



DRUGS I S S U E

CRITIC TE AROHI

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

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LETTER OF THE WEEK:

Kia ora Critic,

I'm old as fuck, and this week's cover is one of the coolest I've seen in 5 years of university. The level of effort and attention to detail is genuinely impressive. The colour scheme matches up perfectly. The Squiddle's neon sign in the corner? Exceptional.

Long story short; kudos. MF DOOM may be gone, but I'm looking forward to seeing a lot more of MF FOOD. Keep up the hard mahi — can't wait to see what you've got in store for us this year.

Noho ora mai,
Ngā mihi.

In defence of Café Albany

I don't know where this started but I have noticed Café Albany gets a bit of a bad rap, so I would like to put the record straight. Some say the coffee isn't very good. A: I beg to differ, and B: Have you tried St Dave's coffee? Burned and bitter, ew. In comparison, Café Albany is far superior. The food is good, and relatively cheap, and when their baked goods are on special, it's excellent. Besides which their Rainbow Cake is a delight. The gals who run it are always a delight, even when students make their life harder than it needs to be by leaving their dishes on the link table instead of returning it to the dishes bucket. Location wise it's perfect for an on-campus snack, and it stays open super late, which is more than can be said for most cafes.

Cut out the Albany hate. For an on-campus café, I reckon it's pretty great

One snappy boii

Dear Critic

I'm utterly shocked at the low level of health and safety content in your magazine so far this year. Do better.

Yours sincerely
The Wizard of Worksafe

Two things

Thing One: The news from Sinead Gill's excellent August article on students fighting the proposed cap on Maori and Pasifika med students made me shudder with horror ... and déjà vu. In 1978 [!] I wrote The Pakeha Papers, which was about the absence of Maori in medicine. Are we really returning to those bad old days?

Thing Two: Oscar Paul's piece on Breathers vs. Scarfies was brilliant. I loved it.

Jules Older
Auckland

Cherry workers need to harden the fuck up. Cherry work can earn you easily \$5000+ in a season. In my packhouse workers who could speak English got semi-skilled jobs that earned them more, which along with the 8% holiday pay and end of season bonus meant you could make much more than minimum wage. As a cherry worker you will make more money than 95% of people on earth. Complaining is just being ungrateful.

Also the packhouses aren't freezing. They are about 8C. If you can't handle 8C in shorts and a t-shirt you shouldn't be in Dunedin and need to fuck-off back to the North Island. It was much more chilly in my cool-store I can assure you. Additionally if you can't handle 10-14 hour days then you should just fuck-off back to your English major and do fuck-all.

Cherry orchards do students a favour. They provide high-paid, low-skilled work with tons of hours to earn a nice nest egg before you start semester one. As someone currently searching for a part-time job I can say I appreciate the quick responses and casual 'start on monday' attitudes season employers have, compared to the ghosting that Dunedin employers do.

In conclusion, nut up or shut up!

Kind regards,

Magnus Campbell
2 years of Coolstore experience

Editor's note: Ok boomer.



WEDNESDAY 24 MAR

The Octagon Poetry Collective feat.
poets Angela Trolove and Mac
MacDonald, with MC Rushi Vyas
DOG WITH TWO TAILS
8PM / FREE ENTRY / OPEN MIC

THURSDAY 25 MAR

Elemeno P - 'High Fidelity' Vinyl Release
Tour
MORNINGTON TAP HOUSE
Tickets from eventfinda.co.nz

FRIDAY 26 MAR

DJ St Bernard - 'You Should Be
Dancing'
DIVE
9PM
Tickets from banishedmusic.com

Russian Blue and Filth Wizard w/ Night
Lunch
THE CROWN HOTEL
8:30PM / 10PM

SATURDAY 27 MAR

Chelsea Jade w/ deryk
DIVE
8PM / \$15
Tickets from dunedinfringe.nz

Hospital Sports w/ Porpoise and Three
Quarter Marathon
ADJØ
7PM / \$15

Wet Specimen and Opposite Sex -
Double Album Release w/ Night Lunch
THE CROWN HOTEL
9PM

Krispy & The Pooch - 'Drop The Needle'
NZ Tour
U-BAR
9PM / \$12 + BOOKING FEE
Tickets from moshtix.co.nz

EDITORIAL: Harm reduction isn't only for middle-class white kids

By Erin Gourley

In case you didn't notice everything about the magazine you're holding, this week is our drugs issue. Critic is often criticised for being too pro-drug. And yes, we are 100% pro-drug. I don't think anyone in our office would say "drugs should stay illegal and I hate them" unless someone was threatening them with idk, a \$300 fine. Despite the fact that we can fill an entire magazine with drug content, we're covering a narrow sliver of the wider issue.

Why? Because drugs are illegal in North Dunedin, but they're not really illegal in North Dunedin. For one article in this issue, I spoke to a guy who imported a lot of drugs into Dunedin a few years ago while he was a student. He was going through what he described as a "self-destructive spiral". I was shocked when he rattled off a list of Class A drugs I hadn't even heard of. He only got charged with importing Class B drugs, thanks to his co-operation with the police.

He served home detention and is now working on his business goals as an entrepreneur. Basically, it was a blip in his life and he's able to move forward. I don't think many people who have imported Class A drugs can say the law was enforced with the same level of compassion.

White kids in Dunedin who get done for possessing or supplying drugs get special treatment. And it's not just the police. We get access to resources like KnowYourStuff, so we can be informed about what we put in our bodies.

So many people have had shit experiences at festivals this year with bad gear, and the numbers coming back from KnowYourStuff in Dunedin are scary. Relatively harmless drugs like MDMA are being replaced with relatively harmful drugs called cathinones. We know that, thanks to a charity organisation that is now legal, but has no legal obligation to be here and also no stable funding.

Students in Dunedin have been provided with that resource, which is great. But the lack of funding means that KnowYourStuff stick to the sexier parts of harm reduction. That's what gets publicity and funding: drug testing at high-profile festivals and events like O Week in Dunedin. Harm reduction, as it stands in New Zealand, is designed for us. When someone says harm reduction, people think of 20-year-olds getting their gear tested at festivals like Homegrown and RnV.

We don't think about people suffering from drug addiction. We don't think about people doing meth. We don't think about people getting arrested and punished under laws that do nothing to prevent drug problems. There are real harms caused by drugs, probably tied into the same supply chains as the drugs we are buying in Dunedin. Harm reduction should extend to providing judgement-free, punishment-free resources like testing and safety information to all those affected, not just those who go to festivals and university.

Below is a QR code to the TripSit app, where you can find heaps of harm reduction information like: should I be taking these drugs together? Stay safe out there Duds.



ISSUE 04: THE DRUGS ISSUE

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CRITIC

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Guide to Drug Combinations

TRIPS/T



Mobile App



Harlene Gives Harlene an Honorary Law Doctorate

“Honorary Lawyers” still not very useful in court

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Outgoing Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne got a very special going-away gift from the University: An honorary PhD in Law.

Some get gold watches or silver spoons, but not Harlene. Despite her academic background in psychology, Harlene was awarded a law degree at a graduation ceremony two Saturdays ago. It is unclear whether an honorary doctorate entitles one to stand up on a plane when a stewardess shouts “is there a doctor on board?” Critic assumes not.

The ODT reported that she made a “brief, but well-received speech” reflecting on her favourite childhood movie: The Wizard of Oz. Like Dorothy, she’s not in Kansas anymore, and as of this week, she ain’t in Dunedin either. She officially left on Friday 19 March.

Students were confused about the status of an honorary degree. Richard said, “for someone

with more money than she can spend, it’s probably a nice gift,” although he admitted it was probably not much use.

Troy thought the titles of honorary degrees should change: “People work for years to get those degrees ... just giving them out as honours kind of devalues them.” Taylor asked “wait, so she got paid to get a degree?” Life is easy when you’re at the top.

Under the University’s Degrees and Other Awards Statute, to receive an honorary degree you need to be nominated by four individuals. They must be members of the University Council or the University Senate. Nominations are then considered by the Honorary Degrees Committee, who recommend potential recipients back to the Senate and Council, as well as the degree they will be awarded.

Harlene is a member of all three bodies. She is the Senate, she is the Council and she is the

Honorary Degrees Committee.

In a statement, University Registrar Chris Stoddart said: “Professor Hayne’s honorary LLD recognises her service and leadership as Vice-Chancellor and accords with past common practice of conferring Hon LLDs on former Vice-Chancellors, regardless of academic discipline ... Only Frederick Soper (VC from 1953-63) received an alternative honorary degree — a Doctor of Science.”

In an emergency Critic would prefer not to be attended to by an honorary doctor, and in a legal case would avoid an honorary lawyer. Just seems a bit dodge.

The last honorary degrees to be awarded by Otago were in December 2019, to surveyor William Robertson, New Zealand Dental Council chairperson Dr Clive Ross, ex-artistic director of the Auckland Arts Festival Carla van Zon and former ANZ Bank chairperson John Judge.

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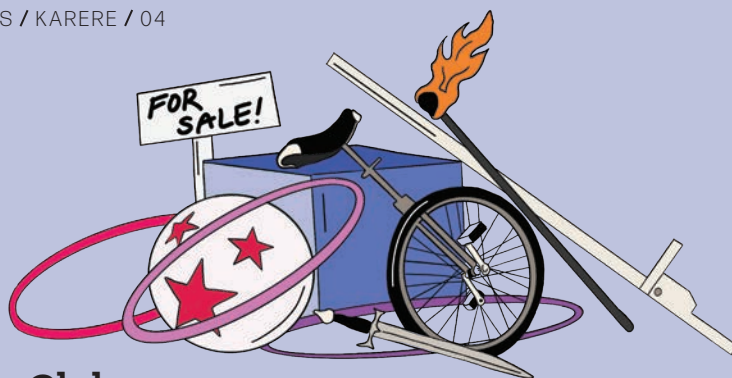
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\$10,000 Set Aside For Mysterious Clubs

Critic doesn't suggest money laundering through OUSA clubs, but we don't NOT suggest it

By Erin Gourley

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

OUSA has \$10,093 set aside from selling equipment belonging to old clubs. The money is currently held in trust for future clubs who are similar to the old clubs that were disaffiliated.

OUSA came across this issue when discussing whether to sell the Dunedin Fire and Circus Club's equipment. As they were discussing, they realised there was a bigger issue: what the fuck do you do with the equipment that old clubs leave behind? Who needs a dozen sets of fire poi?

Someone probably does. For instance, a potential future "Fire Poi Club." So the value of those hypothetical flaming poi should be saved.

In the meeting, OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey described this as a "recurring issue".

The current process is that OUSA can sell the equipment and hold onto the money for future clubs with a similar purpose. For example, if

another circus club was to start up, they might be able to access the money that came from selling the DFCC's equipment. But, as Michaela pointed out in the meeting, that club might never come along.

"The amount [for each club] in trust is not public information, nor is the type of groups it may benefit," said Dushanka Govender, OUSA's Clubs Rep. "We can understand one's perspective of why they'd want to know but need to be cautious that the fiscal benefit isn't the main influencer for establishing the club."

The DFCC, which was disaffiliated from OUSA after last year's scandal, left "a lot" of equipment behind, apparently enough to fill a 10m2 storeroom according to Dushanka. OUSA can't keep storing gear from old clubs that no longer exist — they just don't have the space.

The equipment included "hula hoops, juggling and balancing gear, training aids, learning resources and spinning gear" but the full

extent of it was not known because the club had not done a formal stocktake before they were disaffiliated.

"OUSA observed a weakness, and potential opportunity for better optimising funds and assets when clubs disaffiliate," Dushanka said. "Staff wanted to highlight this to our executive for discussion and direction going forward."

The Artificial Intelligence Club, for example, left behind a robotic arm and a 3D printer. The Computer Science Society (CSS) would like to claim them, but OUSA is not sure that they are similar enough to the Artificial Intelligence club. They also may be aware of the CSS's affinity for robotic death machines, and may not want to further that interest.

Critic endorses Jack Saunders' proposal, which was to "build a new Vice Chancellor" using the robotic arm and the 3D printer.

Prices Go Up At Uni Again

Stonks but not Stonks

Alex Leckie-Zaharic (with additional reporting from Hannah Johns, Radio One)

Staff Writer // alex@critic.co.nz

The University has raised prices yet again at their food outlets. Those on the study grind are notoriously poor, and after prices went up multiple times last year, this latest increase will be another gut punch to the food court faithful.

According to Campus and Collegiate Life Services University Union General Manager Stephen Baughan, who has a very short job title, the price increases are due to increased costs for things like ingredients and packaging.

Naturally, this is passed on to customers, with

Baughan giving the example of the increased price of specialty milks (which includes soy, oat, rice and almond). When compared to regular cow's milk, which is a weird concept, this means that the specialty milks are now charged at a higher price to cover this price differential.

Additionally, Baughan cited that the increase in labour costs (i.e. the University complying with minimum wage increases) has also contributed to the price increase. The Union outlets don't seem to be the only victim of raised prices, with the hallowed \$3 lunch at OUSA Clubs and Socs recently rising to \$4,

which strangely seems like a much larger dent in the wallet.

However, the ever-present Dumpling Lady stand has remained stalwart and it's as cheap as ever to get some dumplings and fried rice. Also samosas from the next food truck over are \$6.

With the steady increase in food prices around campus, your avocado toast and coffee may actually become a financial problem. Lord help us if the boomers were right.

For more on this story, tune in to the Radio One 91FM news bulletin on Wednesday at 12pm.

Student Fined \$300 for Eating a Pie

At least the pie was good

By Sean Gourley

Staff Writer // sean@critic.co.nz

A local student has been slapped with a \$300 fine after eating a pie in the Night 'n Day Regent line on St Patrick's day.

"I think it's fair enough on their part to give me a fine but I did not expect it to be a ridiculous amount of money," said Greg*, who admits that he "technically did steal a pie".

After spending most of the day drinking at Lake House, the technical pie thief Greg headed to Night 'n Day at around 10.30 pm for a late night feed. He was buying several items but while in line he consumed what he described as an "awesome" Thai green curry pie.

At the checkout, he paid for three other pies and a Powerade, but forgot to pay for the pie he had eaten. When he tried to exit the shop he was blocked by an undercover security guard. He immediately offered to pay for the pie, but the security guard told him to come out the back of the shop.

Night 'n Day staff then made him sign a notice admitting he had breached the shop rules and said they would tell the Proctor. Greg paid \$305 (the cost of the pie plus a \$300 fine) at the shop eftpos terminal.

The owner of Regent Street Night 'n Day said that he thought Greg was "deliberate" about not paying for the pie, because he had put two pies in one bag and then eaten the pie very quickly. "I know 'em when I see 'em," the owner said.

Greg said "I was just really hungry and I was

in line for about ten minutes and I forgot about the pie I'd eaten."

"I told him the fine was nuts but I was absolutely horsed so I went through with it," Greg said. "The cost of the items are added to the penalty, which was an extra little sting on the end."

