Bar one is really bad sometimes, it’s fun being there and having a mean time but after about two hours you’re always a bit over it. No one wants to spend three hours working at something to come away empty handed. I’ve definitely considered just looking stuff up on my phone, for sure.”

Lucy also thought that the prize would affect her willingness to cheat. “But money for drinks would be a further incentive because it would be an immediate prize. I think the incentive to cheat would increase based on how much you want the prize.”

“There is also a Behavioural Economics component. From that literature we know that there will also be a fraction of players or groups that will not cheat. Still, you should expect many cheaters.”

There will also always be a core of teams that will never cheat, even if it is technically in their best interests, Peeters said. “There is also a Behavioural Economics component. From that literature we know that there will also be a fraction of players or groups that will not cheat. Still, you should expect many cheaters.”

The suspicion that other teams are cheating can also have a huge impact on a quiz, especially if organisers do nothing to make it appear like they are policing the cheating. “When me and my mates occasionally went to the Starters

quiz (rip), there was this one team that would be around the corner every week. Now maybe they were just regulars sitting in their usual spot, but that spot happened to be well out of sight of the MCs and the rest of the bar,” Josh said. “I’m not going to say they were cheating, but if they wanted to it would have been easy, and they won like every week. That can have a pretty demoralising effect on other teams.”

Peeters suggested several solutions to reduce cheating. First, you can change the method of answering by having a player come up on stage. Second, you could make the teams answer with buttons. Third, you could reward quicker answers which would make it harder to cheat, because looking up answers takes time. Fourth, you could simply police and punish cheating. Peeters prefers the later options. “The first two possibilities change the game substantially, with the risk that it may negatively affect participation (it may take the fun out of it). The other two seem feasible options. In the third option non-cheating is rewarded; though, cheating is not fully prevented. The threat of punishment will incentivise players not to cheat.”

Fox agreed that quiz design was important but he also thought that culture was an important way to prevent people from cheating, he said: “The best way to reduce cheating is to either make it impossible to cheat, or to make people not want to cheat. Because at the end of the day, even if you police cheating, the whole point is to avoid detection and people are going to do it if they want to do it. It’s a cultural thing.”

Changing the culture of a quiz requires effort from the host of the quiz, Fox said: “You’ve got to shame people. I mean come on, cheating at a pub quiz? It’s such an incredibly lame thing to do. That’s the kind of message you have to get into people’s heads.”

Changing the design requires the questions to be better thought out, Fox said. “You can make it impossible [to cheat]. Usually the best way to do this is not by policing, because that just doesn’t work, but by changing the type of question. Wordplay is impossible to Google, for example. Song audio, also impossible. Drawing rounds, stuff like that. Having people on stage like they used to do at Starters (rip) is great.”

In Dunedin student bars at the moment, pub quiz cheating is standard. Cheating is always a part of any competition that involves reward, even sometimes when it doesn’t. But when cheating reaches a level where it is widely tolerated and accepted by players, either the rules need to change to take account of the new norm or the cheating needs to be prevented.

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Power Ranking Night ‘n Day’s Tuesday Deals

By Annabelle Vaughan

As poor students, there is nothing we love more than cheap food. Luckily, Night ‘n Day provides such a service with their monthly Tuesday deals. A few years ago, they used to only be \$2, but thanks to capitalism, prices have since been on the increase and now sit more around the \$3 to \$4 range. However, they’re still cheap, tasty and work a treat to cure the early mid-week blues.



1. Criss Cross Chips

This should be far from a surprise. The criss cross chips take the cake because they are hot, salty, and crunchy on the outside — while soft and fluffy on the inside, like a crying Arnold Schwarzenegger. At the moment they retail for \$3, which I think is a pretty good bargain. Generally speaking, the portions are decent in size and will keep you sated for at least several seconds. The upgrade to the works with sauces for \$4 is also not too bad. Overall, they check out in terms of taste, value, and satisfaction.

9.5/10. Crunchy, yet a circus of complexity. Also, severe booze poos the next morning

2. Wedges

Maybe I was the wrong person to objectively review this, considering I have a strong bias towards potato-based snacks. Coming in at number two is wedges. Much like the criss cross chips, wedges are also hot, salty, and crispy. Likewise, they are satisfying, and provide a premium source of slow burning carbohydrate to keep you full for long periods of time. However, the reason they are coming in at number two is because they aren't as funky in appearance as the criss cross chips. A wedge is a wedge, a hunk of potato. Criss cross chips have more flare and texture to them.



8/10. A delightful door-stop from the world of desiccated taters



3. Milkshakes

Coming in third, we have milkshakes. Milkshakes are creamy, delicious, and sweet. They go down a fucking treat on a nice, hot day. In terms of their dessert counterparts, they aren't boring and conventional like simple ice cream cones. Unlike waffles, they aren't messy to eat. Milkshakes offer you choice, as there is a variety of flavours. A milkshake is consistent, it's reliable, and is always there for you, unlike the University.

7.5/10. Cows frolic under the noonday sun, blissfully unaware of what is to come

4. Pies

In fourth place, we have the pies. Much like their fellow carbohydrate buddies listed above, the pies are hot, steamy, and crispy. There's a range of fillings, although sometimes, Night ‘n Day pie meat can be questionable depending how long it's sat out in the heat. The pastry is usually crispy and falls apart in your mouth, and the meaty gravy is thick and juicy. However, it just doesn't slap as hard as the criss cross chips or wedges, and has points deducted as there is far more potential for food poisoning.



