

SEX ISSUE



te
arohi

Study Tip #69

Make sure you're prepped.

- ☒ ~~Eat noodles~~
- ☒ ~~Cry about cost of living~~
- ☒ ~~Have a nap~~
- ☒ ~~Masturbate~~ * VERY IMPORTANT
- ☐ Masturbate
- ☐ Masturbate
- ☐ Study, maybe? OPTIONAL
- ☐ Masturbate



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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dear Sir,
I am reaching out to you regarding a forgotten feature of Critic. This is the Game Review section that was featured in years past. I stumbled upon this former piece when looking through Critic's website culture section, and upon seeing the games tab I initially thought that Critic had some student-made flash games or downloadable drinking games, etc...

However, I would be instead greeted with old articles for popular games, gaming culture and gaming news that had been reviewed. Unfortunately, it seems that this section has been left in Critic's attic where they keep old issues and features, probably only seeing the light when you went up and returned the ODT watch to the paper. The last review was from the 12th of July 2018, the "Tap X to Cum" article on pornographic games that greet many on pornographic websites.

This means that this feature is from the before-pandemic times, and with the rise of many games aided by the isolation many went through, along with meme culture aiding in this rise (ie: Among Us).

Thus, most students will have played some form of computer game in the past 4 years since that last article was published and no doubt would appreciate a return of a Critic review on games that have since or are currently being played, along with insights into gamer culture and news. Not to mention that the most recent issue as of writing, the census issue's entire back cover has an advertisement for a RedBull gaming tournament for Uni students, I'm sure RedBull would also love a review of these events too.

Sincerely,
An Oppressed Gamer

Hi Critic,
I would love to see what type of society Dunedin breathers could set up post-zombie apocalypse. I truly think it would be so raw, stripped back into all that makes up the nature of humanity. Fucking, fighting, and creating. Just think of how fast home brew systems would be set up, the way zombies would be repulsed/lured to different directions for escape through doof warfare. The modified North Face armour. Imagine it.

Yours,
Prepper

Important info
from ŌCASA:
the Ōtepoti
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Against Sexual
Abuse:



All of ŌCASA's services are free and confidential. Their Survivor Support Team are professionals who specialise in sexual violence and are trained to understand and respond to trauma. They provide crisis support, brief intervention, longer term support and counselling, and have a support line available Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. You can phone them and leave a voicemail at 03 4741592. Their email is support@ocasa.org.nz.

ŌCASA provides brief crisis intervention and support in person, telephone or via Zoom.

Brief intervention support can assist with coping strategies, advocacy, safety plans, managing daily life, accessing resources, and support to access ACC and other services. Counselling is available, but there is a wait list. There are also spaces for brief intervention counselling. ŌCASA also provides support with police interviews, court processes and seeking medical support. They are also taking expressions of interest for survivors who may be interested in attending group art therapy.

And here some other contacts for crisis support, courtesy of ŌCASA:

- Need To Talk: free call or text 1737
- Safe To Talk (national sexual violence crisis line): 0800 04 43 34 – free text 4334
- Suicide Crisis Line: 0508 TAUTOKO (0508 82 88 65)
- Lifeline Helpline: 0800 LIFELINE (0800 54 33 54) – free text to 4357
- Youthline: 0800 37 66 33 – free text 234
- Victim Support: 0800 VICTIM (0800 842 846)
- Women's Refuge Crisis Line: 0800 REFUGE (0800 733 843)
- Healthline: 0800 611 116
- Samaritans: 0800 72 66 66
- Emergency Psychiatric Service: 03 4740999 (ask for EPS)



Editorial:
How much data is in one ejaculation?

By Fox Meyer

One sperm contains about 3.3 billion base pairs, stored in DNA. Each base pair is two bits of data, for a total of 787MB of data per sperm. With somewhere around 280 million sperm per ejaculation, that means a single load contains about 220,000 terabytes of data. That's a lot of information to swallow.

To be fair, all that data is essentially repeats of the same sequence of genetic code with minor differences. It's like storing the entire series of Breaking Bad over and over and over again on several hard drives. All up, though, it's a hefty number. So what could be done with 220,000TB? Well, you could store 330,000,000 copies of Mario Kart for the Nintendo Switch. The storage capacity of your entire brain can fit into an ejaculation 88 times.