Police were then called to serve him with a two year trespass notice. Greg reckoned the police were also taken aback by the size of the fine. He overheard one of the officers saying "Is that really necessary? Surely he should just pay for the pie."

Greg was glad that the Police were there and said they were "actually a calming presence. It seems like they also thought the Night 'n Day staff were massively over-reacting."

"Police is aware of two incidents last night at Night n' Day Regent of males not paying for items," said a police spokesperson.

"The other guy had actually stolen a lot of stuff and he got the same penalty," said Greg.

There is a small sign A4 on the glass panel at the entrance of Night 'n Day outlining that consuming items before buying them is considered shoplifting and that they could be fined \$300.

"\$300 for a \$5 pie seems pretty tough," said Simon Connell, a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University. "If it is grossly out of proportion to the shop's loss and cost of enforcing their rules

it might not be lawful to make the student pay. \$300 is a lot compared to a \$5 pie and might be over what is reasonable to set as a deterrent."

When asked about their policies, Night 'n Day Regent stated, "the policy is not unreasonable from our perspective, as for each small shoplifter there are many we don't catch." They use the plain clothes security guards on busy nights. Night 'n Day have "two plainclothes security officers to watch people", and said that this was "easier than reviewing the CCTV". They had five incidents of shoplifting on the night of St Patrick's. They said that their policy was upheld by the District Court 12 years ago.

"After internalising whether or not it was a good idea for a while, I eventually just gave in," Greg said. It was at this point he was seen eating the pie by a plain-clothes security guard. The \$5 pie "was up there with some of the best pies I've ever consumed"

Greg feels that he was exploited because he was drunk and not in the best state to have a long argument with angry staff members. "I don't know if I should try and get the \$300 back. It's a lot of money but I'm not sure if it will be worth the hassle."

Despite the pie's tastiness, Greg won't be returning for seconds. "I'm never going to Night 'n Day again," he said. "They're a rip-off anyway."

*Name changed.

Uni Cuts Medical Imagery Degree

Can enough X-Rays turn you into spiderman? Now we'll never find out.

By Alex Leckie-Zaharic

Staff Writer // alex@critic.co.nz

The University of Otago has decided to kill off three postgraduate programmes based around medical imaging.

The Masters of Medical Imaging, as well as the Postgraduate Diploma (or Certificate) in Medical Imaging were announced back in 2018. Since then, according to the University, plans changed.

Following a three-year expiry term set out by the Committee on University Academic Programmes, the degree was killed in cold blood earlier this year. 2021 was meant to be better than this.

A University spokesperson told Critic that "postgraduate programmes change constantly based on demand" but informed us that no students had ever entered the programme, and therefore nobody was affected. A victimless crime, perhaps.

"The University is working closely with the Ministry of Health to develop a programme that is aligned with the Ministry's longer-term plan for the sector," the spokesperson said.

The programme was originally intended to allow graduates to follow a career in sonography, but the governing body behind medical imaging (everyone's dream job) made

a decision in late 2018 that would have stopped any students from pursuing a sonography career.

OUSA postgraduate rep Sophie Barham told Critic that it was "disappointing to see the degree cut" but that OUSA would "love to see the University consult on a new postgraduate medical imaging degree".

The University made no mention of potentially reviving the dead programmes, but was sure to console us that Genomic Health and Medicine will make an appearance in postgrad health sciences. However, if you are a bit of an x-ray fiend, you're shit out of luck.

A Quarter Of Health Scis Disappoint Their Parents

Maybe they'll go and do medical imaging, oh wait

By Zac Hoffman (Radio One) and Denzel Chung
Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Out of the 1323 students enrolled into Health Science First Year (HSFY) at the start of 2020, 300 had changed courses for semester two, a total of 23% of the cohort.

Students Critic Te Arohi spoke to weren't surprised by the numbers, generally agreeing that it sounded "about right". Gabriella, who had switched courses from HSFY herself, said that it's the pressure that drives students to change course, saying that "people may come into it with certain expectations," but after first semester exam results come out, they often change their minds.

Ryan agreed. "It is a content-heavy course," he said, "it's a hard year, and definitely not easy when you're transitioning from high school."

He thought, though, that the silver lining was that this might be "good for diversity. Not everyone may be suited for a professional programme."

When asked about drop-out rates, David Thomson, the University's Director of Strategy, Analytics and Reporting, claimed in a statement that "this is a fairly normal enrolment pattern shift out of HSFY for a given year." This seemed to be consistent with student opinion.

However, Thomson strongly objected to the use of the term 'drop-out', calling it "wrong and prejudicial". Very few, he argued, actually drop-out and abandon study.

"The retention rates into second year study from HSFY are not markedly different to those for other first year programmes of study," said Thompson, "and Otago has consistently had the strongest retention from first to second year study of any New Zealand university."

He claimed that many students switch to science degrees, and for the biomedical sciences in particular, "the core HSFY papers are also some of the vital initial papers for these subjects."

"These are young people taking the time to discover what it is they want to do at University. HSFY is simply their beginning step on this journey." Journey to giving the university thousands of their future earnings perhaps.



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St Paddy's Was A Wholesome Time

Other news outlets are wrong and students are fine, actually

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

On the ground reporting from Critic Te Arohi showed that, despite the ODT reporting “a night of St. Patrick’s Day carnage,” students largely commemorated the death of the patron saint of Ireland in a wholesome way.

In keeping with the time-honoured traditions of yore, a dawn chorus of drum-and-bass music was heard around North Dunedin, which one student called “a surreal experience.” Snapchat stories seemed to indicate the fun began as early as 5am.

A Campus Watch officer spoken to said music was going since at least 6am, though he thought students “woke up early to go to the gym”.

Hearing rumours of a “human crush” and “massive bonfires burning a load of couches and random shit,” at the Lake House that evening, Critic Te Arohi went to investigate. On the scene were six cops. One of them said that while ambulances had to be called for some students who had alcohol intoxication, as well as some with “a couple of bottles to the head,” there were no violent incidents and students were generally pretty well-behaved.

Within the party, the vibes seemed good. A second-year said: “I don’t know why I’m here, but I found my mates, and now I’m just having the best time of my life”. He was accompanied by two others who were celebrating their first St. Paddy’s Day. One, a Polytech student, called it “awesome bro,” while the other said “it’s really

all about just making friends and having a good fuckin time.” They proceeded to offer Critic’s Chief Reporter a lime Cruiser in a funnel, which was graciously accepted.

Police on the scene said there was an agreement that music would be switched off by 10pm, because “it isn’t O Week anymore”. However, the absolute madman behind the decks kept the DnB blasting well into 10.06pm.

As the music died down, chants of “one last song” rang out throughout the crowd, and the DJ responded with a rousing “FUCK THE POLICE,” briefly elevating hopes of more partying. Rather anticlimactically, though, the lights went down shortly after, and students flooded towards other parties spread across Studentville.

Activist Urges More 'Bongs On The Ground' Activism

Calls for OUSA, society, everybody, to turn over new leaf

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Bert Holmes, a veteran environmental and cannabis law-reform activist, has called for more “loud and proud” cannabis activism by students on campus, saying “that’s how we got to where we are today.”

In an interview with Critic Te Arohi, Bert, now coordinator of the Ōtepoti Cannabis Collective, talked about his experience as a student activist over a decade ago as a member of Otago NORML (then an OUSA-affiliated club, linked to the National Organisation for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML).

He noted that high-profile, public “civil disobedience” protests were a large part of what they did back then. Most prominent was “the 420 Club”, where until a few years ago, protesters smoked cannabis at 4:20pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the Union Lawn. In 2014, then-Otago NORML leader Abe Gray called it “a reverse hunger strike, because we all know that’s not going to happen after a session.”

One of these protests, in 2008, led to the first arrest on campus in over 20 years. A plain-clothes policeman “approached one of us, grabbed his arm and started arresting him.”

Bert recalled: “It didn’t work out as well as the police were hoping, because we were activists, and we were staunch behind our rights, and we challenged the police every step of the way, and attention grew. There was an ODT photographer, and I went to tap him on the shoulder... Someone had a video camera, and we filmed it. [Green MP Metiria Turei], who just happened to be walking through campus, got involved. And I can remember this line of students forming, [with] shocked faces.”

He cited this as a situation where “being there can work to your advantage.” “Anyone who’s been in a volunteer organisation knows, there’s a lot of just ‘boots on the ground,’ nothing much happening, then you get this one moment, a spark, but that only [is effective] if you had put the groundwork in.”

While he acknowledged that current activists were a lot more active on social media, Bert didn’t see it as a substitute for public protests and civil disobedience campaigns, which he says “gave us the power to break the law with numbers”. He notes difficulties getting the word out, due to the “grey” legal status of many of these campaigns. “It takes a complaint from a member of the public to have the police come and choose whether to make an arrest,” says

Bert, “but the moment you post something the AI can look it over and take it down ... that’s not even a human.”

Despite the increasing normalisation of cannabis use, Bert stressed the urgency of keeping up their activism, especially in light of the ‘Yes’ campaign’s narrow defeat in the legalisation referendum. “People are living in the space that we fought for, and it’s a relatively comfortable space but everyone still looks down on you as a stoner. It still just feels like nothing’s changed. It might feel comfortable, but it’s still not safe, and that’s just as harmful.”

He called for students to “participate in the community. Have flat 420s in your front yard, play music proudly, smoke dope proudly, and have banners out saying ‘Live Like It’s Legal’ and ‘Dunedin Voted Yes’. Have a prohibition-free flat. Declare Castle Street a prohibition-free zone. Stand under those cameras and envelop them in a cloud of smoke.”

“The big thing is to just not feel like there’s nowhere to go. If you feel like there’s nowhere to go, go to a public space and smoke cannabis, then get in touch with us. We’ll get together and organise something, whether there’s smoking or not.”

ODT Ends Half-Century Contract For Distribution Manager

Barry, Barry and Barry reportedly unaffected by changes

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

A woman who has helped to deliver newspapers to Dunedin for 45 years, employing 60 children and disabled people, had her contract ended in a single letter from the ODT on Friday.

Sue Loan has worked as the distributor for the ODT for 45 years. She managed 60 people, including children and disabled people. She moved from the UK 60 years ago and helped to deliver The Evening Star and then the ODT when the papers merged.

On 10 March, the workers managed by Sue received a letter, saying that Auckland-based Reach Media would be taking over distribution of the papers, and that they should re-apply for roles with them.

Sue did not receive the letter at that time. She said there was never any communication about the change in contracts with her.

"They said 'Look, we're so busy, we're trying to get the letter out to the delivery children first'. Surely, as their employer, I should be entitled to get a letter first to know what's going on. I was told 'I'll get the letter sent out to you, but we're busy'. And that was the end of the phone conversation, and I thought I was an inconvenience for even asking," Sue said.

"I was really angry to start with. And it hurt. I didn't want anything monetary. I just wanted to be acknowledged for the years I've put in, and shown a bit of respect as one of them," she said. In 45 years as a contractor, she claims she was "never included in anything that ever happened at Allied Press," simply because "you don't work for us."

In a statement to Critic Te Arohi, Raja Chakrabarti, Operations Manager at Allied Press (the company that owns the ODT and The Star), claimed "Allied Press has followed a robust and fair process regarding changes to how The Star community newspaper will be delivered in the future. This is a confidential employment matter and we cannot comment further, although we are disappointed the company is going through trial via social media with no balance to the story."

With the abrupt end of the contract, Sue reported feeling "really depressed ... I've always worked, and I thought I'd be going for another two or three years, and all of a sudden you're unemployed." She worried, in particular, about the children and disabled people she employed: "There's a few that I'm really sad about. I'm really worried this is going to a firm which is all about money."

To bring attention to her plight, her son Ian Loan posted her story on the Dunedin News Facebook page, unleashing a torrent of emotions. At a recent count, here were 832 reactions (including 347 sad reacts and 255 angry reacts), and 323 comments on the post.

Commenters, some grandparents now, fondly recalled getting their first jobs through Sue. People expressed concerns that many of those employed were beneficiaries or disabled, and "rely on their delivery job for a little extra money ... a sense of belonging and mana." Many commenters said this situation was "disgusting," "disrespectful" and "a gutless way of doing it." National MP Michael "Mick Woody" Woodhouse even waded in, saying he was "happy to approach the CEO".

Sue said she was "flabbergasted by how it's just snowballed ... It's been amazing, and it's good that people do care."

So what is she looking for from Allied Press? "Just wanting to feel a little bit important, as though what I did counted for something. A bit of respect, a bit of courtesy. [It] doesn't take much to do that, to keep people happy."

Drug Safety Club Back in Talks With OUSA

Both parties want sensible drug policy, stuck on details

By Fox Meyer

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

The Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) club and OUSA are working together to get the club affiliated.

Affiliation would allow the SSDP to take advantage of OUSA's resources and reach a wider audience, objectives supported by both parties. Originally, OUSA denied SSDP their application for affiliation because of an apparent "contradiction" in the SSDP's constitution.

OUSA President Michela Waite-Harvey said that "one rule stated that supplying/dealing drugs would be immediate grounds for removal of a member, another clause then stated that 'social supply' would be discouraged but not a grounds for member removal."

This prevented an affiliation from being granted. When interviewed for Critic Issue One, the SSDP exec said that if they hit any snags during their application, they expected it to be from this clause.

The OUSA Exec were concerned that the clause in question is "indication of intent", that even if the clause were removed, "social supply may still be facilitated within the club."

"OUSA has a core kaupapa of harm reduction," said Michela, citing their partnership with, and advocacy for, KnowYourStuff over the years. They also continue to lobby for a change in disciplinary policy, aiming to prevent students from being excluded from the University and

halls for non-violent minor drug possession incidents.

Brin Ryder, one of the exec members of SSDP, said that they sat down with OUSA last week "and made clear we were all on the same page". SSDP is aiming to resubmit for affiliation.

OUSA has re-affiliated groups that have been declined in the past, but the reason why changes on a club-by-club basis. For some, it could be as little as "tidying up their paperwork". For others, noted Michela, "if the overall value of the organisation can't shift, and misaligns with our own, then they may not be welcomed back to re-apply."

“Fear on Both Sides”: Students and Community March in Support of Burmese People

Serious news with no joke in the subtitle. Give a shit ya’ll.

By Fox Meyer with additional reporting by Eilíeen Corcoran from Radio One
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

On Saturday 13 March, 60 people walked from the Train Station to the Octagon in solidarity with the people of Myanmar. The mix of students and community members gave speeches and protested the military coup that took place in Myanmar on the first of February.

Eilíeen Corcoran of Radio One was at the march, and spoke to attendants. Amidst chants of “what do we want? — democracy, democracy,” a Burmese woman said that people were there to show solidarity. “We are far from home,” she said “and have the privilege of no coup, and no Covid. Back home, people have both.”

“The Burmese people in Myanmar,” said one of the organizers, “are taking to the streets by the thousands to voice their dissent.” As the military fires into the crowd, protesters are choosing death over dictatorship.

Mhairi Mackenzie-Everitt, OUSA’s Political Representative, said that not attending the march was a non-option. “We represent the students of Otago University,” she said “and I think every single one of them supports this. It’s not an option for us not to be here.”