6.5/10. If you eat these on a stomach full of Bird Dog, you WILL vomit



5. Waffles

The strongest contender for fifth place is the waffles. While they're sweet and delicious, they're also messy to eat. Waffles are also the type of food which can only be enjoyed at particular times of the day. Unlike a box of french fries, or a one handed pie carry while you walk to a lecture, there's a lot more effort required. They can also sometimes be a bit dry and soggy, and no one wants that. However, if you're ready to sit and commit to eating this somewhat sticky mess, be my guest.

5/10. Leakier than the National Party caucus

6. Churros

Churros are kind of a sweet-sugary nothingness. For \$2 you can get a single, lone churro, or for \$4 you can add in a dark chocolate bar. Considering you can get a pie or packet of chips from Campus Shop for about the same price, the ol' churros are a bit of a rip off. They aren't particularly satisfying, and maybe it's just my 12 year old boy brain kicking into gear, but the concept of sticking a poor innocent chocolate bar inside that cinnamon riddled stale hole makes me think of some nasty, nasty things. It's better off to spend a little more, and get good quality ones at Churros Ole.



4/10. Being drafted into a foreign war for oil but finding your true calling, as you bond ever deeper with The Boys™



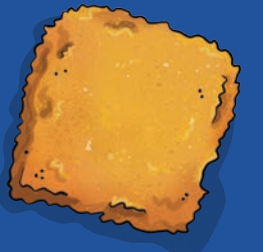
7. Hotdogs

I don't care what anyone says, hot dogs on a stick are gross, no matter where you get them from. The batter is always moist and greasy, the meat is most definitely not real meat, and the whole concept is just flawed. I don't want to have to deep throat even MORE fake meat than I already have to. This isn't even anything about Night ‘n Day, but if you're buying these fake, floppy, stick dicks, please reassess your life choices.

2.5/10. Brewing a magic potion that fails because of the low quality of Tinder root available in your area

8. Lasagna Toppers

Lasagna should not be deep fried, that's the end of the story. I don't understand this concept and I never will. It isn't tasty in the slightest and it just tastes like a face full of ground mince and stale bread crumbs, which is what it quite literally is.



2/10. Catching a mouse in your flat moustrap, blending it up, and serving it as a health tonic to your bad flatmate who pisses on the floor but doesn't clean common areas or put new rolls of loo paper on the holder



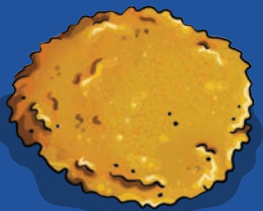
9. Energy Shakes

According to Radio One Music Director and local celeb Dave Borrie, energy shakes are one of the "worst things to happen to Aotearoa." It's like drinking straight fucking battery acid. Like, just have a can of Red Bull or Monster, there is no need to over complicate it by adding in ice cream and all sorts of funny business. That shit is already bad enough for you as it is. This tastes like something you'd make in year ten food science when you were allowed to 'get creative', or the potion you made in your childhood garden. It's just straight up gross, and unnecessary.

1/10. Smoking grass, but like, real grass

10. Cordon Bleu

Although it may sound similar to cool actor and iconic High School Musical actor Corbin Bleu, nothing about the Night ‘n Day cordon bleus are cool or nice in any way. Why is there ham and chicken and cheese in one thing? That's such an overwhelming combination, eating it feels like you're committing cannibalism time and time over. The crumb is oily but also dry at the same time. Like, can someone please explain this to me? All in all, it's got a weird, skin-like texture to it, and the concept is incredibly flawed. A cordon bleu just can't be trusted.



0.00000/10. Spending 30k on a business degree and considering yourself educated



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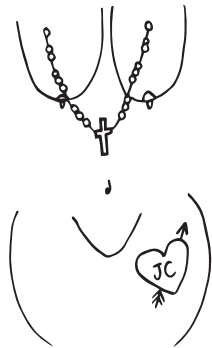
Flat Tour:

A Slam Poem Curated from Your Studentville Wifi Names

By Asia Martusia King

Hey there.
Nice Cock.

You looking for a
New Flat with
cheap rent? Head down to
LoserVille: location,
Gang land.
Somewhere in the Alley on
DundASS street, we have all the
Beer Necessities you need.



You want entertainment? We got you.
Fuck Gamers — leave your consoles at the door. We are intellectuals, and
only indulge in high-culture films such as
rickandmorty and
Pornhub 2.0, which comes complete with
Rileys 2.4Hz nudes and
NUNS FRONT BUM. Feel free to partake in the communal
Cum Bucket. Don't click the
Virus Download button, or you'll get
COVID-19.

Hungry? We have a shared flat dinner schedule. Monday night is
Eggs; Tuesday is
Meaty On Chippy. Occasionally we have
CrabApples15, or
waffle yum yum.
We cook rice in (the slow cooker); you're welcome to use it. If you get lucky in
town on Saturday, maybe you'll get to eat some
Beaver. If none of these tickle your pickle,
Nanas upstairs <3 She'll sort you out a mean feed.

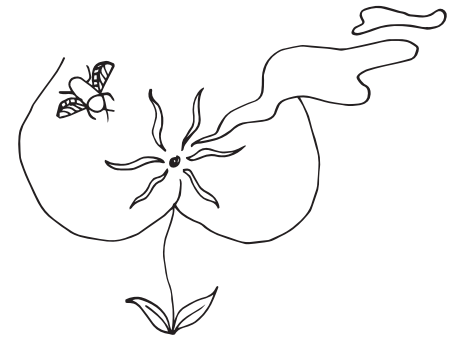
Ignore the stench. It never really goes away.

