

|critictearohi



THIS WEEK

SOMETHING BIG IS COMING

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

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

LETTER OF THE WEEK:

Dear Critic,

I know Issue 3 was a while ago so this letter comes a little late, but I would just like to point out that the peas on Union St East outside Unicol are of the species *Lathyrus Latifolius* which are not edible. Please do not eat the peas.

Love,
A concerned Botany student

[Editor's Response: Fuck. I really hope no one has been eating those peas.]

Dear Critic,

What the fuck is the matter with your sub editor?
Seriously. The commas are all over the place, the standard of spelling has deteriorated precipitously and don't even get me started on the usage of hyphens.

I'm giving this years Critic a 1/10 solely because of this.

Vibes: Discovering a homebrand raisin oatmeal biscuit in your Cookie-Time wrapper.

Yours sincerely,

Sort you're shit

There are Witches among the student population - and probably far more of them than you think!

The Otago University Magical Community is a fledgling student run group for magical practitioners and witches of all backgrounds, debunking stereotypical ideas of witchcraft only being associated with Paganism. Open to people of all backgrounds, including Pagans, Wiccans, Secular Witches, Christian Witches and more, this group offers a chance for all students involved in or curious about magic to explore witchcraft, manifestation, and energy work as a non-denominational practice.

Beginning in early May, we will be holding weekly meetups to facilitate a safe space for all those who identify as witches or magical practitioners to explore their practice through workshops, ritual, and seasonal celebrations. In these weekly meetups, you might find yourself learning to craft your own incense or potions, practicing divination, sharing witchy study tips, and generally fellowshiping with people who understand this multi-faceted and diverse path.

To find out more and keep informed about upcoming events and meetings, please join us on Facebook at OU Magic.

Athena Mac and Eilish L-O

Dear Critic,

Dunedin Public Hospital is like Shortland Street for real (full of beautiful nurses, doctors and healthcare workers), I commented to a Porter pushing my bed, on a recent visit. He sighed and said sadly, "No, we don't have as many murders."

Yours truly,

Anthony Skegg



WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL

Miss Cressida - EP Tour
U BAR
9PM / FREE ENTRY

Hot Sauce Club, Sam Charlesworth,
Swarles + Crook
STARTERS BAR
8PM / FREE ENTRY

Wednesdays at One - Monteverdi and
More feat. Voice Performance Students
MARAMA HALL, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
1PM
Tickets from humanitix.com

THURSDAY 22 APRIL

OUSA presents: Netsky w/ Artificial
Intelligence (UK), Poris B2B AZIFM, and
Reflect Reaction
UNION HALL
8PM
Tickets from eventbrite.co.nz

Boaz Anema
ZANZIBAR
8PM / FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY 23 APRIL

The New Good
ZANZIBAR
7:30PM / FREE ENTRY

Katharticus
THE GALLEY CAFE & BAR
8PM / FREE ENTRY

OUSA presents: Orientaster
(Rescheduled) feat. The Upbeats w/
Tali, Alix Perez, and Shortball B2B Lucy
UNION HALL
8PM
Tickets from eventbrite.co.nz

Pull Down the Sun - 'Of Valleys and
Mountains' Album Release w/ Ayavoid,
Elidi, and Fall of Them
DIVE
8PM
Tickets from cosmicticketing.co.nz

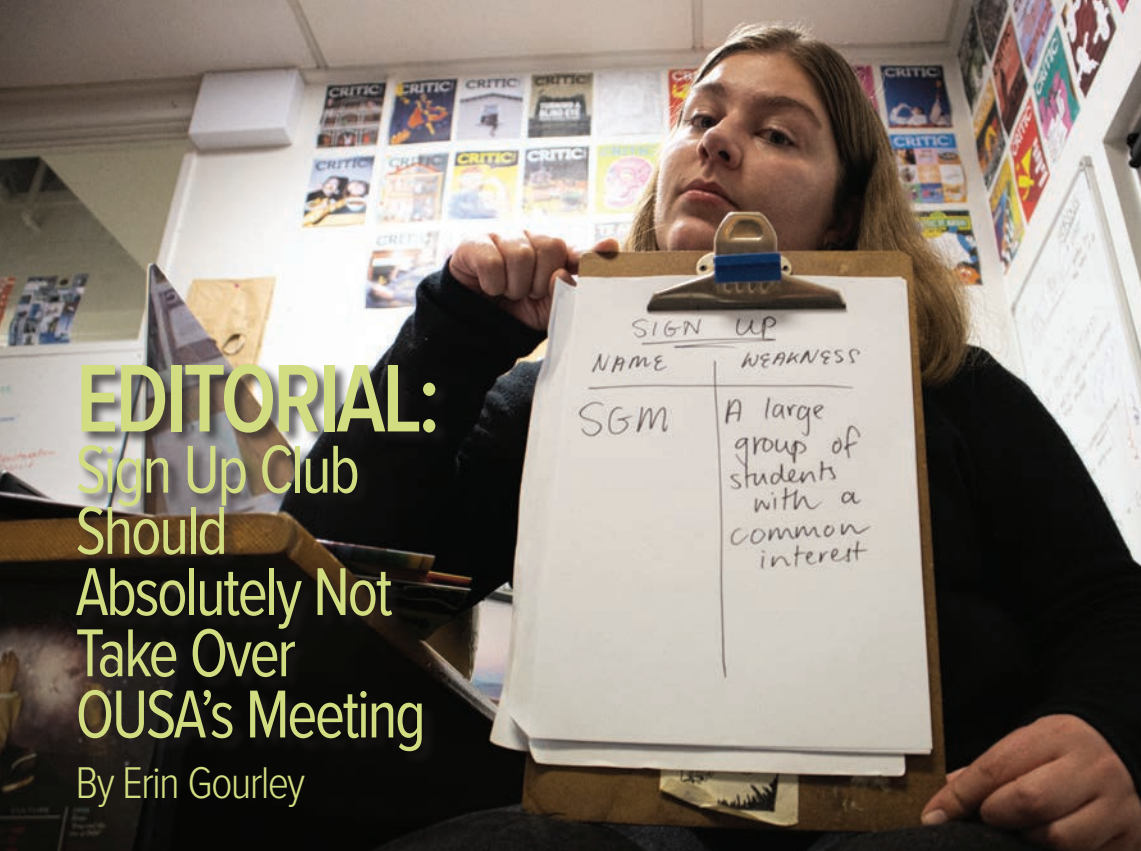
SATURDAY 24 APRIL

Feastock 2021 w/ Biff Merchants, Filth
Wizard, Koizilla, Oscar LaDell & Hoot,
Adelaide Cara, Glad Rabbit, Neive
Strang Band, Night Lunch, Mia Jay,
Purple Hayes Bluegrass, Darcy Kerr,
Molly Devine, Bo & The Constrictors,
Maddy PC, Blimey!, and The Entire
Alphabet
3 FEA STREET / DIVE
DAY EVENT FROM 12PM / NIGHT EVENT
FROM 8PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

World Series & Zero Cool w/
Bathysphere
SPACELAND
8PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Pencarrow w/ Russian Blue and
Sunflower Scent
THE CROWN HOTEL
8PM / \$10

Alan Ned Gray w/ Ed and the Shadow
Boys
OMBRELLOS KITCHEN & BAR
5PM / FREE ENTRY



EDITORIAL: Sign Up Club Should Absolutely Not Take Over OUSA's Meeting

By Erin Gourley

I repeat, Sign Up Club should NOT take over the OUSA Student General Meeting that is taking place on Wednesday 21 April at 12pm in Union Hall.

It would be VERY BAD if Sign Up Club sent say a hundred members of their pyramid scheme, and their members voted as a bloc making up over 50% of the students at the meeting and gained the ability to pass whatever motions they wanted. The Sign Up Club should most certainly NOT become aware of their constitutional rights as students at an SGM.

I would hate it if a group of students were to co-opt a meeting that is designed to give groups of students a frankly insane amount of power.

There are 6000 people in the Sign Up Club Facebook group. Many of them (conservatively, 2000) are Otago students. That's more students than voted in OUSA's last election.

Sign Up Club can get 100 people to attend a BYO. They can get 300 people to attend a party. I reckon if they try hard enough, and use their effective pyramid scheme recruitment system, they could get 100 people to attend an OUSA SGM.

It would only take 25 people to sign up three friends to the SGM for them to take over and wreak havoc on OUSA for the entire year.

OUSA usually struggle to meet quorum (the required number of students for an official meeting) and end up recruiting innocent people who are just trying to eat their lunch near Union Hall. Quorum is only 0.5% of students, or 100 people. So if you can bring in 100 students who have a purpose, like supporting Sign Up Club motions, you're going to be successful.

Here are the things that Sign Up Club could do if they managed to get enough students along:

- Vote to host a second Hyde Street Party with no ticket restrictions
- Require that every OUSA meeting opens and closes with a dramatic reading of WAP
- Adopt sexy Garfield as the official OUSA logo Change the title of OUSA President to Head Honcho
- Require OUSA to sell weird natural supplements that give you the shits
- Rename the Aquatic Centre to Skulduggery McGoldfishes Centre for Aquatic Excellence
- Get a communal PO Box for students so we can ship our drugs to safe places
- Vote to rename OUSA "Sign Up Club"
- Use the OUSA van to sign up Milton, Balclutha, and Dunroon
- Pass a motion of no confidence in the entire OUSA Executive, triggering another SGM as a result
- Remove the Exec at the second SGM, triggering an OUSA election
- Get voted in as the new 2021 OUSA Executive by encouraging Sign Up Club members to vote in the election
- Change the election system to FPP and then change it back to STV, the superior voting system, just to flex
- Evict all DebSoc members from OUSA
- Lobby the University to provide three-ply toilet paper in all bathrooms
- Release Starters footage of breathas getting tackled by security
- Bask in Sign Up Club's newfound power and do interesting things so Critic can report on them

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CRITIC

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Thousands Protest Against Climate Inaction

Boomers would have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for these meddling kids

By Denzel Chung

Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz

Around 1,500 people — ranging from high-schoolers to pensioners — marched from the Dental School to the Octagon on April 9, Ōtepoti's contribution to the nationwide School Strike 4 Climate (SS4C). Despite the Covid-19 lockdown forcing the cancellation of last year's strikes, the protestors were keen to show that they hadn't lost their fire.

While some dismiss the strikes as being all bark and no bite, it's clear that many protesting beg to differ. SS4C Ōtepoti coordinator Hailey Xavier told Radio One that the strikes were a powerful motivator for climate action. The Zero Carbon Bill was "a definite push the Government took because of our strikes, as well as the local council going carbon-neutral by 2030, which Aaron Hawkins the Mayor has said School Strike had an influence on," she said.

Speakers were at pains to emphasise these protests were a show of force, with power to influence and drive the systemic change

necessary for an adequate response to the climate crisis. "It's damn well empowering knowing that they will hear us, even if they don't want to," one speaker said.

Many speakers slammed those in power for simply not doing enough. Evie told the crowd that "it is time our leaders acted on their half-century old empty promises, and did not just make climate targets but took actions towards them."

Martin made a heartfelt plea to business and political leaders. "If any of them end up hearing this speech, they should see these people and know that you are killing our youths' futures."

Aaron Hawkins attended the strikes, despite being a Green Party mayor, the crowd was ruthless, keen to ensure his actions matched his ideology and public image. Chants of "not enough!" and "come on Aaron, it's time to shine, our future's on the line!" rang out, directed straight at

him. Speakers slammed him for "standing there and not doing anything," with one observing "It's good to see that our local council, while not acting on any of our climate demands, have found the time to come to our strike."

Despite the overall mood of anger and frustration at foot-dragging inaction, there was a powerful energy in the air. This was the self-assured confidence of a group who felt that change for the better was inevitable, and they were at the very forefront of it.

The optimism was neatly captured by the final speaker, James. "These are the people the world is going to be passing the torch to. Change is coming. We have grown up surrounded by this climate crisis. We've known nothing else. We have a voice today, we'll have a voice tomorrow, and we will have a voice in years to come. The world is watching."



Opinion: We Need To Consider Our Role in Climate Inaction

By Kate Pitches

Yeah, we fucked up. Our planet's trashed.

It's 4am. We're all in denial stumbling around in the dark. The drinks have worn off but we're pretending they haven't so that we don't have to face reality yet.

I was at the climate strike last weekend and it all came crashing down around me.

The party's over, my fellow drunken revellers, and we've been the rude guests. We sloshed tequila on the salmon's living room carpet, we vomited in the starfish's kitchen sink. We've gotten too cocky. We thought we could handle our liquor but we ended up

passed out on the couch with penises drawn all over our faces.

On behalf of homo sapiens: I apologize to the whales, the yellowfin tuna, the dolphins and the sharks. This is your home too.

We tell ourselves we're 'making a difference'. What the fuck does that mean? Who am I to know what's best for the climate and for the community. I show up for huis, write grant applications for "zero carbon spaces". I chant the chants and wave the signs. But I also fly on a plane from Dunedin to Auckland and I fell off the vegan train.

On Saturday, we watch our friends litter

Castle Street with cans and bottles, and then on Monday we rock up to our environmental management stream.

Party's over, my dear pals. Let's hop off the couch, have one last vom in the corner, and put our grown-up costumes on. Time to see ourselves as part of this world and hold ourselves accountable. Time to learn how to say 'no' and align our actions with values.

If the global 10%, the most privileged people on the planet are responsible for most of the destruction, then as students we're part of that. If not in our privilege at the moment, then the actions we mimic, and the goals we aspire to.

DCC Proposing to Delay Tertiary Precinct Upgrade

DCC: "Oh so students like art and bike lanes? Well...Uh... I guess they can get fucked for another decade."

By Erin Gourley

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

The DCC's draft ten year plan for 2021-2032 proposes to delay the tertiary precinct upgrade into the 2030s.

In 2017, the DCC voted to spend \$20 million during the 2018-2028 period upgrading the Tertiary Precinct. The plan would upgrade the streets with street art and bike lanes, to create "future-focused multi-purpose streets and an environment that enhances lifestyle as well as safety", according to the original proposal.

Basically, they wanted to make the streets around campus seem less shit and more like part of a real city, so that your parents would less disgusted when they visit your flat and might actually view Ōtepoti as a nice place. But no longer.

"We can confirm the draft ten-year plan 2021-2031 does not include funding for construction associated with the Tertiary Precinct Plan," said DCC Group Manager Transport Jeanine Benson. "It makes sense to delay the work until after the central city upgrade work is completed."

The draft plan now only includes \$1 million for the Tertiary Precinct upgrade, to be spent in 2030-31 on "preliminary planning work", even though the upgrade has been planned for years.

The consultation document for the current ten-year plan says that the plan is being delayed until after the central city upgrade is complete. It is unclear why that is the case. But presumably it has something to

do with Lee Vandervis throwing a shitfit, a vast conspiracy by the secretly all powerful Green Party that has replaced all levels of the public bureaucracy with space aliens.

"In the last ten-year plan we talked with you about upgrading the area around the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic campuses," the consultation document said. "The aim was to improve the safety and accessibility of the area, as well as lifting the look and feel for students, staff and the wider community."

With the proposed update to the ten-year plan, it seems that the campus area is no longer a priority for the DCC.

University Wants a New COC

Sometimes I get really outraged and upset about reading about the new uni things they're doing and it makes me wonder to myself, am I the real boomer conglomerate here? How did I get so conservative? Why haven't I started going bald yet? Help I feel old

By Denzel Chung & Fox Meyer
Chief Reporter // denzel@critic.co.nz
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

For the first time in ten years, the University has proposed changes to the Code of Student Conduct and the Discipline Statute.

The proposed additions include specific prohibitions for sexual misconduct, online harassment and initiations. The Uni is proposing to have the power to force who breach the Code of Conduct to attend mandatory alcohol and drug counselling classes.

The proposed changes to the code highlight "the safety and well-being of the University community" as its key priority. Specific prohibitions have now been added for activities which are illegal or "carry the risk of harm to person or property." Students could be directed to avoid contact with specific people for "such period as the Provost may determine", which basically sounds like a restraining order.

The proposed new code allows for restorative justice where students have admitted their breach of conduct, and when those affected by this breach agree to it. This process will be facilitated by the University Mediator, or a third-party "approved by the Vice-Chancellor and acceptable to all involved".

The changes also propose that Proctor should have the power to issue a "Notice to Clear Rubbish" to any flat with rubbish which is "either a health and safety issue or causes a negative visual impact," and to enforce a daily fine which will accumulate for as long as the rubbish is not cleared. So, most of them.

The proposed changes were announced in an e-mail distributed to all students on Friday afternoon. In the e-mail, Registrar Chris Stoddart said the changes were proposed by a "group comprising key University, student and community stakeholders,"

led by the Vice-Chancellor. Stoddart said that the changes "are not intended to significantly alter expectations established by the Code and Statute. Rather, they are meant to increase the clarity with which those expectations are expressed and to emphasise the underlying focus on the wellbeing of the University community."

