

Critic

Te Arohi!

69 HP 

Hoiho

STAGE 1



Evolves from egg.



Flightless Pokémon. Length 62-79cm, Weight 3-8kg.



Lazer Eyes

420

Hoiho like to burn corporate polluters with their fiery gaze.



Depth Charge

666

Hoiho dives deep to protect itself from above attacks.

weaknesses



x2

resistance

retreat



Strong against fish type pokémon, weak against plastics and seal type pokémon.

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

UBS
on
Campus
OUSA Archway

EMAIL CRITIC@CRITIC.CO.NZ TO CLAIM YOUR VOUCHER

LETTER OF THE WEEK:

Oh Critic, beholder of truth

As I languish stone cold on a Tuesday night, cast my eyes beyond
To find my course and set me right lest my future be foretold
Yet my eyes surely cannot be sight, a glorious sight so fond
The Campus shop no more in light, the doorway sealed in cold
Closed at 6: what a fright! Oh alas the goods thou shall withhold
No more 8pm appetite, can be quenched like the days of old
My cookie left and not one bite, my blue V still unsold
Let thy school of knowledge so bright who let this transgression unfold
Please bring forth a change despite, this move so brazen and bold
Oh Critic, though art the right, let thy mind art respond

A English major with a caffeine problem

Salutations Critic

I just found out about a game called save the queen. I'm not sure if you're aware, but apparently Students have been playing this for years at BYOs. I hope you'll use your magazine to encourage health and safety practices, like not playing this silly game because it's dangerous and could result in serious or even life-threatening injury. If students must persist, could they please use high proof alcohol to sterilize the coins, and preferably use the old-style 50-cent coins to minimize choking risk.

Kind regards
Bert Dangerfield
Worksafe co-co-ordinator, Otago/ Southland Region

Dear critic

Fuck academics, fuck IT support, and especially fuck the University.

There, I said it.

Why am I so angry with all of the above?

Because when you go onto library search to get shiny PDFs of whatever random research you need for your essay, you have to go through, not one, not two, but three (and sometimes more) screens of authentication before you get the gold.

This is outrageous.

As a millennial with an attention span shorter than a tiktok, this is clearly an untenable impediment to conducting academic research. Furthermore, my laptop is kinda old and crappy, and the additional chrome tabs usually causes it to overheat and burn my thighs.

I can't believe anyone hasn't made some kind of plugin for getting instant downloads sooner and with less hassle. Here's a shoutout to the cool lecturers who put their readings on Dropbox rather than evision too.

Much love,

Just gimme the damn pdf already.

Dear Critic

Fuck non searchable PDFs.

That's everything I wanted to say,

Regards,

~~Serious about academics~~

A gigantic nerd

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**TUESDAY
30 MAR**

Celtica - A New Era of Irish Heritage
THE REGENT THEATRE
7:30PM / \$69.90 - \$79.90

**WEDNESDAY
31 MAR**

Lunchtime Concert - Sharon Joy Vogan
MARAMA HALL, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
1PM
Tickets from humanitix.com

**THURSDAY
01 APRIL**

**The Rhododendrons, Sometime Winner,
and Dale Kerrigan**
THE CROWN HOTEL
8PM / \$5

QUIX - The Bolt Tour
U BAR
9PM

**Roza Terenzi w/ Hurricane Emily,
corpsehand [live], & Friendly Potential
DJs**
NEW NEW NEW CORPORATION
6PM / \$25 + BOOKING FEE
Tickets from friendlypotential.com

**FRIDAY
02 APRIL**

**Tim Allen w/ Tough Guy and Mads
Harrop**
DOG WITH TWO TAILS
9PM



EDITORIAL:

You need to get out of North Dunedin

By Erin Gourley

North Dunedin has you in its clutches and you haven't seen a big tree in a month. That's a problem. There's a whole wide world of nice things in Dunedin out there, just waiting for you to discover it.

I realise that you're in the depths of first semester and you're studying and partying and that's your whole life.

Just think about the place you're living in a little bit. North Dunedin is a pit, by all standards. There are no animals. There aren't even verges on the side of the road. You're starting to become vitamin D deficient and that's only going to get worse as the year goes on. Seasonal depression is just around the corner.

What you need is very simple: to leave North Dunedin for a bit.

I don't mean going home for Easter. I mean going out and exploring the place where you live, beyond the bounds of the University-Unipol-Botans triangle. There are 25 beaches in Dunedin and they're all lot more scenic than walking along George Street to campus.

At any other point in your life, when you move to a town, you explore it. You go out and discover favourite cafes in weird parts of the town, a new favourite place to go for a walk, a new favourite beach.

But because Dunedin feels temporary for students, we don't do that. We don't explore. I didn't leave North Dunedin more than five times in my first two years living here.

Being in a community of uni students has its benefits, but it's severely limited. The places where students live are generally within a 5km radius, and that means we're cut off from a broader sense of community.

It's like we all live underground, having a good time, but in a strange way we're divorced from the way other people live. That's why people treat students as zoo animals and there's always such a sense of wow, look what they're doing now.

That temporary feeling means that North Dunedin is a wasteful place to live. We don't buy furniture that's gonna last because we're only going to be here for three years or so. Instead, we buy new stuff from the Warehouse and throw it away when we leave, or when we move to a flat that doesn't need it. We have no sense of community beyond our friends and flatmates, who are in the same situation, so there's no one with a permanent address to offload furniture onto.

Living in this environment distorts your view. It's hard to get perspective on sustainability or environmental issues when you're only in the city, surrounded by this culture of buying things and throwing them away in an endless cycle.

So leave North Dunedin. To get some perspective. To remind yourself why it's important to recycle or save water. To realise that your studies aren't the be all and end all of the world, and that other things are important too.

ISSUE 05: SUSTAINABILITY

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CRITIC

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Trans Student Raises Concerns About Otago University

Otago Uni shit about places to shit

By Erin Gourley

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

A trans student at Otago has raised concerns about the lack of gender neutral bathrooms and the use of deadnames in University systems.

Emma*, a trans student, said that “student wellbeing should be prioritised on campus, to ensure we are in the best state to learn. A lack of vital resources like these prevents us from learning our best and performing our best.”

One of Emma’s main concerns was that her deadname (her name from before she transitioned) still appears as her name for her student email account. Students are unable to change this name without going through AskOtago.

“That leads to deadnaming and misgendering from professors who might see [the wrong name], even professors who know me as Emma but then they see this on the email and they think that’s okay,” she said.

“If you’ve got a good lecturer you can say ‘hey, this is my name, the system’s wrong,’ but sometimes they’re not cool,” she said.

OUSA Welfare and Equity Rep, Maya Polaschek said: “The lack of name changing on eVision and emails is particularly concerning: trans students should not be forced to confront their deadname.”

The problem also comes up with Uni

computers, where names appear in the middle of the desktop screen, and on eVision. “I just avoid using them, because I don’t want anyone looking over my shoulder and seeing my name,” Emma said.

A University spokesperson said they were “aware of the complications surrounding the name change process”. They attributed the problem to “some technical issues which result in the name change not always changing automatically” and encouraged affected students to contact AskOtago about it.

Emma said she hasn’t raised these concerns with the University because she “doesn’t have much faith in their response”. Her other issue is the lack of gender neutral bathrooms on campus, which “makes it harder for trans and non-binary students”. Where there are bathrooms, they are often shared with disabled students, raising concerns about capacity.

There is only one gender neutral bathroom in the Link-Central Library-Union area of campus, which regularly hosts thousands of students.

A spokesperson for the University confirmed that design guidance requires that new buildings provide 25% of toilets “as gender neutral/All Access toilets”. “This will be a minimum standard and a larger proportion of these toilets can be created if appropriate to the use of the building.”

Emma said that combining the two bathrooms is a problem. Gender neutral and accessible bathrooms are “experiencing double capacity with trans and non-binary students having to use them in addition to disabled students”. They may even reach triple capacity on occasions where other students decide to use them.

She said the lack of gender neutral bathrooms “makes it harder for trans students and for disabled students to go to the bathroom”.

There are 27 gender neutral bathrooms on the “wider Dunedin campus”, according to a University spokesperson. “The long-term aim is to develop an interactive map to show students where the gender-neutral toilets are,” said the spokesperson.

Maya from OUSA said that they “totally hear these concerns and are acutely aware of the lack of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. Everyone should have a bathroom they are comfortable using: at least in close walking distance to the building they are in.” She said that OUSA will continue to push for accessibility and inclusivity for trans and non-binary students.

Emma said that “all of their changes just feel very performative. A long list of genders to choose from when you enrol is a hollow promise and it doesn’t actually do anything to change the struggles we face on campus.”

*Name changed.

Netsky Still Headlining Ori Despite Pūkana Controversy

Who would have thought an America’s cup afterparty could devolve into brazen displays of white supremacy?

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Belgian DJ Netsky will still be headlining OUSA’s Ori 2021 concert, despite sharing a video on Instagram showing people mocking the pūkana at a post-America’s Cup celebration party.

In a statement shared with Radio One, OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey acknowledged that Netsky’s team “have shown immediate remorse and understanding of the severity of the situation,” and “a willingness and eagerness to engage in honest and open conversations with our Māori students”. As a result, Michaela said she feels “comfortable with our decision to continue with the event,” saying OUSA will work with Netsky and Te Roopū Māori “to organise a hui where he can listen and learn from our taurā”.

Not everyone seemed to agree with this decision. Second year Otago student Sally told Radio One she would prefer OUSA ceased to promote the event, noting that the gig was still a “money maker” for Netsky.

The video, since taken down, showed multiple non-Māori doing pūkana, some with drinks in hand, to laughter and whooping from the crowd. It was called “disgraceful” by Māori Party co-leader Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, who slammed the actions of people who do “not at all respect who we are and what it is that we’ve been able to give them”.

Netsky took the video down the next morning and posted a public apology on Twitter and Instagram, saying “I’m embarrassed and

ashamed of myself. I obviously have a lot to learn. I need to educate myself in issues of cultural appropriation and I am committed to doing this. I apologise to everyone I’ve offended.”

At least one person in the video has since faced high-profile consequences: Stuff reported that tennis player Ajeet Rai was sanctioned by Tennis New Zealand, after anti-racism advocate Shaneel Lal sent a link of the incident to them. They told Stuff: “I’ve got people yelling ‘stop cancel culture’ at me. My response is: this is not cancel culture, this is consequence culture.”

NZUSA and You

What they do for you and OUSA

By Runze Liu

Contributor // critic@critic.co.nz

OUSA pays \$45,500 (1.16% of their total revenue) as membership fees to the NZUSA according to their 2021 budget. So, what the hell is the NZUSA? Is it a local ripoff of the country that brought you David Hasselhoff drunkenly eating a hamburger off the floor? Maybe it's the New Zealand Unionized Steelworkers Association?

Founded in 1929, New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (oh, ok) is an organisation comprised of students. It includes most student unions nationwide, from universities to institutes of technology/polytechnic (ITP)'s.

"NZUSA works closely with all our member associations to ensure they are empowered and supported by their tertiary institution," said NZUSA President Andrew Lessells.

"We also go to bat for our members at a national level to help them achieve wins that [they] might not be able to [achieve] on their own," Andrew said. "The value of a national organisation that articulates the collective voice of students cannot be overstated." Lessells cites the \$20 million Hardship Fund for Learners, a \$20 million Technology Access Fund for Learners, and the \$25 million the government allocated to student mental

health, as NZUSA successes.

Their current campaign is about something called Universal Education Income (UEI) which involves free money. "The UEI Campaign calls for a change from the current, unjust student allowance model, which has age discrimination baked into it, where the allowance is cut when your parents earn over \$57,000, where postgrads get nothing at all," he said.

Being a founding and major member, OUSA plays a significant role in NZUSA governance. Aside from the \$45,500 membership fee, they sit on their National Council where they approve all campaigns and annual plans, help to set their strategic vision and direction, and consistently holds them to account.

According to OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey: "[OUSA] have historically been vocal in this context. The Exec regard this as an important role to play due to the cost of the membership fee and the associated expectation that this will provide benefits to Otago students."

OUSA also sits on NZUSA's National Welfare, National Education, Finance, Risk and Audit, and Policy committees. "These bodies have

real impact on the mahi that NZUSA does and FRAC in particular plays a major role in NZUSA's financial oversight and governance," said Lessells.

But the relationship isn't all violets and roses. OUSA and VUWSA briefly left back in 2014, despite referendums calling for them to stay. Waikato, Canterbury, and Otago Polytech student associations had left by then and remain independent. There were also two referendums — one each semester last year — about whether OUSA should remain in NZUSA. The overwhelming response was "yes".

Despite support for NZUSA, many students didn't know who or what they are. "Don't know," was the most common response Critic Te Arohi received by students around campus, when asked about what NZUSA does. This response was followed by "do they run big NZ events or something?" One who did know about NZUSA did think that their lobbying has "minor impact" on policy change.