Ollie smells.

Jacques smells. Everything smells, especially
Jeff's Butthole. Our bodies are temples, and his is a
House_fullof_shit. We beg him to consume more fibre, to use the bidet, to
take better care of his sexual health;

"It hurts when IP," he cries.

"I have 6 rubbers up my bum." Jeff, the infamous
SHARTWRECKER, does not visit Student Health. He dabbles in essential oils
and
BlackMagic instead. We do not like Jeff.
(-_-)



Look out your window. Dunedin is built on reclaimed land. Behold the
marshy miry wetlands,
THE SWAMP which lies yonder. You must be careful of
THE SWAMP. Do not enter
THE SWAMP. The
Cabbage patch wolves lurk
THE SWAMP at night, seeking
Dog rolls to consume. Beware.

The
Benec Fan Club meets here fortnightly. They will knock three times, and say
a password.
Bird is the word. Let them in. I promise we aren't a
Trap House. They just really like Benec.

Do you pay for this wifi? No. It's included in the rent. Yes, it's terrible. Don't
get
sassy with me. You don't live in
Daddyz Mansion with your
posh pals anymore. We have notoriously
ThottyWifi. Deal with it,
CUNT.

(BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP)

The neighbours are at it again. I beg them, again and again, please:
Stop Stealing Limes. It falls on deaf ears.

That's about it for the flat tour. I hope that you like the new place.
Just remember:

Stay humble, cunts



L Hotel:

DUNEDIN'S TRIPLE THREAT TRIO

BY ANNABELLE VAUGHAN



"Yo, I'm Dave, I'm the guy with the egg, check this band out."

Ōtepoti band L Hotel are known for many things. Pint Night gigs, being objectively cool blokes, playing covers, and releasing all round good tunes. The trio, which consists of former reality TV star and bassist Dave Borrie (Taurus sun), drummer Fred Richardson (Leo sun), and guitarist Jono Everts (Taurus sun) has returned for 2021 with new music coming out, having just released their single Old Friend Called Potential this past Friday. Critic Te Arohi sat down with Dave Borrie to talk about the band's upcoming music, gigging in the Covid age, and the story of how L Hotel came to be.

"We have been recording an EP all year, but as with most things musician, we are running behind," says Dave, who is sitting eagerly in a wobbly office chair which could swing out from under him at any moment. "It was supposed to be out in September, it's a follow up to the two singles we released at the end of last year." The trio recorded with local producer Peter Molteno, at 236 Studios in North East Valley. "We have always recorded with him, we have so much fun with it," says Dave about the process. "We are making sure it's what we want to release." As for the sound, Dave says it's "more electric" but also that "mum likes it."

The members of L Hotel have always been eager musicians, with the upcoming EP being a way to truly make their mark and solidify how far they have come on their respective journeys. "I always entered Rock Quest as a kid, and the thought of us having an EP is like wow, that was my dream when I was in high school, and now it's coming to reality," says Dave. "It feels like we've earned it."

Prior to forming L Hotel, the trio were a cover band called The Shitz. "L Hotel started as a project for originals," he says. The name "L Hotel" is after the Lumbridge Hotel, which is located in the hills of Central Otago, where the group met. Nowadays, the band only plays covers while they flesh out originals.

One of the places L Hotel can most commonly be found playing is Pint Night. "There is something cool about Pint Night," says Dave. The band originally used to attend pint nights as gig goers, and describe that now being able to play pint night feels like a "full circle and cathartic" moment. "We miss playing gigs there, it's always gross and sweaty and the roof is low but it's so fun. It's awesome, every time we play pint night we wear grey t-shirts so you can see big pit stains, and I want one more opportunity to do that," says Dave.

Despite the band's eagerness to get going on releasing music and playing gigs, the snap lockdown threw a few spanners in the works. The group is still trying to work out the logistics of their upcoming tours. "We made a

really big push to be organised for recording this EP. We got all of our recording of the bases done before lockdown. We finished recording in August, we got it out of the way before lockdown which is great," he says. "It's great not to have to do it again, but there's other layers that need to be added. We were fortunate to get it done, and it has allowed us to sit back and listen to the tracks and be like 'what do we want to do with this one?'"

"We've been sitting on our laurels. In a Covid world it's hard to plan a tour or a gig, we've had things binned or canned because of it," says Dave. "Any musician at the moment, you organise a tour or show but there is a suspicion in your mind that it might not go ahead, you're in that mindset."

Aside from being in L Hotel, Dave is also known for his short stint on reality TV, competing in the most recent season of The Bachelorette. This begs the questions. Did Dave's 15 minutes of fame help catapult things further?

"I feel like I didn't capitalise on it enough. I don't wanna be the guy who's like 'yo, I'm Dave, I'm the guy with the egg, check this band out,'" he says. "It's ingenuine, but at the same time I wish I funneled more of that 15 minutes of fame into it. I don't think I tried as hard as I could have."

When they aren't gigging or writing songs, the band keeps up with a variety of other quirky hobbies. "Fred brews beers and writes fan fiction, Jono is an untypical physics student who loves surfing and music," says Dave. "Jono is also really good at Age of Empires." As for Dave, he says he just "likes to laugh" and is also a "budding Youtuber." As for their biggest fans, Dave said they once had a Dad from Chicago message them. They also have a large listenership in Dublin.