That famous image of our black hole, the one that came out a few years ago, could be stored just 55 times. The 4,000,000GB of data in that image was stored in hard drives that weighed over half a ton. If you want to store 220,000TB of data, it would cost you more than \$14,000,000 to buy enough hard drives from JB Hi-Fi to store one ejaculation's worth of data.

These are big numbers – so let's focus just on one sperm: 787MB. That's a few hundred copies of my compressed undergraduate thesis, or about a dozen issues of Critic Te Arohi. You'd need just over 54 sperm to store the entirety of James Cameron's *Avatar*, but only seven and a half sperm to store *Morbius*. Or, you could fit PacMan into one sperm 13,000 times.

To get a bit more technical, the human genome encoded in base pairs is not exactly "data" like we'd imagine. A lot of it is repetitive, and it's pretty much the same between all the sperm. So instead of having 220,000TB of data, you've really got several million copies of the same 787MB file. Instead of shooting out 55 copies of the highest-ever resolution image of a black hole, it's more like shooting out 280 million copies of the same two Tik Toks.

It's a lot of information, but here's another way to think of it: on a fast ethernet connection, it'll take about six minutes to upload one terabyte of data. An ejaculation takes about five seconds, and in those five seconds, you'll release 220,000 terabytes of data. This makes you, for those five seconds, the fastest data processor in the world. Careful not to spill.

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RAD TIMES
GIG GUIDE

TUESDAY
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Open Mic Night w/ Dan Gerous, hosted
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INCH BAR
7PM / KOHA ENTRY

THURSDAY
28 JULY

Sam King
INCH BAR
7:30PM / KOHA ENTRY

FRIDAY
29 JULY

DJ Praxis
INCH BAR
8PM / FREE ENTRY

SATURDAY
30 JULY

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Super Heavy Tour
DIVE
8PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Shaky Hollows
INCH BAR
7:30PM / KOHA ENTRY

SUNDAY
31 JULY

Big Jazz Apple
INCH BAR
4:30PM / KOHA ENTRY

For more gigs happening around Dunedin, check out r1.co.nz/gig-guide



CHRISTOPHER
ULUTUPU THE FALL



Free Condoms Abound on Campus

Fucking on a Budget: A Travel Guide to Dunedin's Free Condoms

By Nina Brown
Contributor // critic@critic.co.nz

Condoms, while super important, can really stretch tiny student budgets: the average box retails at \$12–\$24, and in the cold, long nights of winter, the costs can add up fast. Dunedin, however, turns out to be busting with free condoms – so Critic Te Arohi decided to check out where you can fuck on a budget.

As it turns out, OUSA is a big fan of a protected shag. You used to be able to get “Stoppers” condoms at Starter’s Bar, but that’s closed now. Students can still find condoms of varying sizes and brands (often with complimentary lube sachets) at their three main locations: their main office, the Clubs & Socs building, and Student Support. While some cheeky rubbers were also allegedly going to be included in OUSA’s quarantine care packs from the start of the year, they apparently thought better of it as it may have sent “the wrong message” to students in iso. Rough.

On campus itself, condoms can also be sourced from Campus Watch – their commitment to safety clearly extends from the streets and into the sheets, too. Some residential colleges also have them freely available. According to a University of Otago spokesperson, most of the condoms given away by OUSA and the Uni are donated, largely by the good folk at the Burnett Foundation Aotearoa (formerly the New Zealand AIDS Foundation).

Beggars can’t be choosers, though, and they told a disappointed Critic Te Arohi that the higher-end condoms, such as the ribbed kind, are out of the question: “If a student wishes to obtain a different variety of condom, they can purchase at various retailers or get a prescription from their GP.” This presumably includes the flavoured kind which, by the way, are disgusting.

Outside the main campus, different healthcare providers around town also supply free condoms, with varying degrees of accessibility. Student Health always has a topped-up bowl at the STI self-check station, found straight through their sliding doors. On the other hand, the Dunedin Sexual Health Clinic, being inside the hospital, is probably the least accessible: Covid screening at the entrance means that if you don’t have an appointment, you’ll need to spend a few awkward minutes explaining how you’re just there to rax some rubbers rather than to visit a sick relative.