Another student, Sophie, said solemnly that “the least we can do

is be here.” Bharhav, from the Otago Postgraduate Students’ Association said that “we are here to support democracy of every kind, and protest dictatorship.”

In a speech at the protest, Labour MP for Taieri Ingrid Leary defended former State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar, asking those that sought to vilify her actions to understand more deeply the situation she had been in as leader. Under Suu Kyi’s rule, Myanmar engaged in the genocide of the Rohingya peoples.

As another protester explained, the ever-looming military presence impacted her decisions. “Like a relationship status,” they explained, “it’s complicated. You have to look at the history to understand.”

This is fueled by fear on both sides.”

This is not the first coup in Myanmar’s history. As the protester described, it is the latest rumble in a rocky relationship between a powerful military and an equally powerful popular desire for democracy.

The protester explained that Aung San Suu Kyi might have struck deals with the military to hold onto some semblance of democratic rule, which is perhaps why she defended the genocide. Ingrid said that while there was “no doubt” that these abhorrences occurred, the country was, overall, “moving in the direction of democracy” prior to the coup.

“To hold Aung San Suu Kyi solely responsible for the genocide,” said Ingrid, “is unfair”, seeing as the democratically-elected government was “still ostensibly under the control of the military”.

The military allowed a constitution to be passed in 2008 after decades of ratification, and were then lost in a landslide democratic victory — twice in a row.

“The military is in fear of losing power, after tasting defeat in 2015 and 2020,” said a protester, “and the people are in fear of being under military control again, now that they have tasted freedom. This is fueled by fear on both sides.”

It’s like a bully on a playground explained the protester. When you start to beat him at his own game, he calls you a cheater and flips the table. “Except in this case the bully has all the guns, and [has] hired half the teachers at the school.”

The student community presence downtown on Saturday sought to bring this issue to a wider audience. A woman explained that people in Myanmar are cut off from the outside of the world, seeing only statements issued by the UN rather than tangible action.

“We need action, not statements,” she said, “we need to let people know that they are not alone.”

Diversity in Universities

OUSA invites all students, staff, and the wider public to attend a panel discussion on the role tertiary institutions play in shaping race relations in Aotearoa and beyond.

Professor Jacinta Ruru



Law lecturer at UoO

Meng Foon



Race Relations Commissioner

Marie Laufiso



Dunedin City Councillor

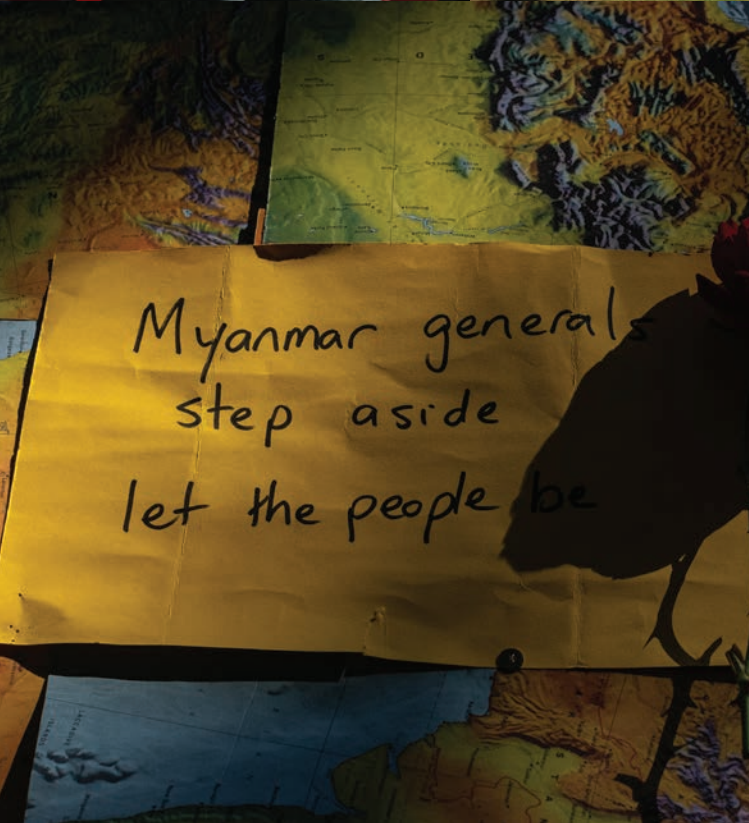
Danielle Yamamoto Kerr



Manager of International Student Services

Friday 26th March 2021
Union Hall
12pm - 2pm

 Diversity in Universities



Universities Provide MIQ Subsidy for International Students

Still costs about the same as before

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

New Zealand's universities, including Otago, have agreed to subsidise 50% of the cost of MIQ for returning international students.

The New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) announced the subsidy in a Facebook post on Friday 12 March. "NZISA applauds the universities' decision for stepping up and supporting returning international students especially after the recent announcement on increased MIQ costs," they posted.

The announcement of the subsidy followed the news that MIQ costs would increase for temporary visa holders, including international students, on 25 March. The students would have had to pay \$5520. With the subsidy, they only have to pay \$2760 for their two-week stay.

Jason Cushen, Director of Otago's International office, said that Otago decided to subsidise MIQ because "MIQ costs represent an additional cost to those international students returning

to the country to complete their studies." He said that fewer than 100 students would be returning to Otago, although a further 1358 are studying online at the University of Otago.

OUSA's International Representative, Gerald Ryan said: "It surprised me that even the International Office was not consulted about the sudden rise of cost in MIQ. The agenda items to support returning international students were passed easily and the subsidy is sufficient, it financially helps the students to return to New Zealand to complete their Studies."

"I understand that there is a limit to the financial support that the University can offer, which is why it is great to see the University creating initiatives to financially support those students – considering that it's financially risky, but it's for the students," he said. His role in pushing for the subsidy was "describing the concerns about the sudden MIQ cost and then pushing it through for action."

Afiqah Ramizi, President of NZISA, said the 50% subsidy was a "win-win situation" that "really shows the importance of finding initiatives to ease the burden of returning international students."

"Both the government and the universities have the responsibility to develop initiatives to bring back international students and to recover the international education sector," she said. "It is frustrating to see a disconnect between the universities' goals/perspectives, and the government's, despite the creation of the International Education Recovery Plan last year."

Jason Cushens said that the reduced number of international students this year "impacts the diversity of opinion and outlook within tutorials and other academic settings. The University is also very aware of the impact on the remaining international student community that the border closure has had, and is undertaking a number of initiatives to support this Group."

Student Hardship Fund Remains Hard

Monetary viagra doing its job to keep student loans erect and the economy stimulated

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

Pūtea Tautoko supported 12.5% of all students enrolled last year. Plans are underway to ensure the hardship fund continues into 2021.

Last year, the Pūtea Tautoko coffers were filled by \$2 million directly from the University, around \$500k donated by staff, alumni and friends of the Government, and \$1.5 million from the Government. David Thomson, Chair of the fund's Governance Group, said it is "unlikely" that the fund will run out of money in 2021. Broke students, rejoice.

Just over 100 students have been supported so far this year, compared with 2592 students over the course of last year.

"At this stage we are committed to granting up to \$4.0 million if that is what is required," said David. He said they would push for more money if it was needed, and that they are about to re-fresh their fundraising efforts.

There have been some changes to how the

fund works. It is now a formal practice that a student may not receive more than one grant per semester, and bank balances are to be requested more often. "We have started the year requesting bank balance evidence more often than in 2020, mainly to see if this helps us be confident we are achieving equitable decisions more easily," David said.

The eVision portal has also been re-vamped, so you don't need to supply your information as many times.

These changes aren't to be more stingy. According to David, they're designed to "achieve more consistent and efficient evidence-based decision making." Hooray for streamlined bureaucracy.

"We are all part of the Scarfie Whanau," he said, perhaps unaware he was making himself look silly because 'breather' has eclipsed 'scarfie'.

OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey said

the fund was "incredibly successful" in keeping at-risk students enrolled at Otago, enabling them to maintain their studies and enjoy the froth.

"Covid-19 hardship changes over time", explained Michaela. "This year's economic downturn is much different than the immediate impacts of lockdowns last year." The governance group, which OUSA sits on, will need to rethink the funds policy, according to Michaela.

"It's important to note that while the worst of Covid may be over in some senses, its financial impact is not over by any means," David said. "An ongoing economic impact is still going to be a big factor for New Zealand – and therefore for our students and their families – through 2021." If this economic impact would bar a student from continuing their education, the grant is there to provide support.

ODT Watch

MOVES to consider greatly expanding Otago Yacht Club pontoon berths could save Otago Harbour from a “Third World” lack of recreational boat facilities, a skipper says.

Ah yes, problems like not being able to berth your yacht in the marina are commonly described as third world problems. That's how the saying goes.

THE opening of Invercargill's new hydrosides, originally scheduled for last year, has been delayed again and the slides will cost \$300,000 more than planned. Assembly of the new slides started at the Splash Palace site a few weeks ago.

Outraged that the citizens of Invercargill are once again being deprived of good old-fashioned fun on the Splash Palace hydrosides.

We had long since reached “peak zucchini” and were being threatened with having our entire property overwhelmed by an avalanche of giant cucurbits. This vegetable

You cannot run. You cannot hide. You can only watch in despair as your property value is strangled by the invasion of giant cucurbits.

Stink over Winton dump plan

The perfect headline for when your flatmate Winton tells you he is going to take a big shit.

“Three years in your case, Jacinda. But good advice. Just give me a call each week and you'll have done all you need to do in dealing with the media.”

The young lady burst into broken sobs of gratitude and I felt a warm glow as she switched off the phone.

Now for the call from Judith. What advice? Maybe a guest spot on that female mud wrestling show would be the story.

The ODT have published a fanfic where a man pretends he is having a phone conversation with Jacinda Ardern and then imagines Judith Collins doing mud wrestling. I believe the “warm glow” is when he reaches orgasm.

WATER upgrades delaying roadworks in the St Clair area are nearly complete and the \$1 million peanut-shaped roundabout for Forbury Rd will be installed soon.

Someone please explain how a peanut-shaped roundabout will work.



Pio Manoa Photography

POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE Mhairi Mackenzie Everitt

Tēnā koutou,

My name is Mhairi and I have the incredible privilege of being your Political Representative this year. This is only the second year OUSA has had a Pols Rep, and it was created in the name of OUSA's long, spicy history of political action and student advocacy.

I engage in student-related reports, legislation, annual plans, projects, and proposals, and write submissions to local and national bodies. In a nutshell, it's my job to find issues affecting students and try to do something about it.

So far I've been working on a submission to the Climate Change Commission, about the kinds of governmental change needed in the coming decades to halt climate change in its tracks. I've represented OUSA at a Botanic Garden strategic meeting, coordinated OUSA's support of the Green Party's petition to ban conversion therapy and the recent

Pro-Democracy in Myanmar march, and will be submitting on the DCC and ORC long term plans (among lots of other exciting things). And I'm really gunning to finally get that Albany street pedestrian crossing!

If you're interested in some of the work I've been doing and want to be a student advocate, keep an eye out on OUSA's Facebook for expressions of interest for OUSA's Submissions Committee. It's an amazing opportunity to learn more about consultation processes, and help shape OUSA's position on issues that can make tangible change for students. Otherwise, always feel free to email me at political@ousa.org.nz. I'm an open book!

Noho ora mai,

Mhairi xx

ousa
EXECUTIVE

WEEK 3 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:
1. Water 4. Spiderweb 9. Amish 10. Netball 11. Opera 13. Consecutive 16. Woe 17. Weetbix 18. Err 19. Clandestine 21. Wager 24. Cheetah 26. Elude 27. Fatty Lane 28. Relax

DOWN:
1. Whinge 2. Tentacle 3. Rima 4. Seal 5. Iris 6. Echo 7. Waxeye 8. Breather 14. Stein 15. Twist 16. Werewolf 18. Eventful 19. Cogent 20. Sphinx 22. Remy 23. Aura 24. Cede 25. Ever

WORDWHEEL ANSWER: Aquatic

SUDOKU

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

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

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

CROSSWORD

		2			3		4		5			6	
					8								
									9				
					10								
11				12									
					13				14		15		
		16											
17									18		19		20
					21								
22	23			24									
									25		26		
28													
									29				
30													

- ACROSS:**

 - 3. Difficult problem (9)
 - 7. This word has no vowels (6)
 - 9. Not as good (5)
 - 10. Male cat (6)
 - 11. Beat (6)
 - 14. 'Sleep when you are dead' is the slogan for this drink (5)
 - 16. Conservative US news channel (3,4)
 - 17. Much ___ about Nothing (3)
 - 19. Homer Simpson's catchphrase (3)
 - 21. Stingy (7)
 - 22. Trainee officer (5)
 - 25. Rectangle (6)
 - 27. 'Land' in te reo Māori (6)
 - 28. Lolly that gets rolled down Baldwin St (5)
 - 29. Barter (6)
 - 30. Greased _____ (9)
- DOWN:**

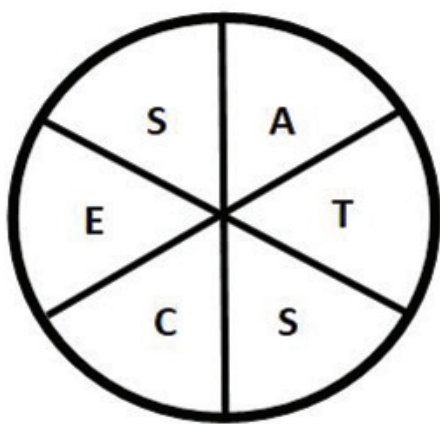
 - 1. Dish similar to a crustless quiche (8)
 - 2. Prefix meaning 'above normal' (5)
 - 4. Self-obsession (10)
 - 5. Physicist known for the discovery of the law of gravitation (6)
 - 6. Northernmost province of Ireland (6)
 - 12. Dick pic (4)
 - 13. The name of this pasta means 'little worms' (10)
 - 15. Neat (4)
 - 18. Type of crustacean (4)
 - 20. Lots of people had one after St Patrick's Day (8)
 - 23. Mt Cook (6)
 - 24. Successfully oppose (6)
 - 25. Promise (4)
 - 26. Final letter of the Greek alphabet (5)



LETTERSEARCH

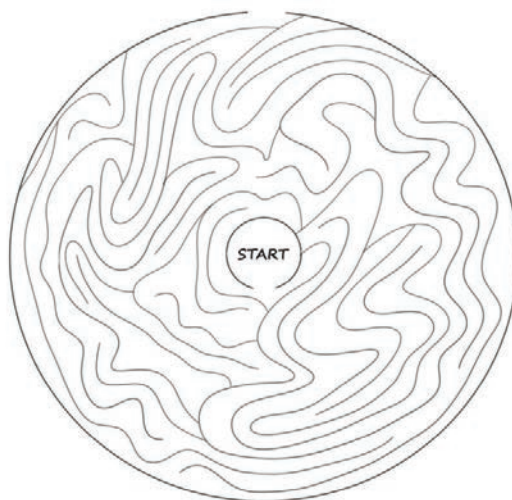
Find the letters hidden in the margins of the magazine's pages and unscramble them to find the mystery word.