"Their list of achievements just sound like things that the Government was never opposed. They just asked nicely and received," he said.

OPINION: You Don't Have to Go to The Rugby

The only way to save sports is to boycott them

By Oscar Francis

Contributor // critic@critic.co.nz

Let's just be clear on one thing: I'm not being anti-rugby. Rugby is a great game. It's something that we orientate our identity around, both as individuals and a nation. Going to the stadium gives a lot of us a feeling of fitting in, and stability in an uncertain world.

There's nothing intrinsically wrong with that. But I can't help but wonder whether our fetishisation of rugby makes us lazy, and blind to the ways in which the sport could be improved.

Actually, I fear that rugby could be a distant memory in 50 years time if we continue along our current trajectory. Rugby is actually the 16th most popular sport in New Zealand, and is played by only 0.6% of the population.

These aren't the stats we're meant to talk about. Rugby is meant to be as kiwi as Weetbix (which is a tax rort for the church of Seventh Day Adventists), Speights (which is owned by an

offshore conglomerate and is undeniably shit beer), or shoving our grandparents into rest-homes at the first sign of dementia.

The point is that our interpersonal relationships are all governed by the cold logic of capitalism. We often get a rose-tinted vision through ads and the media, but the fact is that none of these forces give a fuck about you, or the rugby.

The stadium is set up so that you can spend as much money, and as little time watching the game, as possible. Its corporate overlords only care about how much overpriced merch they can sell you, and how much of the aforementioned shit beer they can convince you to buy at inflated prices.

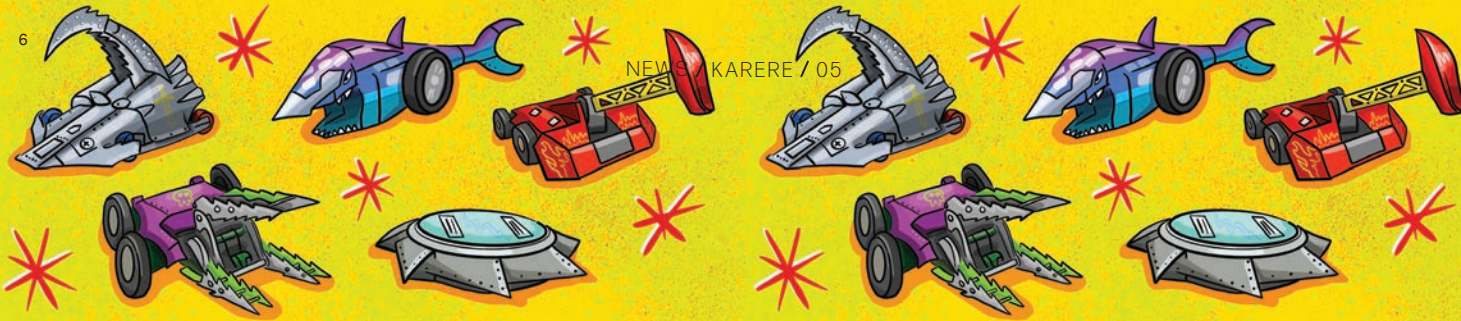
Less time watching the game means more time looking at the ads too. Do you think they'd put them on the pitch if they gave a fuck about your appreciation of the match? Same with the mascots and fireworks. If you like rugby, how

come you need the distractions?

The unfortunate truth of the current state of rugby is that it doesn't bring people together in a meaningful way. Most of us think we have to go to the rugby, and we justify it to ourselves as being about 'supporting the team', 'the atmosphere', or 'hanging out with our friends'. But the reality is that these are all for the most part justifications, not feelings. And deep down, I think most of us know that.

Also the stadium is just depressing. Fuck paying money to stand in a concrete hall that stinks of piss, listening to bad music. That ain't what sports is about, and life is too damn short anyway.

So if you really give a fuck about the game, go grab a ball, a UE boom and some beers from countdown. Take it all to a park with some friends and have some real fun at a fraction of the cost. It might be scary at first, but you'll get used to it, I promise.



New Zealand Robot Fights Other Robots and Wins

DIY in our DNA ruled as unfair advantage

By Oscar Paul

Contributor // critic@critic.co.nz

New Zealand are now officially the world champions of robot combat, becoming the first non-American team to hold the top spot.

The University of Auckland's Faculty of Engineering have successfully won the most recent Battlebots season, which many fans consider the world championship league for robot fighting. Their winning robot was a heavyweight champion called Endgame.

Battlebots is an American TV show where teams engineer a small robot, designed to destroy other robots in an enclosed arena. Having aired from 2000–2002, and again since 2015, Battlebots is probably the most radical sport known to man.

It's like that episode of The Simpsons where Homer pretends to be a Robot by riding a tricycle and wearing a postbox and bucket. But

these robots aren't animated, and are equipped with hammers, saw blades and flame-throwers.

A local Battlebots fan told Critic "any machine featured in all [nine] seasons of Battlebots could easily kill a man on sight ... [the competing robots] are works of art." Endgame might be Aotearoa's best line of defence since its strategic decision to locate itself on a very small and boring archipelago in the south Pacific.

Requiring brilliant ingenuity and a decent budget, it makes perfect sense that the best, brightest, and most well funded boffins from the University of Auckland's Engineering alumni were able to craft a machine as brilliant as Endgame, who adeptly took out seven of its ten competitors in the this most recent season.

According to Endgame's official stats, it weighs 110kg, armed with a 23kg disc that spins at

6,000rpm, which is capable of tearing through 50mm steel. If Endgame were any more capable of cutting things, we would expect it to land a job as the next Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University.

Endgame quickly took out former two-time World Champion, Tombstone, in just 39 seconds. Maintaining a steady pattern of throwing 100kg robots out of the ring, Endgame suffered only one loss to Bloodsport, and went to defeat Whiplash in the final.

Endgame, and its operating team dubbed The Kiwi Killers, helmed by Jack Barker, join the ranks of New Zealand's best sportspeople, such as the All Blacks and shot-putter Valerie Adams, as the current best in the world.

Critic advocates Endgame for New Zealander of the Year 2021, let's make it happen y'all.

14% Rise in Postgrad Enrolments at Otago

0% action by government on giving them student allowances

By Erin Gourley

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

There are 14% more students doing postgraduate qualifications at Otago this year, in what has been termed "doing a panic masters".

The largest increase is in humanities students, with a 30.5% increase in the number of students doing masters from last year. Health Sciences masters students increased by 12.8% from last year.

"It's definitely still motivated by that sense of I have no fucking clue what I'm going to do next," said Cat, who is close to finishing her Postgrad Diploma in Public Health and considering doing a masters. "University is a space where things are still kind of laid out for me and I know the environment, I know how it all works."

Fox, an international student who decided last year to do Honours in Geology, said that he "wasn't surprised". "I wasn't explicitly considering it until I needed to find something quickly that would enable me to stay in the country," he said. "I would be curious to know how many of that 14% are internationals, because I know I'm not the only one."

Casey, who is doing her Masters in MFCO said, "the job market is just really doom and gloom at the moment and you can keep getting your student funding if you stay and do a masters. And it's only a year for most of the humanities degrees so why not?"

"Going into a job market where everyone has years of experience because they've been laid off from their jobs because of Covid, how can you try and compete with that with just a

bachelors," she said.

"All through the middle of last year I tried getting a spot in the ministry postgrad policy programmes, got to the interview stage of a couple, but mostly got rejected even though I have some grades and experience behind me," said Grace. So she decided to do a Master of Arts.

Fox, too, reckoned he had applied to and been rejected from 33 jobs before deciding to do postgrad. "If you can enrol in a programme, then that's the most straightforward path to get a visa and that's what I took."

Grace said: "There is a part of me that wished I'd dropped out before last Friday so I wouldn't be charged all my fees, if I did so now. But I have absolutely no idea where I'd go if I did or what I'd do."

“Sign-tology” on the Rise in Dunedin

Club continues to exceed expectations, attend BYOs

By Fox Meyer

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

In a time when our lives are increasingly meaningless, in which we feel evermore like a digital drop in a vast online ocean, Sign Up Club is a beacon of hope. It offers community, it offers connection, it offers meaning. And all at the click of a button.

But all is not well in SignUpVille. Above the thick screen of memes and shitposts on their Facebook page lurks an ominous shadow. The silhouette of authoritarianism. The infant stage of what very well may be a cult. Last week on their Facebook page, the club made a startling announcement:

“Tonight’s Banishment will be up to the people. Two members have been randomly selected. Put your votes in, Banishment commences at 10 PM.”

The selected members (Padras Wadhwa and Maia Alderson-Muir) were shocked at the sudden turn of events. Padras voiced his dismay, saying “Wow, all I do is recruit [for the club].”

In a surprise twist, club leader Reid Eberwein’s name was thrown into the list of potential banishments. He came in second, to Padras. “Just remember,” he posted, “to all of you voting for me. I am writing down names.”

The following day, Sign Up Club posted “we love every single member of our Sign Up Club family.” Members in the comments voiced concern, forgiveness, and fear.

“This is abuse,” said one. “#JusticeforPadras,” said another. “We had to make an example of him,” said Reid.

Followers accused their leader of “playing God” and told him to “get a life”. Reid laughed the laugh of a man with nothing to worry about. “We’re trying to get Wax Mustang to play a gig,” he said.

The club, now with 2500 members, shows no sign of slowing down. Group members note that the memes about Sign Up Club are only increasing in quality.

Last year at this time, people were being introduced to the idea of ‘scanning in’ to places because of some virus that was going around. People have become so used to signing in that it’s become a piss take. Kiwi students — uniquely free from the confines of Covid — laugh as they register their presence on shirts, skin, and sheets of paper around campus, while the rest of the world seethes with jealousy.

“No, no, it’s not a cult,” said Reid, who adopted a mullet in celebration of reaching 2,000 followers. “It’s a pyramid-shaped organization.” The club’s precipitous growth is due to its model: join, then get three friends to join, then get them to get three friends to join. A formula as old as time.

The club has infected lectures as well. Last week, Reid was able to convince a finance lecturer to include a slide inviting people to sign up. Apparently the desire to be a member of something, anything, appeals to finance students just as much as it does to all the rest of us. They’re human after all.

tō tātou eke
whakamuri
the future
of us



What do you think of our plans for Dunedin over the next 10 years?

We’ve got some ideas on what the priorities should be based on what you’ve told us before and the challenges we’re facing.

Tell us your thoughts and join the conversation at www.thefutureofus.nz

Feedback closes at noon on Thursday, 29 April.

#koreroHiamai
#jointheconversation

Subeditor Delegated Very Important Task of Putting an Overly Long Title on Tedious OUSA Article

Generic subtitle with half-hearted joke follows

By Denzel Chung and Alex Leckie-Zaharic

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

News Reporter // alex@critic.co.nz

Once a quarter, Critic Te Arohi put themselves through the punishing process of reading and summarising the OUSA Exec's reports for you, our readers. We do it because ~~the only emotion we're capable of feeling at this point is pain and we kind of like it~~ we feel a strong sense of duty and responsibility to students in helping keep OUSA accountable. So here goes, arranged by time of submission to OUSA.

Finance (15 March, 5:05pm)

The main focus of OUSA's chief beancounter Josh Meikle this year is that OUSA never quite has enough beans to spare. He's noted opportunities to squeeze more beans out of JAFAs (through the Auckland Beer Festival) and rich probably-not-students renting out the University Bookshop apartments. He's also reached out to other student reps from Otago's other campuses (Christchurch and Wellington), to strengthen their call for more beans from the Uni. Keep on squeezing those beans, Josh.

Prez (16 March, 5:03pm)

Our President Michaela Waite-Harvey has, it seems, had a hectic first quarter, with her 45.8 hours per week of work being spent as OUSA's official spokesperson including "many requests for comment from Critic" (nice), chairing Exec meetings, sitting on at least 16 committees, boards and working groups, as well as helping out at Summer in Duffers, O Week events and the legendary Drop for Good. She also attended Harlene's farewell function at the Staff Club, presenting the Exec's gift to her — a sterling-silver fern pin.

Political (16 March, 11.00pm)

OUSA Political Rep Mhairi Mackenzie Everitt has spent her first quarter writing multiple submissions to both local and national government in an attempt to make pending legislation more student-friendly. Being a non-election year, there's less political interaction, but Mhairi has made herself known to the local Labour trio of Ingrid Leary, Rachel Brooking, and David Clark. She will lobby on behalf of students should the opportunity arrive. She is also looking to run another Politics Week in semester two and has appeared in both Critic and Radio One over the past few weeks.