As far as your bang for buck goes, Family Planning offers the greatest rewards: if you’re under 22 and a NZ resident, you can get a free prescription of 144 condoms by just calling their phone clinic (0800 372 546). For everyone else, it’ll cost you \$5 – still cheaper than the \$96 or so you’d be spending at the supermarket.

If a phone call is just too much admin, condom donors from the Burnett Foundation Aotearoa also provide their own delivery service. All you need to do is fill out a form on their website, pick one of the four different sizes they have on offer, and it’ll be shipped to you. You can even get them redelivered every few months: like a subscription service, except you’re subscribing to not spreading STIs.

The more unexpected, yet equally fruitful, locations for free condoms included: a gutter on the side of Grange Street (one for those hunter-gatherers out there), the Needle Exchange on Princes Street, and the gay and bisexual Bodyworks club which Critic Te Arohi reported on in 2016 for its controversial exclusion of non-“genetic males”.

Of course, getting the condom is only half the fun. If you’ve got the goods but don’t know where to go from there, the Burnett Foundation (bless their safe sex loving souls) have a plethora of educational resources on safe sex available on their website. This includes a rather graphic video tutorial on the proper application of a condom, in case you never learnt how to slip it onto a banana at high school. Happy free-loving, breathas and breathettes.

(Yet Another) Report Highlights Student Suffering

Many of us are literally living in poverty

By Denzel Chung
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Data from a nationwide survey of students has shown, yet again, that students largely live in poverty – often in unaffordable housing and going without food, healthcare, clothing and other necessities. Aotearoa’s student unions, alongside the Green Party, are hoping that this report will finally drive the “bold action we need to fix things”.

The People’s Inquiry into Student Wellbeing 2022 was carried out by the Green Party, the New Zealand Union of Students’ Associations (NZUSA), Te Mana Akonga, Taura Pasifika and the National Disabled Students’ Association. The survey covered 4,593 students across Aotearoa, including 586 from Dunedin.

The survey found significant “anxiety and distress” was being caused by the increasing cost of living. The big elephant in the (cold, mouldy) room? Rent. The average weekly rent being paid by Dunedin students was \$168, while in Auckland and Wellington, students were paying out a massive \$260 per week. Overall, students nationwide were paying an average of 56% of their income on rent alone: almost double the national standard for housing affordability (30%). However, the steep prices didn’t mean luxury. Around 14% of students said their housing “does not meet their needs”, with most saying they were cold, damp, crowded and poorly-maintained.

On the income end, restrictions on student allowances were highlighted as a key grievance. Student allowance eligibility being tied to your parents’ or partner’s income was seen as “unfair... [and] out-of-step with many students’ and families’ realities”, especially where families or partners are themselves struggling to get by on low incomes. Only 40% of students had financial support from their families; this dropped to just 30% for Māori students, and 25% of Pasifika students. Graduate students also noted that the Labour Government’s promise to restore the student allowance for postgrads, in the 2017 election campaign, was not kept.


Rent pressures and low incomes meant around half of students have just enough, or less than enough, to “make ends meet”. According to the report, “about two-thirds of students regularly do not have money to buy food, clothing or get healthcare.” This particularly affected Māori, Pasifika and disabled students. This means students often end up going without – whether it means skimping at the supermarket, putting off that doctor’s or dentist’s appointment, borrowing money from family or friends, or drawing down on loans, credit cards and layby plans.

This also meant lots of side hustles: 68% of full-time and 87% of part-time students were undertaking some sort of paid employment. Juggling work and study can

be tricky, though. 62% of full-time, 73% of part-time and 72% of disabled students said that they “did not spend as much time attending classes and studying” as they would like. The financial pressures mean, according to the report, some are forced to give up on study altogether.

The report had five recommendations for the Government, which they said would help “alleviate student financial hardship, reduce the growing burden of student debt, alleviate high rates of stress and anxiety, and help them succeed in their studies”. These included removing all restrictions on student allowances; improving student mental health services; making public transport free for students; and implementing rent controls and Rental Warrants of Fitness.