WORD WHEEL



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

MAZE



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.



Why Are There So Many Shit Drugs in Dunedin This Year?

We talked to experts and dealers to find where all the good ones went. For journalism.

By Sean Gourley

Molly took one and a half Red Bull pressies at Electric Avenue. She couldn't sleep for 36 hours. In the following days she had one of the worst come-downs of her life.

"I'd spent the money so I took it. I would not have paid for it if I'd known it wasn't MD," she said. KnowYourStuff advice confirms that Red Bull pressies contain a dangerous amount of eutylone, a synthetic cathinone (commonly known as bath salts), and no MDMA. Over the festival season, eutylone became a common substitute for MDMA.

Perceptions of "bath salts", the informal term for synthetic cathinones like eutylone, largely revolve around repeated horror stories. Students had mixed experiences. Dale* said he and his mates thought it was MD when they bought it but they "found out what it was before [they took it] and it had mostly positive reviews. So we said fuck it and had a good time." He said "the worst part was the lack of sleep, and knowing it was bath salts."

Testing services like KnowYourStuff are well-established and trusted by students. They make sure people are aware of what they have bought. However, in the experience of students Critic interviewed, knowing your drugs are not MD, and choosing not to do them, are two very different things.

Caps vary in price from \$25 to sometimes upwards of \$40. Pressies are usually about \$60. That's about a quarter of your living costs for the week. Even if a student finds their pressie is pure eutylone, most students are not willing to throw an investment roughly equivalent to 36 of those gross jello shots from Leith Liquorland down the drain.

The students Critic interviewed wanted to get pure MD, but if there was a mistake and they got something else, they were going to take it anyway. Molly was in this situation: "Our mate said she could suss from a third party before Electric Ave. She came back with Red Bull pressies and we knew it was bath salts immediately because KnowYourStuff had just put up an announcement about it. But we'd spent like \$320 in total on it, so it's not like we weren't going to take it." Students will usually risk the negative side effects of a drug to have a good time, especially if they have already spent money on them.

Dale* said that while on the drug he “felt energetic and confident for most of the night” and “had immense stamina rooting”. “The next day I felt like a crack patient when I went to work, though.”

Molly said the experience was fun at first, but then “you were just really wired. You never felt yourself come up which is the nice part of MD, that rolly feeling. All of a sudden I was up as fuck. And then like a switch had flicked, my serotonin had run out and I had to find my way home.” Neither Molly or her mates experienced any jaw pain the next day, which would be expected from MDMA.

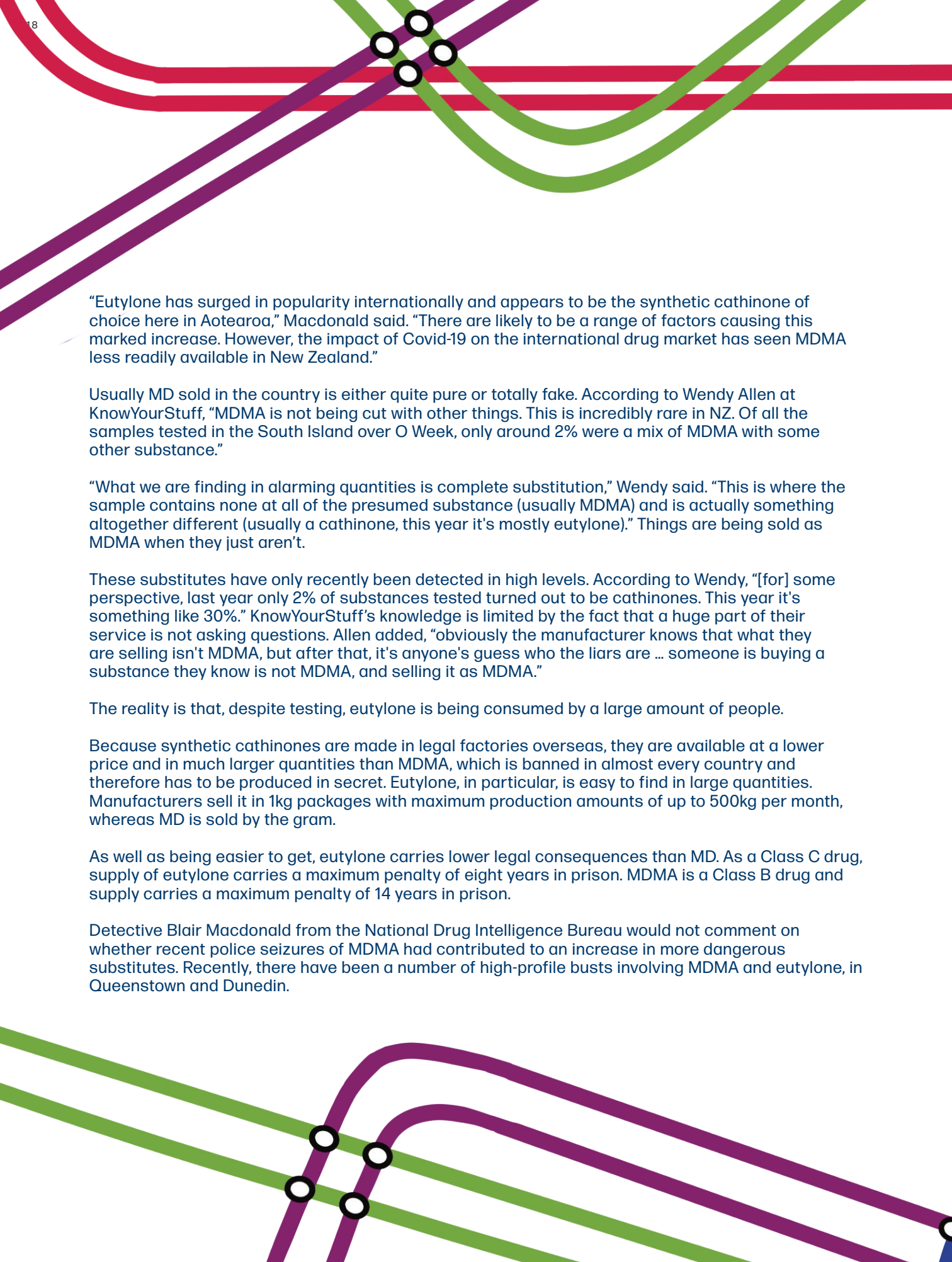
A dealer, Kevin*, had similar experiences, both personally and through reports from customers. He didn't feel bad when selling bath salts. “I only sell to mates and they understand that I try my best to get good gear, but that's not always possible. I never cut it or swap it out, but someone along the chain obviously does. They just get greedy I guess.

The police seized 55% less MDMA at the border in 2020 than in 2019.

Recently Kevin turned to doing more ket because “it's imported into NZ legally so there's more of a consistent supply of it.” He said in crystal form the eutylone crystals are “like 10x harder, more uniform and rectangular than normal MD”. Taking the gear in Queenstown, he realised halfway through the night that what he had wasn't MD, but still took another cap because he “wasn't going to sleep anyway”.

The amount of cathinones detected in Dunedin by KnowYourStuff has at least doubled since 2019, according to the numbers reported by KnowYourStuff. Two years ago, 20% of drugs thought to be MDMA were other substances, compared with over 50% based on preliminary numbers this year. A lack of pure MDMA and an over-supply of cathinones is leading to increasing use of less fun, and more dangerous, substitutes.

Covid made it harder for dealers like Kevin to get pure MD. National Drug Intelligence Bureau manager, Detective Inspector Blair Macdonald, told Critic that the closure of borders for Covid-19 “disrupted international drug supply chains and made it harder for illicit substances to get into New Zealand.” He said that the police have seized 55% less MDMA at the border in 2020 than they did in 2019.



“Eutylone has surged in popularity internationally and appears to be the synthetic cathinone of choice here in Aotearoa,” Macdonald said. “There are likely to be a range of factors causing this marked increase. However, the impact of Covid-19 on the international drug market has seen MDMA less readily available in New Zealand.”

Usually MD sold in the country is either quite pure or totally fake. According to Wendy Allen at KnowYourStuff, “MDMA is not being cut with other things. This is incredibly rare in NZ. Of all the samples tested in the South Island over O Week, only around 2% were a mix of MDMA with some other substance.”

“What we are finding in alarming quantities is complete substitution,” Wendy said. “This is where the sample contains none at all of the presumed substance (usually MDMA) and is actually something altogether different (usually a cathinone, this year it’s mostly eutylone).” Things are being sold as MDMA when they just aren’t.


These substitutes have only recently been detected in high levels. According to Wendy, “[for] some perspective, last year only 2% of substances tested turned out to be cathinones. This year it’s something like 30%.” KnowYourStuff’s knowledge is limited by the fact that a huge part of their service is not asking questions. Allen added, “obviously the manufacturer knows that what they are selling isn’t MDMA, but after that, it’s anyone’s guess who the liars are ... someone is buying a substance they know is not MDMA, and selling it as MDMA.”

The reality is that, despite testing, eutylone is being consumed by a large amount of people.

Because synthetic cathinones are made in legal factories overseas, they are available at a lower price and in much larger quantities than MDMA, which is banned in almost every country and therefore has to be produced in secret. Eutylone, in particular, is easy to find in large quantities. Manufacturers sell it in 1kg packages with maximum production amounts of up to 500kg per month, whereas MD is sold by the gram.

As well as being easier to get, eutylone carries lower legal consequences than MD. As a Class C drug, supply of eutylone carries a maximum penalty of eight years in prison. MDMA is a Class B drug and supply carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

Detective Blair Macdonald from the National Drug Intelligence Bureau would not comment on whether recent police seizures of MDMA had contributed to an increase in more dangerous substitutes. Recently, there have been a number of high-profile busts involving MDMA and eutylone, in Queenstown and Dunedin.



Recently Kevin turned to doing more ket because “it’s imported into NZ legally so there’s more of a consistent supply of it.”

According to Phil Glaser, Programme Lead at New Zealand Drug Foundation, the supply of pure MDMA has been significantly disrupted by COVID. Glaser’s leading culprit is the reduction in international flights (and the postage they bring) coming into the country.

“What we’re seeing is basically 50% MDMA, 50% eutylone at the moment,” Phil said. He added that there is a “cycle” around the supply of MDMA and cathinones, where cathinones are usually introduced in response to a lower supply of pure MD. He said the best way to control eutylone was “definitely by funding testing ... but there’s only a limited amount of testing capacity, so funding needs to be improved.”

There has always been a large amount of cathinones on the market, but the stereotype of dealers and suppliers cutting or replacing MD to make a few extra bucks is not accurate. Selling pure MDMA is already extremely profitable. One dealer said “you only need a third of it to arrive and you still make a ridiculous profit.”

Considering that cathinones are so cheap and easy to order, it doesn’t seem like they will stop being supplied any time soon. It’s likely that large amounts are already in New Zealand and whoever is supplying it will try to get rid of as much as they can. They are probably stoked that MDMA shortages mean people will keep buying their shitty drugs.

The health effects of eutylone are worse than MD, and it’s just a less fun drug in general. But you can do things to improve your experience and reduce the harm caused by it. There’s tonnes of information online, from KnowYourStuff to the Drug Foundation’s website and Erowid, about safe use.

As Dale said: “It’s definitely best to know what you’re in for, if you are going to take it.”

* Name changed.

BITCH BETTER MY MONEY

THE BRAVE PEOPLE WHO ASKED THEIR DEALERS FOR REFUNDS

BY FOX MEYER

A surprising number of students have been able to get refunds from their drug dealers, after buying what they thought was MDMA.

Sales of 'MDMA' are still common in New Zealand despite the fact that there's very little pure MDMA in the country. It's all getting stuck at the border, probably unable to afford the high MIQ costs. What people are selling in place of MD is usually eutylone or another synthetic cathinone (commonly known as bath salts).

Not everybody that takes bath salts ends up eating a man's face off under an underpass (I'm looking at you, 2012), but almost everyone reports a nasty comedown. The drugs are generally regarded as a 'shit time'. If you score a gram of what you think is MD that turns out to be something else, as one student put it, "the product received was not the product advertised."

But you can't exactly take your dealer to the Commerce Commission, and Fair Go won't answer your calls. So, if you feel the need for justice, you've gotta do it the old fashioned way. One student, who asked to be identified as Stabby Annie, told Critic about her experience trying to right this wrong.

Annie bought a half gram off of her flatmates' ex-boyfriend at the beginning of the year. She had expected to spend a couple hundred dollars on the half, and thought it was a bit suss when she was only charged \$120.

It was also a bit suss that the dealer was wearing an ankle bracelet from a prior conviction. When he was arrested for dealing MDMA previously, the drugs he had been charged with distributing were actually so low in purity that he was given a reduced sentence – because dealing eutylone carries less severe consequences than dealing MDMA.

So, feeling suspicious, Annie did what any responsible skeptic would do and let her flatmate try it first. Kind of like

when you know something is going to be spicy but you don't know how spicy so you give some to a mate to see if they break a sweat.

"She had like a three-day comedown," Annie told Critic, "she was crying every single day. A total menace. I was really worried about her." So Annie bought some tests from Cosmic. The test for MDMA purity came back at 0%, and the other test identified mephedrone.

"So I'm like alright, I'm not taking this," decided Annie. She asked her flatmate if her ex-boyfriend would do a trade back. "And to my surprise, he said yes." Annie was receiving a weekly refund of \$40 until it stalled on the 18th of March. Maybe her dealer was arrested again.

Annie told Critic that if he had refused, she was prepared to cite the Consumer Guarantees Act of 1993, even though drugs are (probably) not covered under the Act. She hoped that her dealer did not know that.

Jack* had a more straightforward approach, and didn't have to talk to any real people, which is just how he likes it. He bought some drugs online using Tor, and paid about \$80 in Bitcoin. Jack never got his drugs.

"I figured it was a scam and I had lost the money," said Jack. He left a bad review on the website, and followed the guy's Bitcoin wallet address (Critic has no idea what this means) to leave him a message. "I didn't have much hope, but yeah, it worked," said Jack.

When asked how someone smart enough to use the dark web could be dumb enough to get scammed, Jack said he probably should've checked the seller's reviews before buying. Apparently the dark web functions a lot like Trademe, with some more-established sellers boasting hundreds of positive reviews. And just like everywhere else, it is populated with its own clandestine Karens, like Jack.

HAVE

“He gave us our money back and apologised,” said Billy, peacefully wrapping up a story that included two solid opportunities to get stabbed.

Kirsten* said that she had bought some “MDMA” from a friend who got it off another friend, who got it from God-knows-where. She got it tested at KnowYourStuff, and was told it was mostly “filler” and eutylone. No MDMA.