But like all good things, they must come to an end. While the band has big goals and dreams for now, Dave said it's unlikely they will play a pint night gig or be releasing songs when they're middle aged and jaded. "We put a lot of work into this, it's not going to be something that lasts forever. We would like to see how far this goes. We want to tour, say we did fun shit, and played the music," he says. "It's not a hobby, but we are aware it's a moment and we are making the most of it. If you ever see an L Hotel poster, you better come," he says. After finishing his sentimental statement, Dave got up and headed out of the office, bidding us farewell. He shut the door behind him, probably to go make his next Youtube video.

L Hotel's newest single "Old Friend Called Potential" is available for streaming on Spotify. Keep your eyes peeled, as the EP release will hopefully be this October.

MASKS, MASKS, MASKS!
By Aiman Amerul Muner

If there is one thing that everyone can agree on about masks is that: THEY ARE EVERYWHERE. Since the first reported case Covid-19 arrived in Aotearoa in early 2020, we have been told that the best way to protect ourselves is to wear a face mask. People shopped for masks to a point where in some countries, it was reported that frontline workers faced shortages. New Zealand effectively ran out of N95s in the first outbreak.

Under Alert Level 2, masks must be worn on public transports and at indoor settings such as restaurants, shopping malls and supermarkets. Otago University have told staff and students that they should bring a face mask to campus. Masks should be worn indoors where one metre physical distancing is difficult or not possible, such as when entering and exiting lecture theatres and lifts – even though use is not mandatory.

With the surge in the use of face coverings there are also problems. Experts say the risk of catching Covid from a discarded mask is minimal, but the litter is causing concern for other reasons. Used masks and gloves, which cannot be recycled, pose a problem for the environment.

According to a study by MIT, the pandemic is estimated to generate up to 7,200 tons of medical waste everyday since early last year, much of which are disposable masks. With the second and third waves soaring through some parts of the world, face masks are likely to stay with us for a long time.

Adam Currie from Generation Zero applauded the general public in following the rules and keeping their whānau safe, but says there is definitely more work to be done to keep the environment safe too. "We do not want masks and gloves to be flying around, choking animals who get stuck in them or have mistaken them for prey," he said.

Conservationists and non-governmental organisations are increasingly becoming concerned that lots of Covid-19-related plastic waste is ending up in landfills and waterways, adding to the millions of tonnes of plastic waste already dumped into the world's oceans every year.

Critic Te Arohi photographer, Aiman Amerul Muner, spent a week walking along the pavements of Ōtepoti and photograph discarded masks lying on the ground at various spots around the city.



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ART
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SONYA LACEY 11 extra minutes 2021, (still detail) Dual projection, 16mm film, colour, no sound. Courtesy of the artist and Robert Heald Gallery

SONYA LACEY
TOTALLY DARK

A Dunedin Public Art Gallery Visiting Artist Project supported by Creative New Zealand for Aotearoa and project partner, Dunedin School of Art

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It's a Saturday night. The breathas and beezys are out in North Dunedin. The only thing accompanying them is a box of piss, their trusty vape, and promises to themselves that they are going to break. The notorious party streets are full of people and the rumbling, shaking sound of drum and bass. There is no denying the impact that drum and bass music has had on the Dunedin scene. It's a pivotal part of our culture. But, much like student bars and loan free study, it must come to an end. So I'm here to say it, we need to stop playing so much DnB at parties.

Now, I'm not saying we have to completely banish drum and bass. I'm just saying, it's about time we get some variation at parties and doofs. I have no issue with a drum and bass remix of a song, or one every now and again, but the constant hours upon hours of doofdoofgrrrrreeeeeeee sounding music at parties is becoming exhausting. It's tiresome, it's boring, it's too much of the same old same old. Most importantly, it makes parties less memorable. Now, I know what you're thinking. How the fuck could I suggest such a thing? What do I have against partying? Am I trying to ruin everyone's good time? The answer is no, I'm here to improve your partying experience, and make it more memorable, with a greater sense of social cohesion. Now, I'm no psychologist, but here, I present to you the reason why we should stop playing DnB at parties:

Isn't the point of partying to get fucked up, do stupid shit, and make memories? To reminisce on when you're middle aged with a corporate job and hating your life? So you can sit back and say "man, remember the time I burned that couch?" Or "remember that time I threw up on my mate in the pint night line?" Music is the soundtrack to life, and it plays a huge part in forming our memory. That's the problem

with an excessive amount of drum and bass, all the evenings blend into one, making for less memorable, sentimental partying. To quote Pitbull: I just wanna feel this moment. Never, have I ever attended a party where drum and bass is playing the entire time and I have looked back fondly and gone "ah yes, I remember that night." It's all the same. It's the loud doof doof, the geared up breathas, some girl crying in the corner (probably over said geared up breathas) while you try to find your friends in a haze of vape smoke and weed.

This realisation hit me last weekend. Like any normal student, I went to a red card. There were so many people there, the hosts just said "fuck it, just have fun." The music started cranking up. There was Pitbull. There was Lady Gaga. There was Britney Spears. The Black Eyed Peas. Everyone was dancing, singing, drinking, chatting. It was a perfect evening. I knew about three people there, but still had the time of my life.

In that moment, I realised that every single party I have attended which has played 2000s bangers, or a classic '80s rock hit, or ABBA, I have remembered with great fondness, happiness and respect. The songs help me to piece together the evening on a dusty Sunday morning. They curate the stories I will tell my grandchildren when I ship them off to this university. I couldn't tell you anything I remembered from the Flo and O Week parties, or just random DnB piss ups at flats. But you know what I do remember?