Chlöe Swarbrick, the Green Party’s Spokesperson for Tertiary Education, helped coordinate the report. She said that “the current tertiary education system is causing harm to those students who are simply trying to better themselves and invest in their futures ... urgent change and support is needed, and I’m committed to continuing work with our student unions to push for this.” “Students’ needs are ignored and sacrificed,” she added, “but if launching this inquiry has proven one thing to me, it’s that students understand that change is needed, and they’re ready to push for that change.”

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You May Not Be Eligible For That Free \$350

If you didn't have a job last year, you may be out of luck

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

While many students have already been scheming how they'll spend the Government's upcoming \$350 cost of living payment, a caveat means that some students on a student loan will be ineligible to receive the payment.

In May, as part of this year's Budget, the Government announced that every New Zealander who was earning less than \$70,000 a year and was not on a benefit would receive a "Cost of Living Payment". A total of \$350 would be paid out to eligible students' bank accounts in 3 monthly instalments by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD), beginning August 1.

In theory, almost every non-international student should be eligible for the payment – unless your Uni side hustle is managing a large multinational corporation. However, there's a catch: you need to have had at least some formal income at some point between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, whether that's through a job, a student allowance or dividends from the trust fund

that you definitely "earned through your own hard work".

That means if you relied on student loans to get by last year, and didn't have a summer job or side hustle for whatever reason, you're out of luck. The IRD's website makes it clear using the example of "Aki, a student": "If Aki's only income for 2022 was the living costs from her student loan (no Student allowance received), she would not be eligible for the Cost of Living Payment. This is because she has no net income for 2022 and no requirement to get an income tax assessment or file an Individual income tax return – IR3." This is even though someone in this situation would meet all the publicised eligibility criteria.

This strange requirement comes because the Cost of Living Payments are basically being processed as tax refunds. As the IRD has the newest, shiniest computer system of all the Government departments, having completed a multibillion-dollar upgrade in 2019, lots of Government initiatives are

now being funnelled through it, from Covid support payments to fuel tax cuts. This, however, means that some people end up falling through the cracks – such as students who were only on student loans last year.

What can't be blamed on tax computer loopholes, though, are the others earning under \$70k who are explicitly excluded from the payments: beneficiaries and working under-18s. The Green Party have called these exclusions "punitive and unfair," and in May called on the Labour government to expand the criteria. "Poverty is a political choice. No one should be struggling to pay the power bills or feed their kids in this country," said Green Spokesperson for Social Welfare Ricardo Menéndez March.

Most international students are also excluded from the criteria (unless you pay taxes in New Zealand), but you weren't really expecting the government to help any immigrants not arriving on a high-class investor visa, were you?

Blame Putin for RTD Shortage

International bourbon woes hitting students where it hurts

By Ruby Werry
Staff Writer // ruby@critic.co.nz

If you've noticed getting your hands on Diesels or Billy Mavs has been harder recently, you're not alone, and you're not wrong. International shortages of bourbon have been causing prices to spike. While the spirit is adored by middle-aged men and those who are middle-aged men at heart, bourbon also forms the heart and soul of RTDs such as Billy Mavs, Woodstocks, Diesels and Cody's. They've been getting a lot harder to find, though, and there's a couple of key reasons for that.

Let's start with the stuff in the can. Bourbon's been getting hard to find recently, for a few reasons. For one, demand is up: the bourbon industry sold \$7.5 billion of booze last year, up almost 10% from the year before. Soaring demand has combined with labour shortages and high prices for shipping, meaning that distillers are prioritising the higher-end stuff that gives them more bang for buck, and not the dregs that get mixed into RTDs. Simone Rosentreter, a spokesperson for Lion (the brewer), told Stuff that their wholesale bourbon

shipments have been "patchy," and as a result they've had to pause manufacturing of Billy Mavs temporarily. Diesels have been cut off the menu completely, and will be "unavailable until further notice." Jack Daniel's hasn't faced quite the same issues, as they're not legally a bourbon, but a Tennessee whiskey. They're kind of like close cousins (and we're talking Tennessee close).

As well as a lack of bourbon, we've also been short of fizz. While Aotearoa pumps millions of tonnes of CO₂ into the air, our supply of food-grade CO₂ (ironically, made as a fossil fuel byproduct) has been dropping dramatically. Once supplied by the Marsden Point oil refinery (which shut down in February) our only local source of bubbly is the Kapuni gas field in Taranaki – and they've just slowed production for winter maintenance. With imports from the nearest facilities (in Malaysia) being crippling expensive, this has meant rationing and chaos as the likes of brewers, cheesemakers and chicken sausage factories duke it out for our precious last tanks of carbon dioxide.