“Obviously I wasn’t gonna take it because I like my eyeballs in my head,” she said, so she gave it back to her mate. Her mate then gave it back to the dealer, who has a questionable relationship with eyeballs. He insisted it was pure despite the obvious proof that it wasn’t. After pestering, he caved and reversed the deal. “Go get your drugs checked,” said Kirsten, “it’s not worth taking shit stuff.”

Billy* wanted to buy some MD over the summer, and met “some guy in a park” at night to pick it up while playing a fun game of “am I going to get stabbed tonight”. He got it tested the next day, because he thankfully did not get stabbed, and found the drugs to be cathinones. “I was

J. PARKER IMPORTS
Address: 85 Albany Street
Tel. 0800 838383

CASH RECEIPT

Description	Price
1g MDMA	120
1.5pt Eutylone	80
1pt Bath salts	60
Shipping & handling	160

Total
Cash 420
Change 450
Bank card 30
Approval Code
----- 069
#87890

HAVE A NICE TRIP!



REFUNDED

pretty pissed, but what can you do,” mused Billy. Just a few days later, Billy noticed a familiar car. It was his dealer’s. So he did what any sensible human would do.

“Me and a few mates just followed him home.” And on that glorious afternoon, after following a drug-dealer to his house, the boys got their refund. “He gave us our money back and apologised,” said Billy, peacefully wrapping up a story that included two solid opportunities to get stabbed.

The lesson Critic learned was that drug dealers, just like everyone else, will cave to social pressure. So put some heat on them to make sure they’re providing you with what they’re advertising.

“And don’t buy too far down the chain,” said Stabby Annie, “it’s hard to get a fourth-hand refund. You’ll have much better luck if you actually know the guy.”

*Names changed.

THE ONE WHO DIDN'T GET AWAY:

TALKING ABOUT DRUGS WITH A DEALER WHO GOT CAUGHT

BY ERIN GOURLEY

Daniel* was in his third year at the University of Otago, studying computer science, when the police came to his flat to search for drugs. "By the time the police actually came to search my house, I expected it," he said. "I did care whether I was being investigated, but I didn't care enough to actively change my ways."

For most of 2018 and 2019, Daniel had been importing increasingly large quantities of MDMA from the dark web. When the police showed up at his flat, he went with them willingly and was charged with importing MDMA into New Zealand.

"I told [the police] everything," he said. "I probably slightly underestimated the amount that I'd imported. I didn't actually know how much it was, I wasn't keeping track like a business or anything, it was all very sporadic."

He was convicted in 2019 and served a sentence of home detention and community work. He told Critic the story of why he started importing drugs, how he got busted, and what going through the court system was like. Daniel's story is part of a recurring pattern. Every few years since around 2010, a student in Dunedin gets convicted for importing drugs from the dark web.

Daniel said that "what's important is that I never liked authority and I still don't," he said. Beyond that, there was nothing that made him "predisposed" to go down a path of drug dealing. He said he "got into party culture" in second year and started drinking regularly. He thinks the influence of party culture, while he was "fairly insecure", meant that he "really chased social approval".

The "key event" was when he met a small-time drug dealer while living on Hyde Street. They became close friends. Daniel described him as "one of the nicest people I ever met at uni".

"He challenged all my preconceived ideas of what a drug dealer is. So when I thought about all the dogma that I've seen before, about recreational drug usage and dealing, it seemed completely false," said Daniel.

"All the authority figures who have been preaching this narrative to me over and over and over again in my life, they have no idea what they're talking about," he said. "As I looked further and further into drug harm research and neuroscience, I thought none of this really makes any sense. This is all topsy-turvy and the narrative is completely wrong."

"I didn't really care whether it was okay or not. Nothing was more important to me than socialising."

With the small time drug dealer's guidance, he decided to import some MDMA. "I didn't have anything to do with other drug dealers. I didn't want to work for anyone else," he said. "I went straight to the dark web and imported MDMA." He started small, with amounts of 1-2 grams.

"I'd use drop addresses and random houses that I could find that were empty, fake names, that kinda gig," Daniel said. "I was incredibly, incredibly cautious at first." He only sold to his friends, and "used quite a lot of it as well".





"You don't know what you're doing for a start but it very quickly becomes commonplace," he said. "Drug usage was normalised to me through the people I was around, so it wasn't something I even thought about that much."

He imported throughout 2018 without trouble. He reckoned that the small amounts he was importing meant that the police would not bother to investigate him. Then, things got tough in his personal life and importing drugs became part of a self-destructive streak.

"I had a few family situations that came along that really stuck a spanner in the works psychologically," he said. "I was in a bad place, I wasn't thinking clearly, I had no vision for the future, wasn't enjoying what I was doing at university." He started to drink heavily, which resulted in memory problems that made uni more difficult.

"I became more slack, more relaxed," he said. "I cared less about being caught. I think you could say there was some kind of psychological thing where I believed that I was a bad person and I deserved to be caught."

He knew that packages were being intercepted by customs because they wouldn't show up, which made him "frustrated". He started to import more and more MDMA, moving to ten grams, and finishing up with imports around 25–30 grams. Then, as he moved flats, he began to import to his own address. Finally, he was using his real name to import as well.

"The real kicker, [is] that I can look back and know I was being self-destructive, and I wasn't just being an idiot.

I started mixing in Class A drugs as well," he said. As well as MDMA, he started to import "ketamine, LSD, 2CB, small amounts of cocaine," he said. "Only like 2 grams of cocaine," he clarified, "but lots of the other things." He never got charged for importing Class A drugs because of his co-operation with the police.

Daniel only started importing Class A drugs well into 2019, when he was aware his packages of MDMA had been intercepted at Customs.

He's not sure whether he regrets it. "I would have liked to have not done it, I would have liked to be ten times as disciplined. Ideals are nice but I wasn't that person at the time. I regret the pain that I caused my parents, my family, and myself."

He reckons that drug prohibition is not the answer. "The situation with drug prohibition is really dumb," he said. "Alcohol prohibition has proven how bad prohibition is at working, and every time we see somewhere like Portugal totally change their stance, harm just plummets."

But he's not optimistic that drug policy will change. "The world is slow to change," he said. "There will be other kids like me. Who have only heard drugs are bad, and then go oh it's actually really common. They might get into it, lose money, mess up their neurochemistry, possibly kill themselves with cathinones or fentanyl. And it could be avoided."

*Name changed.



Remember your roots

Remember
control

Remember your life
has purpose



Remember to take a step back

Remember you are loved

Remember you have

Remember you're still tripping

@spicypaintjob



Female Viagra vs Catholic Guilt

By Asia Martusia King

There's a reason you've never seen a sexy Lutheran schoolgirl on Pornhub. Catholic guilt is aesthetically hot, but deeply entrenched and difficult to get rid of.

Men have Viagra. I have years of repressed Catholic guilt. This is incredibly unfair, and I decided to fix it by testing out all the female-libido drugs I could get my hands on.

Catholic guilt might sound bizarre to anyone who isn't Catholic or recovered, considering Catholicism is unarguably the sexiest denomination. It gave us Lady Gaga's Judas, and Zendaya at the 2018 Met Gala. There's a reason you've never seen a sexy Lutheran schoolgirl on Pornhub. The guilt is aesthetically hot, but deeply entrenched and difficult to get rid of.

To clarify, Viagra does not get you "in the mood" (horny) in the same way HealthPost's questionable female intimacy pills promise to do so. The idea of taking pills to make you horny is contentious in itself. If you're not feeling it, why force that? In my case, I wanted to bone without the ghosts of my high school nuns breathing down my neck. God and my sinful desires have long been suspended in eternal battle within the combat zone of my vagina. Surely, an over-the-counter herbal remedy would end that once and for all.

Consider this piece an ode to feminism. Ladies, be horny, but only if you want. Buy your dubious sexy pills. You are welcome in the pharmacy of my heart any time.

I went to four different pharmacies to find pills. Each time I entered, a lovely pharmacist would come over and ask if I needed help. "I'm after female Viagra," I would say, to varying degrees of embarrassment. One pharmacist fetched her manager and then told me to leave. Another frowned, and then coldly responded: "we don't stock that here," showing me to the door. When one finally pulled through, she insisted on wrapping my pills in discrete paper while smiling pitifully. The sexually liberated #girlboss in me withered.

Clinicians Women's Health Women's Intimacy Support

These are a "unique herbal sea buckthorn and rose oil blend, to support healthy libido and vaginal comfort for pleasurable sexual intimacy". They are "clinically researched", which tells you scientists looked at the pills very hard, before deciding they didn't actually do anything.

First off these pills were fucking huge, presumably to get you in the mood for retching on a monster schlong. You take two at a time, stretching out that pharynx and putting your gag reflex to the test. Their squishy red texture is akin to a post-BDSM chode. The packet strongly emphasises that you take them orally, assuming that I'll otherwise try to shove them up my coochie.

Almost immediately, a tingling sensation flooded my groin. I was pleasantly surprised that they had begun working so quickly, before realising that the feeling was something much more sinister. I ran to the bathroom and had extremely painful diarrhoea. There was blood from my anus. I sat on the toilet and wept.

I prescribed Clinicians Researched Based Women's Health Women's Intimacy Support to a flatmate for additional feedback. Her report was loud and clear. "I don't know that I necessarily feel any more horny than I usually am, but I am doing some pretty nasty shits, and my stomach kind of hurts. I haven't noticed a particularly moist vagina today. Just my poor asshole. I feel like I shat out my soul."

Online reviews were equally grim. "A waste of time," said Krissie, who gave the product one star. "Not for me!" wrote Jo. John held a different stance. "Bought this product for my wife who complained of a dry vagina. Since taking this product our sex life and our relationship has improved greatly. Happy wife happy life." John probably loves poo.

Horny rating: Hemorrhoids/10.
Guilt: 7/10.

Go Women Plus Horny Goat Weed.

The name "Horny Goat Weed" immediately captured my heart. It claimed to "enhance sexual energy, supporting a healthy libido, improving desire, stamina and energy in times of need". You take one pill daily. The ingredients also include deer velvet and oats — a feast in itself.

Horny Goat Weed did not make me shit myself, which was a plus. It didn't really do much of anything else either. This disheartened me. If any pill was to get me going, I wanted it to be Horny Goat Weed. To get things moving, I lit some Erotica incense from Yogiji's and thought about a willy. Nothing happened.

One pharmacist fetched her manager and then told me to leave. Another frowned, and then coldly responded: “we don’t stock that here,” showing me to the door.

It did violently kickstart my period two weeks early, ruining yet another pair of underwear, which perhaps was Horny Goat Weed’s way of telling me to get boinking and become pregnant already. I felt crampy and not up for much boinking at all.

Online reviews were again dire except for the one happy husband. “My lady had lost her tingle so I started her on Go Women Plus. Later she said her tingle had returned. For heavens sake. 50 shades of Grey also helped,” Roger wrote. Sadly, my tingle was still lost at sea, and I cannot buy Christian Grey in pill form at Life Pharmacy.

Horny rating: Paracetamol + an entire packet of Tim Tams/10.

Guilt: 10/10, because I am without child, and thought about willies

Buspirone

This is an anxiety medication which can include side effects such as heightened libido and, concerningly, bleeding from your skin. The former has led to buspirone being known as “female viagra”. It additionally gives you the sweet serotonin that we all crave.

The heightened libido first hit me when I was describing the medication to a nurse. “I’m taking bussy-prone,” I said accidentally, grinding the conversation to a halt. My subconscious mind was taking me to dark Freudian places. I did want bussy, I realised, and prone was only the beginning.

Were my desires due to the viagra-like side effect, or was it that my overall anxiety had reduced? It made no difference either way to my carnal desires. The downsides are that you have to take three pills three times a day, it takes four weeks to actually kick in, and it isn’t over-the-counter. Worth it for the long haul though.

Horny rating: 69/10.
Guilt: 1/10.

MDMA

You can find this special pill at any good Castle Street pharmacy. An academic paper that I read stated that desire and satisfaction were moderately-to-profoundly increased by MDMA in more than 90% of subjects. Also, orgasm was delayed but perceived as more intense (Zemishlany et al., 2001).

A Critic reporter who is definitely not me decided to replicate this experiment in the name of science. The

findings were in line with existing research: pingaz are shagacious, baby (Critic Te Arohi, 2021). Remember these lustful undertones next time you’re invited into a cuddle puddle at the weird hippy party you accidentally end up at.

Critic recommends having pre-existing clinical depression so that the comedown feels baseline. Get diagnosed at Student Health today!

Horny rating: Wrigleys/10.
Guilt: 100/10 (sorry mum).

Jesus

It was time to take the ultimate pill: religion. It was becoming evident that my issues ran deeper than anything Horny Goat Weed could remedy, so I decided to go straight to the source and talk to a priest.

I found a website called priestonline.org and sent an email to Brother Stephen. I begged him for advice in overcoming Catholic guilt in the name of a good shag. I emphasised that I was a girl in a relationship with another girl. He didn’t respond for a while, and I thought he might be dead. However, his latest tweet was thanking God for his Covid-19 vaccine so I held hope that he hadn’t gone to heaven yet.

Then my prayers were answered.

“I see the way you live your life in this relationship as personal to you and I would not judge you in any way,” Brother Stephen wrote. “You have to choose your own life, and if you are happy together, then I do not see this as a sin or wrong, but two people who love each other. Many people may say, ‘this is a sin,’ but I see this as two people who love each other and there is no sin. God wants us to be happy, He does not dictate our lives and condemn us for this love of one to another. There are no real sins in the way we treat our body, or who we love. The sin relates to how we treat other people, as given many times in the words of Jesus Christ. So, try to be at peace within your mind, and love people you meet daily, showing kindness, mercy, help, forgiveness and charity to all you meet; it is how you treat other people, these are the real sins in life.”

I genuinely sobbed. I am not kidding. A nice man told me that everything was okay, and it was exactly what I needed to help a life of therapy-deficient religious trauma. It was Viagra for my soul. From here on in, I will bone and think of Brother Stephen.

Amen.

Horny rating: Brother Stephen/10.
Guilt: Atoned.

WHICH ANTIDEPRESSANT ARE YOU?