I remember blacking out in the hallway of Knox College to Tonight Tonight by Hot Chelle Rae in my second year. I remember my friend getting in a fist fight in the Suburbia line to Dynamite by Taio Cruz, I remember stumbling into a party on Leith Street, watching people drape their arms over one another while

OPINION: STOP PLAYING SO MUCH DNB AT PARTIES

BY ANNABELLE
VAUGHAN

singing Dancing in the Moonlight under a warm, spring sky. I remember the walls of a flat party shaking while people screamed the lyrics to Shake It by Metro Station. I remember doing shots of vodka as a sneaky fresher in my hall to Gold Digger by Kanye West. My point is that when proper, well known, popular songs are played at parties, it makes for a more memorable, more cohesive experience. Everyone is singing the lyrics together, dancing, hugging, and holding hands. There is nothing but smiles, joy, and laughter. Memories and friends are made, and a true, genuine moment is shared.

My point is that playing nostalgic tunes, or classic 2000s bangers we all used to party to in school, or the rock hits that never die are the best party songs, and it's time that we, as Otago student integrate them into our lives. They're also just objectively better than DnB.

Rihanna didn't put her entire pussy into Umbrella for you to listen to some Soundcloud doofdoof. Flo Rida and T Pain didn't curate the masterpiece that is Low for you to listen to Tour by Macky Gee for the third time in a row. Outkast did not have Hey Ya! place in Rolling Stone magazine's top 500 songs of all time for Dylan The Breatha who lives on Castle Street to do some shitty, geared up remix on his mates' decks. Show some respect to the musical greatness that came before drum and bass. Pay homage to the songs everybody knows. I've never seen anyone turn their nose up at Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond, or Africa by Toto.

Say what you want, call my opinion shit. Maybe I'm too sentimental — I am a Pisces after all. I stand by it. The point is, just play some real fucking music at your next party. Switch it up, your guests might thank you for it. And no, I'm not sorry for party rocking.

LOCAL
PRODUCE
By Sean Gourley



Dale Kerrigan are a local noise rock band that has been playing gigs all over NZ this year. Shlee's vocals over a crashing backdrop gives Dale Kerrigan a distinctive sound. They recently released their first album on Spotify. Their sonic tonic consists of Shlee on guitar, her brother Josh on drums, Connor on bass, and Joel on guitar. We checked in with Shlee to see how they were going.

Dale Kerrigan started out with just Shlee, she said. "Originally Dale Kerrigan was just me (Shlee) making a bunch of songs on Garageband." Then she started taking on new band members. "I wanted to try jamming [with other people] so I asked Josh and Connor who I live with to try it out. I was going to art school with Joel at the time and we were both interested in sound art and noise, so I asked him to come play some guitar."

Dale Kerrigan's latest album, Noise Bitch, came out in June this year. They recorded the album at home. "We did it over two weekends at our house with my other brother Zac recording us. We live tracked most of it on the first weekend and then did vocals and some guitar overdubs the second weekend. It was really chill and fun doing it at home."

In terms of promoting their art and music, Shlee is into some more retro mediums as well as the usual digital platforms. "My favourite medium is posters, I wish people used them more. It's a shame Phantom [Billstickers] have monopolised a lot of the spaces around town where you could put posters. Otherwise we just post our stuff on

social media and Bandcamp and stuff. Mainly we just like playing live to people, I think that's how the music comes across best."

Dale have played all over NZ, but as for their best gig Shlee reckons, "it's a tie between opening for Wax Chattels in Dunedin and playing at Whammy Bar in Auckland on the Eyegum Scenic tour with Wiri Donna."

"At the Dunedin show with Wax Chattels we had our friend Jayde Medder from my last band Mary Berry and who currently plays in Centre Negative play guitar with us. We had three guitars and it sounded louder and crazier than usual, which I loved."

Flat gigs are not too common for them but they are open to the idea, said Shlee. "We used to have a practice space called The Attic where we played a few party kind of things. Sometimes we play parties at our house but we haven't done that many. We would play at peoples flats though, if they wanted us."

Dale Kerrigan has a few gigs coming up. "Our next show is at Dive with some of our friends from Auckland, Sulfate for their Godzone album release tour. Wet Specimen are playing as well, who are hugely influential on us." As for upcoming albums, there is plenty to get excited about. "[We're] still in the writing process but we are planning to release two EPs soon. One super noisy one and one more songy one."

You can find Dale Kerrigan on Facebook, and stream their music on Spotify.



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HOROSCOPES



Aquarius
Jan 20 – Feb 18
Everyone knows it’s you who cheats on the pub quiz, fucking stop it.
To numb the pain, try: a durry and a black coffee



Pisces
Feb 19 – Mar 20
I’m afraid to say you have girlbossed too close to the sun, your girlboss wings are melting, goodbye.
To numb the pain, try: podcasting



Aries
Mar 21 – Apr 19
AHHHHHEVERYTHINGISSOCHAOTICFOR YOUAHHHHH
To numb the pain, try: Tinder root



Taurus
Apr 20 – May 20
You need to stop giving people the benefit of the doubt. Trust no one in this dog eat dog world. It’s lies, all of it.
To numb the pain, try: a cup of tea in the sun



Gemini
May 21 – Jun 20
Don’t be afraid to reach out if you need help. You can’t be chatty, funny and outgoing all the time. We need a social battery recharge every once in a while.
To numb the pain, try: quality time with friends



Cancer
Jun 21 – Jul 22
This upcoming Mercury retrograde is nothing but bad news for ya, sorry pals. Keep an eye out for signs of miscommunication and faults with technology.
To numb the pain, try: a weekend get away