As if these clusterfucks weren't enough, Aotearoa's alcohol tax (added on top of GST) was hiked on July 1 by a whopping 6.9%. Nice, but not nice. This means that for your average Billy Mav drinker, almost half of the \$2 you pay per can goes straight to the taxman. It's almost as if New Zealand has a problematic drinking culture that the government is trying to remedy.

All of this means one thing: from Super Liquor to New World, alcohol prices have started going up. One keen eyed breatha mourned the increase in price of their favourite Smirnoff Double Blacks: "It's gone up at least an extra \$5, it used to work out at like, \$2 per 7% drink. Now it's more like \$2.50." It's good to know that those STATS110 and 115 papers aren't going to waste on the Dunedin population. But not all is lost. A liquor store manager gave Critic Te Arohi a pro-tip: "We haven't had issues with the whiskey hybrids, so things like Jack Daniel's are way easier to source and sell, if you're desperate." If you're desperate, indeed.



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StudyLink Wait Times up 37%

Hold music still doesn't include Benefit

If you feel like StudyLink wait times are longer than usual this year, you're on the money. StudyLink claims that average wait times sit at around 20 minutes (up 5 minutes from last year) – but students have been reporting far longer ordeals.

Phone calls are already a bit of a mission for us socially-awkward Gen Zs, whether it's Air New Zealand, WINZ or your racist uncle. But one number strikes more fear into us than any other: 0800 88 99 00. A call to every student's most reliable sugar daddies and mummies inevitably means you're stuck on the line for aeons, psyching yourself up to beg for your Student Allowance while the most garbled, static sounding music you'll ever hear will make you wonder when Six60 started recording their singles in a wind tunnel.

Recently, this experience has (somehow) been made worse, thanks to increased wait times. While holding the line, second-year Marie was told by the automated

phone system that their queries could be answered online. Like a hapless victim in a dystopian sci-fi, she mindlessly obeyed the robot, hung up, and lost her place in the queue. "Yeah, the response didn't have any idea of what I was trying to ask. I'd have been better off going to AskOtago to be honest. They then told me wait times were going to be upwards of 55 minutes when I called back." Like any good student, Marie instead gapped it to play The Sims, where we assume her Sim, with their six-figure debt to Sims University of Britechester, has been waiting on hold with Simdylink for an hour. Life, as they say, imitates art.

Critic Te Arohi reached out to StudyLink, whose representatives claimed an average wait time of eighteen minutes and fifty-nine seconds earlier this July (up 37% from this time last year). One particularly self-destructive afternoon, we decided to put that wait time to the test, calling StudyLink over and over again in the interest of statistical accuracy. And yes, STAT110 students, we probably added to the wait

times of other students and ended up screwing with the data. C'est la vie.

We called three times and waited about an hour for each call, none of which were ever actually picked up. The robot manning the line kept delivering the news of wait times around 42 minutes, but after three hours went down the drain, our better angels advised that we give up and move on. Learn a skill. Practise a hobby. Grow as a person. Anything but go slowly insane to the garbled sounds of Lorde.

To give them credit, StudyLink admitted that "people are waiting a little bit longer than they did compared to this time last year," telling Critic Te Arohi that their "call centres have been affected by staff being away sick, due to both COVID-19 and winter illness." The wave of illness doesn't seem to have been confined to their call centre staff either: it appears that the artists recording their hold music were also forced to do so while struggling with a bad case of the flu.

By Ruby Werry

Staff Writer // ruby@critic.co.nz

All Buses Stay Half-Price as Services Slashed By 30%

This sounds like a grim Briscoes ad

By Elliot Weir

Features Editor // features@critic.co.nz

Bus fares in Ōtepoti Dunedin will remain at a dollar until January 31 next year, thanks to the Government extending their half-price public transport scheme. A more urgent problem is emerging, however: a driver shortage that is leading to sweeping service cancellations, causing grief for student commuters.