By Sophia Carter Peters

1. What is your preferred method of escapism?

- a. Online shopping (1)
- b. Poetry (2)
- c. Constant activity (3)
- d. Substance abuse (4)
- e. Lighting incense and meditating on your flaws (5)

2. If you were to visualize yourself as a piece of furniture, the most accurate description would be:

- a. A dark leather office chair (1)
- b. A velvet loveseat (2)
- c. A smushed beanbag (3)
- d. An outside couch (4)
- e. A large, kind of uncomfortable, armchair (5)

3. Did you excel as a child?

- a. "Doesn't contribute to the discussion" (1)
- b. Teacher's pet (2)
- c. "Talks too much in class" (3)
- d. Still confused about long division (4)
- e. Home school uwu (5)

4. Which of the following Rainbow Magic Fairy names apply to you the most?

- a. Julia the Sleeping Fairy (1)
- b. Evelyn the Mermicorn Fairy (2)
- c. Sienna the Saturday Fairy (3)
- d. Fern the Green Fairy (4)
- e. Rihanna the Seahorse Fairy (5)

5. Where are you spending a Wednesday night?

- a. Either an early night, or no sleep (1)
- b. Long evening walks (2)
- c. Inventing an elaborate board game (3)
- d. Rewatching Bojack Horseman (4)
- e. Mid-week astral projection (5)

6. What Fruit Burst flavour would you be?

- a. Strawberry (1)
- b. Lemon-Lime (2)
- c. Wildberry (3)
- d. Banana (4)
- e. Orange (5)

7. Which feature are you the most attracted to in your preferred sex?

- a. Red flags (1)
- b. Pretension (2)
- c. Mullets (3)
- d. Supplies ; (4)
- e. Good energy (5)

8. How did you have the sex talk?

- a. "So ... it's time you learned..." (1)
- b. What sex talk? (2)
- c. School health class and Google (3)
- d. 'Experimenting' (4)
- e. You discovered 'Yoni Massages' on Youtube (5)

YOUR ANTIDEPRESSANT:

8-18: SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors)

Escitalopram, citalopram, fluoxetine, sertraline

Major depressive disorder and anxiety baby, you are the basic bitch of antidepressants. If you've got SSRIs, make sure you're surrounded by a good support system and have regular check ups. You don't wanna go off the escitalo-deep end.

Treat yourself to: A night with friends, alcohol-free beer, an oversized stuffed bear

19-22: Tricyclics

Amitriptyline, doxepin, amoxapine

Sylvia Plath, is that you? Your doctor may be stuck in the 1950s. Because of a number of unpleasant side effects, tricyclics are a pretty uncommon prescription nowadays. Avoid fig trees and avocado pears.

Treat yourself to: A daydreaming session, some compassion for yourself

23-26: SNRIs (Selective Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor)

Venlafaxine, Duloxetine

Do you constantly feel the need to evaluate every situation and can't feel comfortable if you don't know your environment? Anxiety? Panic? General terror? Overstimulation is your BFF

because activity keeps the thoughts away.

Treat yourself to: a morning bike ride, decaf coffee, a neck massage

27-32: Self Medication

Oui'd, alcohol, various pharmaceuticals

Sometimes when life gets you down, and you're finding it increasingly hard to trust doctors, you've got to turn to your own devices. Like a white man named Kyle in a 1998 brown Honda Civic. Unlike your parents, he always answers your texts, and sometimes he gives you a pity discount.

Treat yourself to: a goddamn vegetable, a functional sleep schedule, natural light

33-40: Crystal Healing

Yellow quartz, carnelian, citrine

Pull out the candles and the rocks bitch, it's emotional healing time. You claim to be a skeptic of Goop but secretly idolize Gwyneth Paltrow. Own up, and maybe stop impulse buying sparkly rocks, you magpie.

Treat yourself to: (no more rocks), iron tablets, a natural beeswax candle



KAVA

FROM ROOT TO RITUAL

BY SUSANA JONES

Kava, yaqona, 'ava, 'awa, malok, grog. My earliest memory of this sacred substance was when I was about ten years old, sitting cross-legged on the floor covered in woven mats in my childhood home. Family surrounded me while my uncle squeezed the brown out of the powdered root and into the water in the tanoa/kumete through a cheesecloth-like pocket of material, until every molecule of that good-good was swirling around in the water.

If you're a child of the moana, you'll get my vibes. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, let me tell you a bit about kava.

Kava is a plant of the Pacific, the root of which is most commonly dried out and pounded into a powder. This powder, when strained in water, produces a drink that is known to produce a sedative, relaxing feeling. I talked to my Fijian queen (my mum) and she said kava "releases stress, but it makes you super tired and lazy the next day".

I had a talanoa with Eric, everyone's favourite Fijian uncle over at the Pacific Islands Centre, about everything kava. "Kava is a root of a pepper plant. *Piper methysticum* is the scientific name. It's just like wine, the older it is the better. So we cut them after 3–4 years, dry them in the hot sun, pound them into a powdered form, then you mix it with water and drink it."

I remember taking plenty of sips of kava from the bilo (coconut cup) as a kid. It made my lips and mouth feel tingly and numb and made me feel super relaxed. It also made me feel like I was simultaneously everywhere and nowhere at once, very drifting-on-a-cloud vibes.

Mum told me a cautionary tale of drinking kava. "I had consumed so much in one night it took me a month to recover. I drank 15L of kava from 7pm to 2am the next day. It gave me massive headaches for a month."

Eric talked about kava back in Fiji. "In olden days, before Christianity came, these were the systems we had. We showed respect for one another through the use of kava. For example if we're having a funeral, people are coming to visit us and there are protocols. We mix kava to receive them. Because when they come, they come with mats and they come with money, and they come with food. So we acknowledge that, in front of the kava bowl, because that's the culture."

Eric touched on a key difference between Fijian kava and Tongan and Samoan kava. "Fijian kava is always different from others. Our kava is not loud, it's quiet. That quietness makes it so different. The Tongans and Samoans shout and clap, there's a lot of speaking, but for us, it's very quiet. Everyone knows who's drinking next. Everybody knows their connection."

Eric also talked about how he uses kava today in a New Zealand context "I use kava as a form of talanoa, to engage with the community and young people. I use it as a platform to talk. It's like a therapy session for me. There are some things you don't share with your partner, but people can come and share that in our kava circle."

"The kava plant represents the land, the people around the kava bowl represent the community, and the tanoa and the kava itself represents the tradition and the culture, which keeps us as Fijians," Eric said.

"Kava gives us a reason to gather," said a Tongan student. Kava is similar to food in this way. Kava acts as a catalyst for connection in Tongan culture.

A friend's aunty talked about the importance of 'ava in Fa'asamoa, the ways of Samoa. "Ava is so important in ceremonies because it is the highest form of respect. A Samoan

traditional welcome to distinguished guests and dignitaries is also a form of worship to acknowledge all the ancestral gods, now replaced by Christianity. Hence why we say lau 'ava lea le Atua'. (Lau 'ava lea le Atua loosely translates to 'this is your 'ava le Atua' in English, with Atua referencing gods and spirits).

Aunty also commented on the meaning of the word 'ava. "Ava was referred to as 'aano a tamalii,' usually what the chiefs do when they come together for meetings — drinking 'Ava and talanoa." Aunty highlighted its importance: "ava is so central in Fa'asamoa and any special gatherings of Samoans."

Nowadays, kava is consumed in a range of different contexts. My aunts and uncles back in Fiji regularly drink kava in the evenings, much like how parents here in New Zealand might unwind at the end of the night with a glass of wine or beer. It's chill as.

"Kava can be used for celebration, birthdays, welcomes, acknowledgements, and we also use it for reconciliation" said Eric. Mum said that "these days most people use it more for fun, like my pa in Fiji, he consumes it almost every day with friends gathering and a little chitchat. They call it smack juice just for the fun of it."

The best chasers for kava, as recommended by mum, include bongos (which are similar to cheezels), peanut ruffs, which are a peanut flavoured snack (don't knock it until you've tried it), preserved mango skins, chuppa chups, plain potato crisps, very spicy chicken, and a 12 hour sleep. "Sometimes you suck on lollipops after each bilo consumed so you don't have to feel the numbness in your tongue," she said.

Mum had one last thing to say about kava and, to be honest, this applies to life in general. "You shouldn't have too much of a good thing, especially when it has side effects."

Photo of Susana (bottom left), her cousin, brother and sister drinking kava, 2011).



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HOW TO GROW WEED IN YOUR FLAT

BY HAROLD THE GIRAFFE

Kia ora kids! Harold the Giraffe here. Auntie Jacindy might have banned the ol' wacky baccy despite disproportionately racist levels of cannabis-related incarceration in Aotearoa, but don't despair. DIY is in our DNA! Anyone can grow the devil's lettuce in their flat with a bit of magic and imagination. Come into my van, children, and let's go on an educational adventure together.



GET SOME SEEDS

Talk to some strangers on Castle Street, or your friend's weird hippy mum, to acquire some seeds. Harold the Giraffe also endorses the Dark Web.

Good cannabis seeds are brown, black or grey, with even darker stripes or spots. Green or white seeds are immature and unlikely to grow. Look out for a thin, waxy coating and no cracks. They should also have a solid hard shell. If it crushes easily in your fingers, the seed might be dead.

SET UP

You can grow cannabis anywhere! Attics, spare bedrooms, closet, or the Life Education van. You can even go full Scarfies (1999) if you have a basement. Make sure the space has a good power supply or natural light.

White walls are best for reflecting light. You can also cover walls in aluminium foil (use the dull side), which has the added bonus of deterring alien mind reading.



SOW YOUR SEED

A little bit of potting mix and some love can go a long way. Get some nice soil from Te Warehouse or Mitre 10. The pH should be between 6.5 and 7.5, as high acidity encourages the plants to become male, and male plants don't produce as much THC.

Soak your seeds in distilled water overnight before planting. This softens them and helps them to germinate. Avoid harsh chlorinated DCC water.

Plant the seeds around a knuckle deep with the pointy end up. It's best to germinate them in a small pot at first, ideally in a decomposable indoor starter box like New World's Little Gardens. Keep them nice and warm. When they grow bigger, transplant them to a pot around ten litres large so that the roots don't cramp. Be very gentle or you'll damage the seedlings. Make sure the pot has a drainage hole so that the roots don't rot.

Use plant food every three-four weeks to keep the soil full of nutrients. Be wary of fertilizer, as it can burn the roots.

LIGHT

The more light your plants get, the faster they'll grow. They need a minimum of 8-12 hours of light a day. Ōtepoti is awfully gloomy, so you'll want to buy some specialised grow lights.

Fluorescent bulbs are the cheapest to buy and run, as well as providing a healthy spectrum of light for your saplings. They aren't very powerful, however, and won't support a fully mature plant. LED lights are better but have the downside of making you look like a gamer. HID (High Intensity Discharge) lights are the industry standard if you feel like splashing out.

Get a timer and keep the light constant or you'll stress the plants. Harold's friends at Erowid state that if your plants receive 12 hours of light per day, they will probably mature in 2 to 2.5 months. If they get 16 hours of light per day they will probably be blooming in 3.5 to 4 months. With 18 hours of light per day, they will flower in 4.5 to 5 months. In saying that, older plants tend to produce better quality jazz cabbage, so kick back and relax for a bit.





VENTILATION

This one's important. You want to gaslight your plants into thinking they're outdoors, so replicate a cool breeze with a fan. High powered exhaust fans prevent your laboratory from becoming too humid and also encourage a fresh flow of carbon dioxide, which your plant babies will need as they photosynthesise. It also stops your house from becoming too smelly when the landlord comes over.

TEMPERATURE

Your secret weed lab will be the cosiest place in your flat. 20-25 degrees Celsius is the ideal temperature for light hours, 14-21 degrees for when the light is off. Hooray for Hour of Power!



WATER

Stick your finger in the soil. If your finger comes out wet, leave it alone. If your finger is dry, your plants probably need watering. Give them enough so that the soil is moist evenly through. Avoid overwatering, as the doobage is very prone to fungal diseases.

Avoid harsh chemical-ridden water. Pamper your plant by buying the spring water from the supermarket or using the Speights tap.



HARVESTING

How do you know if it's harvesting time? Look out for these three things: The leaves are turning curly and yellow.

-The buds are plump and not growing anymore, and the branches are beginning to sag.

-Use a magnifying glass to inspect the trichomes, those sparkly, sticky crystals bedazzling your plant. When they have changed from clear to a cloudy colour, it's harvest time.

Trimming and curing your goffy boots its own process with a range of methods. Unfortunately, it's time for Harold's smoko, so for more information turn to your de facto parents: the internet.

Today's lesson was a lot, but don't stress too much. Cannabis is a plant. Light, carbon dioxide, warmth and water are the essentials for growing big and strong. See you next time for our class on extracting poppy seeds into black tar heroin. Ka kite!



SHIFT HAPPENS

Join the movement,
give the bus a go!



CONNECTING
dunedin

TRIAL BY ZENTECH

A STORY OF BLOOD, PISS AND PROSTATE

This is a true story. It has been edited for clarity, but all of the content you're about to read came straight from the mouth of an anonymous student using the pseudonym "Dusty".

The drug I tested in 2018 was a prostate anti-inflammatory. Possible side effects included long-lasting, painful erections and retroactive ejaculations. Off to a great start.

Signing up for a Zentech study is exciting. The promise of a big pay-out, free food and a weekend to catch up on Uni work was all very enticing. I didn't spend a second on uni. I was in there with a mate, and we spent the entire time playing Battlefield. It was kinda like a preview of quarantine, or a bit like palliative care.

If you want to do it, the first thing they'll ask you to do is to come in for an info session. The doctor comes in and asks you a bunch of standard questions like are you on meds, do you have HIV. All that shit.

You've got to answer "no" to everything and then you can fuck off for a few days. Then they start taking your blood. For a few days before your weekend-long drug trial begins they make you come in for blood tests. Every single morning. I actually fainted at one of those, because I'm really afraid of needles. Woke up with my feet in the air and the room spinning. By the end of my time at Zentech, I could watch the blood come out without breaking a sweat.

They take blood often enough that we just kept

a butterfly needle in the whole time we were in the experiment. You can opt to get all your blood from the blood tests back and I thought it would be hilarious to get all my blood back in a bag and sling it at a mate's front door.

Anyway, the night before the weekend starts, I fucked up. I knew I'd have to pass a drug test on the way in, and I had been clean for months, but got trolleyed the night before and ended up smoking a doobie. Sure enough, I wake up the next day and panic, because now I need clean urine.

I kid you not when I say I asked every single one of my friends for their piss, and literally not a single one of them was clean. I had no other choice but to turn to my last resort.

I rolled over in bed and turned to my last resort. She was a pretty French-Canadian girl who I'd slept with that night. I had to ask her for her piss. She obliged, went to the bathroom with a glass jar, and returned it to me full of passable urine. Big shoutout to you, Sheila.

I hucked on a big ol' ski jacket, tucked the jar full of piss inside, and went to the trial. Sure enough, they ask me for some urine, and let me go into the bathroom with the jacket on. I poured the urine into the cup with a sense of dread, because

I KNEW I'D HAVE TO PASS A DRUG TEST ON THE WAY IN, AND I HAD BEEN CLEAN FOR MONTHS, BUT GOT TROLLEYED THE NIGHT BEFORE AND ENDED UP SMOKING A DOOBIE.

surely they'd notice that it was stone cold. They didn't.

I was worried they would come back and tell me "hey, good news is you're clean, but bad news is you're pregnant, which is concerning because you're a male." But again, they didn't. I was good to go.

Friday evening, after you turn up to the Zentech building, they put you in a taxi to the ASB building. They breathalyse you on the way in, and every step of the way after that. I passed.

You're housed in this big open room with beds along the outside and medical equipment on the inside. They take regular blood tests, every four hours. They wake you up at midnight, four AM and eight AM. You're there from Friday night to Sunday morning.