Res (16 March, 10.51pm)

Returning Residential Rep Jack Saunders has been a busy boy, carrying over a bunch of work from last year as well as being in the process of forming new committees to talk about colleges and stuff. We'd be remiss to not mention him simping for Critic and thanking us for our work on the Flating Magazine. Most importantly though, he's trying to sort out all the freshers getting access to cuddle fixes during exam seasons, which is an absolute priority that must be sorted immediately. Jack: let the dogs out.

Welfare (16 March, 11.10pm)

Coming in at 2856 words, this is one of the heftier reports submitted by a member of the Executive. Welfare and Equity Officer Maya Polaschek has actively been working on a partnership to provide free and sustainable sanitary items to the students of Otago, and also working with the Parent Students' Club to improve the facilities available to them. Hell yeah. Maya has also been involved with multiple committees to ensure that students are getting proper representation during their time at Otago.

Postgrad (17 March, 8.25am)

Postgrad Rep Sophie Barham has sought to compensate for the disruption and isolation of 2020, welcoming postgrads with a bang (in' selection of events), as well as keeping a close eye on distance and satellite campus student wellbeing. Despite already running the annual exec retreat and planning day, a stall at Clubs Day, and two morning teas, she notes that "I have not spent any of my executive budget," although this is meant to change with bigger events coming up. Time to flash the cash, Sophie.

Vice-Prez (17 March, 10.00am)

Among Administrative Vice-President Emily Coyle's most notable contributions: her time assisting President Michaela and liaising with the rest of the Exec, her knowledge in organising training and mentoring for Exec members, and "significant amounts" of her "blood, sweat and tears (literally)" that went into the Drop for Good. While there is no mention of how much funds her bodily fluids raised for OUSA, Critic Te Arohi salutes her selfless dedication. Mi casa es su casa, and it also seems sangre, sudor y lágrimas es su sangre, sudor y lágrimas.

Clubs (17 March, 11.00am)

The Clubs and Socs Rep (not to be confused with Clubbing and Shots Rep) Dushanka Govender had a more tranquil first quarter, with most club events only beginning the week before the report was submitted. She worked over ten hours every week since late February helping the year's clubs get up and running, promoting the diversity of OUSA-affiliated clubs to students, and making sure the clubs knew she had their backs.

UOPISA (17 March, 11.17am)

President of the University's Pacific Islands Students' Association Melissa Lama has steered UOPISA through the first quarter of the year without any problems, keeping in touch with groups like Taura Pasifika and the Pacific Leadership Group. The latter is developing a Pacific Strategic Framework, which Melissa is ensuring that students have an impact on. She is also planning a Pasifika Mental Health Campaign, as well as establishing an office for UOPISA, and lobbying for a Pacific Arts and Performance paper to be added to the Summer School programme.

Academic (17 March, 11.55am)

The bulk of Academic Rep Michael Evans' time in first semester was focused on attending meetings of the University Senate, Board of Undergraduate Studies and at least five different working groups. While we were convincing ourselves that we're 'still getting into the uni routine' five weeks after O Week, this absolute sucker for punishment said he has been "enjoying reading through," and giving feedback on, academic proposals. One person's trash is another person's treasure, it seems.

TRM (17 March, 12.30pm)

Te Roopū Māori Tumuaki Karamea Pēwhairangi has focused her first quarter efforts on ensuring that TRM has a voice in ongoing university affairs, meeting regularly with OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey and UOPISA President Melissa Lama to plan events and ensure representation. She has also started to update TRM policies and their constitution to lay foundations for future executives. She also wrote a new karakia for the OUSA Exec that is now used to close all meetings.

No Kerbside Recycling for Inner City Residents

DCC recommends disposing plastic straws directly into baby turtles instead

By Asia Martusia King
Staff Writer // asia@critic.co.nz

It's hard to recycle in the city, according to concerns raised by students. Residents flatting in the CBD and George Street's retail district do not have access to kerbside recycling.

The Dunedin City Council has implemented three \$80,000 neighbourhood recycling drop-off facilities. Two are on Moray Place, and one on Vogel Street, but students have reported difficulty in accessing them.

Shannon, who lives in a retail district apartment, has a physical disability and describes the process of going to the site as "painful" and "tiring". Without a designated recycling bin, her household resorted to filling up large crates and bags to then be driven to the drop-off facilities.

"I can't park my car in town," Shannon said. "I have to park it up a hill, so that's a whole thing. The alternative is having to walk several blocks with boxes of recycling. I'm less inclined to do it so often, which means it piles up, which means

it's an even bigger job." The entire recycling process can take upwards to an hour.

Jack flats in town and does not have access to a vehicle. His flat used to collect their recyclables and walk to the "big public bin thingies", but it eventually became too much of a hassle. "We've become lazy and complicit in blowing up the world by just trashing everything," he says. "Please don't tell my mum," he hastily added.

Oscar only recycles his cardboard. Glass, plastic, and cans are all chucked into a black bin bag. "I feel really bad about it and we shouldn't do it, but otherwise we have to stack it all up, fill up boxes and boxes inside my apartment, which is small as it is, and every three months or so, get everybody together to do a trip to the centre by countdown. We'd need a car." Oscar does not have a car. Cars are also bad for the environment, so that's a whole 'nother can of worms.

Twenty five cardboard recycling stations exist

in town, but are exclusively for businesses that have signed up with the DCC. "I would like to see a change," said Shannon. "They have recycling solutions for businesses, but absolutely nothing for residents. I don't want to not recycle, I don't really want to see the heat death of the universe in my lifetime."

Lily, who is woken up weekly by these recycling bins being emptied but is not allowed to use them, describes it as "ridiculous". One criminal flatmate has taken to illegally dumping recycling in business' bins. She said that it's "bullshit that [they] have to break the law to help save the planet". Kinda radical tho.

The DCC said the lack of kerbside collection is due to busy streets and pedestrian areas raising safety concerns for the general public and collection staff. They are currently in the process of reviewing kerbside collection, which you can contribute to via their very official Facebook poll.

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AJ Hackett
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Landlords Using Op-Shops As Dumping Ground

Critic joins the ODT in their headlines about dumping

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

The manager of an op-shop has accused landlords of using their shop to dump waste, but the head of the Otago Property Investors' Association (OPIA) said students are mainly to blame.

April Topi-Elliott, who has managed the SPCA Op-Shop in North East Valley since it opened 5 years ago, told Radio One that "a lot of waste actually comes from landlords," noting that after students leave at the end of every year "they go and clean up ... But they just gather the waste and leave it outside our door in big black bags."

While April used to work with the Dunedin City Council (DCC) and landlords with student clean-ups, she's stopped doing that, saying "landlords were going in and stripping their

flats, putting in new carpet or ripping out walls and putting them in the skip."

In an interview with Radio One, Katherine Seque, the head of the OPIA, said "I have not heard of any landlords dumping products at op shops, and it's very disheartening to us to think that landlords may be burdening the charity shops when they do such a great job."

While not denying that this could be happening, saying, "there are bad landlords just like there are bad tenants," Seque thought students were to blame too. She said, "Just remember it's not landlords and property managers ... putting a couch outside to sit on in the summer and then realising it's wet and mouldy now in the winter, and then dumping it on the street."

She emphasised that "tenants need to make sure their stuff is disposed of before leaving their rental properties. If there is stuff left behind, then the landlord needs to photograph it, dispose of it correctly themselves and pass those costs onto the tenant that left it there." A DCC spokesperson said: "The extra kerbside collection services are well used by tenants living in the tertiary precinct, although it can be difficult to determine exactly where rubbish or recycling placed on the street comes from."

"Rubbish or recycling placed at kerbside that does not meet the DCC's collection criteria is treated as illegal dumping. Where the offender can be identified, we issue a warning along with educational material on available waste and recycling services." Offenders can be fined between \$100 and \$400 for dumping rubbish.

D

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ODT Watch

Concern for dump smell worsening

Residents kept in dark about dump

The resident said if the weather was still, with low cloud, the smell hung around. "It's autumn weather — we're coming into our stinky season now."

The ongoing saga of stinky dumps. Clearly a big problem in the ODT bathrooms.

These range from tests of everyday work skills such as traversing a trench or lifting and relocating a manhole cover; to more unusual tests of precision such as popping a champagne cork using an excavator bucket, or slam-dunking a basketball into a two-storey concrete pipe.

There is nothing I want to see more than this digger competition where tradies have to open a bottle of champagne using their diggers.

Mr George said 2022 looked promising for group bookings.

"A little flame is afflicker at the end of this tunnel which we anticipate in time will grow brighter," Mrs Connolly-George said.

When a flame grows bigger, that's called a fire, Mrs Connolly-George. You should probably get out of that tunnel.

ENTRY to the New Zealand marching championships in Dunedin at the weekend was not free, as reported in yesterday's *Otago Daily Times*. Spectators

Heads should roll over this correction. Imagine all those poor people who went along to watch the marching championships only to be told they had to pay \$5 to watch.

An alarmingly high percentage of women have suffered some form of sexual assault or harassment. But isn't it patronising to assume they won't be able to cope with a song that contains the line "Did she put up a fight?"?

They really printed "rape jokes are okay" in the editorial.



RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Jack Saunders

Kia ora koutou,

I'm Jack, and I'm carrying on in my role of Residential Rep on the OUSA exec for 2021. This is going to be a huge year for those of you spending your first time away from home, and for those of you acclimatising to the wonderful living conditions of the flats of North D. But honestly, living in Dunedin can be one of the best times of your life. This year, I'm hoping to bring back the Rate My Flat website, advocate for Maori and Pacific groups in colleges, and in general just try and get out as much info for everyone as possible about Flating.

To help do this, I'm setting up the Residential Committee again, as well as the Colleges and the new Subwarden Committee, to ensure

that everyone's voices are heard. The Residential Committee is going to help advise on the build of the new college, going to set up and run different campaigns in each of the Residential areas of Dunedin (Uniflats, locals, people in flats, and people in Colleges), and it's open to anyone, so if you want to have a say then check out the form which is going to be out on the OUSA socials this week.

Touch wood there's no lockdown again and we actually get to see Hyde happen, I'm looking forward to seeing what 2021 brings. Honestly, as well, don't hesitate to flick me an email at residential@ousa.org.nz or find me on FB if there's anything at all you think OUSA or myself could be doing better!

Ngā mihi,

Jack

WEEK 3 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:

3. Conundrum, 7. Rhythm, 9. Worse, 10. Tomcat, 11. Thrash, 14. Nitro, 16. Fox News, 17. Ado, 19. D'oh, 21. Miserly, 22. Cadet, 25. Oblong, 27. Whenua, 28. Jaffa, 29. Haggle, 30. Lightning

DOWN:

1. Frittata, 2. Hyper, 4. Narcissism, 5. Newton, 6. Ulster, 8. Myth, 12. Sext, 13. Vermicelli, 15. Tidy, 16. Food, 18. Crab, 20. Hangover, 23. Aoraki

WORDWHEEL ANSWER: Ecstasy

LETTERSEARCH ANSWER: Stoned

SUDOKU

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CROSSWORD

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25															

ACROSS:

3. Film studio that also has its own theme park (9)
7. Silly (5)
8. Nimble (4)
10. Otago Residential College named after Sir James Allen, former Vice-Chancellor (5)
11. At least one person will say 'elbows' during this drinking game (4,4)
12. Master copy (8)
14. 'Island' in te reo Māori (4)
15. Tropical bird similar to a heron (4)
17. Town on the West Coast that used to be called Buller (8)
20. Tamariki (8)
22. Not shiny (5)
23. Native bird, last confirmed sighting in 1907 (4)
24. Insult (5)
25. Tim Burton movie: The ____ before Christmas (9)

DOWN:

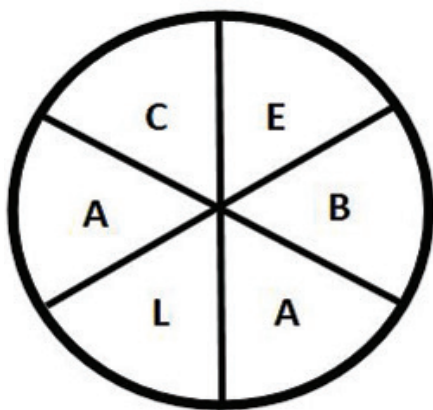
1. NZ's longest river (7)
2. Swedish environmental activist (5)
4. Picture (5)
5. Assist (7)
6. Paste made from horseradish (6)
9. On time (6)
11. Steepest street in the world (7)
13. Within (6)
16. Capital city of China (7)
18. Fugitive (6)
19. Workplace of actors (7)
21. Over the top (5)
22. Italian plumber (5)



LETTERSEARCH

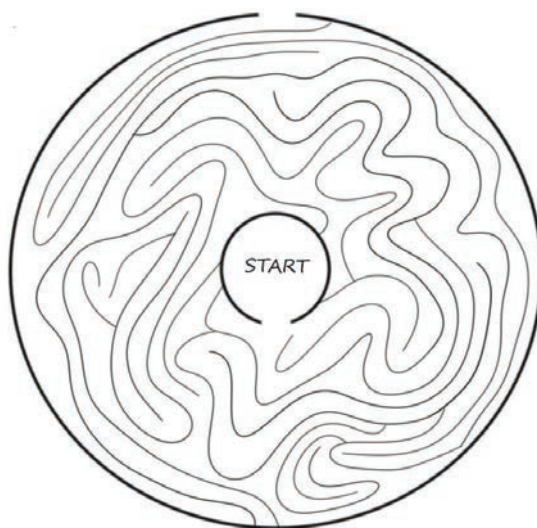
Find the letters hidden in the margins of the magazine's pages and unscramble them to find the mystery word.