The Code of Student Conduct is a document setting out the Uni's expectations of students' behaviour, while the Discipline Statute (proposed to be renamed the Conduct Statute) goes over processes to deal with students who don't meet those standards, including punishments. Both documents were last updated in 2011. Good luck cleaning up your flats.

Written submissions can be emailed to codereview@otago.ac.nz. Submissions are due by Friday 7 May 2021.

The Truth About the OUSA SGM

You can do whatever you want

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

OUSA is holding an SGM (Student General Meeting) this week.

OUSA have been advertising the SGM as the Executive doing Executive things in public because they need to do it once a year. However, what the Exec haven't made particularly clear or easy to find is that any member of OUSA (so, almost all of you) can submit a motion for the student body to vote on. This opens the door to absolute shenanigans.

OUSA's Facebook post about the event says "An SGM is where OUSA puts forth questions and students get to vote on them!!" That's not strictly true.

At an SGM, the Executive is at the mercy of the student population. Despite OUSA claiming that the event is meant to prevent the problem of "students wanting to raise things but never know how or feel they can," they have made no visible effort to give students that power.

In this SGM, the only advance motion submitted that wasn't from the Executive was an OUSA policy nerd calling on the Labour Government to honour their promise to include postgrads in the student loan programme. OUSA did not post the form that allows students to submit motions on their Facebook page or on the SGM event page.

When it comes to the SGM itself, OUSA only require a minimum attendance of 0.5% of the Uni's student body (this works out to around 100 or so), but there's also nothing that requires students to vote the way the Executive wants.

On the agenda for this week is the Exec asking for mercy over the three constitutional breaches they've committed this year. Yes, you are totally allowed to not forgive them. Also on the docket is a measure that would require clubs to show up to SGMs if they want grants from OUSA. This has been tried before, but it failed, because the clubs actually showed up for once to vote

"no", so that they wouldn't have to show up again.

But it's not like the only things to vote on are the things that they present. An SGM can be called at any time by the student body via a letter sent to the Secretary with a minimum of fifty signatures, at which stage motion submission will open.

Here, your wildest dreams can come true. Former Critic Editor Charlie O'Mannin wrote in a 2019 editorial about how the Rowing Club brought all their members along to an SGM and made OUSA fund a \$1.39 million Aquatic Centre. Students could, for example — and this is just an example — they could force OUSA to fund the Hyde Street Party and support the return of the Agnew Street Party, if they so wished.

Not looking at you, Sign Up Club.

Students Get COVID Vax

Students scared of needles choose to just take their chances with COVID

By Fox Meyer

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Students in health professionals doing their placements are starting to get the COVID vaccine.

The Health Sciences Pro Vice Chancellor (PVC) reached out to students over email. The email was a call for anyone about to start work in a frontline medical placement to book an appointment for their jab as a part of a priority group of people.

Brianne*, a physio student, said that all of her physio friends “have either received the vaccine this week or are awaiting a confirmation text on when they are getting theirs.” You can emphasize that a certain day is best for you, but not everyone gets their first choice.

“The vaccine itself was very easy, not a very painful one,” she said. “I’ve had no symptoms post getting it, just the sore arm you expect.”

The PVC said that the Uni “strongly encourages all its students” to get vaccinated if they can, citing the obligation of healthcare professionals to protect their patients. But according to Amy*, another physio, not everybody in the medical building is eligible for the jab at this point in time.

Apparently receptionists, who come into close contact with everyone in the building, are not eligible for this round of vaccines. Critic could not confirm if this is a universal policy or specific to a certain healthcare building.

The vaccine “was very easy, not painful”, and is followed by a 20-minute debrief period in which you are monitored for symptoms of an allergic reaction or other unexpected consequence, like the sudden compulsion to buy Microsoft products.

Students who got their jab are “happy to be keeping our people safe,” especially considering that many of them work closely with high-risk individuals.

Jamie Lee Ross offered us \$500 in Peri Peri points to spin this as an article for health supplements, but we said “hell no Jamie! Critic’s journalistic ethics aren’t for sale (unless you’ve got a good K hookup)”.

DCC Denies Use of Sonic Weapon

Also promises that they are NOT conducting any secret dolphin LSD mind control experiments

By Asia Martusia

Staff Writer // asia@critic.co.nz

There is a mosquito device in Dunedin’s Queens Gardens, but a DCC Parks Officer said they were “not aware” of the device’s existence.

The so called ‘mosquito device’ installed in Queens Garden emits ultra-high frequency blasts, which are normally detectable only to people under the age of 25. A 2017 Official Information Act which said otherwise.

Mosquito devices are often used to deter young people from loitering. They produce high pitched sound that becomes undetectable with natural age-related hearing loss. The sound is uncomfortable and can be physically painful for young people.

A Community Safety Officer in the 2017 Official Information Act request advised that the mosquito device was fitted to the side of La Maison to deter people from

peeing against buildings once the public toilets closed.

“Boy racers also used to congregate in the area with fighting, drinking, et cetera,” they said. “It used to disrupt the business at La Maison.” However, the Queens Gardens Exeloo toilets are open 24/7, and the DCC claimed that the mosquito device is turned off after 10pm anyway.

When the DCC was asked about mosquito devices, a Parks Officer said that they had heard of the method, but were “not aware of it being in use at Queens Gardens” and “not sure what it was [that may have been experienced]”. They acknowledged that it is “not unusual, although frustrating” for activity to go on in their area of responsibility without their knowledge.

Mosquito devices have been banned in some cities overseas, stating that the device

breaches human rights as a form of assault. Not here. The German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health states that use of ultrasonic noise channels were “not entirely safe”, particularly regarding prolonged exposure for non-verbal infants whose parents cannot detect the sound.

It may also induce intense reactions for individuals with auditory hypersensitivity disorder who, when triggered, may not be able to articulate their discomfort. Alongside physical pain, Mosquito devices can disrupt the equilibrium senses, with onset of dizziness, headache, nausea and impairment “to be expected”. It’s basically the last thing you’d want to run into with a hangover.

As of the Official Information Act’s publication, Council had not investigated the effects of these devices on Dunedin residents and had not reviewed the use of this device.



Clubs Might Get Funding for Food Instead of Just Sports

“Let them eat cake” — OUSA, 2021

By Erin Gourley

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

OUSA is proposing to remove the divide between sports and cultural clubs at its upcoming Student General Meeting (SGM). Motion number five on the agenda is “that the Grants Policy be expanded to include some grants for food”.

Academic and cultural clubs are pissed about the current policy, which allows a lot of funding for sports equipment, but no funding for food or social events.

Shaan Kumar, the President of the Otago Asian Law Students Association (OALSA), said that “the current exclusion of food-related grants ignores the fact that food isn’t always just some meaningless add-on to attract people to an event; it’s often of cultural and customary significance that is central to the cultures the clubs represent.”

OALSA have in the past run launch nights which involve making food like sushi, rice paper rolls, and dumplings “to give Asian

culture exposure within the law faculty”, Shaan said.

Quintin Jane, President of the Maths Students Association, and the Chemistry Students Association, said that he had encountered problems with OUSA funding too. “The [OUSA] grants are completely irrelevant to academic clubs,” he said.

He described how the Chemistry Students Association had recently had a liquid nitrogen ice cream night, where they made ice cream using liquid nitrogen. He had to personally pay the costs for the event and then “hope that enough people would show up to cover the cost.” Luckily, they did.

“I feel like the point of these associations for degrees, it’s a social thing to build collegiality, so there should be funding for these events,” Quintin said.

On the other hand, sports clubs like the Frisbee Golf Club can receive grants of \$1000 to buy sports equipment. The inequality between sports and cultural/academic clubs was first discussed by OUSA at their meeting on 22 March. “I think it’s sad that academic and cultural clubs are always locked out,” said Dushanka Govender at that meeting. “The entire purpose is likeminded people, bringing them together,” she said.

The Animal, Aquatic, Plants, and Ecology Society, on the other hand, didn’t have a problem with the current policy. As a larger society, President Max Schneider said that “the membership fees contribute largely to our spending budget.” “There are other sources of income for the club,” he said.

Quintin said that the same doesn’t hold true for small associations like Chemistry and Maths. “Smaller associations like us, we don’t have enough members to charge a fee,” he said.

Why the Hyde Themes Were Removed From the Event Page

Hyde themes more like hide themes amirite?

By Erin Gourley

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

The list of Hyde themes was taken down from the event page after students raised concerns that some of the themes were offensive and inappropriate. In particular, students who spoke to Critic were concerned about the “Travellers and Gypsies” theme.

“It was a bit annoying because they didn’t tell us anything, they just took the post down,” said a Hyde resident.

“This had been in the works for a few days, it took a few days for OUSA to say anything about it,” the resident said. “It was fine but like we didn’t know anything, we were like is our

flat theme going to be allowed?”

A Hyde resident said that the flats had all provided OUSA with both their themes and also back-up themes. However, OUSA denied that there was any kind of vetting process for those themes.

“Flat themes are ultimately the decision of each flat and previous years flats have effectively communicated the themes without OUSA promotion,” said OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey. “We believe it is important that ownership of these themes remain the responsibility of flats to choose and manage.”

“The OUSA Executive have made the decision that these themes will not be posted on our Event page,” said OUSA President Michaela Waite-Harvey. “The flats subject to the complaints have been contacted and they have made the decision to change the themes — and these are still being confirmed by the relevant flats.”

“You put down your first choice and your second choice, but it seems like it doesn’t really matter because there are double-ups anyways,” said a Hyde resident. “You don’t want to be too sensitive because at the end of the day it is a dress up, but there is a reason why people find these things offensive.”

India Singled Out in Travel Ban

Otago BYO spots struggle as imports of butter chicken plummet

By Fox Meyer

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Representatives of international students in New Zealand have spoken out against the India Travel ban.

India was singled out in the sudden ban, which provisionally lasts from April 11 to April 28. Tithi Gandhi, Otago Indian Students Association's (OISA) Welfare & Equity Representative, said that herself and many other Indian students were gutted to not be able to see their families by the end of 2021. "I'm honestly very distressed by it."

The ban is an unprecedented curtailment of New Zealander's right to return from overseas, and has come under fire from the Human Rights Commission.

She said that there's "constant anxiety

knowing that our people at home are struggling in so many ways" while she, and others in her situation, are stuck on the other side of the world.

Kevin Guo from NZISA said that "While we understand the travel ban was a bid to protect everyone residing New Zealand, it's really disappointing to see India as the only country ousted in the government's response."

It's not like India is the only country with Covid. "What about the USA?" asked an American, who was confused as to why his home country was not on the travel ban list. The US and the UK have both contributed more total cases of imported Covid than India, although India has accounted for more

than half of MIQ cases since January.

The message sent by the singled-out ban isn't ideal. "Kiwi-Indian students fear that they will be subject to discrimination and harassment as a result of the ban," said Kevin.

"Although students understand the decision was made in the interest of public health and safety, International students in India still feel that they've been ostracized by this ban, as no other country received a similar sanction," said Kevin. "Their latest decision sends the message to international students in India that they are not welcome in the country and that New Zealand is willing to exclude them at a moment's notice."

Science Library Third Floor Converted to Offices

Who needs books when you can have bureaucracy?

By Quintin Jane

Radio One News Reporter

The third floor of the Uni's Science Library has been stripped of books and is set to become office spaces for the Sciences Divisional Board (i.e. the people who run the Science programmes at Otago).

According to Campus Development Division Director Tanya Syddal, the area is to be fitted out about midway through this year and into October. The University's plans include knocking out a wall from the Science Library's third floor into the Dodd-Walls Centre in Science 3, linking both the main science building and the library.

One student told Radio One that the doomed floor was their favourite spot to study and that they were "not happy". "It's already hard to find a spot to study, and that was the one place you could go to at 10am and maybe find a seat during the exam period."

Another student spoken to by Radio One, Cheyenne, said it made her "a bit annoyed". "Students already have limited study space, and taking away an area like the third floor makes our lives harder." She questioned whether or not the increase in office space was needed.

Tanya said that any study space lost will be made up for on other floors. According to Pro-Vice Chancellor Sciences Richard Barker, this space has been created by identifying books and journals around the Science Library that are less frequently used, and moving them into storage.

Work to convert the third floor is already underway. All the books on the third floor were removed during the mid-semester break and placed in library storage at 109 Leith Street. Students are able to request these books through the library's website.

Radio One recently requested a book from storage. It took nearly two days to be available for collection.

The moving process took library staff six full eight-hour days. More regularly accessed books and journals have been amalgamated into the shelves on the second floor.

The current Science Divisional Office, located opposite the Mellor Labs building on Union Street, will be demolished to allow an extension of the Union Lawn. In a statement to Radio One, Pro-Vice Chancellor Sciences Richard Barker said that the current buildings "do not meet modern standards or a modern working environment's needs, and meeting those standards would be cost prohibitive". However, it unclear if union lawn itself measures up to present day turf management standards.

Shocking: Students Don't Engage With Student Politics

Voter turnout so low that you could definitely rig an election

By Runze Liu

Contributor // critic@critic.co.nz

Despite efforts by OUSA, students continue to be indifferent towards its governance.

OUSA leaders are tasked with making policy to ensure everything runs smoothly. This includes event planning, keeping the Uni from screwing students over, and providing safe(r) intoxication opportunities.

However, students are apathetic towards student politicians. This is visible in OUSA elections and referendums, where voter turnout is consistently low, with last year's executive election and semester one referendums having around 10% turnout, while semester two referendums were even lower, at around 5%. President Waite-Harvey got elected with the support of 7% of all students, or 1579 votes out of around 21,000 eligible voters.

Michaela directly acknowledged this. "OUSA has seen a decrease in student engagement over many years. We have made it a goal this year to ensure that trend does not continue," she said. More student voters actually help secure the Exec's jobs. If a small, co-ordinated group of students were to attend an election, they could tip the scales with relative ease.

"We engage through our normal marketing channels, but beyond that the Executive is making it an aim to ensure we are focusing on issues, and bringing forward discussions that students find important — and have a reason to want to engage in." The Exec are also proposing that Clubs have to attend their SGMs, which would increase student engagement by making it compulsory for some students to attend those meetings.

The issue becomes apparent the moment

you talk to students. So far, most students Critic Te Arohi asked didn't know what a "Michaela Waite-Harvey" is. "Could be a RAF level bomber, not too sure 'bro," said one. Nor do they know much about, or even care about, OUSA politics.

One student commented: "Honestly [no one cares] because all the people who would be involved in student politics. It's time consuming and dull."

Students assume that politics are dull and boring and full of meetings, and they aren't necessarily wrong. But OUSA voter turnout is so low that your voice actually does have a direct impact on their policy. It's hard to get students to care about student politics because they don't seem to realise that the student politics system is in place to let them make the changes they want to see.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION REPORT PANEL DISCUSSION

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION WITH MINISTERS' JAMES SHAW AND DAVID PARKER, HOSTED BY HON DAVID CLARK. THEY WILL BE SPEAKING ABOUT THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION REPORT AND THE GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

HOST

HON DAVID CLARK
MP FOR DUNEDIN

THIS IS OPEN FREE FOR THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND.

HOSTED BY THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH OF THE DUNEDIN LABOUR PARTY

PANELLISTS:

HON DAVID PARKER - MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

HON JAMES SHAW - MINISTER OF CLIMATE CHANGE

20th APRIL
MAIN COMMON ROOM,
UNIVERSITY UNION
BUILDING
12:30PM - 2:30PM



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- ✓ Not on any regular medication?
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Building Students' Dream New Vice-Chancellor

Not being Harlene seems to be a crucial requirement

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

With the gaping void left in our hearts by the departure of beloved Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne, students have been left in the lurch when it comes to someone to blame for our next round of department cuts.

Critic spent far too much time talking to students about their perfect potential Vice-Chancellor, who we've dubbed Davis Barrie in a desperate attempt to prevent overuse of the term Vice-Chancellor.

According to an overwhelming number of students interviewed, in order for Mr Barrie to succeed, he simply has to be "not Harlene".

One student who has either been at Uni far too long, or read the Critic editorial last week, told us "Harlene started out pretty good, but lost sight of what it was all about towards the end." What it actually is all about, we may never know, but it's important that we know Harlene lost sight of it.

A Philosophy and Classics student told Critic that they'd "like to study without the shadow of an axe constantly hovering above them." A Marine Science student said it was "concerning that the University can cut subjects at will with little thought for the students they're affecting."

Another student said "can we get someone who

isn't as white as vanilla ice cream? Literally anybody with an ethnic background would do."