Minister of Finance Grant Robertson announced last Sunday that, along with the fuel tax cut, half-price public transport would be extended until January 31st 2023. Some student commuters were thrilled. Law student Megan told Critic Te Arohi: "I'm stoked, it's going to save me a bunch of money in the long run." Another student quipped that "That'd be handy if I used the bus," while another said that they were "not convinced" and that "the buses in Dunedin are still shit."

Not helping this perception of "shit" buses was an announcement from the Otago Regional Council (ORC) on the 12th of July that weekday bus timetables would be slashed, beginning last week. Citing a shortage of bus drivers, the ORC cut services by around

30%, with many half-hourly routes being cut to hourly. Initially, the earliest run times were cut entirely, meaning most bus commuters wouldn't be able to get to work or Uni before 8am. A backlash from these early-birds led to a partial backtrack from the ORC, who reinstated early start times on 16 local routes just two days after the initial announcement. Transport manager Doug Rodgers told the Otago Daily Times that the reduced timetable would be in place for "at least a month."

Mayor Aaron Hawkins, a regular bus commuter himself, said that the changes were "unhelpful at a time when we're trying to talk to our community about making improvements to the service", but added that he didn't blame the bus drivers or the ORC for the disappointing situation. The Otago Disabled Students Association (ODSA) was one such disappointed party; they told Critic Te Arohi that it was "tough, as for some members of the disabled community there aren't other options for travel."

So what's behind this critical shortage of bus drivers? Qualified drivers were in demand even before the pandemic, and post-Covid labour shortages have meant this problem has only gotten worse. Bus drivers have also been badly hit by germs, with spiking levels of Covid-19, flu and other illnesses. Pay and work conditions may also be a factor in the driver shortage, as it was in Wellington last year, when drivers went on strike while conditions and pay were renegotiated. According to the ODT, with the tourism industry slowly recovering, many drivers are ditching public transport and returning to private jobs in the tourism industry for "better pay and better hours".

The ORC failed to respond to Critic Te Arohi for this piece, but have said previously that they are actively recruiting new bus drivers, in a longer-term effort to alleviate the shortage. Could be a better side hustle than trying to hawk off those "designer sneakers" on Marketplace, anyway.



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DUNEDIN'S BIG DAY OUT

ALIX PEREZ • SACHI

(A-Z) **DISRUPTA • AMPLIFY • T95**

ONVX RECORDINGS TAKEOVER

SPECIAL GUEST: **SAVAGE • PORIS • SUUNE**

(DJ SET) **FLAMINGO PIER • FRANK BOOKER**

ANDYHEARTTHROB

121 SOUNDSYSTEM • AUNTY EL

JOUSEY • THIEF B2B CORNMAN

LUCY • TWOMINDS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ODT Watch

Magic outing to the pool

Wizarding lifeguards were called at 0900 hours to rescue a drowning gnome, who thanked them for their assistance and promised to stay in the shallow end from now on.

We all sincerely hope that this effort to raise spirits across the globe has not fallen on deaf ears in Russia, or wherever perpetrators of evil and those devoid of empathy lurk.

Have they tried the ORC?

The first annual report of the registrar of the assisted dying service showed more clinicians in the South Island had registered as willing to provide the service than in any other region.

Southland: to die for

Any move to eliminate cash must be resisted

I, for one, welcome our new overlords.



Missed opportunity: McMiracle.

"I'm still soaking it in," Haugh said when asked how he was feeling.

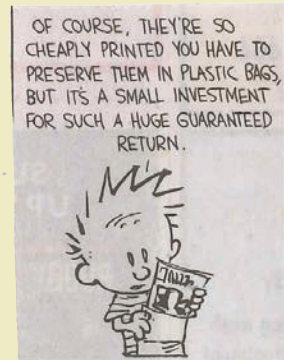
Local man, Hugh, says that he is certainly feeling, and that that feeling feels like feeling would feel.

What a moment. What a play. What a player.

Me when I toss rubbish in the bin on the first try.

Mahatma Gandhi, or not to be

I don't think that's how it goes.



Used condom collection.

BIBLE READING:

With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord. — Psalms 109.30.

Great submission for sex week, thanks ODT!