WORD WHEEL



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

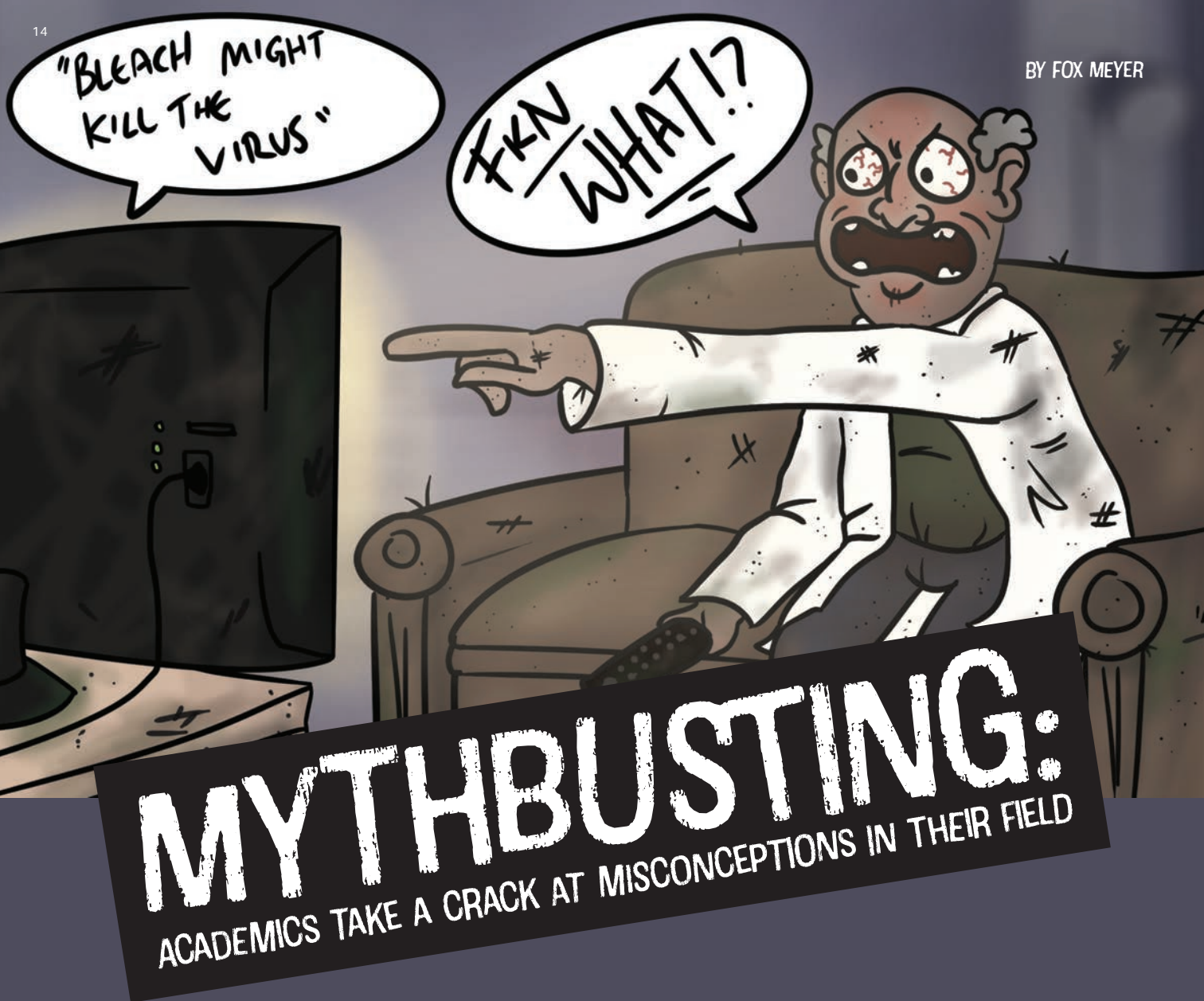
MAZE



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.





It's really easy to pretend that you know what you're talking about. We know this, because at Critic we've been calling ourselves "journalists" for nearly 100 years.

Not being a scientist doesn't stop people from getting on TV and filling a scientist's shoes. "I'm not a scientist, but" sounds a lot like "I don't really know what I'm talking about, but here's a wild suggestion based on speculation."

Every time a clueless authority figure makes a dumb suggestion, an academic somewhere in the world pulls their hair out. Imagine the reaction of a microbiologist when, totally hypothetically, a world leader suggests something dumb like injecting yourself with bleach to kill a virus. Not that that would ever happen. Nobody's that fucking dumb, right?

It's like when your dad yells at the sportsfolk on the TV who dropped the game-ball. "Who let you on the bloody team," he shouts, "I could do so much better!" Except in the case of science and misinformation, the experts really can do so much better.

So Critic door-knocked random academics around campus to ask them about misconceptions in the media. We wanted to know what bits of misinformation or pseudoscience they see presented as fact, and give them an opportunity to set the record straight. Here's what they had to say.

MARINE SCIENCE: DR. CERIDWEN FRASER, CLIMATE CHANGE

"Well, we could talk about climate change," offered Ceridwen. Climate denial is frustrating and ridiculous, and Ceridwen identified a broader misunderstanding of science as part of the reason. "Science isn't something that you can choose not to believe in," she explained, "it's not a religion. If someone says to me 'I don't believe what you're saying', I'd say 'go ahead and test against it.' Science welcomes new evidence and challenges."

"But with climate change, overwhelmingly, the more evidence we get, the more sure we are of the warming trends," she asserted. Ceridwen then highlighted a common misconception that she hears in the media. "People often don't seem to grasp what a 2–6 degree rise in temperature, within this century, really means," she explained.

People may say "well, it's ten degrees warmer now than it was this morning, so who cares," said Ceridwen, "but 2-6 degrees is a global average. If you look back in time, the last ice age was only an average of about six degrees celsius colder than now."

During that time, because it was six degrees colder, lots of ocean water became locked in massive glaciers on land, so sea levels were about 120 meters lower than today. Dramatic changes to Earth's climate, explained Ceridwen, "don't take much", and a few degrees can make an enormous difference to our world.

GEOGRAPHY: DR TONY BINNS, THE TRUE SIZE OF AFRICA

"Africa is not a country," said Tony patiently. He has explained this to more adults than he probably should have had to. Tony teaches a second and third-year class on development trajectories in Africa, and it irritates him when "people come into this class, or any discussion, with preconceived notions of what 'all of Africa' somehow is."

There are 54 countries in Africa and even though we all have an atlas in our pocket, some people don't seem to understand how huge the continent really is. It's impossible to generalise, but "we see it all the time," said Tony.

Back when Ebola was going around, Tony hosted a conference in Dunedin about African history. A university employee, who was helping to organize the event, called Tony and asked him if anybody was going to be attending this conference (a conference on African history) "from Africa". They thought somehow the entire continent was overrun with Ebola.

Tony responded by sending the following graphic:



BOTANY: SOMEBODY WHO WAS VERY BUSY THAT WE BUMPED INTO, HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS

Botany firmly stated that there was "plenty" to talk about when it comes to herbal supplements, but didn't have time for an interview. Apparently someone in the science communication department skulled a bottle of them before giving a lecture to see if it would have any adverse effects on his body, like "real medicine" would. He's still lecturing, so apparently nothing happened.

ZOOLOGY: PROFESSOR GERRY CLOSS, CREATIONISM

"The evolution vs creationism debate is still alive," explained Gerry. In a class of 300 people, he would expect that maybe one or two of them would subscribe to "a more literal understanding of the bible." He explained that this view is problematic because it puts humans at the centre of the natural world, and that "you never have to go looking

very far" to find the belief, he said, even in a biology classroom.

Gerry is frustrated by the narrative that human beings are somehow at the top of the natural pyramid, and are therefore allowed to treat the planet as we wish, with little regard for the ecosystems already in place. Our impact on the environment is often downplayed by large interests such as agriculture, who have something to gain from exploiting our environment.

"Also", he added, "sharks aren't as dangerous as they're made out to be" The danger of animals is often overstated. Gerry cited the old shark nets off St Claire as an example of our misplaced paranoia.

GEOLOGY: DR MARK STIRLING, EARTHQUAKE FORECASTING

"The phase of the moon does not influence major earthquakes," explained Mark. "Some people seem to believe that you can predict earthquakes based on when the moon is full," he said, "which is really far fetched."

Predicting earthquakes is about "determining exactly how big, exactly where, and exactly when", and it is impossible. If anybody could do it, Mark would probably know them personally, and he does not. Still, the fact that you cannot predict earthquakes has not stopped people from saying they can "predict earthquakes".

Mark cited Christchurch's "Moon Man" as a particularly memorable individual. His false claims of impending doom during the Canterbury earthquake sequence resulted in sizable evacuations of the city for no reason. "Moon Man said his monthly predictions had a margin of error of two weeks on either side," explained Mark, "which means the quake could have come at any time of any month."

The gravitational pull of the moon does not induce earthquakes. And besides, a half moon does not weigh any less than a full moon. It's still the same moon. Mark occasionally gets a little frustrated at having to field these kinds of questions from the media, rather than talking about the good science that earthquake scientists do.

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY: DR HTIN LIN AUNG, VACCINES

"They say seeing is believing," said Htin, "but these days that's not necessarily true. There's a lot of information online and we don't always know how to think critically about it." A very damaging example of this was a fiasco caused by AJ Wakefield in 1998.

"Vaccines don't cause autism," Htin said, for what sounded like the hundredth time. The current paranoia surrounding vaccines, according to Htin, could stem from a 1998 paper that somehow managed to get published in an extremely high-brow medicine journal, The Lancet. The research connected vaccines with developmental disorders, and made a big splash in the medical community.

Except it was total bullshit. It took 12 years to redact the article, and by that time, the damage had been done. "Imagine you had a hypothesis. You say that 'all cats are white'. You've only seen two cats, and they're both white," explained Htin, "but that doesn't mean all cats in the world are white."

That's basically what this paper did. The author cherry-picked his data to make it look like all cats are white, or in this case, that vaccines cause autism. Now, nobody would believe that all cats are white based on a sample of two cats. But plenty of people did believe, and still believe, this bullshit research.

Htin was adamant that "critical thinking skills need to be a priority for university teaching," and that with more emphasis on teaching these skills at a younger age, bullshit like this could be sniffed out and avoided by the public.



FEATHERY FRIENDS & FUNKY FIENDS

A guide to finding wildlife in and around Dunedin

By Elliot Weir

Photo: Oscar Thomas

Friends, it's time to see some wildlife other than the stray cats on Leith Street and the cockroaches in your bathroom. Leave North Dunedin, and experience the natural world at its finest. Even David Attenborough reckons you should.

We are surrounded by some incredible ecosystems in Dunedin and this is your guide to finding them. Almost all of these species are taoka (taonga) to Kāi Tahu and many of them are threatened with extinction, so respect and appreciate these steezy beasts without disturbing them or their delicate habitats.

Otago Peninsula

If you live in Dunedin and haven't been out to the peninsula, you really should take the nearest car, bus, horse, or lime scooter and get there ASAP. At least listen to ol' mate Sir David Attenborough, who said the peninsula is a "unique and very special place [...] that every visitor to Dunedin should see."

The Otago Peninsula has some of the best wildlife watching in the country and is internationally known for its albatrosses, penguins, and sea lions.

Taiaroa Head, at the very tip of the peninsula, is the only mainland breeding colony of toroa (royal albatrosses) in the world. Unless you want to sail to a remote sub-antarctic island, this is your best chance at seeing these giant, dorky birds. Taiaroa Head is also an excellent vantage point to see other seabirds or, if you're lucky, dusky dolphins, orcas, and humpback whales.

A short walk down from the albatross colony is Pilot's Beach. Pilot's Beach is home to kororā (little blue penguins). These tiny tuxedo-clad comrades are the smallest species of penguin in the world, and you can see them waddle to shore every evening to feed their chicks. Kekenos (New Zealand fur seals) are also common all around the rocks underneath Taiaroa Head.