And that was basically me for two weekends. Everyone is fed exactly the same meal at exactly the same time. We got a roast pork with gravy and dessert, and you can pound as much dessert as possible.

I've spent a lot of time since thinking about the fact that it's a primo place to put in the groundwork for getting laid, and know I missed a shot at this stinking hot ginger girl I was in with. Busty little redhead. Shame.

One of the girls said she had a migraine on the first night. They kicked her out immediately, but gave her full remuneration. I wouldn't say to

anyone "go in there and fake a migraine and you still get paid". But she did that. And she left really early.

They compensate you based on how dangerous the drug was and how long you were in for. I was in for two weekends, and all up I made about \$1,300. \$1,100 after tax. The money pretty much just went straight to rent, booze, and ciggies. Maybe I bought a season pass out of that money. I can't be sure.

There are some people in there who go in to Zentech studies instead of working; it's like an income for them. They're real gaunt looking, sunken eyes and scraggly hair. Basically what you'd expect the personification of a scientific guinea pig to look like. Which I guess they were.

If you wanna do a clinical trial, cool. You're a poor student and it's good money. It costs you two weekends, but people drink Monday-Friday anyway, so there's time to make up for it. Also pay attention to the side effects. Really research what drugs they're using at what stage they're at in the trial. Ours was about to enter the market, so it was pretty safe.

And that's about it. I checked out and returned to the froth. Haven't been back since.

I did get my prostate checked this year, just to see what was going on. It was so small that the doctor had to use three fingers to find it. Guess the anti-inflammatory worked.

Different Methods of Consuming Drugs:

The Pros & Cons

By Runze Liu

FOR YOUR REFERENCE — USE WHEN NEEDED

Warning: Drugs can cause harm. This guide does not substitute medical advice. If you think you or someone is in danger from drugs, call 111.

Whether you're just lighting up a joint with your flatmate or you're in an R-rated comedy trilogy about a bachelor's party gone wrong and you're about to rail some lines of coke, there are a lot of decisions to make before you take your drug of choice. One of the questions is where in your body you're going to be putting that drug, and in what form. From mainlining to free-basing, here's a scientific run down on ways to take drugs and their pros and cons.

RAILING

Railing, or snorting through your nose, is the method of choice for many breathers doing MDMA. The nasal cavity has a big surface area for absorbing, a rich blood supply to carry it around and is close to the brain for quick effect.

Now before you take out your student IDs, gear takes longer to hit as it needs to first enter the liver and convert into its active, jaw-destroying form. This route can irritate and cause permanent damage to the nasal cavity. Drag yourself over to student health if you have nosebleeds, pain, loss of smell or cocaine nose (Google at your own risk).

SWALLOWING

Almost anything can be gobbled on – from caps to shrooms to special brownies to absinthe. Acid is commonly absorbed within the mouth, as it's rich in blood supply and quickly absorbs to change the world, or at least your perception of it.

A full stomach also helps some drugs absorb better and reduce tummy pains. On an empty stomach, most drugs, including gear and ketamine, are absorbed much more quickly. The downside is that their effects will last longer and they hit you harder as well, potentially leading to premature fuckouts and making you much more likely to suffer the negative side effects of whatever you're taking.

Call Healthline however if you have black or bloody stools, if your vomit is bloody or coffee coloured, or you feel bad pain.

INHALING

The method of choice for bong, vapes, and those cream chargers from Shosha that you are "definitely using for baking". Your lungs are rich in blood supply with a large surface area for oxygen to enter very quickly. Inhaling drugs hijacks this. Nangs, cones and nicotine are quickly absorbed into the blood and into action.

Inhaling drugs can cause damage to your airways and lungs, and may make you cough them up and be unable to breathe. Airway obstruction and choking can also occur with powders, so try to dabble with only gasses, like vapor and smoke, rather than mystery crystals. There's also lung cancer to worry about.

SHELVING

Shelving, boofing, or sticking-it-up-your-butt has been an unsavoury staple of parties for quite some time. Gelatine capsules are designed to melt at body temperature, so don't worry about the condom trick. Make sure to insert it as far as possible, and it should melt within a few minutes.

MDMA should take effect in about 30 minutes to an hour, but can also take longer as the crystals need to 'spread' evenly and dissolve to absorb (this isn't an issue with butt chugs, as they work like an enema). Even then, the rectum won't absorb as well as the stomach and small intestines. Be cautious of irritation, pain and bleeding. Even though it's rare, it would warrant a GP trip.

INJECTING

You can pick up clean needles from at DIVO, or from any pharmacy for a few dollars. The perks are that the drugs will act very quickly as they enter straight into your organs through your bloodstream. It also ensures all the drug injected enters your body (but gear still needs to go through the liver).

The perks end here. This method is a curse in disguise. Your body can't say "not tonight" to anything entering your body. This will make it much easier to overdose, as all the drug is absorbed, unlike with other methods. Take my word, you have more than enough drugs to get munted at 2.27 am without touching a needle.

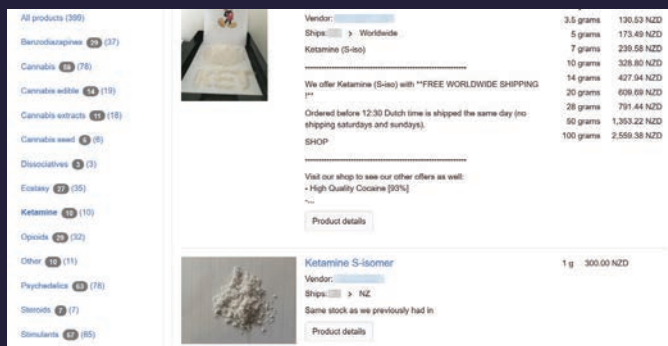
Injecting drugs can cause vein irritation, muscle and tissue liquefaction, sepsis and gas gangrene (do not Google those). Not recommended.

FANTASTIC DRUGS

and Where to Find Them

By Elliot Weir

The Dark Web



The Deep Web, whilst sounding like a 2005 sci-fi hacker fantasy realm, actually just refers to anything on the internet that won't directly show up when you search on a search engine like Google. This includes anything from your email homepage, to your Netflix homepage, to your TOUR269 facebook group. The Dark Web, on the other hand, is slightly more akin to your 2005 sci-fi hacker fantasies, although still leaves much to the imagination. The Dark Web, a small part of the Deep Web, is made up of networks that require a special software, configuration, and key to access. Investigative journalists often use the Dark Web for secure interactions with anonymous whistleblowers and activists in repressive regimes. Not me. I was looking for a source of a different kind.

I installed TOR and visited a well-known website that indexes links to less-than-legal marketplaces. After going to one that specifically shipped to New Zealand, I found myself on what looked like TradeMe's crackhead cousin. Various vendors were selling everything from pot brownies to benzos to cocaine. I could buy 50 grams of pure ketamine or tabs of LSD with Adventure Time characters on them. It was a heady experience. Everything is done through bitcoin, and every seller has reviews, so you can see who the dodgiest source is. There's even a leaderboard of top sellers. Unsurprisingly, there isn't much MDMA being sold within New Zealand currently, but there are a lot of cathinones on offer. The international markets are crazy cheap (except for shipping), although you risk your drugs getting seized by customs before they arrive at your door.

The Dark Web is the Pak'nSave of buying drugs. It's a bit more effort than some of the other methods, so you'd only do it if you were buying bulk, but the value for money is top tier.

Discord

Discord, a communication app designed for gamers, may also be the home to your friendly local drug dealing community. Discord groups are exclusive, you have to be invited in, but the conversations are an interactive affair. It is mostly dealers discussing everything drug-related, from which strains of weed are being grown at the moment to who has ripped off who. A drug deal on Discord will involve an old-school meet-up in a park or from a car.

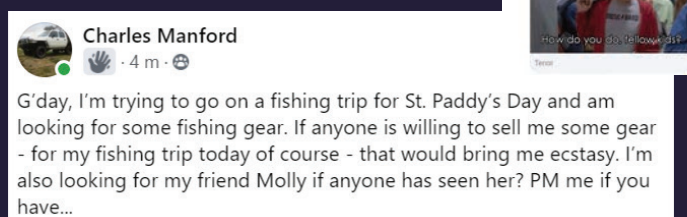
Discord is the neighbourhood market of buying drugs. It's more personal and closer-to-home.

Snapchat

Snapchat can be an easy way to buy drugs, usually weed, from specific dealers. They'll post pics of their goods on their snapchat stories and you can hit them up for a pickup or delivery. You feel a bit like you're messaging an influencer, and some of them are notoriously unreliable, but when you're out of other options, Snapchat plugs can be a good bet.

Snapchat is the Sexy Garfield of buying drugs.

Otago Flattening Goods



I wasn't about to try and buy drugs with my personal Facebook account, so it was time to create a fake account. So Charles Manford was birthed into cyberspace. He had a ute as his profile picture and a bowl of baba ganoush as his cover photo. If there are three things Charles loves in this world, it is his ute, a good bowl of baba ganoush, and MDMA.

After setting up his profile and making a few friends, he requested to join Otago Flattening Goods, as well as as many other local Dunedin facebook groups as possible, and waited. Alas, Otago Flattening Goods never accepted Charles Manford. Maybe they saw through the elaborately crafted persona. Maybe they hated Baba Ganoush. We'll never know, but Charles Manford had to push on. He had drugs to buy.

Most local community groups I found had explicit rules against buying or selling drugs of any kind so I had to go full high-schooler and use thinly veiled code in my post. It racked up a solid 17 reacts and five comments on Dunedin News in the 15 minutes it stayed before the tyrants that run the group deleted it.

Door Knocking

Only for the most desperate of fiends. To test this one out I went down Castle Street, knocked on some unfortunate residents' doors, and asked if they knew where I could buy drugs. I didn't just say drugs, because if there's anything more dodgy than someone knocking on your door asking for drugs, it's someone who doesn't care what kind of drugs they are. I mixed it up between asking for alcohol, weed, pingers, ketamine, and a few other spicy ones (meth, coke, research chemicals, salvia, GHB, and barbiturates).

On a list of the most humiliating experiences a person can put themselves through, I would rank it in the top three. Reactions ranged from laughter to door-slammings, and every attempt was unsuccessful. One kind resident did give me a weed Snapchat account, and I didn't have the heart to tell him that it was the same one I used three paragraphs ago. At least he tried.

FREE ADMISSION • WWW.DUNEDIN.ART.MUSEUM

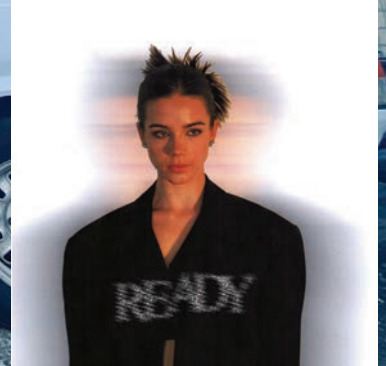


MARGARET DAWSON *Kaa. Nestor notabilis* 1990. (detail) C type print mounted and laminated on hessian. Collection of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.



LOCAL PRODUCE
By Fox Meyer

Judah Kelly



Dunedin-raised Judah Kelley believes that building your own power and voice is important, and that music is a way to share that message with anyone who wants to listen. "It's a better message to send than just another sad song," she said. She continues to be a local crowd-pleaser, and has just released her debut single 'READY' on Spotify.

During lockdown, Judah put on two charity gigs online, and has played at two of Dunedin's SOFAR shows. You might have heard her at Beerfest, or playing in Queenstown for New Years. She gathers a good crowd, but lately her biggest fan has actually been an algorithm.

A website called Every Sound at Once guesses the most popular local artists on a uni campus, and Judah tops the charts at Otago. Being at the top of the list was "reassuring, [it's nice] to see that people actually are listening," said Judah when we told her about the website. "You never really know how a song's gonna go."

A lot of Judah's songs are about the darker side of love and relationships. "It's a statement, pulling yourself above somebody else's weight that's held you down and setting the bar for what you allow into your life," she explained, and "sending an FU to the people who think they can just take what they want."

In her early days, Judah Kelley was sometimes confused with Australian-born Judah Kelly of Tennessee Whiskey. A few folks came up to Kelley after her first gig at Dog With Two Tails and said that they'd expected the X-Factor star but "were very happy with what we got."

Critic was also very happy with what we got. Judah's new single is dreamy, starts off slowly, but quickly becomes a swooning banger of a reflection on your relationship with yourself. It can be listened to critically, or just jammed to if you don't want to confront the realities of your self-worth. There's definitely a time and mood for that.

The first line in the song is "why do you keep on calling my name", which Judah said "kinda stems from when it's late at night and someone sends you a message that you're no longer connected to and you're like 'come on'."

"At the moment", said Judah, "there's a big push to normalize saying 'no' and to normalize giving consent". She's also known for a song called "Not for You", which stems from similar values and is equally a banger, though of a slightly different vibe.

"It's empowerment-focused," she described. "A little bit sassy, a lot of strength, with a hint of turmoil. An experience of growth and coming into an understanding of what you deserve."

She said that the song was a positive one, despite the fact that it related to negative experiences in her life. She described getting into a taxi "and the driver turns around and looks you up and down and you're automatically uncomfortable."

You can find Judah Kelley on Spotify, Facebook @helloitsjudah, or at gigs around town.

HOROSCOPES



Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

Flo and O are over, you should probably stop partying now and open a goddamn book. Your lecturers and liver will thank you for it.

Your high: Codeine.



Leo

July 23 – Aug 22

Pisces season has probably bought you a few failed romances. Maybe it was your tremendous ego or God complex that drove them away. It's time for you to hit the clubs and find a new flame, baby!

Your high: Having a raging superiority complex.



Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

Make sure you soak up the last week of your season baby. Get all the bullshit crying and simping out while you can.

Your high: Your vibrator.



Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

It's time to stop stressing over those non existent assignments. Stop putting so much pressure on yourself, have a glass of wine and a bath. You deserve it my sweet sweet virgos.

Your high: A crisp bottle of Pinot Gris.



Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

The next week will be super hot and heavy for you. Do with that information what you will, you saucy minx.

Your high: Being the centre of attention.



Libra

Sept 23 – Oct 22

It's about time to chuck a wank in the bank and get over yourself. Put that indecisive scatter brain to rest, no one needs to keep hearing about your issues.

Your High: Xanax.



Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

There's a reason everyone loves you. Keep being the laid back legend you always are. Your friends and flatties will appreciate it, you also deserve a nap.

Your high: The humble but effective weed brownie.



Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

There's a difference between being a bad bitch and wanting to fight everyone. You probably need to see a therapist. The Gemini Mars has you feeling some kind of way.

Your high: Finding a healthy coping mechanism.



Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

New flat for 2021? New you! It's time to unleash your other personality and let everyone know who you truly are on the inside.

Your high: Mixed cocktail, just like you.



Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

If you feel the need to blast some Avril Lavigne and get your feelings out, it's probably time to do so. Remember to check in and take care of yourselves my sweets, life's rough.

Your high: Therapy.



Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

Ever heard of a chill pill? You should probably take one, or maybe twelve.