The vote was mostly split down the middle for the preferred gender of the new VC (a slight preference towards the new VC being female), with the overwhelming sentiment being that it really doesn't matter so long as they're competent. With applications for the position closing a few months back in February, students at the University of Otago may soon see the poor soul chosen to deal with them for the next five years. Hopefully our Davis Barrie will be a more merciful overlord than Harlene was, and the Humanities will flourish under their rule.

University Losing Money, Money, Money on Colleges During 2020

Halls are a rich man's world

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

University halls of residence lost a cool \$690,000 in 2020, due to the Covid lockdown.

Due to 2020 being the shitshow that it was, the Uni wasn't quite able to cover all of their hall costs, and have since increased their intake of first-years in accommodation for this year. This is either to make back some money, or because now the gap year OE isn't an option any more.

While the University did make \$34,549,177 in revenue from halls of residences last year, it wasn't enough to cover the operational costs of \$35,239,610 across all halls. For those among

us who haven't touched maths in a while, that deficit comes out to around \$690,000 (nice).

For reference, in 2019 the Uni took in a little under \$37 million in revenue from halls, and \$35 million in 2018. Part of the reason for this financial "underperformance" is the fee rebates given to students who were home over lockdown during 2020. We don't know how much the Uni is forecasting in revenue for 2021, but we do know that they accepted nearly 5400 applications for 2021 entry into halls of residence, and after students were accepted, only 26 students were on a waiting list as of

March 10 this year.

In case you've been living under a rock, Abbey College dumped all of their postgrads at the end of last year and was promptly renamed Caroline Freeman East, as an extension of the college across the road. Additionally, the fancy Executive Residence is now being used as part of UniCol, which is a quality of living that freshers absolutely don't deserve. First years have also been slotted into Uni Flats or homestay accommodation, but thankfully the Uni didn't go with the nuclear option of leasing a hotel for the year (imagine freshers getting pissed up at the Scenic).

Someone Shat in the Zoo

Forgot to flush, too

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

Title says it all. Great job, fuckhead.

Otago's new Most Wanted is the man who shat in The Zoo at the rugby on 10 April. Described as "slender, blonde, curly-haired and unashamed", this man is assumed to be highly dangerous and not to be confronted by the public.

Public shitting is a rare and serious crime, only second to serial shitting in severity. Police have not verified if this is a serial-shitter situation. The public is holding their breath, and noses,

in the meantime.

A girl at the ill-fated game said that she saw the man shit on his chair and cover it with a bucket. The shit was described as small, but smelly. "I noticed a guy behind me had his pants down, and people were joking that he must be having a wank," said the witness. A wank wouldn't be too alarming for the Zoo, but a shit is just too far.

"Then I noticed that the area behind me had totally cleared out, and people were holding their noses. There was this orangish-brown

thing on the seat behind me." The port-a-loo's were allegedly just a thirty second walk away.

The criminal attended the rugby with his girlfriend, who tolerated his shitscapades. "They seemed totally unashamed. No remorse," said the witness, who has requested anonymity to protect her safety. A remorseless shitter is the scariest kind.

"I just cant help but wonder," mused another witness, "does he close the door when he shits at home? He's too powerful."

The George Street Dots Revisited

An interview with Dunedin Mayor Aaron Hawkins where we crucify him on the twin crosses of public finances and local Facebook news-groups for Easter. We hold his feet to the fire about the brightly coloured dots on George St — and he holds nothing back.

By **Hannah Johns**
Radio One News Reporter

Last year, the DCC painted dots on George Street to create a pedestrian-friendly space. A year on, the dots are fading away. Hannah Johns spoke to Aaron Hawkins about the dots and discovered that there are no plans to repaint them.

Hannah: I've become very fond of the dots, every time I walk down George Street I just sigh and think, "ahhh the dots". In your own words, what was the reasoning behind the dots?

Aaron: Covid was a really stressful time for a lot of people but particularly for businesses who couldn't operate, or certainly couldn't operate at full capacity. We asked staff to look at what they could do that would make it safer for pedestrians to use more of the space on George Street. What we wanted to do was avoid a situation where businesses were open, but people didn't feel safe to be shopping as they ordinarily would.

People had zero qualms about physical distancing. So, in the end it wasn't necessary — but the decision we had to make was: Whether we do something that proves to be unnecessary, or do we do nothing and risk that people don't feel comfortable or safe.

We spent \$2500, painted some dots on the road, and asked people to drive a bit slower and to look out for people who were trying to maintain physical distancing from each other — that didn't seem like a big ask.

That was the logic, it was a public health

and safety measure to try and make people feel okay.

What was the response like?

The response was disproportionate.

Do you think the media treated you unfairly when it comes to the dots?

I don't know if the media response was particularly difficult, but there was a lot of public feedback that was very direct.

Yes, I mean through social media channels, like Facebook.

It got tied into the ongoing culture war about 'the war on cars' and driving and parking and how we prioritize space. We've been pretty clear that the status quo isn't good enough for us in terms of how the city center functions, and we are very aware of who is excluded by the current set up. We are designing a city center that is more inclusive for more people.

We needed to think about who are these spaces for, who is being told that they are not welcome now, and how do we try and fix that? That is the main driver behind what we are doing; trying to create a public realm that is inclusive and accessible, and is attractive and that people will treat as a destination and spend time, which by extension is good for businesses that work in that area.

The interventions in George Street after the main lockdown were addressing that. It was cheap and it was temporary — the paint

lasted longer than I think any of us expected, but that's okay. They're a lingering reminder.

There's no plan to repaint the dots?

Not at this stage.

Do you think there was a general consensus that the dots have been successful?

My gut feeling was that [the dots] were probably unnecessary in terms of whether it was going to change behavior. It was part of a range of things we did. We made car parking free until the Chamber of Commerce told us to stop because all the spaces were being taken up by staff, and there was no room for shoppers to park.

It was a fairly low stakes thing to do. And it was directly aimed at trying to mitigate what had been a really tough time for local businesses.

I remember talking to a shop manager who had been lobbied to sign some petition aimed at us, who was reasonably ambivalent about it. In his words it "adds a bit of whimsy". What's wrong with whimsy? Turns out not everyone shares that view.

The sky didn't fall in. Nothing horrific happened. People managed to get a lot of negative energy off their chest, and I hope that was cathartic for them.

Listen to the full interview on Wednesday Drive 4-7pm on Radio One and the highlights on the Radio One News.

OTC Watch

Snow on skifields; more expected

To begin, some groundbreaking news as we head into winter.

“The place showing the most growth potential is Milton, but I can see the ability for any of our towns to give it a shot and harness this opportunity.”

If Milton is showing the most growth potential, we're fucked.

It was falling into disrepair, but it was not beyond repair, the applicant stated.

Unlike this homestead, I am beyond repair.

History of Dora the digital bus celebrated

There is no way to make this article more absurd than it already is. A 35-year-old school bus, whose name is Dora, is being driven around Alexandra to educate people about the internet. To celebrate this, a single bagpiper walked down the main street of Alexandra in front of the bus in a kind of sad parade.

OTAGO knitters and pilots joined forces this week to raise money for charity as part of a national relay through the skies.

We can only hope the knitters do not knit a giant aeroplane. Last time it ended in disaster.

And thus, one of his great legacies is the string of dodgy comments which endeared him to those of us who believe life should not be taken too seriously.

Prince Philip's racist comments: fun for the whole family.



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Sophie Barham

Kia ora tātou, my name is Sophie and I am your postgraduate representative for 2021. I am in my second year of postgrad, studying a Masters in Health Sciences with a focus on health equity and health policy.

2021 has been an eventful year for postgrads already. We are beginning to welcome our international postgrad students back to Aotearoa after a year of uncertainty in 2020, and through the Pūtea Tautoko hardship fund we have been able to provide support for postgrad students, both domestic and international, who have suffered hardship due to COVID-19.

As well as this, recent changes to tutoring policy have meant that many postgrad students who tutor or lab dem face lower pay. OUSA

is currently working with postgrad students on a survey and report that will help change this policy for the better.

But with challenges there have also been some exciting things happening for postgrads. The Otago Postgraduate Association has had a promising start to the year with record sign ups to the association, and a successful career development event in March. The end of April marks the OPA's first social event for the year, and we invite you all to come have a drink and a boogie with your fellow postgrads. Postgrad can be hard, but it's easier when the load is shared. The Postgrad facebook or my email is always open and we cannot wait to meet you all at future events throughout 2021.

Ngā mihi,
Sophie

Postgraduates Student
Representative

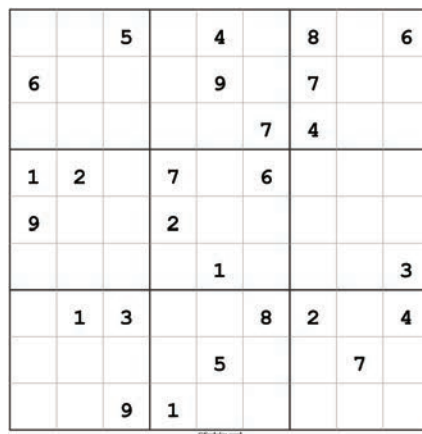
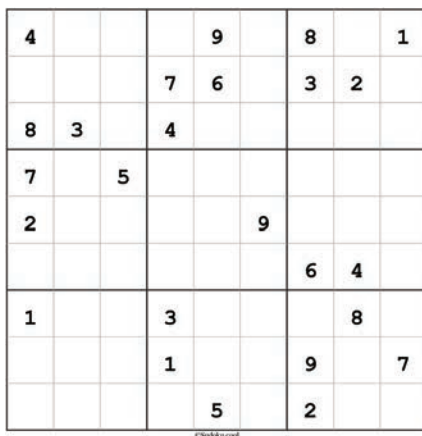
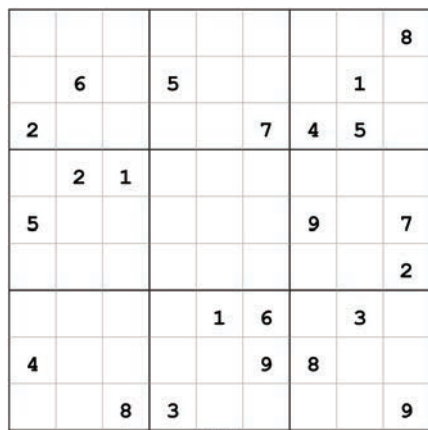
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EXECUTIVE

3. Petticoat 7. Apocalyptic 9. Catnip 12. Puerto 15. Oprah 16. Alfredo 17. Paleo 18. Regret 21. Maunga 23. Highlanders 25. Albatross

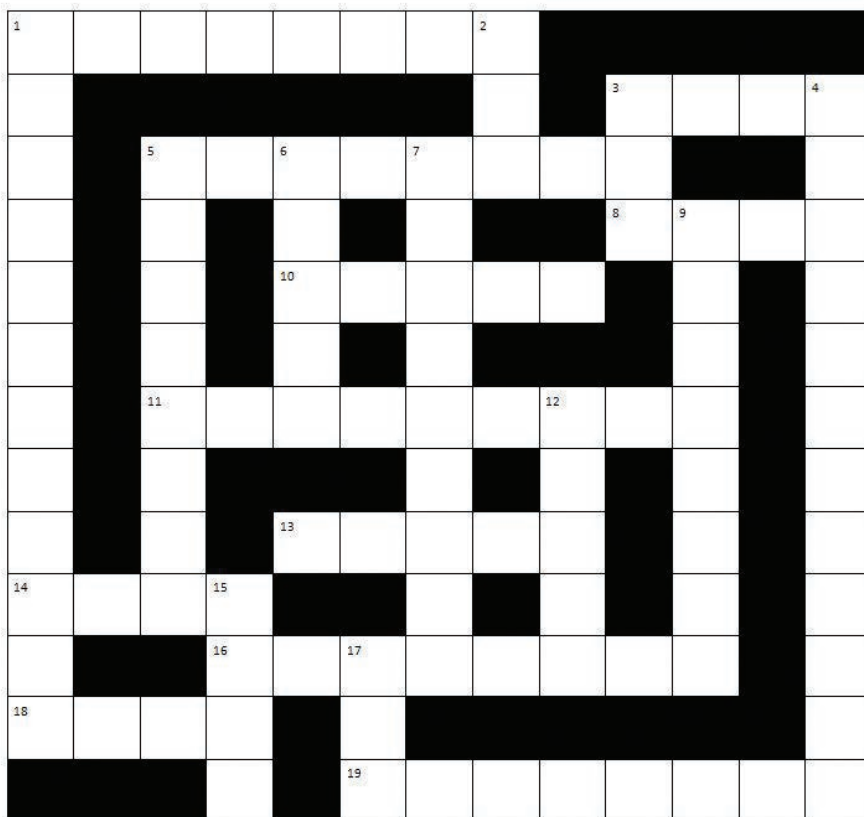
1. Mitochondria 2. Moo 3. Peak 4. TipTop 5. Cliche 6. Easter egg 8. Brontosaurus 10. Inhale 11. Degrees 13. Utopia 14. Replenish 19. Regina 20. Tether 22. Ants 24. Emu

LETTERSEARCH ANSWER: ESTRANGE

SUDOKU



CROSSWORD



1. Situation (8)

3. Popular holiday destination in Indonesia (4)

5. Highly alcoholic drink that is often green (8)

8. Follow (4)

10. TV show: Rick and _____ (5)

11. The _____ of Notre Dame (9)

13. 'Sit down' in te reo Māori (1, 4)

14. Entice (4)

16. Where grapes are grown (8)

18. Apple virtual assistant (4)

19. Lover of the Russian queen (8)

Down:

1. Major feature of South Island landscape (8.4)

2. Grain used to make porridge (3)

3. Wager (3)

4. Drawing (12)

5. Big comfy chair (8)

6. X factor judge: _____
Cowell (5)

7. Santa's home (5,4)

9. NZ city also known as
Tāmaki-makau-rau (8)

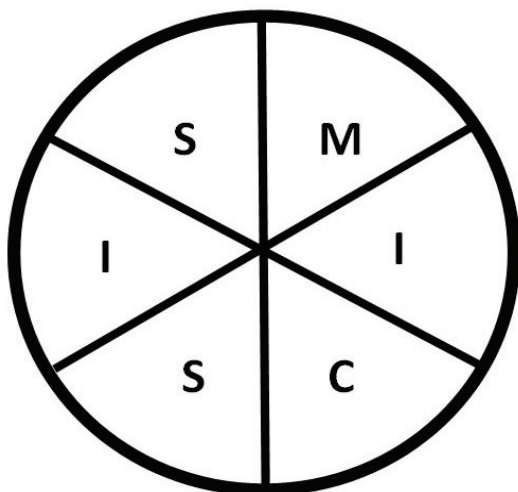
12. Scent (5)

15. Live in reverse (4)

17. Neither here _____
there (3)



WORD WHEEL



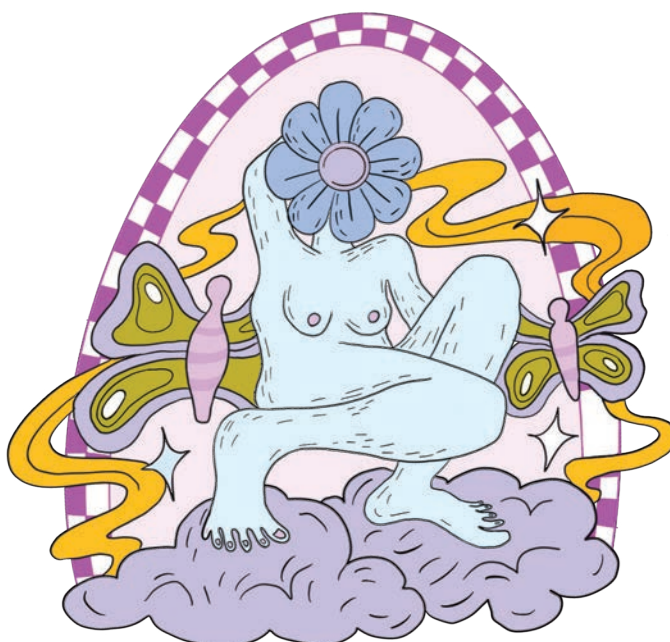
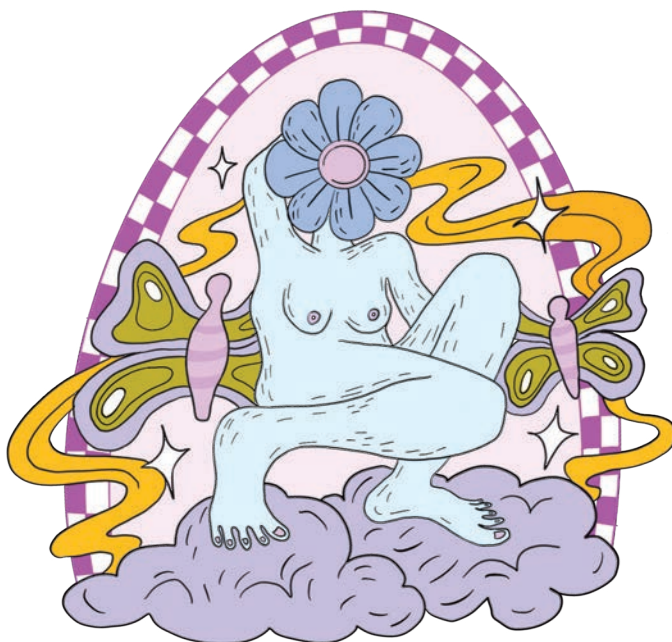
Insert the missing letter to find the word that runs either clockwise or anti-clockwise around the wheel.