The stretch of coast from Allan's Beach to Sandfly Bay is the best spot you'll find for whakahao (aka rāpoka or New Zealand sea lion) and the incredibly rare hoiho

(yellow-eyed penguin). While the more common kekeno are roughly the size and weight of your average breather, male whakahao can be up to 3.5 metres long and weigh as much as 1800 cans of Billy Mavs, i.e. 450 kg. These blubbery beasts are the rarest species of sea lion in the world, but the Otago population is steadily increasing. Chances are, if you go to the East coast of the peninsula, you will see at least a few.

Like whakahao, hoiho are also larger and more endangered than their kororā cousins. Despite their stylish waddle and Colour Pop yellow eyeliner, hoiho have declined by 75% on the Otago peninsula since the 90s. Sandfly Bay is one of the last places you can consistently see them. There are wooden huts to hide in to watch the penguins come ashore without disturbing them. Hooper's Inlet, between Sandfly Bay and Allan's Beach, is also a good location to spot spoonbills, easily identifiable with their funky spoon-shaped bills.

Another location of the peninsula worth mentioning are The Pyramids. Located at Okia reserve, these are gigantic basalt columns shaped exactly like, well, pyramids. They're basically just funky hills that you can walk up, but the surrounding reserve hosts interesting wetland and sand dune ecosystems.

Did aliens make the Otago Peninsula Pyramids? Critic cannot say for certain. Are they pretty cool either way? Yes they are.

South Dunedin

Andersons Bay inlet is that little body of water next to Bayfield Park in South Dunedin. If you stop by on the right day, you might see spoonbills, oystercatchers, or whakahao. Otherwise, you can make friends with all of the dogs being taken for walks.

Slightly further South, beaches like Second Beach at St Clair are excellent spots to see *aurora australis*, the Southern lights. Although the lights of the city can block visibility, if there is a geomagnetic storm on a clear night it is well worth waiting out in the cold with your buddies. Check online aurora forecasts or Facebook groups: anything above a 5Kp is considered a geomagnetic storm.



Photo: Elliot Weir



Photo: Oscar Thomas

Leith Valley

Ross Creek is a patch of native bush where the city and the Leith Valley meet. It hosts a cute waterfall as well as the Ross Creek Reservoir, a picturesque artificial lake that holds the equivalent of 800 million cans of Billy Mavs. Some of the usual Dunedin birdlife is abundant here, like tui, kererū and piwakawaka (fantail). You are also likely to spot some of the less seen species, including shining cuckoos, ruru (morepork), and titipounamu (rifleman, aka Aotearoa's smallest bird).

Further into the Leith Valley is Nicols Creek, where you can find glowworms and an impressive waterfall. The walking track off Leith Valley Road takes you through similar native bush to Ross Creek, where there are silvereyes, South Island robins, and tomtits.

Nicols Creek is worth visiting twice. Once in the day for birds and waterfalls, and once at night for glowworms (don't forget to bring a torch, phone flashlights will only get you so far). Just up the road is Moore's Bush, a former dairy farm that Forest & Bird have been restoring to native bush for half a century.

Botanic & Woodhaugh Gardens

If your reaction so far has been "ceebz", a humble walk through the Botans or Woodhaugh also provides opportunities for wildlife spotting. Look up to the trees to see a kereru or korimako. Embrace your inner five-year-old and pick up a log to see what's underneath. Wildlife spotted in the botanic gardens range from whistling tree frogs to funky fungi to students tripping balls on acid.

Woodhaugh Gardens are home to velvet worms, which makes Dunedin one of the only cities in the world to have a population of velvet worms (*peripatus/ngaokeoke*). If you've never heard of a velvet worm before, it is our pleasure to inform you that velvet worms are batshit-crazy motherfuckers that we don't really know that much about despite being virtually unchanged for 500 million years. The species living in Woodhaugh haven't even been named yet. They look like fluffy little worms, but they are actually voracious ambush predators that squirt a quick-hardening slime at prey, and then inject it with digestive saliva to liquefy its insides.



Photo: AJ Nadin

Otago Harbour

Behind Forsyth Barr stadium is the pathway that leads to the Otago Yacht Club. It borders an industrial block that includes factories and the tip, making the transition to romantic yacht club boulevard feel even more ethereal. It is also an excellent sesh spot. The harbourside commonly has herons, oystercatchers, shags, and spoonbills. If you venture onto the rocks on the shore, you can find sea critters like anemone and crabs.

In the centre of the Otago Harbour is Kamau Taurua (Quarantine Island), which is accessible by ferry from Port Chalmers or Portobello. The first animals you will probably notice on Quarantine Island are sheep, but native bush restoration and predator trapping means there are healthy populations of creatures like skinks, shags, and shelducks.

Halfway up the route to the old hospital you'll find spoonbills roosting. Spoonbills are all around Otago, but Quarantine Island is a particularly good spot to see these

cartoonishly funky fiends. Spoonbills, while considered native now, were not always present in Aotearoa. The first breeding colony was recorded in 1949, which makes spoonbills a more recent Aussie export than VB. In 1977 there were still only 52 birds in the country but since then they have increased rapidly, although there haven't been any population estimates for the best part of a decade.

At the tip of the Otago Harbour, across the water from Taiaroa Head, lies Aramoana beach. Aramoana is home to plenty of sea lions and seals, as well as all of the sea birds mentioned so far. Dusky, bottlenose, Hector's, and common dolphins, are often sighted at the entrance to the harbour, as are orca and humpback whales.

The Mole is a popular snorkeling and diving spot off Aramoana where, if you can brave the cold water, you can see triplefins, starfish, and other marine creatures. A sea lion might even say hi.

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Further Afield

Pūrākaunui inlet is about a half hour drive from Unj, and is an excellent spot for seeing birds that enjoy getting their feet or beaks wet like herons, plovers, and kingfishers. There is also a path that leads to Pūrākaunui beach and Mapoutahi Pā, which you should look up the history of, if you visit.

The beach is buffered by Doctor's Point to the West and Potato Point to the East. A Critic investigation reveals there are no doctors or potatoes anywhere to be found nearby, but you can see kororā, whakahao, and toroa. Around Potato Point lies Long Beach, home to many beach trips, parties, and penguins that just want a quiet night's sleep for once.

An occurrence possible on any New Zealand beach, but one that definitely occurs at Long Beach, is bioluminescent algae washing up to shore causing the waves to glow at night. It's more common in the Bay of Islands and the Marlborough Sounds, but if you're on the beach at night and the waves are glowing a faint blue, you may have been lucky enough to see bioluminescence. Or you were high, who's to say.

Te Nohoaka o Tukiaua Sinclair Wetlands are a 40 minute drive from Dunedin, but if you can make the time and have access to transport, it is worth it. Linking Lake Waiholā with Lake Waipori, the wetlands have kilometres of walking tracks as well as opportunities for kayaking and camping. Wetland birds flourish, including the secretive fernbird and the endangered matuku/bittern. Other critters you may encounter include kōura (crayfish), giant dragonflies, and southern bell frogs.

Keen to visit some of these places but don't have a car or friends who want to go? The Wild Dunedin Festival runs from April 22 to April 28 and provides opportunities to go to many of these places with other people on organised trips with transportation.



Photo: AJ Nadin

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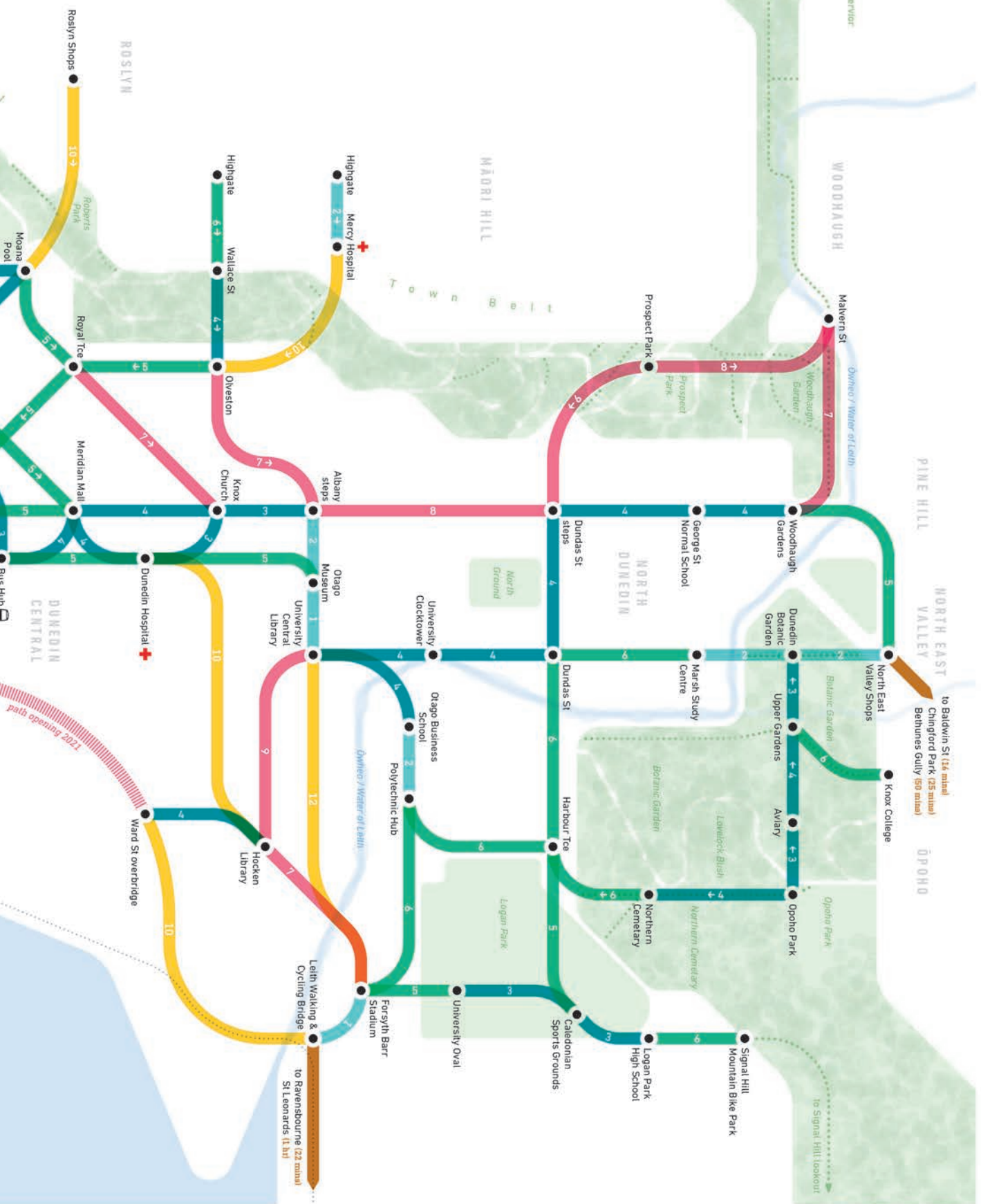
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OTAGO





CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

THE FIELD TRIPS OF OTAGO UNI



BY SEAN GOURLEY

Critic asked students about the highs and lows of their University field trips over the years. We sorted through the field trips, past and present, and compiled this choose your own adventure, so students with boring degrees that don't involve field trips can find out what life is like outside of the library.

HOW IT WORKS

Start at AGRI101, make your decision, and turn to the next page to discover your fate.

AGRI101

Your life is directionless. You somehow didn't get into Lincoln so you choose AGRI101. You have no idea where your field trip is headed, the only thing you know is that you're going "south".

You're on the bus, surrounded by roughly 20 girls who took the paper to find a farmer boy to marry. It's too late to turn back. You drive to various paddocks and observe middle-aged farmers digging ditches. There are no farmer boys to be seen. What do you do?

- a) Ask one of the farmer girls to come back to your place to check out your Hilux.
- b) Settle for one of the middle-aged (but rich) farmers.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

TOUR 219

You bus into Queenstown, stopping by SuperLiquor as you enter the city. As the night goes on you make it to Cowboys and Winnies. All the while, you are bonding with classmates who you have never spoken to before this point. There are many sexy people in Queenstown. A group of girls invite you skinny dipping, while a group of dudes invite you up Coronet for a bit of late night skiing. Who do you choose?

- a) Skinny dipping girls.
- b) Skiing boys.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

ECOL111

You have to dig up cockles on a freezing beach for an entire day. This involves digging 1x1 metre holes in the beach and sifting through the wet sand. It is high tide, and you only have a muesli bar for lunch. A storm hits and your supervisors flee. You can either build a bonfire to shelter from the cold, or take refuge by slicing open a nearby sea-lion.