FINANCE AND STRATEGY OFFICER

Emily Fau-Goodwin

Kia ora koutou,

Although I recognise that what I do in my role might not be everyone's cup of tea, I think lots of what I do has a big impact! A lot of the decisions I make in conjunction with the rest of OUSA about spending is about providing you with the best student experience, whether that is the funding of executive campaigns, or being part of the discussions about other ways we can fund our services. I am also a big part of the referendum and SGM, these are both coming up this semester. These are really key because it is determining the way that money is spent, and we always want to prioritise the services that students care about.

One of the other things I am working on, with Te Āwhina, our Political Rep, is Politics week, which will be coming up in September! We are hoping to get students excited about Local Body Elections. This is another chance for you to have your say! We have a lot planned, but we are hoping to get candidates in to discuss their priorities, this is a chance to make long-term, positive changes for students in Dunedin, so we hope you're as excited to get involved as we are! If you need to enrol, or change your address so you are voting in Dunedin: you can do so here: <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/>

Looking forward to seeing you back on campus,

Emily
Finance and Strategy Officer

ousa
EXECUTIVE

Slip it on before you slip it in.

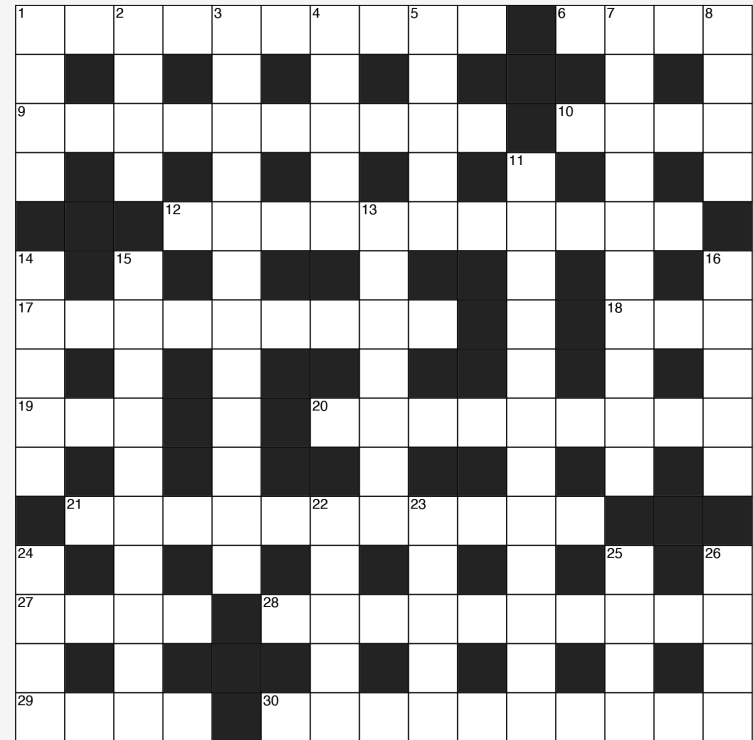


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**Burnett
Foundation
Aotearoa**

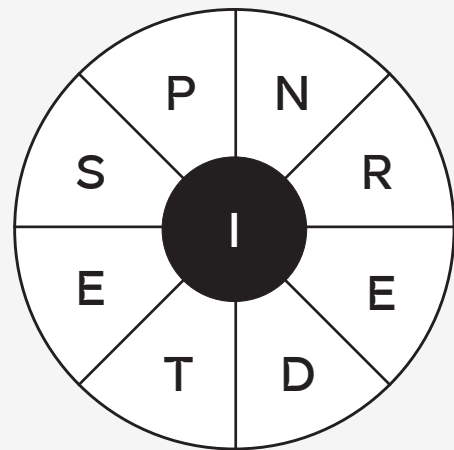
PUZZLES

CROSSWORD



Crossword note: We aren't including in the clues whether the answers are multiple words anymore.