Your High: Meditation.



Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Excessive cleaning and sucking up to lecturers won't make your shit personality go away. Stop complaining about everything and learn to have some fun, Jesus.

Your high: A tasteless low-carb beer, pussy.

The Critical Tribune

Optimistic Student Clicks 'Going' To Hyde Street Before Ticket Release

Displaying optimism that borders on audacity, Jessica shocked her friends and the broader Dunedin community by clicking 'Going' to the Hyde Street Facebook event on the Tuesday that the party was announced.

"Unbelievable. It's just rude," said another hopeful partygoer. "You don't have tickets yet. You're not a Hyde Street resident. You're not going, you're interested."

"Who does she think she is?" wondered her friend Emma. "I don't even want to be in a group of six with Jessica anymore. She's jinxed her chances of getting a ticket."

Jessica said she "doesn't care" whether she gets a ticket or not. "I am going to Hyde," she said. "Even if it kills me. I will jump a fence, I will swim through the Leith, I will push over freshers." Jessica was last seen frantically refreshing the page for tickets and asking her friends if they could get her some gear in time for the street party, which is two weeks away.

Infant Reincarnated From Dead Breatha, Charged for His Student Loan

A Dunedin baby, the world's first scientifically confirmed reincarnation, has been sent a bill from StudyLink requesting repayment of her past self's \$70,000 student loan.

In a development that rocked the scientific community, the Otago Medical School confirmed that Katie Liu, born in Dunedin Hospital on March 11, was in fact the reincarnation of Jock Hunter, a breatha who drank himself to death following abuse from the Dunedin News Facebook page. He left behind his grieving parents, two older brothers and a StudyLink student loan of \$69,103.

"We were saddened by Jock's unpaid student loan— I mean, his tragic death", said StudyLink CEO Max Loughman. "But when we heard that he had been reincarnated, we had to immediately spring into action, and we sent Katie her letter the very next day."

He refuted claims of being "heartless," noting StudyLink had placed the bill inside their baby shower gift, a copy of "The Hungry Hungry Caterpillar." They also generously offered to deduct loan repayments directly from Katie's pocket money, paper run pay, and lemonade stand revenue.

At press time, StudyLink was announcing that dead students who were reincarnated as animals would be milked, skinned, slaughtered or sold as pets.



GO GO THE HIGHLANDERS

RUGBY SUPPORTERS SONG

We are The Highlanders
GO GO The Highlanders
We are The Highlanders
GO GO The Highlanders
THE HIGHLANDERS
THE HIGHLANDERS

DIRECT DOWNLOAD: \$1
ritchiepetersen.bandcamp.com

AVAILABLE ON CD: \$5
ritchiepetersenmusic.com

*This is not the official song of The Highlanders

UNOFFICIAL CHARITY SONG
FOR THE SPONSORSHIP OF:
Otago, North Otago &
Southland Rugby Unions
club & school rugby



RATE

OR

BY SASHA FREEMAN



HATE?

Codeine. Have become very familiar with this bad boy this week and I cannot sing its praises loud enough. All you need is a cheeky broken shoulder and you'll get the prescription in your hot little hands faster than you can say "get off me I think I have broken my shoulder".

Coke. I can't wait to be high flying enough that a cocaine dependency is considered classy. Catch me in 10 years doing lines in a pantsuit.

Weed. All I will say is it was recently St Paddies day, so green is more than encouraged x

Acid. Can't say I've personally done it. But one time I had a dream that I was underwater and there were all these shapes and ink spots. I feel like it might be like that, in which case I rate it.

Ketamine. Some of the finest racehorses in history were avid fans. Who am I to say I know better?

Alcohol. Sorry but it's NOT that cool and if I never have to go to ED with an alcohol related injury again it'll be too soon.

Crack. Probs wouldn't do it, but it would be cool to hang out in a crack den. The mattress on floor vibes would make me feel like I was in a breather's room (except there would be a bit more crack).

Gear. Dentists hate her for a reason x

Roofies. Seriously NOT cool!!! Guard your drinks party people, but also fuck people who roofie for being the reason we need to guard our drinks.

Look I can't think of another drug I hate because really they should all be decriminalised. Be safe kings.

O

31st March | 9pm - 12am

HALL★PASS

Boogie Nights



@Starters Bar

Facebook.com/startersbardunedin/



ousa



NEW DATE

ORIENTASTER
THE UPBEATS FT TALI
ALIX PEREZ

SHORTBALL B2B LUCY

Friday
23rd April
Union Hall
9pm-1am

orientaster.eventbrite.co.nz

PARTY WITH
YOUR PALS

The edge91.8
OTAGO

LES MILLS

ousa



FUCK! I CAN'T COOK

BY ALICE TAYLOR
@ALICEOLIVIAEATS

Apple Crumble

The bank account is looking marginal. The novelty of university has been corrupted with the arrival of assignment due dates. Washing is piling up, and you accidentally put a black sock in your whites and turned everything a dull shade of grey. It's that time of university, my friends, where we all get a little homesick.

In these times, comfort food is key. This recipe for apple crumble is super easy, fool proof, and can be adapted to use whatever fruit you like. Nothing reminds me more of home and comfort than a bowl of pudding. This recipe is like a warm hug.

INGREDIENTS SERVES 4-6

For the apples:

6 granny smith apples (you can use a similar quantity of whatever fruit you want however – peaches, apricots, plums, berries etc would all work!)

1 1/2 Tbsp sugar

1/2 tsp cinnamon

For the crumble:

100g unsalted butter, cold and cut into cubes

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup white sugar

1 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp mixed spice

1 cup oats

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 160 fanbake. Grease an ovenproof dish with butter.
2. Peel and core the apples, then chop into medium sized cubes, around 1.5cm. Toss apples in brown sugar and cinnamon and pour into the greased dish.
3. In a food processor, combine butter, flour, sugar, cinnamon and mixed spice until the mixture resembles a crumbly texture. You should be able to squish the crumble together like a cookie dough. Transfer to a bowl.
4. Stir in sugar and oats until evenly distributed. I also like to use my fingers to lightly 'pinch' the crumble into larger pieces.
5. Pour the crumble mixture over the apples, gently distributing it evenly with your hands or a spoon. Bake for around an hour, until the crumble is golden, the apples are soft, and there is no resistance when a skewer is inserted into the middle of the dish. The time will depend on your oven however as well as the fruit you use, so keep checking and cook for longer or less if need be. Allow to sit for five minutes before serving.
6. Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

BEST COMFORT BAKING IN DUNEDIN:

The Tart Tin: 4.5/5

I have long been a customer of the Tart Tin, since its days on the market. Now they have a shop that opens Friday and Wednesday mornings, and I must say, there baking is unbeatable. Their donuts and eclairs are perfection, and though I do enjoy their layer cakes they can be a little on the sweet side for me at times. If you do visit on a day where they are selling their custard eclairs, I beg you to eat one.

WORTHY CONTENDERS:

Friday Bakery: 4/5:

The only thing wrong with this is that you have to wake up early Friday morning. The rest is flawless. Their apricot tart is deliciously sticky, balanced and wonderful served warm with vanilla ice cream.

Buster Greens: 4/5:

To me nothing is more comforting than a slice made by mum or dad. Though these certainly are a little fancier than the ones I'm used to, they are the perfect pick me up for when I am feeling homesick.



BOOZE REVIEWS: Weed Tea

By Earl Green

Your path to enlightenment begins with a weed oil. To make it, you need three ounces to a cup of coconut oil. The secret ingredient, which you can get from a health food store, is a teaspoon of sunflower lanolin. The lanolin helps the fats in the oil bind to your stomach, because THC can upset your stomach. Do all the usual: decarb the weed, mix it with oil, strain it, let it harden. Save it for a rainy day or a sunny day or whatever kind of day.

Then put it in your tea. Put it in anything. Put it in your coffee. Put it in your garlic bread. It doesn't matter. But it tastes really good in a cuppa English breakfast, because the weed gives it a nice earthy flavor. You can really taste the weed in an English breakfast, which I quite like.

My first experience with weed tea was every Tuesday and Thursday in year 13. My buddy would rock up to chemistry with a thermos full of weed tea. We'd split it, while talking about splitting the atom, and leave the course floating on some sort of chemical cloud. I did pretty well in chemistry, which was definitely due to the weed.

It feels like every cell in your body is vibrating, but also vibing. I felt particularly fizzy. Smoking is cloudy, like a fog that rolls in over your frontal lobe. Drinking weed is like when an airplane takes off and you get pressed into your seat. It's comforting, like a weighted blanket. It's also somehow much more dignified than smoking. Even though it's

stronger and lasts longer, it feels bougier and less like an addiction.

You get mentally stoned, but the body high blends with that and makes a more holistic experience. There's a reason than all the wise men and shaman (and shawoman) of yore were sipping tea.

I could easily smoke some joints and go for a walk, but after drinking tea, if I went into town or tried to do something normal, I would need to stop and lie down on a park bench. You feel like your body is emitting a frequency that everybody can detect.

Weed tea is a knockout punch. It feels really good to be horizontal. To stretch your body, to feel the grass. And by "feel the grass", I really mean 'feel the grass'.

Tasting notes: Becoming a 5G tower, enlightenment, radiation

Froth level: Mr Krabs is definitely feeling it

Pairs well with: Chemistry class, drifting through time and space

Taste rating: 8.5/10. It's good, but it's not for everyone. Better than smoking for sure.

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Dear Critic...

I got 99 problems and this is definitely one

Dear Critic,

My friend had a bad experience with weed on her first or second go and now won't try it again. Our friend group is always smoking and I want to include her but she refuses to try again. But her bad experience was like three years ago so surely she can give it another shot?

Cheers

Simon

Got a problem? Email critic@critic.co.nz.
Submissions will remain completely anonymous.

Hi Simon,

Y'know, originally, I wrote a long response about how you can't push people on these kinds of things and how a good headspace is necessary for any drug experience, and while that's still true, I've got another solution.

Put a tab in her coffee. Send her on a journey. When she's done, she'll either be back in the sesh or out of the friend group. Either way, problem solved.

You gotta blow that "bad weed trip" from three years ago out of the water, and a re-introduction to weed just isn't a big enough shock. You gotta bring out the big guns. After a hit like that, she'll be able to take anything, right?

This can't possibly backfire. Report back to me on how it goes. If she drops her place in the circle, I'll rise to fill it.

Have a nice trip,

Anita Hardcoque

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MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

The Horn to My Hornette

It was just after lockdown. Me and my best mate hit Starters the night of our touch downs back in the capital of the South Island. We were chomping at the bit to meet some sexy sirs.

I looked up to the Starters DJ to see that he was (to be frank) fucking PEAK breather sexiness, exactly my type. Star struck by this unbelievably pussy throbbing breather, I was in awe for the rest of the evening.

The next day a sexy dud breather caught my attention on my phone screen: let's call him Jono. A couple days pass then i receive a tinder message from Jono saying "fancy breathers?" to which I obviously reply "fuck yes my guy". The next question he asks tho is when it gets juicy.

He asks me "were you at Starters last Thursday?" I immediately think 'what the fucking stalker'. However since he has pretty privilege I answer "yes why?" Jono then says "I was performing I saw you".

JAW DROP. IS THIS REALLY THE MAN HIMSELF???
PUSSY THROBBER 2000???

It was.

So as it is only fair to meet the cunt, I see him at a bar the following night. Flirting and talking ensues and I end up going to his after about 30 mins of us hanging out.

And then, fifty shades of mother fucking grey wild intense sex. Christian Gray and Anastasia Steele role play is only way a bitch can describe it. Unbelievable pussy throbbing sex. Railed, slapped, hair pulled, all of the above. A new world. I came in about ten minutes DURING the slams.

I felt like I was in a fucking watt pad fan fiction as he put his fingers in my mouth and asked me to SPIT on them. I fucking know what the fuck I'm getting horny writing this FOSHO. The grand finale was him cumming all over my stomach and tits and my god, I had never felt better.

After sex cuddles make an appearance and I was vibing out team, in my element. The next morning we wake up early so he can go to work and he says he's gonna go get some breakfast so I get changed in to my slutty starters fit.

He comes back into his room smoking a dart at 7am as his breakfast, I get into his car with baggies all over the floor and DNB blaring through the speakers and he drops me off with a kiss as a send off.

We fuck for a couple more weeks and then a few months later I find out he has a 70 PERSON BODY COUNT AND CHLAMYDIA.

Glad I got out of there but also thank you Jono for the best sex of my life.

SNAP OF THE WEEK



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SNAP OF THE WEEK

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Sorry for what I am



Perfectly balanced, as all things should be



Congratulations to whoever isn't pregnant!

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Bold of OUSA to assume I'm getting any



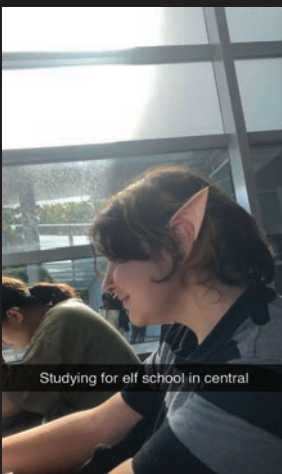
Fucking fuming

It's the disrespect for me

MEI WAH

Chips: 5/10
Fish: 5/10
Vibe: Cliché

Mei wah is superior sorry your little mouth
can't chew through a chip



Studying for elf school in central



Honey we've got guests, bring out the fine
china



Charcuterie: the student version



Didn't see a single moa. Worst tour ever



So many beautiful flowers in the botans 🌸



Gained: Friendship



What an
ugly,
concrete,
meritless
misTAKe
OF
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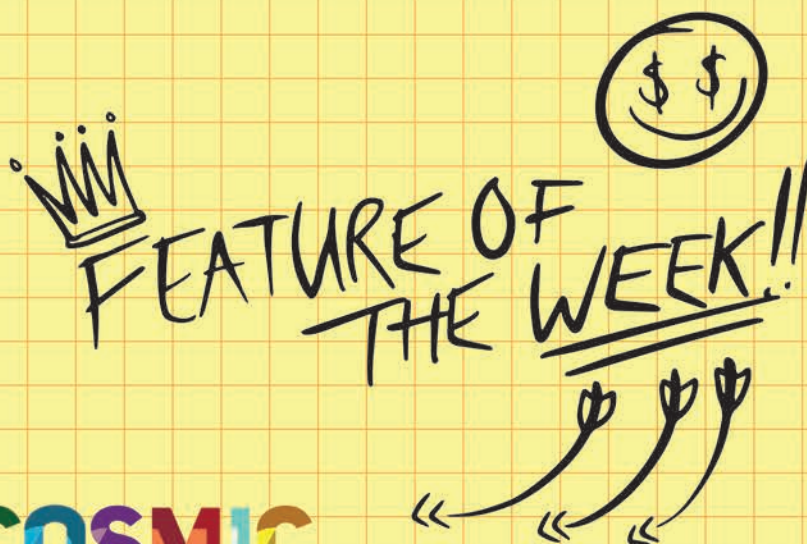
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