- a) Build a bonfire to fight off the cold.
- b) Slice open a nearby sea lion and climb inside its body for warmth.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

AQFI 251

You get to explore Stewart Island, drink plenty of alcohol and eat great food from the local fisheries. You also get the Uni cabin on the island all to yourselves. One night, you venture to a nearby pub. Things escalate and you challenge a drunken local to a kayak race. You win the race, but before you return to shore, you are blown out to sea.

After days at sea, you reach a shipping lane. Two cargo ships cross your path: One is headed to Europe. One is headed to Brunei. Which ship do you choose?

- a) Europe.
- b) Brunei.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

ECOL314

You follow your lecturer, the hero and legend Phil Bishop, deep into the Brunei rainforest to study frog communities. Your experiences are vast and challenging. You are gently caressed by previously unknown bright green spiders the size of dinner plates and bitten by bats. At one point you contract mysterious jungle fever, and discover a new species of snake. Your lecturer, Phil, offers you a lick of a mysterious frog. Do you accept?

- a) Lick the frog.
- b) Don't lick the frog.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

MICR204

You have had to endure several difficult microbiology papers to get to this trip, but it might be worth it. You go with ten other students and tour Emersons Brewery. You then consume endless samples of beer. There is no time limit and no beer limit. This is essentially real-life Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Your Professor offers you a hit of a J, do you accept?

- a) It would be rude not to.
- b) No, you don't smoke.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

MATS204

You have to go on compulsory 'field trips' during lockdown. This involves someone videoing the Green Island dump to demonstrate the life-cycle of various disposable items. You wonder what it's like to be happy. Aimlessly scrolling your feed one day, someone sends you an invite on Facebook to a group called Sign Up Club. Do you sign up?

- a) Yes.
- b) No.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

LAME101

You are a fifth-year student having a late degree crisis. You realise that you've spent too much of your time at Uni being a good student. Life after Uni scares you and you're unsure of your direction in life. Rather than find purpose, you decide to regress to your fresher years by getting wasted at BYOs and trashing restaurants. The inevitable end of Uni still looms, closer every day. What do you do?

- a) Become a fresher again.
- b) Grow up.

Turn the page to discover your fate.

EXCHANGE

You are a BA, so you decide to go to Europe because you have nothing better to do. You tour around Europe and are amazed by the range of cultures and accents you experience. You return to NZ and it seems dull and monocultural in comparison. You don't shut the fuck up about your trip, but no one seems to care. Eventually you realise that it's not NZ culture that's dull, it's your personality.

See below to discover your fate.

TOUR214 (INTRODUCTION TO WINE BUSINESS)

You consume endless wine and food for an entire day as you tour around North Otago. At an exclusive vineyard, you are mistaken for a famous wine connoisseur. Winemakers provide you with endless alcohol and food, and you find happiness at last. You never have to do a field trip again. *Congratulations.*

YOUR FATE

AGRI101

a) The farmer girl is not impressed by your Hilux. You take up tourism, to try getting a new girlfriend. *Go back a page to TOUR219.*

b) You fall madly in love with the middle-aged farmer, but he contracts mad-cow disease. You take up microbiology in a desperate attempt to cure him. *Go back a page to MICR204.*

TOUR 219

a) The girls are terrible at swimming and drown before you can save them, but you do discover a cool fish. It piques your interest in ecology. *Go back a page to ECOL111.*

b) The boys are way better at skiing than you, and you are far drunker than you thought. You crash into a ski lift pole and lose all ability to study real subjects. Your only option is to take material science. *Go back a page to MATS204.*

ECOL111

a) Bear Grylls let you down. The bonfire is not enough and you die of hypothermia. *Return to the beginning.*

b) The sea lion is washed away and you find yourself adrift at sea. You eventually float ashore at Stewart Island, where you are taken in by Otago students. *Go back a page to AQFI 251.*

AQFI 251

a) You decide to stay in Europe for a little while. *Go up to Exchange.*

b) In Brunei, you encounter a bunch of ecology students on a tropical field ecology trip. You decide to join them. *Go back a page to ECOL314.*

ECOL314

a) You are delirious and run away, becoming lost in a swamp. After days of hacking at vines with a machete, you make it out of the jungle alive. With a new, expanded perspective on life, you decide to kick back and study tourism. *Go up to TOUR214.*

b) Your research complete, you decide to return home via raft. After days of paddling, you are caught in a flash flood and drown. *Return to the beginning.*

MICR204

a) You idiot! You were too drunk. You black out, end up vomiting in the teachers college and get kicked out of Uni. *Return to the beginning.*

b) You decide to leave. Many of your fellow students can't hold their piss and things are getting grim. Outside the brewery you are mugged by a gang of high schoolers with dreadlocks. You lose all motivation to study or do anything productive. The only thing left for you to take is material science. *Go back a page to MATS204.*

MATS204

a) *Go back a page to LAME101.*

b) While recovering from your head injury, you get into seafood in a huge way. You decide to learn how to farm fish. *Go back a page to AQFI251.*

LAME101

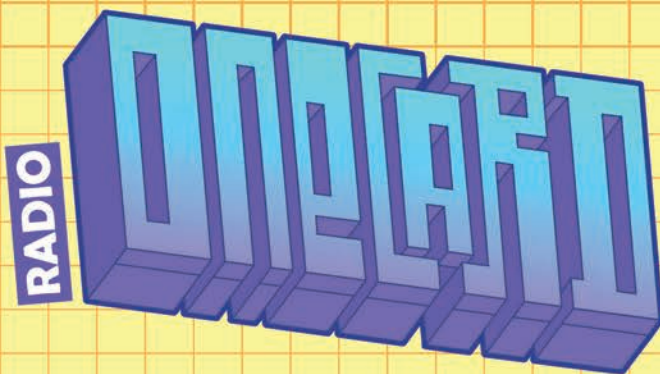
a) Regressing to the state of a fresher, you decide to take ecology. *Go back a page to ECOL111.*

b) It's too late for you. One day, playing save the queen at a BYO, you choke on a coin. The restaurant manager is medically trained but decides against helping you because you just flooded the bathrooms. *Return to the beginning.*

EXCHANGE

You decide to get super into alternative music to seem like a more interesting person. You buy a record player and tonnes of vinyl. As you are carrying your new collection to your flat, you fall on a Joy Division record. The shards impale you, killing you instantly. *Return to the beginning.*

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COSMIC

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Your Indie Movie Beach Parties Are Killing Baby Penguins

By Asia Martusia King

At a cave in Long Beach, a group of students are having a party. They sip on ciders around a campfire, laughing gleefully while the sunset dips over the horizon. Tongue Tied by Grouplove is inexplicably playing. A white man with dreadlocks is strumming the one song he knows on ukulele. Something like that. I dunno, no one ever invited me.

The point is that students, and doof hippies, love having a boogie in caves at Long Beach. What they might not think about is that Long Beach is already home to kororā, or little blue penguins — and these parties are actively killing them.

Baby kororā nest in the back of deep caves. During the evenings, their parents waddle off to sea, hunting for scrumptious kaimoana that they will bring back to their chicks. When people are partying at Long Beach, though, the penguins won't come to shore, and their chicks starve to death.

Jordana Whyte, manager of the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital Trust, notes that fewer penguins have been seen at Long Beach every year. "No one really has a good handle on their numbers, as they aren't highly surveyed, but they are listed as declining," she said.

Little blue penguins nest in the summer from December to late February, which is unfortunately "prime time for people who want to camp on the beach." It's not just limited to parties in the caves, either.

Jordana explained that the noise disturbance alone is enough to deter a penguin, sometimes forever. "The chicks can die or be abandoned, or never come back to the nest if they don't feel safe. It's a cool spot and I understand why students would want to go there, but it's not good. It's really unnatural for [the penguins]."

"Coastlines are wild places. It's up to everyone to share these spaces respectfully," says DOC Coastal Otago operations manager Craig Wilson. "That means minimising disturbances to the many threatened and endangered species that live there, and kororā are a taonga species. Penguins are particularly sensitive to human disturbance, whether intentional or otherwise."

Image: Elliot Weir



In case you read this and think "Wow! I didn't know this was a thing, but a party at Long Beach sure sounds cool!" Don't you dare. There are other places you can go.

Jordana points out that there are plenty of "pretty chill" freedom camp alternatives around Mornington and Ocean View, complete with toilets and zero penguins to bother. No more shitting in bushes and being personally responsible for killing our wildlife. Make your beautiful rose-tinted uni memories elsewhere. And for god's sake, somebody send me an invite when you do.

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The Pain of Endometriosis

By Alice Taylor

Endometriosis can be summed up in one word: pain. Endometriosis is a chronic condition that affects one in ten women. It occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus. You can only be officially diagnosed through a laparoscopic surgery under general anesthetic. There is no cure.

These are two stories of women living with endo.

Alice:

A month ago, I was diagnosed with stage three endometriosis and adenomyosis. I went to the largest all girls public school in New Zealand and I never heard of this condition. Had I known of the symptoms sooner and felt less embarrassed to speak up, I would have lived with less pain and shame than I have for the past eight years. Endometriosis is concerned with topics no one likes to talk about: poos, wees, sex, periods, and fertility.

Simple tasks became difficult. It was a struggle to sit through an assembly without being in pain from incontinence. I was so constipated that I was unable to do proper healthy poop without laxatives, for months on end. I was constantly noted down in exams because I would have to change my tampon during it, or get diarrhea, or my bladder would flare up. I would fear eating food because I wasn't sure whether I would be in severe pain within 30 minutes. It felt like the inside of my stomach was burnt.

Now that I have had the operation, I have improved my symptoms. But endo needs to be constantly managed. Currently, I am experiencing something called neuropathic pain, where my body is still experiencing immense pain, because that is what it is conditioned to feel.

To anyone out there who thinks they might have endo: Your pain is valid. You are not overreacting, or weak. There is help out there. Find a good GP that hears you, list your symptoms clearly, and tell them that you think you have

endo. I was passed around from specialist to specialist until I got a diagnosis, and it wasn't until I went in balls to the wall, chanting "I have endo," that I got a diagnosis. Your symptoms can be relieved and managed, and you are not alone.

Immi:

Endometriosis creates a pain that feels deep and intense. It causes brain fog. It would sometimes cause me to vomit, and it is chronic. In some of my worst episodes, the pain would be so intense that I felt like I was no longer in my body. My senses would go numb, I couldn't move, and all I could do was endure the excruciating, blinding pain, hoping that it would eventually ease up.

I would describe the pain as either white hot or a dull ache, and liken it to a serrated knife being dragged across my ovaries, or a weight crushing my abdomen. I was lucky to receive a diagnosis when I was just 15 and to have undergone two laparoscopic surgeries. Despite these, I still experience chronic 'invisible' pain, which is a mentally and physically exhausting way to live.

About Endo

Some symptoms of Endometriosis:

- Painful/heavy periods
- Pain during or after sex
- Bowel issues: bloating, diarrhoea, constipation, excessive/painful wind (IBS)
- PMS
- Low energy
- Back pain
- Bladder troubles
- Fertility issues

This month is endometriosis awareness month. For support, go to Endometriosis NZ on the internet.



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THE CYCLE OF AGUA: HOW TO RECYCLE YOUR COOKING WATER AND SAVE THE PLANET

BY SUSANA JONES

Water. Everyone's favourite health food. We know and love it, and most of us should probably be drinking more of it. Sure, 70% of the Earth is covered in water and with global warming being today's hottest topic, sometimes it seems like we are being engulfed by water. But that drip-drip ain't an infinite resource (nothing is, really).

Here is a simple guide to reusing and recycling water, in the context of culinary excellence, so that you can maximise efficiency in the name of saving the earth.

Step 0 - Harvest water:

Thank fuck water is free in Dunedin, so this part is easy. Simply turn any tap on and bam, water at your fingertips. If you're looking to harvest your water directly from the land, like a real one, there are a number of possible oases available to you:

- The Leith
- Local water fountains and cafes
- Ross creek
- A dehumidifier
- The beach
- Window condensation from your musty flat
- Fire hydrants

Step 1 - First use:

Grab a pot and get hot and steamy. Luv, it's boiling time. For the first use of your agua, you could boil up a bunch of vegetables, or beans (if you buy them dry). You can steam some vegetables and other

steamable goodies, such as dumplings, at the same time, using the same pot of water.

Step 2 - Second use:

Keep that water in the pot, it's time to cook some pasta. Now, you don't have to cook the pasta immediately after your first use of water. You can delay the process a bit, and save the water in the fridge if you need.

Anyways, cook your pasta sis, there'll even be a bit of extra flavour in there from the veges/beans you cooked in the same water earlier. When your pasta is perfectly al dente, make sure you reserve the water once again, because we can get at least one more use out of it.

Step 3 - Third use:

Take some of that vegetable/bean-pasta water and chuck it in the rice cooker to cook some rice. We love carbohydrates in this household. Once again, the flavour of your rice will be enhanced from the previous uses of water. Obviously don't use all of the vegetable/bean-pasta water to cook your rice, otherwise that rice will be suuuper sloppy.