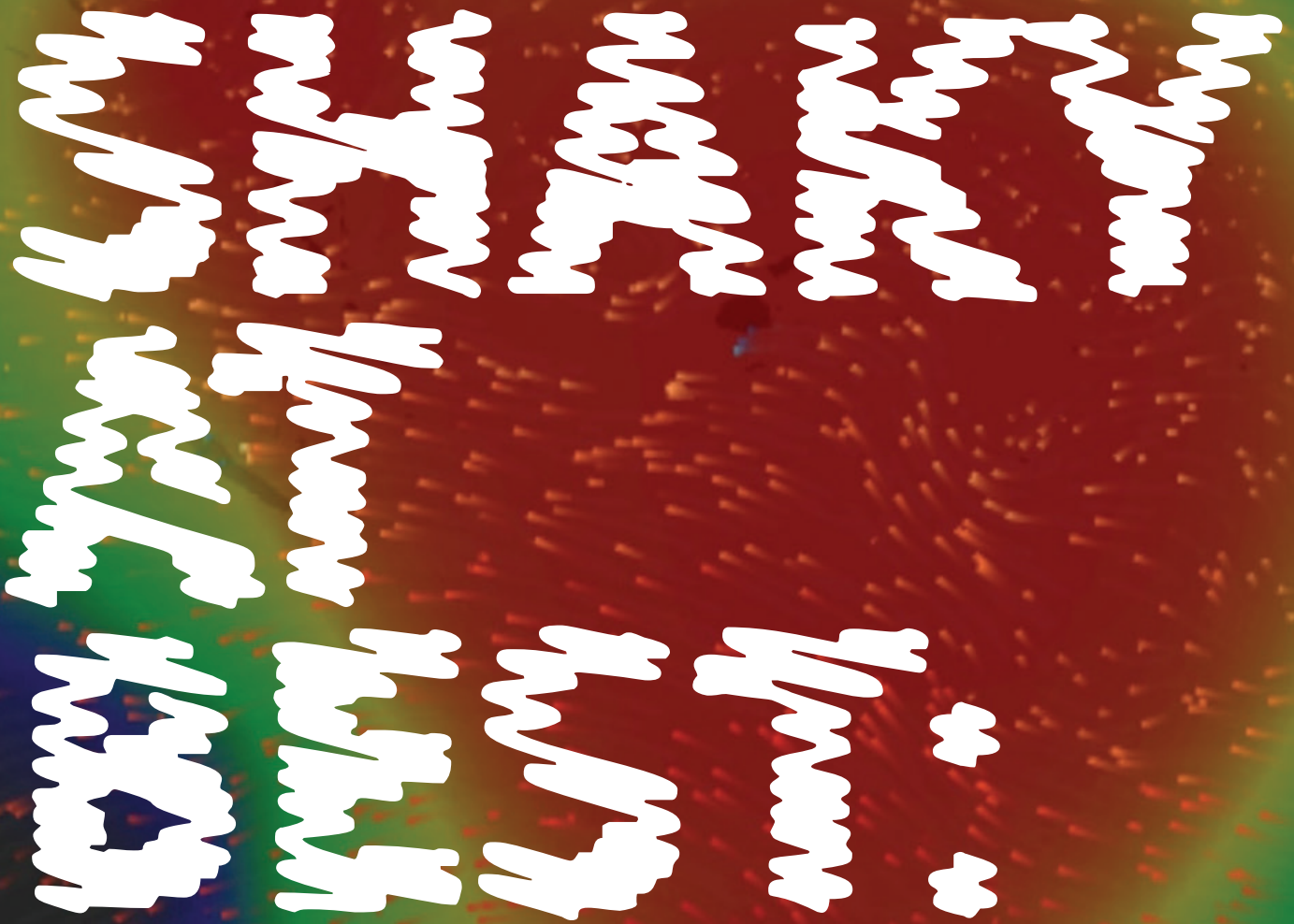
MAZE



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.





Investigating New Zealand's most popular Earthquake Forecasting Page

By Fox Meyer

At first glance, NZ Earthquake Community is a reputable Facebook page. It's filled with content from GeoNet and advice about earthquake safety. It's also only six clicks away from a crackpot's RV in New Mexico.

Information on the page comes from two sources. If you follow the GeoNet rabbit hole, you end up at the desks of GNS Science and Civil Defense. But if you follow the "windmap" rabbit hole, you end up right next to 9/11 conspiracies and climate change denial. If you didn't know any better, you might think that these two sources were equally valid.

I wanted to find out how deep this rabbit hole really went. I wanted to know how the good work from GNS ended up side-by-side with random crap spewed out of Albuquerque. And most of all, I wanted to know whether any of the 60,000 followers of the page could tell the difference.

LEVEL ONE: THE FACEBOOK PAGE

60,000 people rallying to promote earthquake preparedness is awesome. 60,000 people potentially funding a climate-change denying American charlatan is not awesome. But as I was about to find out, the line between those two causes is surprisingly fine.

The “windmaps” are what caught my eye, because I’d never seen something like that posted by sources I know I can trust. They’re called blot maps, and they look like they run on the same software as windy.ty, a popular weather app. We’ve used some of these images as the background pattern to this article.

“To the people saying these are weather maps, go home play with your LEGO,” said the admin. The maps aren’t wind, but they look just like it. They’re based on the work of a scientist named Claude Blot, who had some success predicting quakes and volcanic eruptions, but did not create any definitive method for predicting disasters with certainty.

The page’s most popular posts reach upwards of 1.25 million people. Many of these people are students that were kids when Christchurch was rocked by a series of quakes, and more than one of them said that it was because of those earthquakes that they follow this page. Fourth-year Molly, who was there for the February 2011 quake, said that the thought of predicting future big quakes “is super attractive. I want that.”

Some students, like Katie, aren’t “good with science”, and assume that because the page is so official-looking, its earthquake forecasts must be “real science”. If they posted an evacuation warning, she said she “might take it seriously”. Some are sceptical, like Bill, who said that he “only follows the page for a laugh”, and that “whoever runs the page doesn’t seem to have much understanding of how earthquakes occur.”

I asked the page admin, “what do these maps mean?” and she linked me to another Facebook page as an explanation. This Facebook page was about fishing. It had 270 members and I couldn’t find anything about earthquakes.

Another link on the fishing page brought me to a weird shadow version of Facebook. It’s not Facebook, but it looks exactly like it, and it seemed to exclusively host the fishing group, the earthquake group, and some random dude. I tracked down the business that owned the website, and found an address for a company in Christchurch, who I called. I was given a name and number of someone who may know more. Nobody picked up the phone.

Something told me that a fishing enthusiast’s page was not where I should be getting my info on natural disasters, but the blot maps just kept coming. So I asked Civil Defence about it. They didn’t have much to say about the page, but they recommend you follow theirs if you want reliable information on earthquakes. You might not get into as many debates about aliens in the comments though.

In defence of the NZ Earthquake Community page, the admin adamantly defends the good folk at GNS and GeoNet, saying that “we are lucky to have them,” even though “they know about my page and hate it.” The admin makes it very clear that her page is not an official source of information, and is just “a reminder to people to be aware of risks and maybe keep the coffee mugs safely in the cabinet.”

But not all the content is from the good folks at GNS or GeoNet. There is very little information about the blot maps, the most popular information on the page, except for a brief citation of something called “The Disaster Prediction App”.

LEVEL TWO: THE APP

The “disaster prediction app” costs \$5.99, and advertises early warnings of earthquakes, solar flares, and other catastrophic events. Once you download it, you’re presented with a bunch of data. There’s pictures of the sun with different filters to show sunspots. There’s a tab labelled “space weather news”. There’s the earthquake monitoring section with the infamous “blot echo windmaps”. There’s a blurb about “interplanetary magnetic field signals”.

The NZ Earthquake Community page relies heavily upon these “blot” maps. The idea is that the “redder” the blot, the more likely an earthquake. The admin told me that the app is right about 50% of the time but it doesn’t suit New Zealand as well as it does some other places on the planet.

The app has a red “blot” on top of pretty much every major fault zone on Earth, so one of them is bound to rupture eventually. When it does, the app claims success. It’s like if you placed 20 bets on the TAB and 19 of them failed, but one came through. You’re still technically a winner. The page admin posts the blots from New Zealand when they’re major, and advises people to be mindful of their environment.

But here’s where we depart from reality. The app was developed by a company called 9RESE’, whose only customer is this app. It’s pretty shady. The “principal scientist” of that company is just a lawyer from Sacramento who doesn’t even list the job on his LinkedIn.

If you do some digging on the app, you’ll find the credits section. In it, right above a link to SpaceWeatherNews.com, it says that data used to create this app was sourced from NASA. There’s someone with a PhD listed. The project was funded by Kickstarter. And then, right at the top, there’s a name:

“Conceptualized, Developed and Marketed by Space Weather News, LLC - Founder, Ben Davidson”

Ben Davidson. The proverbial pearl at the heart of this bullshit oyster. The snake oil salesman of solar fluctuation. We have arrived at the heart of the rabbithole: Ben Davidson, and his “Suspicious Observers” (yes, that’s a zero in place of an upper case O).

The “principal scientist” of that company is just a lawyer from Sacramento who doesn’t even list the job on his LinkedIn.

LEVEL THREE: BEN DAVIDSON, SUSPICIOUS OBSERVERS

“SuspiciousObservers is a pseudoscientific doomsday cult.”

That was one of the first hits I got when I googled Ben’s name, which was not a great start. And remember, this man is one link in a chain that eventually feeds a Facebook page that advises the behaviour of 60,000 kiwis. This “pseudoscientific doomsday cult” is given the same amount of prestige as GeoNet.

Ben is an ex-lawyer who drives around North America in a swanky RV that he paid for with his donor’s money. He got his start on Youtube, posting videos about aliens and the New World Order before honing in on solar weather and the ‘electric universe’ theory. Ben often teases at an impending shift in earth’s magnetic fields. He believes that we have “a decade or maybe 20 years before the next age of earth begins.” And of course, if you buy his book or his app, you can learn all about it.

He loves his motto: “Eyes open, no fear”, which is less of a scientist’s motto and more of a distracted driving ad. His account is suspended on Twitter, in his words, “for trolling the liberals”.

He gets in a lot of internet fights. In an email to a Youtuber that debunked him, Ben said: “I read more than you do, I do more math than you do, I talk to more NASA scientists than you do every day, and I’m not some pinball-playing beta male bitch.” In a spat with the United States Geological Survey, Ben bragged about his university admission test scores. He’s a 32 year old man.

Ben has no science background, but that doesn’t stop him from cosplaying as a scientist and charging money for it. He hosts an annual “conference” (which you have to pay to attend) where “scientists” (or rather, just a singular scientist) gather to talk about “everything from 9/11 conspiracies to magnetic pole shifts and other natural disasters, and New World Order stuff.”

He bases his credibility on a published scientific paper that he wrote in 2016, which claims to prove a link between

solar activity and major earthquakes. It isn’t published in a very reputable journal. The editor of New Concepts in Global Tectonics says that the job of peer review is only to prevent plagiarism, not to identify “crackpots”, and that the “scientific mafia” is suppressing fringe views.

The paper has been cited a whopping eight times. That’s not very many, as far as academic papers go. One of those citations is from a paper that explains why Ben is wrong, and another one is titled: “Speculation on 9/11 WTC collapse,” which Ben did say was “ludicris [sic]”.

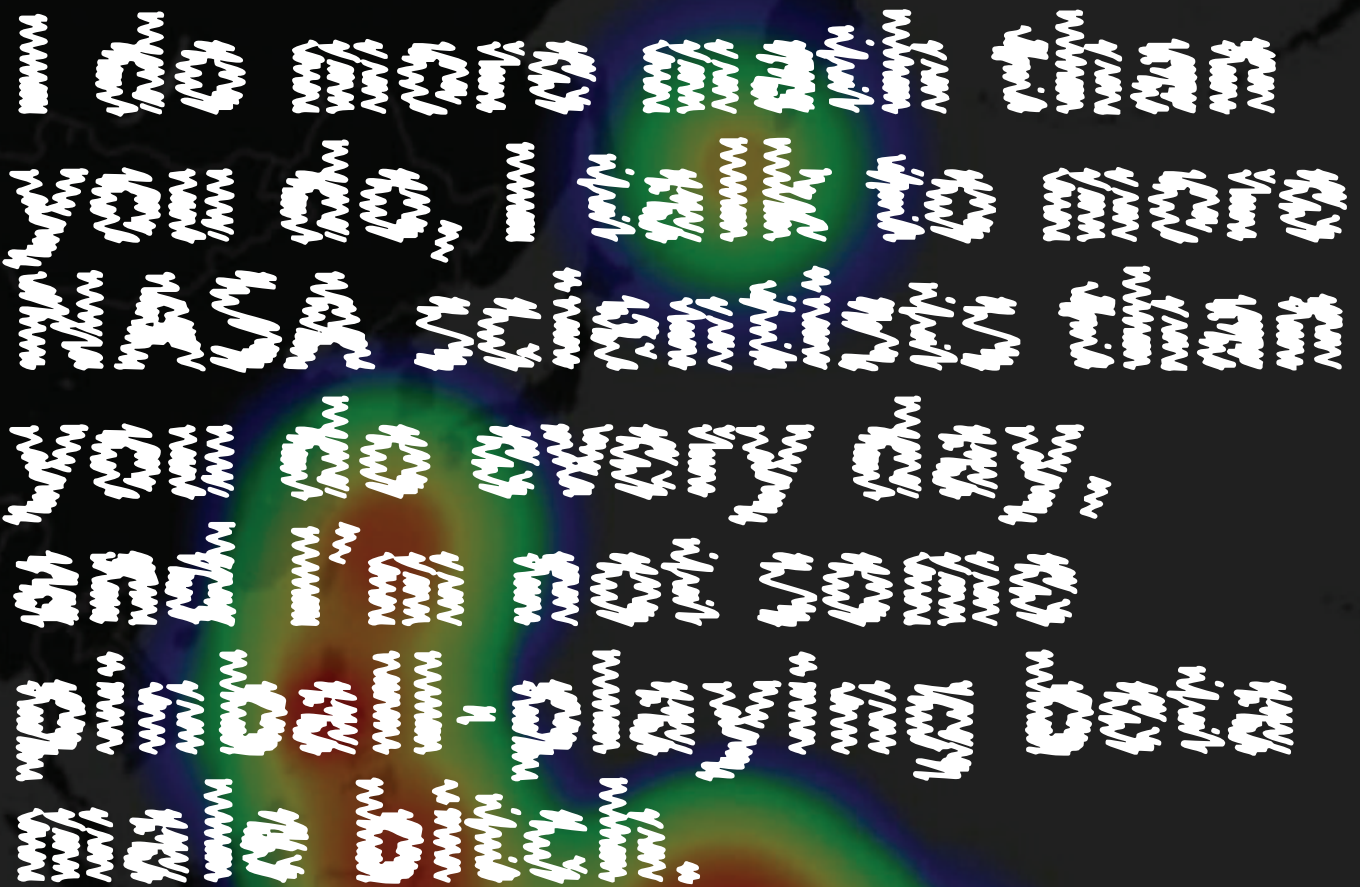
For someone who insists on the importance of challenging the status quo and remaining skeptical, Ben does not appear to apply very much criticism to his own work. He told me that he has “never” been wrong about anything in the realm of solar-influenced tectonics, and that most of what I presented to him was “utter horse shit”.

“I’m officially challenging your honor RIGHT NOW”, Ben said to me via email, and linked me to a video of his titled “Why The Haters Can Yap All They Want.” In it, he says that the SuspiciousObservers successfully predict earthquakes and are “THE #1 science group on earth”. He also said that his harsh words directed at the other Youtuber were “to scare him away”, after he “threatened [Ben’s] wife”. Ben remains the only source of earthquake data on my Facebook feed with any involvement in the YouTube drama scene.

Later in the video he summarized this entire charade quite nicely. When talking about his solar prediction method, Ben said that “we sided with a very small group of scientists when the rest of the world said that [we were] grasping at fantasy.” Well said Ben.