Leo
July 23 –Aug 22
Nothing but respect for your loyalty. Yes, fight that girl in the bar line, block your ex, binge drink like there’s no tomorrow. Stay unhinged, bestie.
To numb the pain, try: gear



Virgo
Aug 23 – Sep 22
For someone who is so critical, you should learn to take criticism from others. You aren’t always right, and sometimes a little call out never hurt anybody.
To numb the pain, try: shopping for sex toys



Libra
Sept 23 – Oct 22
What’s with Libra men and projecting their unwarranted opinions everywhere? Damn, y’all are pressed for no reason.
To numb the pain, try: an ego check



Scorpio
Oct 23 – Nov 21
You have no concept of time. Daylight savings has probably fucked you right up. Are you asleep? Are you awake? It’s all just a social construct.
To numb the pain, try: manifestation

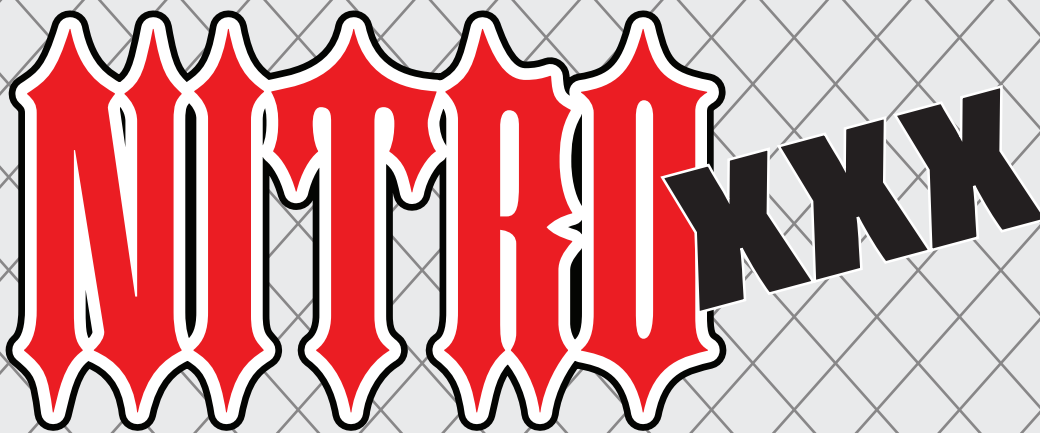


Sagittarius
Nov 22 – Dec 21
Y’all need to learn some time management skills. I get that Sagittarians are meant to be free spirits or some shit, but that doesn’t mean we all work on that clock.
To numb the pain, try: becoming emotionally detached



Capricorn
Dec 22 – Jan 19
You’re full of secrets. You’re mysterious, no one can figure you out. I suggest you keep it that way, it makes life more interesting.
To numb the pain, try: making yourself a nice cocktail

BOOZE REVIEW:



VODKA GUARANA LIQUEUR
BY CHUG NORRIS

Nitro has always been at the forefront of binge-drinking innovation, but this time they have gone too far. Nitro Vodka Guarana Liqueur hits the shelves this week, and it is dangerous. The drink comes in a 500mL spirit bottle, contains large quantities of caffeine and guarana, and is 30% ABV. It comes in a clear plastic bottle, curved to conform to your body shape. If you rip off the silver label, the drink is the perfect vessel to smuggle into concerts and festivals.

There is something unnatural about placing the words Nitro and Liqueur so close together, I suspect this was probably done for tax purposes rather than an attempt to become classy. The taste is essentially that of weak vodka. A faint chemical edge hints at the heart-stopping levels of caffeine contained within. The drink is meant to be taken in shots, spirit-style, but sipping straight out of the bottle is far more practical in my opinion.

As you drink Nitro Liqueur, several things happen. First, you question what series of events led you to such a low point in your life. Second, you become very worried about the state of your physical and mental health at the end of the bottle. Third, you become extremely, extremely drunk.

In a regular Nitro, caffeine is the main event. Sure, you deliver a good baseline of alcohol to your system, but the experience does not truly come into its own until you follow it up with more alcohol. With Nitro Liqueur, follow-up alcohol is not necessary at all. As you get about halfway through the bottle, the caffeine and the alcohol hit you simultaneously. This one-two combo delivered straight to your brain cells will render you maggot drunk before you can even say: “can I’ve a hoon on your vape?”

Critic has been informed that Nitro Liqueur “should sell for under \$20.” Though the back of the bottle deceptively points to 17 shots, each bottle only contains 12 standards. Nitro Liqueur will have to be priced at under \$18 to have a half-decent dollars to standards ratio.

It seems the scientists at Nitro, like the scientists of Jurassic Park, were so obsessed with whether they could create such a drink that they never stopped to ask whether they should. Nitro Liqueur is a drink more detrimental to your health than black mould or scurvy. It could be used to strip paint, but it is far more likely to strip you of your dignity. Never before have I tasted a drink so precisely formulated to make someone blackout and do multiple things that they strongly regret. Nitro needs to be stopped.

Tastes like: Panadol, mineral turpentine
Pairs well with: lapses of judgement, concussions
Froth level: skulling spirits straight in a bathroom stall, cleaning your bong
Taste rating: 5/10, convenient but painful

The Critical Tribune

Texting Scam Offers Free Booze, Catches 90% Of Student Population

Students across Dunedin were caught up in a sophisticated scam over the past week which exploited their core weakness: the ingrained need to get on the piss.