Step 4 - Fourth use:

You'll have some water left over after cooking your vegetables/beans/steamables, pasta, and rice. If you've got vegetable scraps, such as onion peels, carrot skins and potato skins, you can chuck all of this in a pot with the water and make a mean vege stock. Simply bring the combined water and vege scraps to a simmer in a pot, add a bit of salt, and let all of that hang out for a while.

When the water becomes nice and coloured, fish out the vege scraps and let the water cool. Once cold, you can pour your stock into an ice cube tray and freeze it in the freezer, ready to pop into your meals pop into your meals or your flatmates G&T for a bit of extra flavour.

Here are some simple, non-culinary hacks you can use daily to conserve and re-use water:

- Using it for things such as brushing your teeth and washing your hands (both of which I hope you all do).
- Only flush the toilet when it needs flushing (if you've ever lived on water tanks, you know what I'm talking about).
- Leave the kitchen sink plugged up throughout the day, so at the end of the day after people have used it to rinse their hands and such, there will be some cold water that can be re-used to wash the dishes.
- Invest in a dehumidifier (if you don't already have one). It can collect water that you can then use for things such as watering your plants and rinsing out the rubbish bin.

If you care about our planet and not running our natural resources dry, try out some of these less wasteful ways of using water. I know these small changes can seem like useless and feeble attempts at preventing the inevitable drowning of our Earth, but they can serve as a way of getting your mind to start thinking about how we can be kinder to our planet.

My people's islands and homes are being, and are finna be, swallowed whole, and we need to continue fighting for them. These small changes we can implement into our daily lives can help us feel like we're fighting when our voices become drowned out by capitalism.

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LES MILLS

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New Vegan Food Box Just Dropped

So sustainable it's almost a meme of itself

By Fox Meyer

Let me tell you that this box fucking slaps.

Taste Nature is an organic food store (and much more) located by the casino. It's a bit out of the way for your average student, but that's okay, because the people who may be interested in an organic, plant-based meal box are the same people who would travel more than four blocks from their flat to get some food. Taste Nature also does deliveries.

Critic was given the box by Clinton, the store manager and owner. It was a reasonably light, unbranded, half-full brown paper box. Judging by the weight of it I estimated I'd get maybe two or three plates worth of food, and the meal card said it was intended for four servings.

I got at least 6 meals out of this fuckin' box.

Clinton provided me with a "West African Chowder", which I was very curious about. I did not think that West Africa was renowned for their taste in chowder, but I guess I was wrong, because goddamn was it good. The meal was 100% organic, 100% plant-based, and the packaging was 0% plastic. The box was so granola I half expected it to start telling me about the latest Tame Impala release.

"It's New Zealand's first organic, gluten free, seasonal whole food plant-based meal box," explained Clinton. But if you don't care about all that stuff, don't sweat it, because it's just an all-round delicious meal. The small box was \$40, which worked out to just under \$9 a plate. That's cheaper than a single pint on a night out. There's a large box option too, if you've got more mouths to feed.

Taste Nature advertises it as "simple but delicious recipes for anyone on a budget". Critic can confirm that yes, it was simple, and yes, it was delicious. The meal took about half an hour to cook, and most of that time was spent knocking back a beer while a pot steamed on the stove. Easy stuff.

Clean up was a breeze, too, because there weren't any animal fats to get stuck to pans or other crap like that. And the packaging can be reused, recycled, or composted, like it never even existed.

\$40 is a perfect birthday gift amount, or a good substitute for takeaway for two people. It seemed like a lot of money until I realized I'd spent just as much money at pint night and had little to show for it besides a hangover. \$40 on West African chowder filled my fridge and belly for days, and made me feel very worldly.

Food like this tastes like your mum is proud of you. Food like this almost justifies drinking every other night of the week. Food like this is available in pre-boxed form from Taste Nature starting April 5. Bon Appétit muthafuckas.



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LOCAL PRODUCE
By Sean Gourley

The Slinks

Kings of Flat Parties

The Slinks are an up and coming band on the Dunedin scene. Starting out in 2019, they've worked their way up from playing at the humble Crown Hotel to playing gigs as far out of town as Queenstown. They have two EPs out on Spotify: The Slinks and Come On Now. We checked in with them to see what it's like playing gigs in Dunedin's flat scene.

So, how did you guys form?

Ben: Me and Jack were already doing stuff and we just formed out of that.

Eli: I was in the line at the Baaa and I just hear Ben yell out from like ten metres down the line "Eli! Join my band." And I was like "Fuck, I guess I will."

Jack: And we already knew that George was Master Shredder so we got him in.

Playing around flats, is it challenging with noise control?

George: Well it depends where you're playing, some places will let you get away with it. But a few nights ago we were playing next to two motels, which was a bit difficult.

Ben: It can be tough as well because everyone wants you to keep playing and we want to carry on playing, but if noise control comes they can take our equipment, which we need for other

gigs.

Jack: A \$500 fine can really stop the flow of your band.

Eli: It's kind of nice because the neighbours of a flat asked us to play on St Paddy's because they heard us on a previous night. So I guess it was worth it.

George: Word spreads, sound spreads.

How fucked up do you get before a gig and have you pushed it a bit far at times?

Jack, Ben, George, all at once: Eli has.

Eli: Nah, c'mon, that was just a casual gig. But I did play so shit that night.

Jack: It's important to be on the same buzz as the crowd, if they're drinking you should drink a bit.

Ben: It's annoying when you've been playing for an hour or two and haven't been drinking heavily but everyone is fuckin wasted and you're trying to pack up your shit.

Yeah on that, how is it trying to protect your shit at a gig?

George: Things naturally just get messed up. One time, when we finished playing at Ben's flat, my pedal board was swimming in beer just from guys standing in front of me being pushed and spilling their drinks. Everything becomes sticky

and reeks of beer.

Jack: It's not like they mean bad, they're just drunk. That gig too, they were so drunk they called four encores.

Ben: We ended up just playing the same song four times.

What's your drive? Why are you playing?

Jack: For me, definitely fun. Any opportunity to play the drums is mean. The hanging out aspect is huge.

Ben: Yeah I really enjoy the entertaining bit and the performance of it. And writing, I like writing songs and lyrics and having people listen.

Eli: I just love the attention. For ages, I was just playing bass and doing songs I really liked and I was like fuck, imagine if people could just watch me play. It's a pure ego thing.

George: I was doing academic music through the Uni but this band is more fun. Studying music is interesting for you, but it's not that interesting for anyone else looking in.

Eli: I think this band has very nicely developed into somewhat of a family.

Jack: The social aspect is the main part, if you can't hang or chill with someone in a band then the band is fucked.

George: We're saving the clash of egos for a few years later.

STONER'S AI CREATION SOUNDS LIKE ADORABLE CHILDREN'S TV SHOW

WILL SPELL THE END OF DISCOURSE AS WE KNOW IT

BY DENZEL CHUNG AND ZAC HOFFMAN (R1)

Maybe it was an internet rabbit hole, where at 3am on Tuesday morning you stumbled on a video of an M&M serenading you with a Japanese ballad. Maybe it was Kim Jong-Un singing "Witch Doctor". Or maybe, if you are actively involved in Dunedin News (i.e. over 50), you saw mayor Aaron Hawkins performing Never Gonna Give You Up or I Will Survive.

Usually exaggeratingly and somewhat terrifyingly animated using an app called Wombo.ai, the videos are pretty easy to dismiss as a stupid joke. Similar technologies, though, are ripe for abuse, whether mining huge databases of uploaded photos for data, or making videos of people saying things they didn't (deepfakes).

At first glance, Wombo.ai appears perfectly harmless. Everything about it seems designed for maximum viral value: the unapologetically silly animation, the choice of songs you get (including such bangers as I'm Blue, Everytime We Touch, and YMCA).

Even the origin story seems to fit this narrative. Other tech companies talk a big game of inspiring, world-changing visions, but Wombo's founder Ben-Zion Benhkin told The Verge that he "had the idea for Wombo while smoking a joint with my roommate".

The way Wombo works seems simple: the basic motions (the eye flicks, the mouth movements and cheeky grins) are essentially photoshopped onto your picture, with Wombo's software determining where your facial features are and what editing needs to be done to make it fit.

With similar apps in the past, users have raised concerns with photo privacy. Most famously, FaceApp (the one which made you look older) was found to be uploading and storing the photos users had posted. Under their Terms of Service, they owned every photo edited with the app.

Ben-Zion insists that Wombo takes users' privacy seriously. Unlike most apps, you don't need to register with names or emails, and the photos are deleted immediately after your video is created. Wombo makes it clear they don't own any photos or videos made using their app.

What concerns some experts is what happens after the video is created — when it's shared to the rest of the world.

In an interview with Radio One, Law Professor Colin Gavaghan said that Wombo's videos, while unsettling, were "not hyper-realistic", and that not many would be fooled into thinking they were real. Convincing-looking videos, such as the @deptomcruise account on TikTok, still need heaps of work to refine the details that stick out even to casual viewers. For examples, there is glitching when an object is moved over a faked mouth. However, with this technology improving extremely quickly, he said "it's only a matter of time before we're in a position where a casual observer just can't tell the difference."

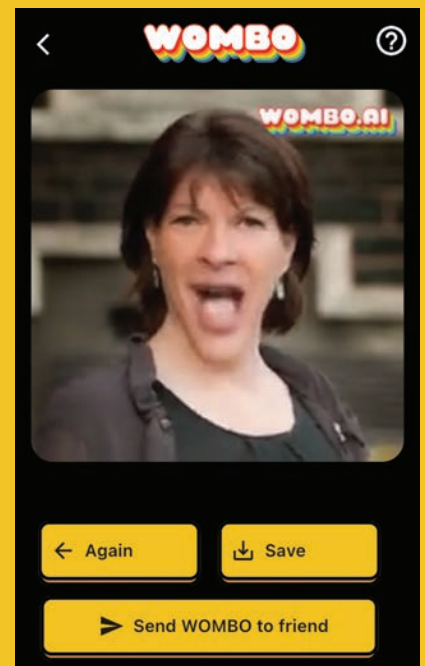
Stephen Davis, a long-time investigative journalist, expressed concerns that platforms like Wombo could add to the spread of fake news online. "The danger of so many things done online as a joke is that they have the enormous potential to be misused by people who are not making jokes ... 10,000 shares down the line, someone is taking it seriously." He thought there was a risk that, with advances in this technology, a future Putin or Trump "won't just have to lie in public, they'll be able to produce the most authentic looking videos which perpetuate their lies".

Though many of the fears around deepfakes have focused on their political implications, more immediate threats loom. Sensy AI, a research company, has consistently found 90-95% of deepfake content to be non-consensual porn, the vast majority depicting women. BBC News reported in March that a woman generated deepfake images of her teenage daughter's cheerleading rivals "naked, drinking and smoking" using photos from their social media accounts.

While Wombo itself, birthed in a cloud of cannabis smoke in a Toronto apartment, seems pretty harmless, the broader rise of deepfake technology has some terrifying implications. It makes it easier than ever to make someone look like they did or said something they never did.

"Take your time and think carefully about something before you share," said Colin. His view was shared by Stephen, who warns: "Your share could be multiplied by a million times, and somewhere in that million people, there will be a number of people who won't get the joke."

Listen to Zac Hoffman's interview at R1 Podcasts.



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MARGARET DAWSON *Kia. Nestor notabile* 1990. (detail) © type print mounted and laminated on hessian. Collection of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.





Generation Hero:

How Gen Zero are taking on climate change

By Annabelle
Vaughan

Climate change is a scary subject. As concern has grown, so has the number of environmental organisations and people willing to take on the challenge of our generation.

One of these organisations is Generation Zero, a non-partisan group which focuses on a solutions-based approach to climate change. Generation Zero co-convenors and Otago students Pippa Chang and Jett Gannaway are part of Gen Zero.

"We work with and make submissions to the Dunedin City Council, the Otago Regional Council and are getting involved with SEA (Students for Environmental Action) on campus. We do loads of student based activities and online submissions, while taking a friendly approach," says Pippa.

Generation Zero has been having an impact on the local community through their work getting projects such as the Otago Regional Council's (ORC) \$2 bus fare over the line, working with the Dunedin City Council (DCC) on the proposed changes to the tertiary precinct, and supporting organisations such as the Orokonui Ecosanctuary.

"When the ORC introduced the \$2 bus fares we submitted on that and wanted to ensure it was more accessible for students. We're making sure that the Otago Regional Council climate change policies are taking a human response, [and] it's not just because of politics. We want to make sure there's a contingency plan for the future," she said.