I’m not sure he meant to admit that.

I wanted to take this information to the admin of the Facebook page to see if she knew where her maps came from, but she wouldn’t talk with me.



Four hours before the print deadline, I heard back from the page admin. She would have a chat with me. Except it turned out that “she” was a “he”, and that he — Paul — had his head screwed on much better than I’d thought he’d had.

“There’s a lot of crazy people on the internet,” said Paul. He told me that he went anonymous on the page after someone threatened to nail his dog to his front door: “Yeah, that was pretty fucked up.” I had actually bumped into him earlier, on the shadow Facebook. He was the random dude.

Paul said that he faces a lot of backlash from the page, from scientists, to trolls, to people just taking the piss out of him. The guy who threatened his dog was upset that Paul was “predicting earthquakes”, even though Paul really does not want to be doing that. “He was upset because he’d lost people in the 2011 quake, but I was like mate, me too. We all know someone who died that day. Nobody I knew in the CTV building came back out.”

When I started this, I thought Paul would be a crackpot. He’s not. The reliability of his page is questionable, but he’s not pretending to be GeoNet. All that Paul wants to do with the page is to keep people informed. The real crackpot was even further down the rabbit hole.

Paul knows who Ben Davidson is, and he doesn’t buy into any of his crap. He complained that Ben’s app is woefully mismanaged. “There’s a reason I don’t advertise that people should buy it. If there were a more reputable app that offered equally attractive graphics, I’d happily switch,” he told me. In fact, his original goal was to fundraise to create a better app, one focussed on New Zealand, built by professionals.

But by posting anything from Ben’s app, Paul is keeping this rabbit hole open. Anyone who trusts the maps might trust anything else Ben has to say, which very quickly spirals into an “alternative” echo chamber where Trump didn’t lose and where China invented climate change. And that’s not where we want to end up when all we wanted was information about earthquakes.

THE WHEEL SLIM SHADY



GETTING AROUND THE
WALK YOUR WHEELS POLICY

BY ASIA MARTUSIA KING

The day that Otago University implemented its “Walk Your Wheels” policy was a dark time for all. I’ll never forget cycling into Uni in 2019 and being met with that hideous, mocking sign.

I’m a self-confessed pavement cyclist, the bane of Dunedin News. I like to go fast and pretend I’m a whimsical French girl heading to the market with a baguette in my basket. All of a sudden I was being forced to walk, which feels like trying to run in a glitchy video-game when you’re used to bicycle frame rates. My aesthetic and time management were in shambles, while hot girls and corduroy boys laid down their skateboards and wept.

There aren’t any clear written consequences for just skateboarding through Uni anyways. Campus Watch wouldn’t tell me, so I can only assume you go to prison. This has led me to investigate some transportation loopholes. Make your morning commute more speedy and fun with these handy suggestions.

HEELYS



Heelys are literally walking your wheels, not to mention they make you the sickest cunt on the planet. They’re the Club Penguin membership of footwear, a mark of prestige amongst the most bourgeois of children. Unlike Club Penguin, though, Heelys will never die. They only become classier and sexier with age, like a fine barrel-aged MILF.

I popped my wheels into the shoes and immediately felt a +10 swag buff sear through my body. I swooped past pedestrians, hair streaking through the wind, a trail of flames in my wake. Nobody yelled at me for Heelying. On the contrary, I was gazed upon with awe and respect as I whizzed through campus.

I wanted to be totally sure it was okay, so I attended a University Health and Safety course and asked the OSHA officer about their stance. He said: “Heelys are encouraged.” I zoomed out of that room with a babe on each arm.

Otago University's Facebook page echoed this statement. “Heelys, while wheels, do not fall under [the other forms of mobile transport]. You do not have to take your Heelys off, however a common sense and safety-first approach is recommended.” As if any respectable Heely user doesn’t already have an IQ of ten billion.

The only problem with Heelys is that you have to constantly propel yourself forwards, or else tip toe precariously, with the risk of arseing over. Also, rough surfaces make your brain vibrate, while gentle uphill slopes cause your buttocks to clench in fear. They also hurt your toes a bit. Be wary if your sole source of income relies on feet pics.

POGO STICK

Nobody in 2021 owns a pogo stick, but this would definitely be an acceptable form of campus transport. No wheels, only joy. You can buy a child’s one from Kmart if you’re a short king and weigh 40kg or under.

I tried to ask Campus Watch their stance on pogo sticks. They refused to see me, because they were all having too much fun on the pogo sticks that they whip out when no one is looking.

FLOATING DOWN THE LEITH



I had a beautiful image of floating down the Leith on a lilo, gently drifting to class amongst weeping willows and babbling ducks. My vessel was a \$6.48 inflatable watermelon from the Warehouse. Minus the probable child labour used to make her, she was as eco-friendly as you can get, with no wheels or physical activity involved whatsoever.

The first two minutes were a beaut. The sun was shining as I drifted through the botans, lounging in a bikini with a bottle of rum-infused iced coffee. How good was this? I was barely wet, and sexy to boot. I soaked up the natural beauty of North D: Geese honked above, fish swum below, and a box of the rare, thought-to-be-extinct Purple Goannas grazed beside the Dundas bridge. Eat your heart out, Monarch Wildlife Tours.

The Leith is shallow at this time of the year, and I'd set a straight course towards some scary rapids. At this point I Ever Given'd between two rocks. I was stuck in the Leith, blocking many important ships from their safe passage out of Ross Creek.

I kicked my legs and tried to reposition, but the HMS Watermelon had breached and was swiftly deflating. I prised myself free and swept down the river, sinking deeper and deeper into the cold water, desperately avoiding mazes of shattered Speights bottles. The HMS Watermelon groaned and farted out a jet of water. A group of breathers stopped to laugh and jeer.

It became rockier the closer I got to campus. But I'm no coward. A captain always goes down with his ship. I hauled myself over the broken glass and slimy boulders, scraping my hands and ribs to bloody shreds, forgetting that the Leith is fucking gross and full of tuberculosis and possibly even human skeletons. By the end of it I was literally crawling through duck shit. I emerged as a drowned bog witch. When I got home, the shower water ran off chunky and brown, like day four of your period.

What would have been a two-minute walk ended up taking half an hour, and being far more traumatic. Floating down the Leith has potential, but I'd recommend bringing a sturdier vessel, and an emergency hypothermia blanket.

ROLLER- BLADES



Otago University claims that rollerblades fall within the same taxonomy of "personal transport devices" as bicycles and scooters, but no student has yet been sent to transport jail for rollerblading on campus.

Back in the day, when Fox was much cooler, he used to rollerblade around Uni at least once a week. He is the modern man.

"I never faced any consequences for it except for two students that called me a homo, which is fine," he said, homosexually. "You get a lot of love for it. Cops love rollerblades. I never had a problem with cops or Campus Watch because technically I am walking my wheels. Cops also know that they should be afraid of you because they can't catch you — because you move too fast. And women throw themselves at you."

Enemies: Stairs, drowning in puss, rival roller derby lesbian gangs.

UNICYCLE



Loophole: Unicycles have a wheel, not wheels. I knew I was onto something big, but I had no way to prove it.

Clubs and Socs didn't let me borrow any of their rotting hippy equipment, and nobody I knew owned a unicycle, even though my friends are a bunch of fucking clowns. I was about to give up when a serendipitous miracle occurred. While walking dejectedly through campus, the setting sun illuminated the silhouette of a 70 year old man unicycling his way towards me.

His name was Lee and his calves were as thicc as his unicycle was tall. He had never faced any consequences for unicycling around campus, because you don't fuck with a 70 year old man on a unicycle. His daughter had warned him about the rule. Lee didn't listen.

"It's pretty unlikely that I can gain a high enough velocity to injure someone," Lee explained, seemingly unaware of how funny a unicycle-induced death would be. "This is the place I like to work out. I'm 70 years old. It's a way for me to keep my legs and physique conditioned. It's a very cheap hobby." He hopped back on his unicycle, did a spin around a lamp post, whipped on a pair of pink fluorescent visor shades, and disappeared into the sunset.

I saluted. I knew deep down in my heart that, when I needed him most, Lee would return.

A SKATE-BOARD, BUT WITH SOMEONE DRAGGING YOU ALONG



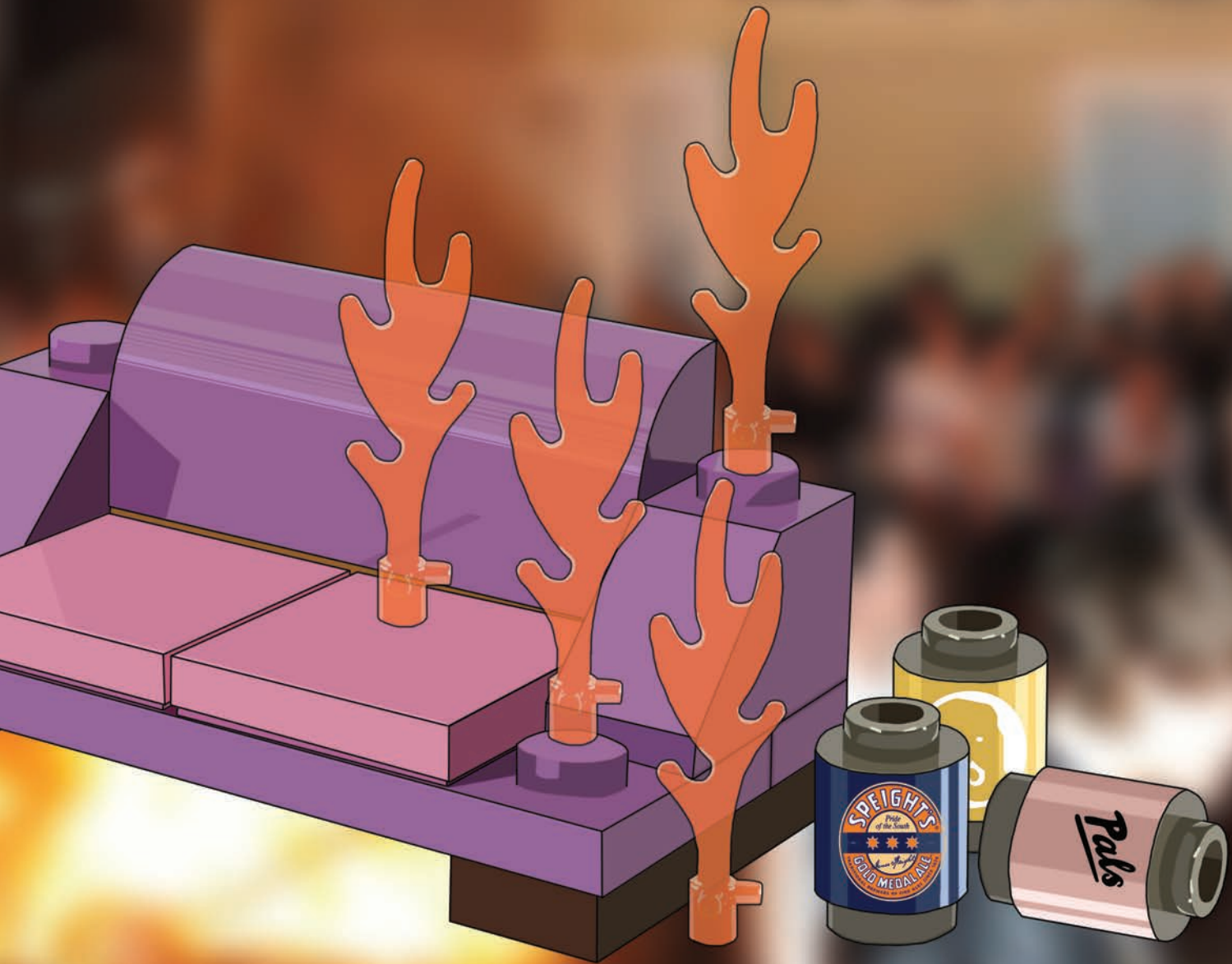
Like a Victorian boy in a sailor costume dragging along three wooden ducks on a string, you can recruit a friend to tug you about while you do sick ollies on your skateboard. Somebody else is walking your wheels. If you crash, it's their fault. If Campus Watch shows up, it's them going to campus transport jail.

In this same vein, if you are very small, you can hide inside a baby pram while someone pushes you about. Why the hell do babies get wheels?

How come toddlers and monster-drinking 14 year olds are allowed to hit me in the ankles with razor scooters on George Street but I get yelled at by boomers when I do the same thing? Pisses me off big time.

LESHGO





The Phone Games You Haven't Thought About Since 2013: A Review

By Denzel Chung

The year was 2012. The Prime Minister was everyone's favourite blokey Uncle John (just your average BBQing, beer-drinking multi-millionaire investment banker with a Hawaiian holiday home). "Going into debt" meant a \$5 loan from my parents for Maccas in town. Lunchtimes seemed to last hours on the school playing field, and afternoons stretched on forever in a blur of TV2 cartoons interspersed with Erin Simpson before she was cancelled.

Those days are long gone. I can't reverse puberty, bring back the old What Now, resurrect Club Penguin, or return the second-term Cabinet of the Fifth National Government to power. However, one way I can still access those long-repressed adolescent days is through the power of classic phone games, the relics of a more innocent time when I could hang out at schools without getting a restraining order slapped on me.

So dust off your iPod Touch, open a pack of dollar mix from the dairy and join me on a journey through the deepest, darkest and most nostalgic moments of the 2010s.

ANGRY BIRDS



On the App Store, Angry Birds was nowhere to be seen. It was replaced by a mysterious sequel, Angry Birds 2. This disrespect immediately cost them points. After all, this unholy avian-porcine union probably taught more students classical mechanics than the rest of Aotearoa's physics teachers combined.

In hindsight, the first red flag was the App Store review from xXVIBINGGOODXx, who said "im crying whenever i play cause rovio why you remove my childhood games! Ive been playing this game since i'm 3 in 2013". One felt Rovio should probably focus more less on bringing back their childhood games and more on paying for some family therapy.

Despite xXVIBINGGOODXx's solemn protestations, Angry Birds 2 ultimately hasn't changed much from the original, other than slightly slicker graphics. Slightly disturbingly, there is a close-up camera showing the fury of the little kamikaze birds (they have teeth?!), as well as trembling, shaking porcine families. Like some twisted kiss-cam, this ensures you see every detail up to their violent deaths.

Ultimately, I couldn't stick with it for too long. It was partly the trauma of war, but mostly it was just the repetitiveness of the levels. A boss level featuring "Chief Pig" promised "a tough opponent" but still took all of ten seconds. Unless your dedication to popping pigs extends to the virtual world, I wouldn't recommend.

Verdict: 14 years jail for distributing content which "promotes or encourages criminal acts or acts of terrorism," under the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993

TEMPLE RUN

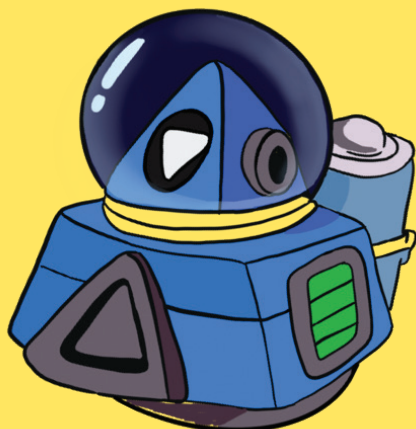


After the slickness of Angry Birds 2, it was refreshing to see Temple Run hasn't changed a bit since the heady days of 2011, when my sisters and I would duke it out for the privilege of playing this on the family iPad. The graphics are still refreshingly rough around the edges, and the "oorgh" noise the runner makes hitting the ground is unconvincingly hilarious. Gameplay-wise, it still strikes the right balance of being easy to pick-up, but challenging enough to keep you playing. It's a pity some aspects of the game haven't quite moved on, though.

To recap, this game centres around Guy Dangerous, "just your average explorer" pilfering an idol from a temple in the South American jungle. And that isn't even the most problematic character in the game. Other hackeneyed clichés you can unlock include Barry Bones, an African-American "city cop with an attitude" and Karma Lee, a kimono-clad generically-Asian lady with "the fastest legs in the Far East". I know 2011 was a different time, but come on.

Verdict: Mandatory seizure of the idol by the New Zealand Customs Service without compensation and return to the country from which it was stolen, as restitution, under Section 10 of the Protected Objects Act 1975

JETPACK JOYRIDE



This awakened the hyperactive little kid in me. Jetpacks (powered by fucking MACHINE GUNS)? Check. Sticking it to the man? Check. Gratuitous cartoon violence? Check. Heart-warming backstory that doesn't quite stand up to scrutiny but provides a sufficiently flimsy excuse for said violence? Check.