The scam involved a text being sent to students prompting them to open a suspicious link. It promised a free box of booze if they download an app. The scam spread like wildfire across Studentville as each app download ripped the contacts list off a victim and quickly sent more texts to more unsuspecting students.

It may have worked, too, if the scammers hadn't sent the text out on a Tuesday, right before students receive their Studylink payments and have zero dollars in the bank. At the time of writing, the scam has captured bank details of approximately eighteen thousand students, but it has only raised a collective \$114.32.

"Yeah bro I wanted the free box," said one naïve breather. "Couldn't believe it, at least I'd spent my living costs before then though. Nothing to steal from me bro." He then backed away slowly, turning his pockets out.

The Government recommended factory resetting your device to remove the malware from the scam. Many students are reluctant to do so considering they forgot all of their social media passwords years ago.

Student Watches Cooking Video and Actually Cooks the Recipe

After spending most of his life aimlessly scrolling through cooking videos for entertainment, a student has made the leap to actually cooking a recipe from a video that he watched.

In an interview with the Critical Tribune the student, who wished to remain anonymous, disclosed that upon watching a 15 minute Youtube video on how to cook a chicken cordon bleu, he actually went out and bought some ingredients and then cooked the recipe for his flat.

"It's incredible," he said. "You just buy the ingredients, follow the steps, and it produces a meal with multiple flavours. It's a lot of work but the results might be worth the grind."

His flatmates were left stunned by the move, they said. "Usually he just cooks chicken drumsticks or fully phones it in and buys us value pizzas from Domino's." While the meal was a success, it has set a dangerous precedent in the flat, the student said. "It tasted mean, but it was exhausting to actually cook several different components of a meal. Next time I'm definitely going to do one of the classics, the flatmates can get fucked if they think I'm doing that again."

Waka Kotahi to Permanently Concrete over Bat Holes During George St Upgrade

Contractors for Waka Kotahi (NZTA) have announced plans to concrete over bat roosts during the recently announced George St one-way upgrade. The announcement follows the revelation by RNZ that builder's foam was being used to fill in potential bat roosts on the route of the proposed Mt Messenger bypass in Taranaki.

Phill Gussius, head of natural and built divisions for Waka Kotahi told the Tribune "we are very excited to work together with local stakeholders, specifically landlords, local business owners, and members of ranty local newsgroups on Facebook. We look forward to using nothing but the highest quality concrete to permanently yeet the ability of native long-tailed bats to endanger Dunedin's commercial district."

When asked where the bats would go, Gussius told The Tribune: "I dunno. Do I look like I give a fuck? My job is to fill holes and whack moles. Probably Milton or something, do I look like a bat scientist?"

Local small business owner Derek, of Derek Bluff Bling Shop, told the Tribune he was "revving" to exterminate the pesky flying mammals. "They've caused my insurance to go up five fold. Good for nothing layabout creatures, all they do is sleep all day and eat bugs at night. They're worse than students. Have they ever thought about getting a job? No, they haven't. They leave it to a hardworking TAXPAYER like me to fill in all their roosts. It's unbelievable."

Frightened by the mauve colour Derek was turning, our reporter went to get a beer. Sitting out the back of the pub, a single moth alighted on

the lip of his beer, and was immediately snatched by a low flying bat. Our reporter felt the wind whoosh by, and the hairs on the back of his neck stood up. He knew that such a moment would soon disappear into the mists of time forever.

Pens Get Ready to Run Out Mid-Exam

A group of pens sitting in the bottom of Connor Jackson's bag have revealed their dastardly plan to run out precisely in the middle of his LAWS101 exam. The hopeful first-year law student has no idea what his pens are scheming up for him.

"I've been saving up for this moment all year," said one Office Max blue pen. "For the past month I've been writing smoothly as he uses me on and off, mainly in his politics lectures. There haven't been any obvious issues, but I have a secret." At this he lowered his voice. "I'm about to run out of ink."

"It's going to be so bad for him," chuckled one Bic biro. "Last time we did this to someone he almost cried. He had to ask the invigilator for a pen, and she gave him a withering scowl. I might even do an ink explosion in the middle this time, ruin what he's already written."

The pens said that their end game was to make sure Connor failed the exam. "The world doesn't need any more lawyers, that's for sure," said a Bic four colour pen. "We'll do what we can to stop that from happening."

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FUCK! I CAN'T COOK

BY ALICE TAYLOR
@ALICEOLIVIAEATS

Chocolate Biscuit Fudge

It's getting to the time of the year when the finances are looking extremely scant, and the stress levels are high because of exams. This biscuit fudge recipe is perfect because it won't break the bank. I find that fudge tends to be one of the best remedies for stressful times.

INGREDIENTS

125g unsalted butter
125g sugar
1 free range organic egg, lightly beaten
3 Tbsp cocoa, sifted
225g wine biscuits

METHOD

1. In a small saucepan, gently melt butter and sugar. Remove from the heat.
2. Crush the wine biscuits into a rubble. I find it is easiest to put the biscuits in a ziplock bag and use a rolling pin to break them up. You want some pieces to be smaller than others, but nothing too fine.
3. Whisk the egg into the butter and sugar. Stir in sifted cocoa with a wooden spoon, then the wine biscuits.
4. Press the mixture firmly into a rectangular brownie tin, smoothing the top with the back of a wooden spoon, and refrigerate for at least 3 hours, until fully set.
5. Cut into squares, and store in an airtight container in the fridge.

MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

Serving our country

With daylight savings creeping up, it's time for me to reminisce on what I was doing this time last year. My lovely friend (we'll call her Sophie) and I had decided to head to Christchurch, with hopes of pulling a pair of guys.