Jett says Generation Zero also focuses on ensuring that climate activism and education is accessible to everyone, especially students and young people who may not otherwise know how to grapple with the topic. "We are focused on education and engagement with the community. When the DCC puts out a

consultation, it's really unsexy to go submit on it if you don't know anything about it," he said.

"They use complicated language so we put it into simple terms which represent the population, especially youth and students. The DCC doesn't do that for us."

He also explains how intimidating it can be to take on such big organizations. "The DCC, the University and the ORC are slow moving, large organisations. When you're up against them and disagreeing, that's a confronting thing. Maybe you and five others are working against a multi-billion dollar institution, but it's community building which is really important. We want to run a positive, forward-thinking campaign," he says.

On top of all this, Pippa, Jett and the rest of the Generation Zero team struggle with being a young person and dealing with climate change deniers. "Climate anxiety is real. All the young kids care about it, which you can see with School Strike for Climate. We've had to kind of build-up walls, some opinions can be harsh," Pippa says.

Despite this, Pippa believes that there is hope for the future, especially with all the work young people are putting in across the globe. "Look at people like Greta Thunberg, climate change is in every news outlet. We've got to keep it going. If you get one person to change their mind a day that's something. We're stepping forward, and will keep going from there," she says.

Jett agrees. "We have a strong wellbeing focus and team as part of our organization. It is a scary and confronting issue which will affect many of us in our lives. But someone's gotta do it."

You can visit the website, generationzero.org to get involved, or find the team on Instagram and Facebook.

On 24 March, Sustainability at Otago hosted a drag show in the main common room, which is probably the coolest that room has ever felt and will ever feel. It was a seated event, which was a bit odd, and no drinks were served, which was a bit dry, but hey, it was an OUSA-hosted event on Uni campus so you really can't complain. Your University hosted a fucking drag show. It was sick. Men questioned their sexuality. Women found new idols. Everyone had a smashing time, and the performers will be living rent-free in the audience's memories for years to come.



HOROSCOPES



Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

Treat yourself to some self care this week. Maybe a quirky new outfit or different vape flavour. Go get 'em.

Vegan food to try: Vape juice.



Leo

July 23 – Aug 22

You've had a bit of a stick up your ass recently, so I suggest you take it out and loosen up.

Vegan snack to try: Prunes (since you're so full of shit).



Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

It's time to stop creating steamy fantasies in your head about that one particularly sexy lecturer you have. Instead, do your fucking readings.

Vegan food to try: Oat milk coffee.



Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

Swap out your calculator for some sex toys. Seriously, you need to cum not calculate.

Vegan snack to try: Strawberry lube.



Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

It's finally your season, baby! May God help us all as you fully unleash your fiery self upon the world.

Vegan food to try: A bottle of hot sauce.



Libra

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Feeling a little emotional lately? It's okay, take some time to rest. Pop on your headphones and go cry in the Botans. It happens to the best of us.

Vegan snack to try: Your tears.



Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

Go get a coffee and issue some books from the public library. Your intellect and desire to not have social interactions will thank you for it.

Vegan food to try: Firm tofu, like yourself.



Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Send that risky text. Swipe vigorously on tinder. Make a move on your library crush. Venus is in Aries, it's now or never my little scorpions.

Vegan snack to try: Thai Sweet Chilli Doritos.



Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

For the greater good of society, please shut the fuck up. Seriously, not everything is about you love x

Vegan snack to try: A single, wet french fry.



Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

Honestly, nothing interesting is going on for you. Sorry, maybe you should start admitting to yourself you're more boring than you realise.

Vegan snack of choice: Trail mix.



Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

Heavy rain is forecast for this week, so it's time to go out and have you *The Notebook* moment.

Vegan snack to try: Oreos and peanut butter.



Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Feeling greedy, money hungry? This week has a good financial forecast, so start branching out on new business endeavours. Think drug dealing or reselling Hyde tickets.

Vegan snack of choice: Stonks.



RATE

OR
BY SASHA FREEMAN

Having a compost bin! A nice way to dispose of food, a nice way to attract worms to your property, and a nice surprise for your landlord at the end of your lease.

Turtles. Save them xx

Menstrual cups. The company that owns U by Kotex uses palm oil, which is certainly not something I want in my vag. Plus menstrual cups are also just way lower waste.

Meat-free Mondays. The agriculture industry is responsible for a fuckton of NZ's carbon emissions. Not contributing to that would likely make your monday distinctly less shit.

Keep cups. (Except I don't rate that Christian group giving them out free on campus in exchange for doing a survey about god, my keep cup from them broke after two uses).



HATE?

Flexitarians. That's NOT a thing. You're just a normal person who eats food.

The government pitching electric cars as the solution to our environmental problems. How about you just invest in public transport?

The 40-hour work week. Very unsustainable for my brain and body I would say.

Eco-fascism. I don't actually know what that means but I've heard people talking about it and it sounds really bad.

My flatmate's passive aggressive notes about what can and can't be recycled (ily tho king x).

The Critical Tribune

Local Bar Only Offers Jugs to Highlight Sustainability

A local taproom has ditched pint glasses, citing a new-found emphasis on saving the planet as the reason.

"By only serving jugs," explained the new manager, Beerface McGee, "we can save shit tonnes of water on washing, as well as reduce the amount of glass purchased by the bar."

The new manager said that people who ordered pints "were only just doing so to pretend that they aren't alcoholics. We both know that they want a jug. And they end up drinking a jug's worth anyway."

The new policy is designed to save customer's money and save the planet's water. "We're down from running our dishwasher 24 times a day to only about 12," said the manager, "I consider that a huge win."

In unrelated news, drunk and disorderly reports around the bar have doubled in the week since the new policy. "I don't see a connection there," said the manager.

Eating Beef Good for the Environment, According to Beef Farmers

In what can only be described as a total rejection of science, NZ Beef and Lamb have started claiming that eating beef helps the planet.

"Whenever you eat a nice juicy steak, you're helping to rid the world of one methane-emitting cow," said Ethan Methan, the PR spokesperson for NZ Beef and Lamb. The Tribune interviewed him at lunch, as he ate a blue steak, the blood dripping down his chin.

"They fart, and the planet warms up. Eating a cow stops them from farting, no doubt about it."

"Just think about it," he continued, taking a sip of his beer and wiping the blood from his chin with the tablecloth. "How can killing cows be bad for the environment?"

Making a throat slitting motion, he got up out of his seat. "FUCK THE COWS," he yelled. "All they do is stand around eat grass and moo. I will not rest until they are all dead."

Another beef farmer who spoke to the Tribune said that Ethan Methan was "a bit strange" but has "some creative PR ideas for the meat community".

FUCK! I CAN'T COOK

BY ALICE TAYLOR
@ALICEOLIVIAEATS

Spaghetti Aglio e Olio

For days when you truly can't be fucked and existing beyond the bedroom seems like a tiresome feat, the only thing that helps is a bowl of carbohydrates coated in garlicky oil that takes minutes to make.

You could add vegetables if you like, but as my wise mother always says, "why ruin a good meal with vegetables".

INGREDIENTS SERVES 3

1 small bulb of garlic (around 7 cloves)
350g spaghetti
1/3 cup olive oil
Chilli flakes, to taste
Zest of 1 lemon

Juice of 1 lemon
A large handful of fresh parsley, roughly chopped
Parmesan cheese, optional
Salt and pepper

METHOD

1. Peel and finely slice garlic. Set aside.
2. Bring a large pot of water to the boil. Add a generous spoonful of salt.
3. Add your pasta and cook until al dente. It should be a little chewier and more undercooked than you would like.
4. Meanwhile, add the olive oil and garlic to a large saucepan. Turn the heat on to medium. Allow the oil to slowly heat up and let the garlic start to fry. Cook until the garlic is golden.
5. Turn the heat right down to low and stir through chilli flakes.
6. Before draining your pasta, reserve a large cup of the starchy cooking water. We will use some of this to make the sauce.
7. Tip the drained pasta into the saucepan with the garlic and chilli oil. Add the lemon juice, lemon zest, parsley, and a small splash of the cooking water (not the whole cup!). Use tongs to toss and stir the pasta. If the pasta is looking dry, add a splash of cooking water and continue to add water and stir until you are happy with the sauce. Continue to stir and cook on a low heat until the pasta is al dente or cooked to your liking. This should only take a minute or two.
8. Taste the pasta, and add parmesan. Salt and pepper to taste.

Best Coffee (for when you need but have to do something!):

Allpress: 5/5. Flawless. Hot, delicious coffee that isn't bitter, gives you a buzz and is close to uni.

Buster Greens: 4/5. They serve a strong boy, not going to lie. But it does this trick and it's delicious. I also appreciate that their coffee is hot, not lukewarm.

Kind Grocer: 4/5. Their coconut milk mochas are insane. They're rich and served in a larger mug which I appreciate.

Catalyst: 3.5/5. Lovely ambience, respectable coffee. Slightly out of the way of uni, but good none the less.

Market Kitchen: 3/5. A little watery, but a very nice ambience and location.

Dispensary: 2/5. Coffee is often cold and bitter, and there simply are nicer options out there. Plus, there is no toilet (correct me if I am wrong) which I passionately dislike.

Albany Café: 1/5. Good hot chocolate, disastrous coffee which I only drink if I am having an exam induced psychological breakdown. Anything before this point and I restrain.

Veggie Boys Coffee: 3.8/5. Not the best, but certainly and considerably the cheapest. A go to.



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MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

The Nutcracker

So, it was the week I lost my virginity.

Myself and my "special friend" at the time were engaging in rampant intercourse, learning the ropes, in more ways than one. Anyhow, during one of these sessions she is riding me particularly hard and a loud "crack" resonates throughout my body. The sound is coming from my dick.

Now, my mother didn't raise a bitch so I kept going. Everything seems fine for a day, until (this is a lot of TMI, sorry guys and gals) pus starts coming out of places where it shouldn't.

I am at home, a teenager, and not ready to book my own appointments, whether that's doctors, dentists or hairdressers. I have to tell someone. I tell my step mum (no this story is not going in that direction) and she laughs at me very hard.

I feel regret and shame and we go to the doctors. I've never met this fucking doctor before but I told him that that me and my "friend" were both virgins before this week so it won't be an STD. He doesn't give a fuck, doesn't listen, and gives me chlamydia pills.

I go with my real mum to go get these pills. I don't tell her what they're for. Everything seems fine for another day or two, except for the pus, which continues.

Then I wake up one morning and I am in so much pain that I'm convinced I'm dying. I start vomiting, so my real mother and I take a nice family trip to the hospital. A nurse takes care of me and she asks if I'm taking any pills and what for, so I have to tell her in front of my mother the whole deal. It was incredibly uncomfortable.

So I'm there, in hospital, an IV drip in my arm, my mum and dad looking down at me (or down on me), all because I have a fucking stomach infection from a UTI that got misdiagnosed as chlamydia when I was a fucking virg. I am convinced that the loud crack from my "disco stick" helped in getting a gross and pus-y (not pussy) infection. I don't think it has ever bent fully back into shape after that.

In summary, I think I broke my dick and disappointed my parents.

SNAP OF THE WEEK




WANT CLOUT? SEND A SNAP TO THE TRAP. 
BEST SNAP EACH WEEK WINS A 24 PACK OF Red Bull

SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT THE
CRITIC
FACEBOOK
TO CLAIM
YOUR REDBULL



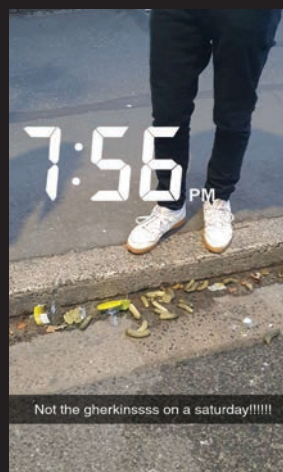
Lifehack: recycle your rubbish bin 



Thanks Otago for honoring our Otago Anniversary public holiday... with classes



You know it was a big Saturday when the blue and red powerades are out of stock



Not the gherkinssss on a saturday!!!!!!



Day 8: I think my flatmate is taking their microbiology assignment a little too far



Everything about this is awful



That ain't a car

That's an automobile

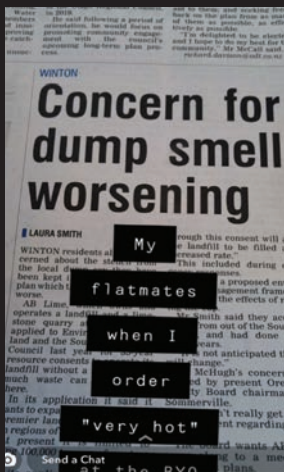


Doofenshmirtz Evil Incorporated

After hours ~



Shit did we park on level YM, 44, 6, MP, 2 or L2



flatmates

when I

order

"very hot"

at the BYO



Bet you can't beat us in a game of jenga



No dishes; no problem



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