It's a bloody great time and easy to get the hang of. Unlike lots of other endless-running/scrolling games, there are lots of little nuances which keep it from getting too repetitive. Like the little panicking scientists in hazmat suits, who you can high-five, before killing them with the spray from your jetpack. Or some of the crazily-overpowered vehicles you can unlock, like the "Lil Stomper," "Profit Bird," or "Strong-Arm Machine". Even the item descriptions are hilarious and worth downloading the app just to read. Overall, good, ridiculous fun.

Verdict: A \$10,000 fine for discharging a firearm in a public place under the Arms Act 1983, but overturned by the judge because "wanting to use a machine-gun jetpack" is a reasonable excuse (or reasonably badass, at least)

2048



Let me get one thing straight: 2048 can only be considered a maths game in the same way that FakeTaxi can be considered an urban transportation company. This game will not help you academically unless you didn't graduate from primary school. Nevertheless, it is still simple, utterly wholesome and super enjoyable. It's easy enough to blow through the first stages, it but steadily and imperceptibly ramps up. As a 12 year old, I enjoyed this way more than any healthy, normally-developing adolescent child should have. Nothing has changed since then.

Pro-tip: Find the OG app, "2048 by Gabriele Cirulli". Gabriele, like a true GC, committed to make his game freely available, open-source and refused to monetise it. Swathes of developers proceeded to copy the original code and load their apps full of ads and nasty trackers and glitch bugs, which goes to show that when you do nice things, someone else will inevitably shit all over it.

Verdict: False and misleading representation under the Fair Trading Act 1986, for, convincing millions into thinking this was a legit study aid

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ART
DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY

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



SUBWAY SURF



How the fuck did I never realise this is pretty much the exact same game as Temple Run? Except you're a teenage tagger running from a cop and a vicious-looking dog, which I guess is cooler. Also, helping this young rebel avoid police brutality is a hell of a lot more compelling than helping Guy Dangerous escape with his looted idol so he can sell it to the British Museum.

Verdict: A \$2000 fine for tagging under the Summary Offences Act 1981, ACAB

FRUIT NINJA



With a lot of these games, there is an element of restrictiveness, in that there's really only one way to get the job done. The beauty of Fruit Ninja, though, is that this all goes out the window, and you can pretty much play it however the hell you want.

Wanting to burn your productive energy and motivation that you were going to use on that weekend assignment to beat your high-score instead? Focus hard, and get those multi-fruit combos. Taking it slow and easy after a rough afternoon lecture? Harness your inner zen, and gently slice away, one fruit at a time. Feeling chaotic and self-destructive after a messy breakup? Repeatedly swipe back and forth, taking out whatever comes your way. You do you, boo.

Verdict: Up to five years jail for "recklessly or knowingly endangering or harming the lives and health of members of the public" under the Food Act 2014

PIANO TILES



This, I found infuriating. Why is there a whole game centred on butchering classical piano pieces, playing them in a tempo they were never meant to be played? Why did the developers think inane pseudo-motivational messages like "Get revived! Get higher!" would encourage people to keep playing? Why could they not put slightly more effort into making this game NOT look like it was made in an Excel spreadsheet?

Gameplay is pretty straightforward: tap the coloured tiles. Even a five year old could do it, which is why it was so frustrating that I couldn't. Everything about this game screams easy, boring, and meh. But 45 minutes later, I was staring at my phone sweating and wild-eyed, wondering why I couldn't get more than halfway through "Happy Birthday to You". This game can single-handedly undo every motivational speech you have ever internalised. Beware.

Verdict: Compulsory psychiatric assessment and treatment under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992, when this game inevitably wrecks your spirit





Power Ranking: Dunedin News Splinter Groups • By Erin Gourley

#1 Dunedin News Uncut

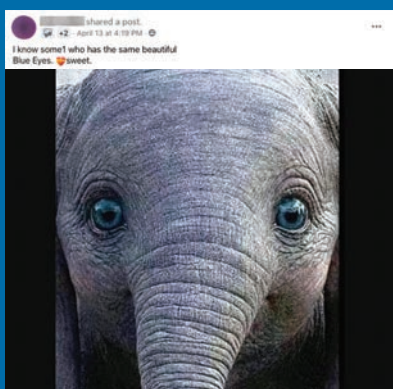


“News of NOT just Dunedin, anything goes really, just don’t be dicks to each other!! if you don’t like a post - Jog on, thanks”. Dunedin News Uncut is the original group for the outcasts of Dunedin News and it promises to be a free for all. It’s also the largest splinter group, with 15,000 members. Unfortunately, this means that Lee Vandervis posts in the group in the same way he does in Dunedin News.

The unfortunate truth about Dunedin News Uncut is that it has exactly the same toxic vibe as Dunedin News, just on a smaller scale. Posts about the recent climate strike get more haha reacts than likes, and school strikers are described by commenters as “anti-motorist fascists”. A particularly insightful commenter suggested that “protests create pollution noise an wen they breathe so mayb shuld b banned too lol.”

Power ranking: A live action remake of a bad movie that ends up being worse than the original

#2 What’s News Dunedin?

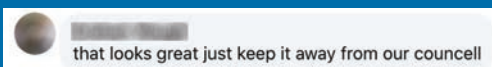


“Dunedin is the best little city in the world,” says the about section of What’s News Dunedin? This is the only group that can accurately be described as wholesome. Some people post photos of baby goats, and other people post photos of their fireplaces. There are 5400 members, but the moderation team is effective at stopping abuse despite the group being very active.

At times though, the posts are cringe. Activities like “wondrous weekly Wednesday Window on Dunedin”, where members post pretty photos of Dunedin, might create a respectful environment but they do not quench my thirst for petty drama in a community Facebook group. This post of an elephant terrifies me and I do not know why it made its way into the group.

Power ranking: A blue-eyed elephant that seems happy but might murder you in your sleep

#3 Dunedin/Otago News



This group has a LOT of rules. One of them, “NO SLAGGING OFF OTHER PAGES OR ADMINS FROM OTHER PAGES. WE ARE JUST HERE FOR THE NEWS”, hints at the conflict that has brought people to create so many Dunedin News-type groups. The vibe of the page is frankly violent.

On a post about the teenage fighting at the Dunedin bus hub: “With the way the world's going and all the anti police!!! What do people think they do something they doomed they don’t they’re doomed.” I have no idea what this means, but it sums up the boomer-ish yet hard to understand vibe of Dunedin/Otago News. Most of the posts are about young people (read: people under the age of 30) doing crimes. One member suggested: “bring back the borstals the young people prisons and maybe it will stop these young ones doing this.” Another said “I can see people thinking they can get away with it or you can see mercy for a foolish, senseless, awful act of a young person.”

Power ranking: Being sentenced to death by a jury of boomers who can’t spell

#4 Dunedin News Uncensored



The first post that greeted me in Dunedin News Uncensored was titled “Former Pfizer VP Speaks Out on Dangers Of mRNA Vaccines & Covid Illusion”. Another post was titled “GUNS METH & COVID How One Crisis Fuel Another.” People are also sharing links from 1080 Eyewitnesses. “We won’t ever remove anyone for their opinion! Everyone is entitled to an opinion!” reads the ‘about’ section of the page.

Dunedin News Uncensored is simply a conspiracy group. There are 1800 members, which is terrifying, and gives the page a threatening aura, even when it’s making incomprehensible posts combining Rogernomics, mushroom farming, and stealing water.

Power ranking: The threat of Facebook to our democracy and critical thinking ability

#5 Dunedin News

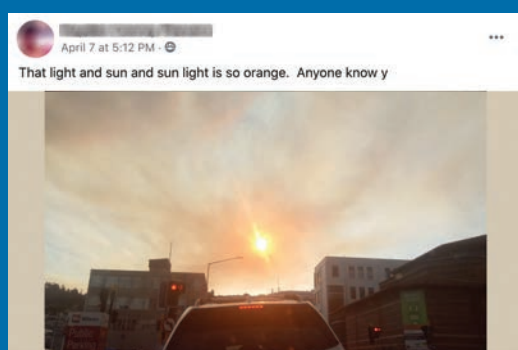


Dunedin News is relatively high in the power ranking because it has the same name as Dunedin News but is not the original Dunedin News group. A big power move right from the outset.

The name is the only reason Dunedin News made it this far. The posts are weak. The majority of posts are just people looking for lost scooters, cats, and shopping trolleys. They’re simply not engaging in The Discourse the way they should be in a community Facebook page. The group description sums it up: “Post whatever you want news related on this group:) Thanks:)” Weak.

Power ranking: A sad doppelganger

#6 Real Dunedin NEWS

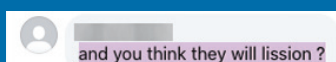


“Real Dunedin news for people who just want the news”. The focus of this group seems mainly to be on reposting newspaper articles from the ODT. The group is strangely quiet.

In Dunedin News Uncut, news of Venod Skantha’s death in prison created a stir with hundreds of reactions and comments. The same news in Real Dunedin NEWS, which has a decent amount of members (3600) got only one like and a comment. Most of the posts here are from admins and moderators. There’s a tinge of conspiracy, with comments like “U sad folk can’t c he’s rite ,go Leah” in support of Lee Vandervis’ dispute with the DCC. But overall I wouldn’t be surprised if this was a group the ODT had started to promote their own articles.

Power ranking: Quietly reading the ODT and nodding to yourself

#7 Dunedin News uncut (official)



Dunedin News uncut (official) is a small replica of Dunedin News Uncut, maybe for the outcasts of that group. It is a splinter of a splinter group, even though it proclaims itself official. On a post about the DCC consultation process, “and you think they will lission ?” wondered commenter Nigel Walker. The truth is that no one is lissioning in Dunedin News uncut (official). The group is mainly composed of advertising posts from Chand’s Pride and Shine Mobile Car Grooming, who are “a locally owned and operated mobile car grooming business located in the Otago region” rather than news about Dunedin.

Power ranking: Remembering that I need to vacuum my car

Some Astrology Bullshit About Chlöe Swarbrick

By Asia Martusia King

Jacinda Arden wouldn't give me her birth time. But I figured that if any other politician had a CoStar it would be Chlöe Swarbrick, because she's queer and vegan. I was wrong. Thankfully she's a gem, and texted her mum for me.

Chlöe schlorped into this world on 26th June 1994 at 1:10pm.

Wondering whether or not to vote Green? Here's what the stars have to say.

Sun in Cancer

Uh oh, I didn't expect Chlöe's big sign to be Cancer. If any star sign deserves a swirly, it's Cancer. They're sensitive, moody babies and — like their crab fursona — will retreat depending on how thick their emotional shell is. Cafe Astrology dot com notes that some Cancers have developed an ability to manipulate others to get what they want, which is great if you're a politician. George W Bush was a Cancer, so keep that in mind.

Despite Cancers being extremely pantsable, they're very caring and hospitable. They'll stick with you no matter what, and empathise with you suffering by working to reform the Misuse of Drugs Act when Auntie Jacindy confiscates your wacky baccy. They're modern and non-conformist. Absolute sweethearts, even though they'll cry at old people eating alone in McDonald's and send you to Afghanistan.

Maybe we should listen to the grumpy old men in Facebook comments next time they call Greens sensitive snowflakes. Chlöe's a Cancer, after all.

Moon in Aquarius

Your moon sign is who you really are when nobody else is around. It's the manifestation of peeing in the shower, or picking your nose and having a little nibble. Chlöe's moon sign is Aquarius, so she's probably a fucking weirdo.

I mean that in the best way possible. Aquarius energy is the Hayward freshers I see practicing TikTok dances in their windows for hours straight. I don't understand it, but I'm glad that they're having fun. In saying that, Aquarius moons are progressive, willful, and humanitarian. Weird recognises weird, and Chlöe will fight for your right to be a freak.

Aquarius Moons often pride themselves on being cool-headed and detached, which is in conflict with Chlöe's piss-baby Cancer Sun. As such, Chlöe must be conscious of losing touch with her emotions, alienating herself (and others) by identifying too strongly with what she aspires to be. Even girlbosses need to have a wee cry sometimes.

Ascendant in Libra

Your ascendant (or rising) is how other people view you. "Everybody seems to like Libra Ascendant natives," says Cafe Astrology, who hasn't met my boomer grandpa.

Libras have the best fashion sense of all star signs. Look at Chlöe Swarbrick's pantsuits and tell me that astrology is wrong. Libra Ascendants are persuasive and charming, probably because of their excellent pantsuits.

Politically, the Libra mascot is a pair of scales that represent equality and fairness. Green Party policy is to "make sure everyone is treated

equally." Astrology = real!!!!!!!

Libras are great but be wary because My Scene Barbie is a Libra and she was a huge toxic bitch to Madison in Barbie My Scene Jammin' in Jamaica and Barbie My Scene Goes Hollywood. DO NOT GO TO JAMAICA WITH CHLÖE SWARBRICK. She will stab you in the back.

Mercury in Cancer

Mercury represents communication and as we have learnt, Cancers express themselves with feeling. I am shocked that politicians don't cry when people yell at them. Thankfully, Chlöe's Aquarius Moon helps her to repress.

Venus in Leo

This one's about Chlöe's love life. Mind your business.

Mars in Taurus

Mars is your desire for action, and rural children understand the primal fear of being chased through a paddock by a big cow. Chlöe might appear pretty chill for most of the time, grazing peacefully in her field, but a Mars Taurus' power is tremendous when provoked. They're determined and work hard — it's their way or the highway. Drink from Chlöe's milk, and become strong.

Jupiter in Scorpio

Jupiter represents your ethical standards, and Jupiters in Scorpio enjoy "all that is taboo or mysterious", like the tantalising sexual tension between Judith Collins and Trevor Mallard. Politically, we can expect some interesting Green-endorsed fanfic.

Saturn in Pisces

This one's about effort, and Astro Cafe says that Chlöe's "feet and ankles may need extra attention." Time to invest in a new pair of Allbirds.

Uranus in Capricorn

Hah, Uranus.

Uranus is about egotistical liberty. Capricorns are powerful because they are amphibian, with mastery over both land and sea. Indeed, Chlöe's "mission in society means everything to her." Also, "she has so much power that one thinks nothing can defeat her." Meet me in the Critic office Monday 19, 11:00am, Chlöe, to settle this once and for all. Bring your fists.

Neptune in Capricorn

Neptune represents the ocean, and Capricorn is half fish. Cleo from H2O Just Add Water is half fish, and 'Cleo' is suspiciously close to 'Chlöe'. The stars recommend that Chlöe avoids water at all costs.

Pluto in Scorpio

I thought we decided that Pluto wasn't a planet anymore. I'm beginning to have doubts about this astrology thing.

Community Law

Where Otago law students do something useful for once

By Annabelle Vaughan

Sometimes as students we find ourselves in sticky, stressful situations. Whether it's tenancy troubles, uncertainty about contracts, or a dispute with an employer, we can sometimes feel out of our depth and unsure about where to go.

Luckily, Community Law Otago can assist with all of these issues, providing free legal information and assistance to those who need it. At the forefront of the organization are some of Otago's very own Law students. Tessa, Thomas, Lauren and Anna are part of the Community Law team. They provide legal education and advice to a broad range of people across Dunedin.

"Community law is an organisation that gives free legal advice and runs workshops about common legal issues that people may have," says Tessa, who is part of the Legal Education Program.

"People come in and make appointments to see students like us, then we work with qualified lawyers to do research and formulate advice and run the client through what to do," says Anna, who does both legal education and gives advice. The problems which the team works through can be complex and confronting, or simply mundane problems that pop up in everyday life, such as taxes or tenancy issues. Despite the sometimes confronting issues, Anna says that "it's the most awesome experience helping people."

Lauren agrees, saying "we are out in the community dealing with real issues. To be involved in the community gives you more perspective, you have to be open minded and you can't judge anyone, you just need to help them." Alongside being involved in the community, the volunteers say that the experience helps them to develop their own skills. "In law, we don't learn practical skills or how to bond with clients. This is the perfect way to do it," says Thomas.

The law is something which can often be inaccessible to many for a variety of reasons, whether its cost, resources or time, forking out to see a lawyer isn't always an option for most people. Community Law Otago ensures that help and legal advice is available to everyone no matter their scenario. "Law should be accessible to everyone, and everyone should know their rights," says Tessa.

"It really breaks the barriers down," says Anna, "and it makes [the law] everyday, so everyone can understand it."

If you are in need of legal help, or are just wanting to seek advice, Community Law does walk in or arranged appointments.

Alternatively, you can look at the online Community Law handbook online at communitylaw.org.nz or phone (03) 474 1922.