After trying to shotgun a few too many drinks beforehand, we were well on our way to finding the perfect pair. We had been bar-hopping for a couple of hours when we finally arrived at the infamous Chiwahwah. I already had a few too many drunk hook-up stories here, but this was about to take the cake.

Standing in line we met a hottie in a swanny. He was not my usual type, but hey it was late, and bars were closing an hour early due to daylight savings. He chatted us up with the usual lines and said he was off to meet all his army boys inside. The next hour was a blur until we ended up in Fat Eddies. Still to this day I pray nobody in there knew me. Sophie had made her way outside to the smoker's area and was having a right old laugh at our state. When we finally caught up, they invited us back to theirs and we were on our merry way.

Keep in mind how before I said army boys. Yeah. We spent what felt like an hour in the Uber heading out of Christchurch to the base camp, when suddenly we stop in the middle of a dark, gravel road. The guy I'd been hooking up with in the back seat yells "wait here I'll go grab my truck" while he runs off down the road. It was freezing cold and windy outside. Sophie and I were wondering what the fuck we had got ourselves into.

He was quite tipsy but returned with the truck to pick us and his mate up from the side of the road. Sophie and I clambered into the boot covered with smelly army packs so we could sneak past the guards into base camp. We parked far away from the lights and had to sprint into the barracks undetected. I lost Sophie, but I found a hard single bed which I spent the night spooning swanny boy in.

Swanny boy was ten years older than me, and I could tell. It was the best one night stand of my life. He bounced me like a yo-yo, and I bent like my life depended on it. His toned, fit body gave me a lot of faith in NZ's defence force. I'm glad we've got hunks like him protecting us. He lasted a while for a guy that was kind of old too.

The only thing that made the mood less sexy was the constant country music playing out of his shitty laptop speaker. While I was stuck listening to wagon wheel the whole night, Sophie got to listen to my perfectly curated sex playlist in a double bed.

In the morning I showered with my sexy man and wandered around the barracks trying to find Sophie. I heard her before I found her. I really don't know how she was still going.

We used the old "I gotta go, I've got work" trick and they gave us a ride back home. It was a fucking awkward drive. Could not wait to get out of that car.

Overall: 9/10. A good story, but way too much admin to ever go back.

a t m s

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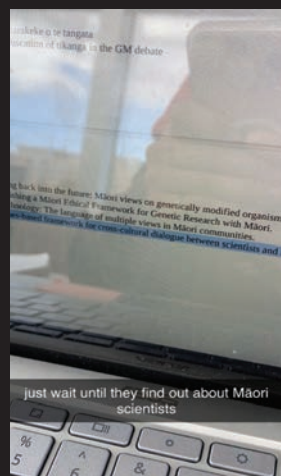
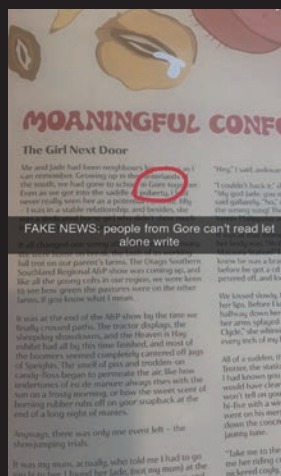
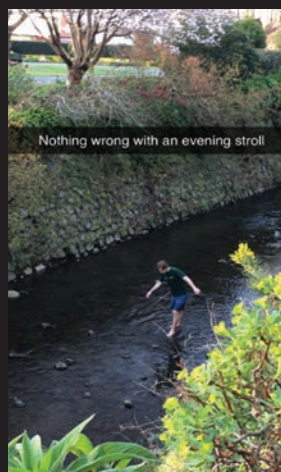
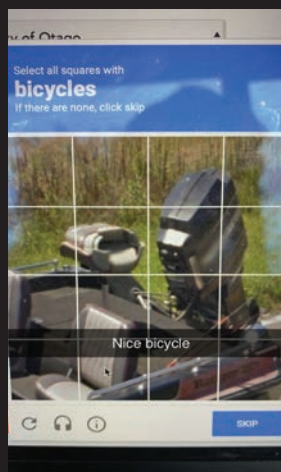
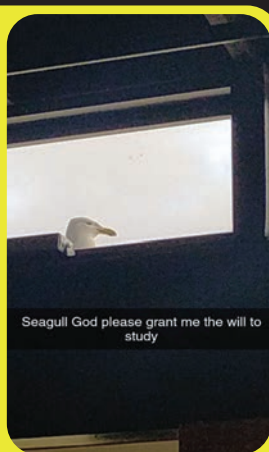
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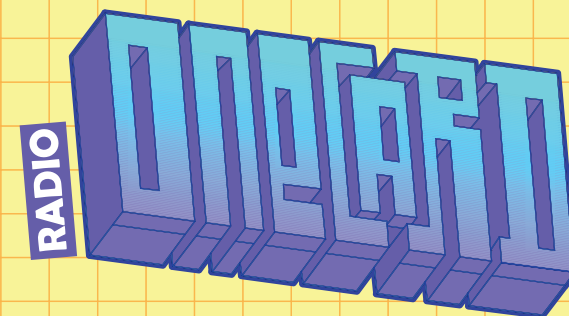
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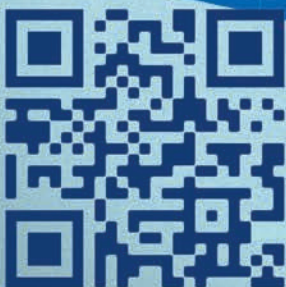
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