The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Mayoralty - Part 1

Invaluable for understanding the DCC and reading between the lines of local print-media monopoly

Lee Vandervis

A Review of Lee Vandervis's Book

In case you've forgotten, Dunedin's local politics scene is absolutely **batshit**

By Sophia Carter Peters

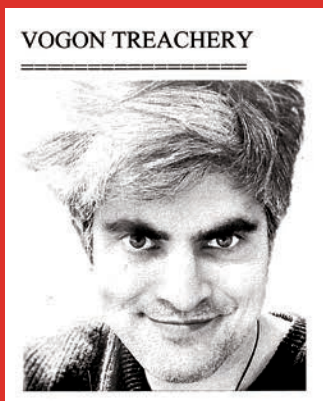


DCC Councillor Lee Vandervis has recently released a "book" (his words). The full title is *The Hitch-hikers Guide to the Mayoralty Part 1: Invaluable for understanding the DCC and reading between the lines of local print-media monopoly*. The title is only a fraction of this truly bizarre pamphlet/dossier/magazine. I hesitate to call it a book.

The spectacular cover art, depicting Aaron Hawkins and Lee Vandervis being abducted by UFOs, is a striking introduction to the author.

Some context on Vandervis: Between managing to run for mayor eight times (unsuccessfully), he has become a city councillor. Aaron Hawkins is quoted as likening him to a "four-year-old". In response to this, Vandervis wrote an entire book on Hawkins, based around a fictional conspiracy theory about local politicians, fear of cars, and bad analogies to cult science fiction texts.

Vandervis also has the dubious distinction of being perhaps the only fiscally conservative politician in the country to be slammed by the Taxpayer's Union. In his most recent dispute with his own council he has cost them upwards of \$42,000 by arguing over a \$12 parking ticket.



"Councillors are egged on by the booming number of DCC bureaucrats known elsewhere in the Universe as Vogons, an

alien species whose public cost grows cumulatively at an unsustainable rate of 8% per year," Vandervis writes, in an attempt at a joke. The book revolves around a grand scheme led by the alien creatures called Vogons, but also includes unsolicited advice from Vandervis and some pretty scandalous allegations.

I thought it was some sort of ridiculous satire from a jaded councilmember at first, but some of the allegations are pretty severe. Suggesting conspiracy among local MPs and council members seems like defamation fodder. I must give Vandervis some credit for calling the ODT "the Otago Denied Truth", which sounds exactly like something someone who used to write for the ODT would say.

The political ideology Vandervis tries to talk about just makes him sound like more of a crackpot. He explains the "GREEN PARTY ORACLE" claims that South Dunedin will be "reclaimed by the sea" and they will also ban "our hoofed animals". If he really is some kind of political saviour, like certain denizens of Dunedin news seem to think, we know for a fact God has a sense of humour. Or Vogons, whoever the fuck this book is about.

Aside from the general shenanigans going on in every aspect of this book, structurally, this shit reads like Geronimo Stilton. A collection of random capitalisations, obscure pictures, and glossaries in the middle of a page, defining lingo you have never heard before all grace the poorly formatted pages of this tome. The amount of unsubstantiated claims being made would make any self-respecting statistician turn to cocaine for feelings again.

I know it sounds like I'm exaggerating, but I'm dead serious. The more I think about it the more of a fucking black hole this thing is.

The use of George Orwell's term "group-think" along with a number of his poorly plagiarized ideas, paints a pretty good picture of Vandervis's target audience: Vehicular transport enthusiasts with too much time on their hands, too much internet access, and little comprehension of the power of buzzwords. "Indoctrination", "Vogon Investigator", and "mongrel Mayor" are all frequently used in the book, and are a mere fraction of the material covered. L Ron Hubbard is going to get a new BFF when Vandervis finally drives his ute over the rainbow bridge.

By Elliot Weir

OPINION: Make Dunedin More Walkable

Dunedin was largely planned out by settlers that were probably way too deep on Scotch and Irn-Bru. In that state, they thought that a street with a 35% incline would be a funny meme. They literally tried to superimpose Edinburgh onto the Otago landscape, stubbornly ignoring all of the hills that Edinburgh did not have.

Despite that, the Dunedin of decades past was far more walkable and accessible than today. Cars didn't dominate the streets until well into the 20th century and the city was actually the second in the world after San Francisco to introduce cable cars. There were also electric trolleys, 'comfort stations' all around the city, and the beautiful Dunedin Railway Station actually had trains going to useful places rather than just carting tourists around the Taieri Gorge scenic route.

North Dunedin is hardly the least walkable place in New Zealand. In fact, it's probably one of the best, but that's a very low bar. Residents of the so-called student precinct do walk most places, but we also barely leave our small radius to venture anywhere South of the Octagon, which I think is genuinely sad. There are so many things Dunedin can do to be better for climate action, accessibility, equity, wellbeing, and – before any Dunedin News boomers reading this who don't care about any of those things fall asleep – the economy. Here are a few.

Make the cycle lanes less bullshit

The protected lanes that run along Great King and Cumberland Street are great, but no-one's entire cycle journey is a straight 1km strip. There are points where the cycle lanes just end abruptly, or cross to the other side of the road, not to mention the glass on the lanes. If people are going to feel comfortable cycling in Dunedin protected lanes need to be comprehensive. Given the hatred many motorists seem to have for cyclists in Dunedin, I'm not using my bike to get around anytime soon.

Put a zebra crossing on Albany St. Crossing the road from Central library to Poppa's Pizza, the Clubs and Socs centre, or anywhere south of there is a nightmare at rush hours

It's both annoying and genuinely dangerous. The DCC and OUSA have been "discussing" this since 2019 but have not committed to anything yet. Honestly though, how hard is it to paint some fucking lines on the road?

Pedestrianise Castle Street

It's practically pedestrianised anyways during O and Flo Weeks, and this would extend the walkable zone of Uni campus by a block.

Redirect SH1

I'm no urban planner but I don't personally think having State Highway 1 running right through the tertiary precinct (via Great King and Cumberland street) is a smart idea. It makes walking, cycling, and scootering unsafe. It also

produces an awful stink every time a sheep or cattle truck drives through.

Most of it is unnecessary traffic too. Those sheep trucks aren't stopping at the Uni or your flat on Forth street, they're just taking the highway to their destination. Redirect the highway away from the tertiary precinct, something that should be done anyways because of the hospital rebuild. Having it where it is currently is not only dangerous, loud, and unpleasant, but entirely unnecessary.

Reintroduce train journeys to Port Chalmers and Waitati

They're pretty, and trains are cool. Also, trains are great for lowering emissions and increasing accessibility. Why stop there though? How about convenient, accessible, and affordable train journeys to Christchurch and Queenstown? All I want is to be able to walk from the student quarter to the railway station, and get the hell out of Dunnaz on a passenger train for less than the price of a bottle of Midori.

Last but certainly not least: Pedestrianise George Street

Now, if your name is Lee Vandervis, or if you're reading this on Dunedin News, I'm going to need you to take a deep breath and count to ten. We wouldn't want you to have an aneurysm now, would we?

Despite fears that repaving George Street and banning cars would make it less vibrant and cripple the businesses on the street, evidence shows that if done correctly, it would have the exact opposite effect. It is understandable to be wary of major changes to the place you live, work, or travel. It is understandable to be concerned for local businesses in your area. Denouncing any suggestion of an evidence-based approach to city planning as "carphobic fascism" is just fucking stupid though.

Studies everywhere from the UK to Singapore to Colombia have shown that the benefits of pedestrianised streets include lower pollution levels, lower road deaths, less crime, convenience for pedestrians, convenience for motorists (as overall congestion in the city falls), and yes, increased sales for businesses – as well as increased employment.

If countless peer-reviewed studies from around the world aren't your thing though, there is visible evidence within New Zealand too. In the 1960s, public pressure led to the middle section of Cuba Street in Wellington being pedestrianized. Ever since, it has been the hub of the city, and a prized location for any customer-facing business.

I can't promise that if George Street is pedestrianised it will immediately become Cuba Street. I'm confident though, that if done correctly, over time, George Street will be safer, more equitably accessible, less polluting, more economically active, and more vibrant and friendly to everyone in our little city.

THE BREATHA DIET

A VAPE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY

BY ANNABELLE VAUGHAN



There is quite possibly no creature as great, and as wild, as the Otago breatha. They can often be seen vaping, drinking, and sending pesky “you up x” texts at ungodly hours.

How do breathas maintain such a lifestyle? What on earth could they possibly be fuelling their bodies with? You needn’t wonder anymore. I have conducted an experiment of the utmost scientific rigour.

Over the space of almost a week, we recruited local breatha Daniel to fill out a meal log. Otago nutrition student Kate then analysed what was being consumed, and how the breatha diet would impact someone for the long term. Daniel claims he is “not actually malnourished” because he “eats a lot of vitamin tablets as well Imao.”

THURSDAY:

Daniel started the week off strong with plain toast for breakfast because he was late for work. He accompanied the bland, fibrous flavour palette with a coffee and vape. His vape flavour of choice is 40mg cola.

Daniel claimed that vaping is actually really healthy for you given its low in calories and is the ideal boost to start your day with a rush. “I don’t know why everyone says it’s unhealthy, look how low it is in calories,” he said. Daniel’s scientific claim is incorrect, as Kate says that “vaping causes lung cancer” and “your vape flavour doesn’t count as fruit.”

For lunch, Daniel hit up Clubs and Socs as they gave out free bread. Apparently a bacon pull apart helps with the study. For dinner he had homemade chicken fajitas and said “fucking oath. I’m eating well today.”

Given it was a Thursday, he finished the night off with a mere half bottle of vodka. He then had a dusty feed which consisted of a packet of sour cream and chives chips, and a singular Tim Tam. He also contemplated making noodles, but just couldn’t muster up the effort to turn on the kettle.

FRIDAY:

Friday saw his breakfast staple of a coffee and a vape return. Lunch was apparently “ceebz” so he opted for an afternoon nap. This option is economically efficient, but not nutritionally efficient. Dinner was a “\$5 dominos pizza leshgo”. Much like Thursday, Daniel polished the night off with six cans of Rinse Green Apple. His dusty feed was a bag of chicken chips.

“They’re not as good as the sour cream and chives chips but brings back memories of being seven years old at after school care,” he said. Judging from this food, it looks like he is still in after school care.

SATURDAY:

Daniel splurged on two hot cross buns and a vape while he “thanked Jesus for creating these sick breads”. Apparently his lunch cancelled his previous meals, as he had a ham sandwich with salad, as well as two apples, and another hot cross bun. For dinner, the flatties made beef burgers with a side salad.

He got his five plus a day in this time. In true Easter tradition, Daniel saw out the evening by having a Nitro and four cans of Rinse. For the dusty feed, Daniel opted for noodles and another hot cross bun. After considering combining the two into a fucked up sandwich, he was talked off the ledge by his flatmates.

SUNDAY:

Despite his daily rituals, on Sunday Daniel “didn’t have time to make a coffee because Nan was making me go to Church”. In the true spirit of Jesus, he opted to just hit a vape. For lunch he had the Blood of Christ (also known as wine), three hot cross buns with jam, and half a big Easter egg. For dinner he had bean burritos, Lord help whichever beezy this man ends up with. To finish off the week he managed to find two half empty Rinses, which he polished off with dinner.

MONDAY:

Monday morning saw the caffeinated combo of a vape and coffee appear again. He scored a bargain with some “cheap as” leftover hot cross buns, knocking back two for lunch. He also followed up with a packet of noodles and a couple of apples. Dinner was tomato pasta with cheese, the first time any source of calcium has been mentioned throughout the entire week. He wasn’t able to drink away his Monday, as his alcohol stock was depleted.

CONCLUSION:

Upon reflection, Daniel said “cheahoo I think I spent more on alcohol than I did on food this week.” According to Kate, Daniel needs to “drink something that a basic white bitch wouldn’t,” but she is “proud of him for eating an apple.” It would have been good to see “something other than bread” being consumed, because boy those bowels must be tight. The breatha diet makes one at risk for many micronutrient deficiencies. Do with that information what you will.



LOCAL PRODUCE
By Sean Gourley

Scott Tisdall

Making Potatoes Instafamous

Scott Tisdall is an Otago student who moonlights growing moonlight potatoes on his family farm. Using Instagram as a platform, he is gradually expanding his operation to bring locally grown potatoes to the tables of starving students. Last season, he gave 33% of his profits to the cancer society. We asked him a few questions to see what he was all about.

Why are you selling potatoes?

Money's a big part of it, just to help with uni. I've always been interested in business, even though I'm not doing a business degree I thought it would be a good way to keep it in my life. And I had all the stuff to do it at home so why not? The creative aspect of being the marketer and salesperson is quite fun because you don't have anyone to tell you what you can't do. Experimenting with promotion on Instagram is fun.

Where do you grow your potatoes?

Middlemarch, on my parents' farm. The potatoes sit right under an irrigator so my parents don't really use the land for anything and it's nice and damp for the potatoes to grow.

How do you harvest them?

We've got a harvester, it's ancient, it looks a hundred years old. It's from one of my uncles. It scoops them up and makes it easy when it works. I did have it break down a few times and ended up having to get a plough to dig them out and sort through the dirt.

How do you find customers?

I mean a lot of it's just my friends and people I know. The Instagram page does help, I try to be funny on there so people might tell their friends about it. Other than that it's just emailing cafes or having drunk yarns with people about potatoes.

What's your favourite way to eat potatoes?

I would say roasted, boil them in quarters for a bit and then roast them in some butter. It's heaven, the outside is crunchy and the inside is soft. But there's so many other good ways. That's the thing about them, they're so versatile. You can eat them healthily, you can eat them dripping in fat.

Do you think KFC uses real potatoes in their mashed potatoes?

Look, from how good it tastes I would like to believe it does. Tough to say though. Whatever they're doing though they've got a good recipe.

Do you plan to expand?

I want to sell to more businesses because they have a steadier demand, but there are a lot of regulations that you have to start to consider at that stage. In terms of production each year you get to keep more and more little seed potatoes, which you use to plant next year. It's like exponential growth in that way.

There's no demand problem, last year I sold all my potatoes, it's more just a problem of having enough potatoes to sell.

What happens when you run out of space?

I do have this one idea that I've tried before, where you can actually grow potatoes in a hay bale. You just put the seed potatoes in the bale with maybe a little soil and give them water. That way you don't have to dig them out of the ground.

Do you have any advice for someone trying to grow potatoes at home?

I don't want to make any competition. Nah it's pretty simple, if you've got dirt you can grow potatoes.

Check out Scott's pages @tisdallstatees and @skspudz.



**OTAGO
MUSEUM**

**More than a Museum.
The best Insta-backgrounds in Dunedin.**

HOROSCOPES



Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

Feeling manic? Call your therapist.

To bake this week: Your mind.



Leo

July 23 – Aug 22

Have you been surrounded by drama lately? It's probably your own fault, stop seeking so much attention.

To bake this week: Cupcakes.



Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

You need to stop dwelling on yet another failed talking stage. You can do better than Tinder breathas.

To bake this week: Chocolate covered strawberries.



Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

Keep being on your hot virgo shit. Literally no one is as superior as you.

To bake this week: Caramel slice.



Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

Stop making shit jokes at the expense of others. You're not funny, you're just fucking annoying.

To bake this week: Rocky road.



Libra

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Newsflash, thinking you're cool doesn't actually make you cool.

To bake this week: Oatmeal muffins.



Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

Much like your life, nothing monumental or interesting comes to mind for this week. Sorry.

To bake this week: Gernernuts.



Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Stressful times ahead. Get that vibrator out.

To bake this week: Belgium biscuits.



Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

Hope you didn't spend too much money on your Hyde costume, given you have two personas anyway.

To bake this week: Nothing, you don't deserve joy.



Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

It's time for a self care night. Think weed brownies and maladaptive daydreaming. Rest up, buttercup.

To bake this week: Lolly cake.



Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

It's time for your yearly STD check.

To bake this week: Lemon drizzle cake.



Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Did you know you actually aren't right all the time? This week, try reeling in the shitty attitude.

To bake this week: Sticky date pudding.

The Critical Tribune

Judith Collins Eyes Vice-Chancellorship

After a slew of dismal polling numbers, and backstabbing within the National Party, Leader of the Opposition Judith "Crusher" Collins is in talks with Otago Uni executives for the vacant role of Vice-Chancellor.

Whispers of yet another leadership change in the National Party have dominated the political news cycle in recent weeks and this report confirms those suspicions. A source in the National Party said that the VC position is a "logical step" for Collins, claiming she gave up on her "dream of ruining young people's lives as Prime Minister" and is now looking to ruin the lives of the next largest swath of young people she can find. Vice-Chancellor of Otago would be "a natural career move" for Collins, the source explained.

Rumours are spreading around Parliament about whether newly minted MP Christopher Luxon will be leading the coup against Collins, or whether former leader Simon Bridges will attempt to take back his old position.

An inside source tells The Critical Tribune there may be a third candidate throwing their hat in the ring. "I've heard Simon's Baby Yak from 2020 is looking to capitalise on its five minutes of fame and is interested in stepping into the role. If that's the case I'll be voting for them for sure."

Millions of Questions, But Nobody Asked Otago How It Was Feeling

AskOtago is reportedly on the brink of a nervous breakdown after, despite having answered millions of student questions since it opened on the ground floor of Central in 2017, nobody asked it how it was really doing.

The helpdesk service has been struggling to cope emotionally for years, according to those close to it: dealing with relentless bullying from academic staff and students, recurring depression and loneliness from the Covid-19 lockdown when nobody talked to it, and most recently a messy breakup from its long-term helpdesk partner, the Dunedin iSite.

"It's tough because it still has to maintain that façade of having all the answers, even though it burns with questions inside," said a friend who wished to remain anonymous. "Every morning it arrives and its sign is as bright as ever, but that's just their personality. I know it's really hurting inside."

Another said: "It's really heartbreaking to watch. All these questions every day, and yes, maybe once in a while somebody will feel bad and ask 'How are you doing?' But it seems so smart and self-confident, so nobody really dares to AskOtago, 'Actually, how are you really feeling?'"

Approached for comment, the University said they have offered AskOtago group therapy sessions, to be conducted together with the 182 staff members fired as a result of its creation.

THE OUSA ANZAC DAY SERVICE

*Honouring those who fought,
valuing peace*

Sunday 25th April 1:30pm
Outside the University Staff Club
(Main Common Room if Wet)



SGM

Student General Meeting
Weds 21st April | 12pm
Main Common Room

Discussion topics include:
Changes to the Grants Policy,
The Exec Renumeration,
and lobbying the Labour
Government about
Post-Graduate access to the
student allowance.



Booze Reviews:

Cocktail Research & Development

By Chug Norris

Having already acquired my alcohol for Hyde and not ready to buy anything else for the week, I decided to scrounge the little alcohol I had and try out a few wacky combinations. Mostly they were better than the original ingredients.

Triple Brown

The Triple Brown consists of a Double Brown with a splash (or several) of whisky. I used an almost empty bottle of Bell's Scotch whisky which I found at the back of the fridge. The introduction of the whisky adds a sweet overtone which really adds a whole new dimension to the rich, carby base of the DoBro. Overall, the Triple Brown is a refinement of an already fantastic drink, I highly recommend. Also, the extra kick of the whisky inebriates quite rapidly.

Tastes like: A slow descent into alcoholism

Froth level: A raging wood fire on a winter evening

Pairs well with: Probably a cigar and a three piece suit

Taste rating: 9/10. Best of both worlds

Rodenbull

Faced with cash-flow problems, and determined not to let my heavy investment in Rodenbachs go to waste, I created the ultimate study beverage: The Rodenbull. It is perfectly suited to that period where you have committed to a night out but want to squeeze in a little study before you fully get into it. A 1:1 ratio of Red Bull and Rodenbach ensures a heavy emphasis on the Red Bull flavours and, more importantly, caffeine.

The usually unbearable sourness of the Rodenbach evaporates in the presence of the tangy Red Bull. The result is an extremely refreshing combination of cheap alcohol and caffeine. Additionally, I imagine that the Red Bull could easily be swapped out with any energy drink on

the market. The success of this drink is not a reason to buy Rodenbach. But, if you happen to have a few lying around, you could do a lot worse.

Tastes like: Red Bull, but extra refreshing

Froth level: Realising your assignment is due a week later than you thought

Pairs well with: Extreme feats of cramming, work-life balance

Taste rating: 8/10. Brain food

Pickleback

A shot of whiskey chased by a shot of pickle juice. The vinegar in the pickle juice kills the burn from the whiskey (or any spirit, really) and makes for alarmingly easy shooting. It's not exactly delicious, but it's smooth as hell. But there's danger involved: if you don't swallow the whiskey and chase it fast enough, you just get an extra-awful shot that's the worst part of both drinks. Great for those who like risks, or pickles. Often that's the same type of person. Also, pickle juice is great for fighting hangovers.

Tastes like: All the good parts of whiskey, all the bad parts of pickle juice

Froth level: Wondering how similar a pickle is to Yoda's peen

Pairs well with: Tractors and violence

Taste rating: 7/10. Better than it should be, worse than it could be

FUCK! I CAN'T COOK

BY ALICE TAYLOR
@ALICEOLIVIALATS

Crispy Satay Tofu

I am very passionate about this week's recipe. It's difficult to mess it up and delicious. I have been known to pour this sauce into a bowl, microwave it, and eat it with a spoon. I have served the sauce here with crispy fried tofu, but you could pour it over chicken, veges, noodles, rice, with roti, you name it.



INGREDIENTS

SATAY SAUCE

- 1 onion
- 1 1/2 tbsp red curry paste
- 1 can coconut cream
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- Salt to taste
- Lemon juice to taste

CRISPY TOFU

- 600g firm tofu
- Cornflour (no need to measure, usually around 1/2-1 cup)
- Vegetable oil (around 1 cup)

METHOD

1. Wrap tofu in a clean towel and place a heavy object like a pot with some cans in it on top of the tofu. Let it sit for 30 minutes. Meanwhile start the satay sauce.
2. In a pan over medium heat, add a splash of oil, the onion, and cook until soft.
3. Add red curry paste, stir and cook for a minute, until fragrant.
4. Add the coconut milk, peanut butter and soy sauce. Stir until combined and simmer for 5 minutes.
5. Turn the heat off. Taste and add salt and lemon juice to taste.
6. Unwrap the tofu and chop into medium sized cubes.
7. Place tofu in a bowl and generously sprinkle with cornflour. Use your hands to gently toss the tofu till completely covered.
8. Dust off any excess cornflour and put tofu on another plate.
9. Add enough oil to cover the bottom of a pan with high sides. Heat at medium heat.
10. Once the oil is hot, add the tofu pieces and fry on each side until golden and crispy. To test if the oil is hot enough, add a small piece of tofu. If it immediately sizzles, it is hot enough.
11. Remove the tofu from the heat and place on a paper towel to drain off excess oil. Discard the remaining oil from the pan.
12. Place the satay sauce and tofu in the pan and stir to combine.



RATE

OR

BY SASHA FREEMAN



HATE?

Cooking a meal on your kitchen floor because all the bench space has dishes on it. Sounds gross but is actually a quintessential experience

Margaret Atwood: She can write anything, can't believe she's still alive.

The garlic bread they sell at Stilettos. Absolutely brilliant.

Walking in the rain in the dark. There's ample opportunity nowadays and I feel like I'm in a dramatic moody movie.

Sign up club. Please don't kick me out I tagged 3 friends x

People being open to change. Thank you to the guy in the Catacombs line that agreed to no longer use gay as an insult.

The fact that I even had to tell that guy not to use gay as an insult in the first place.

Dunedin being so small that my flatmate knew I was sad before I even told him. Lowkey cute tho.

The Pool House. Bad vibes, I prefer Bowey's.

Racists. Rest in peace Prince Philip x

All the lectures I have to watch :(The only reason I'm even studying this year is because everyone said I shouldn't move to Raglan and become a surfer girl. But it's looking pretty fuckin good right now.

Dear Critic... I got 99 problems and this is definitely one

Dear Critic,

There's a wasp nest in front of our flat. Every time I walk out, I'm terrified that I'm gonna get stung. Our landlord said we could just call some ecology students and they'd pull it out, but I highly doubt that. What do we do?

Shawn

Giddy Shawn,

First of all, you spell your name the wrong way. Second, I've heard that you actually can get in touch with students in ZOOL/ECOL and they'll get rid of it somehow. Maybe they keep it, IDK. Doesn't matter as long as it's gone.

Option two: Molotov it. Fill a liquor bottle with petrol and shove it into the hole. It'll drain in and kill them. Do it at night. It does the job, but it's unethical, even if they're pests.

Option three: Ever seen that video of the guy that eats a wasp's nest? Try that. He seemed fine. Good luck.

Mike Hunt

Dear Critic,

I have an evil clown doll in my attic and it frightens me. It's this horrible old jester. How do I get rid of it safely?

Asher

Hi Asher,

Sounds like you're fucked. There's no good way to do this. Move out of the flat, and don't touch it. Go on a weekend trip, and get people to try to touch it while you're gone maybe? Doesn't matter, you'll still be cursed. Just don't touch it, and let it watch you sleep this year, and then move out. C'mon, you know better than this.

Mike Litorus



MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

The Effortless Threesome

Flashback to 2017. It's my first year at Otago University (I transferred from Canterbury because my life there was as flat as the city's landscape).

It's a Thursday night and I'm bored so I send an "upto" to someone I used to go to high school with. Lo and behold, she's keen to come over for a boof.

She comes into my flat, we head upstairs and I go heels to Jesus. After all is said and done we just lay there and indulge in a bit of pillow talk. All of a sudden she turns to me and says "would you ever have a threesome?" and me being the macho man that I am said "well yeah of course but it has to be with two chicks". She concurs and says "yeah that's cool, for me the deal breaker is that the other chick would have to be a complete stranger".

The conversation was left there and we fell asleep. Fast forward to the next day, she leaves with a friendly goodbye and I thought to myself: I won't be seeing her anytime again soon. That evening, I'm sitting in my lounge on the edge of my seat and what do you know, Winston the bloody king maker

has sided with Cindy and NZ is once more bleeding red. I couldn't be happier! I tell my flat mates to load up the car, we are going to Leith and getting a couple slabs to celebrate.

Head back to the flat and start drinking for an hour, when I receive a text "I've found a girl!". Not only has this threesome come to me with absolutely no effort but it's with two chicks. In a panicky voice, I tell my flat mates what's happened and they all have the same answer "you need to drink more". I decide to get absolutely stupid and tell her to be here in an hour.

Next thing I know, an hour has gone by and I have these two ladies on my front door step. I get frog marched upstairs and have the bloody night of my life. Something I'll never forget and will be a story for the grandchildren for sure. After the fact I found out these two were neighbours, so I can only imagine the rest of the year was a weird one.

And that's my best sexcapade to date x

SNAP OF THE WEEK



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

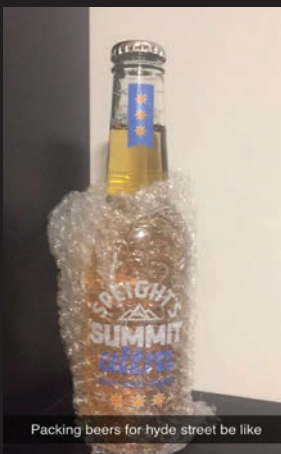
SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT THE
CRITIC
FACEBOOK
TO CLAIM
YOUR REDBULL



Sorry babe but the Tui sheets stay on during sex 🤔

SINCE 1889.



Packing beers for hyde street be like



Things you can do while waiting for a KFC order...

Finish that essay.

Ask your crush out.

Get married to your girlfriend.

Watch your kids graduate.

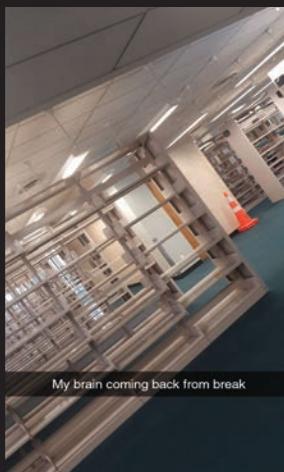
Retire with your wife.

Die with your wife.

Wake up from your dream of being with your crush cause we all know that ain't happening Kyle.



The most well plotted piece of land in New Zealand



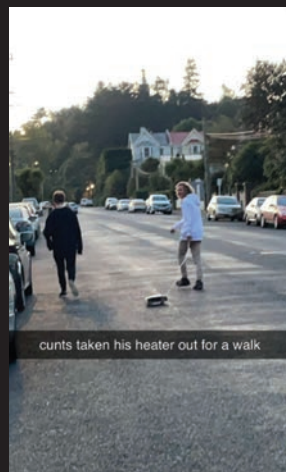
My brain coming back from break



Walk your fucking wheels, punk



At least they parked it well



cunts taken his heater out for a walk



another week with that simp, I'll kill myself

How old is the word simp?



The real reason Maui caught the sun was to extend the amount of time cumby sees the sun from 2 seconds to 4 in a day



No fork = no problem



Au naturel



**THE ONE CARD
THAT GETS YOU
DISCOUNTS**

COSMIC

10% discount on full-priced items.

SUBWAY

Buy any six-inch meal deal and upgrade to a footlong meal deal for free.

UBS ON CAMPUS

10% discount on full-priced items.

LUMINO THE DENTISTS

\$69 new patient exam & x-ray, plus 10% off further treatments (excluding implants & orthodontics).

CORNERSTONE INK TATTOO STUDIO

10% student discount on any tattoo, not in conjunction with any other special.

ONLY UR'S BEAUTY PARLOUR

Eyebrow wax OR Thread (top and bottom) for \$12 with Student ID. Ori Student Special: Brazilian Maintenance for \$28.

RA HAIR

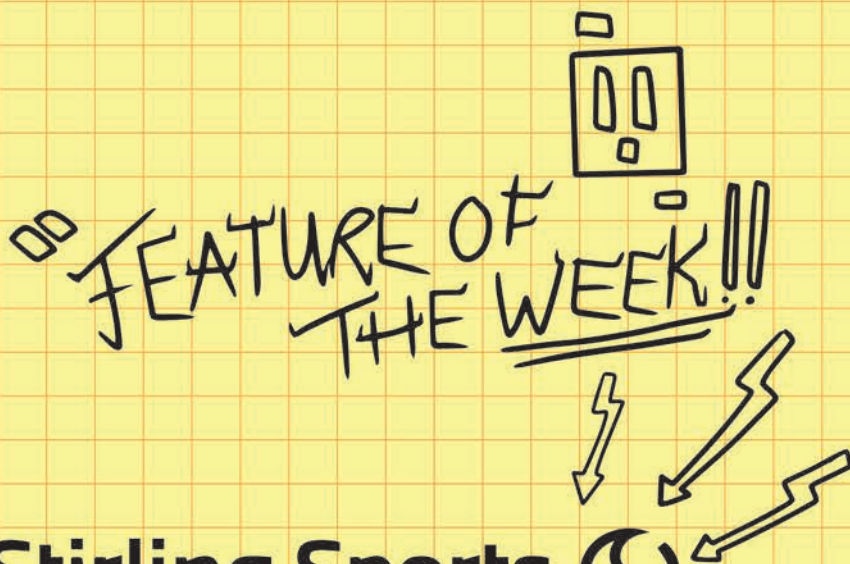
Global colour or retouch, treatment, mini shampoo and conditioner for \$149. Keratin smoothing and supporting take-home product for \$199. Add on eye trio to any service for \$30.

OTAGO MUSEUM

2-for-1 entry to Tūhura Science Centre to see the butterflies, Monday to Friday only.

SLICK WILLY'S

5% off storewide.



Stirling Sports

10% student discount on all full-priced items.

SAL'S AUTHENTIC NEW YORK PIZZA

\$20 large cheese pizzas all day Tuesdays. Student ID required.

BURGER PLANT

Cheeseburger OR Chook Burger & Fries for \$14.

TASTE OF TANDOOR

2-for-1 Curry Special - everyday between 4 to 7pm (dine in only). 15% student discount on entire bill after 7pm.

BAILEY NELSON (ONLINE)

Protect your pupils this semester with 20% off. Use code 'OWEEK20' at baileynelson.co.nz. Offer ends 5 April 2021.

ROB ROY DAIRY

Mondays & Tuesdays upgrade to a free waffle cone*. *Excludes gluten-free option.

LA PORCHETTA

10% student discount on food and drink.

POPPA'S PIZZA

10% off regular large pizzas and waffles.

TM AUTOMOTIVE

\$55 warrant of fitness fee.

GELATO JUNKIE

\$1 off double scoop ice creams.

TAKEICHI

Free special topping with every bowl of Ramen.

ADJØ

10% off everything at ADJØ (excluding already discounted deals and alcohol).

**REGISTER TO UNLOCK
ADDITIONAL PRIZES!**

rl.co.nz/onecard



COSMIC

ousa



REASONS TO SIGN UP YOUR TEAM

- 1 OVER \$30K IN PRIZE MONEY***
- 2 REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND IN THE WORLD FINAL**
- 3 BE IN TO WIN A STEELSERIES ULTIMATE GAMING BUNDLE WORTH \$5K***
- 4 BE IN TO WIN INTEL PC'S FOR YOUR CAMPUS GAMING ZONE**

➡➡ + MORE

APPLY NOW
APPLY NOW REDBULLCAMPUSCLUTCH.COM
APPLY NOW

JOIN OUR DISCORD FOR MORE INFO AND TO FIND A TEAM
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*T&C'S APPLY REDBULLCAMPUSCLUTCH.COM