WORD WHEEL



Make as many words as you can using the central letter and without repeating any letters.
6–15 good / 16–20 great

WEEK 15 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. DEPECHE 5. LOWBALL 8. RUA 9. ERA 10. TMZ 11. DISTURB 12. CHILI 14. AXIOM 17. BASSIST 20. . UFO 21. POM 22. NAAN 23. UBAR 24. NAM 25. IDO 26. DARKALE 30. DONOR 32. MATCH 34. PROVERB 35. FIX 36. IRE 37. EPI 38. CASTLED 39. CAMELOT

DOWN: 2. EARTH 3. CARDIB 4. ERASES 5. LAZULI 6. WOMBAT 7. LIMBO 12. CHURNED 13. IRONMAN 15. IMPRINT 16. MAMMOTH 18. APNEA 19. SCULL 26. DRPHIL 27. RIOTED 28. ACETIC 29. EMBLEM 31. OUIJA 33. CARGO

WORD LADDER SOLUTION: HAVE-LAVE-LOVE-LOSE-LOST

- ACROSS:**

 - 1. Gold digger's target (10)
 - 6. Exams at Hogwarts (4)
 - 9. Strong beer in a can (10)
 - 10. Andes inhabitant (4)
 - 12. 2020 Margot Robbie film, OR, a hint to the highlighted clues (11)
 - 17. You can find them in lecture halls (9)
- DOWN:**

 - 1. Japanese spirit (4)
 - 2. Chromosome component (4)
 - 3. Home appliance introduced in 1915 (12)
 - 4. Syrian leader (5)
 - 5. Feline from Ice Age (5)
 - 7. Camper homes of hippies (10)
 - 8. Inbox clutter (4)
 - 11. Warning given before revealing the plot (12)
- 18. Cigarette byproduct (3)
 - 19. It'll take you on a trip (3)
 - 20. Triangular chocolate (9)
 - 21. Body of water by Bangladesh (11)
 - 27. Supporter (4)
 - 28. Burn (10)
 - 29. Take a chance (4)
 - 30. He threw Mankind off Hell In A Cell (10)
- 13. Science-speak for sugar (7)
 - 14. 3 on a par 5 (5)
 - 15. They're on American silver dollars (10)
 - 16. Leader of a tribe, say (5)
 - 22. Next to Nigeria (5)
 - 23. Clueless (5)
 - 24. Evildoer's home (4)
 - 25. Peddler (4)
 - 26. You'll want to get it tested during O-Week (4)

WORD LADDER

Change one word into another by only changing one letter at a time. The shortest solution should fit between the rungs of the word ladder.

BACK

FIRE

SUDOKU

sudokuoftheday.com

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

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

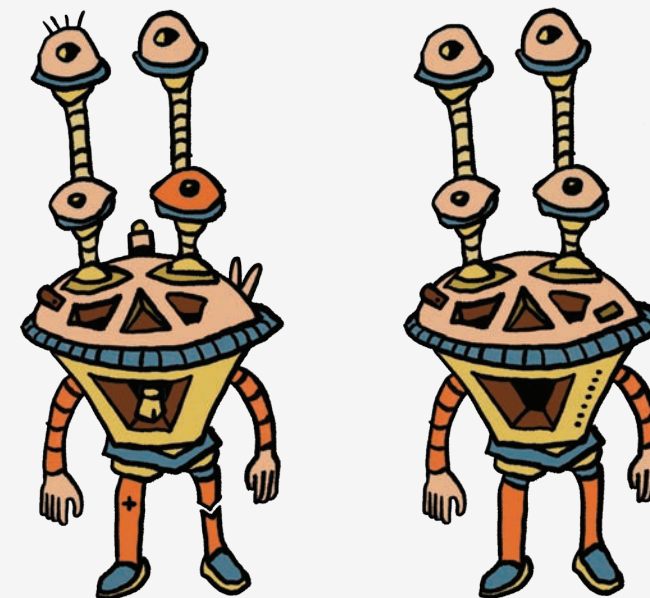
2		7	1			4		3
						8		
	8		4			5		
	6	8		4				
			3		9			
				6		7	1	
		1			6		5	
		2						
9	5				2	6		7

WORDFIND

- CARNATION
DAFFODIL
DAHLIA
DAISY
FREESIA
HYACINTH
IRIS
JASMINE
LAVENDER
LILAC
- LILY
LOTUS
MAGNOLIA
ORCHID
PANSY
ROSE
SUNFLOWER
TULIP
VIOLET

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.



Sober Sex and Why we Suck at it

Alcohol: Dunedin's favourite lube

By Anna Robertshawe

The modern Dunedin love story tends to follow the same arc, albeit with a few twists and turns along the way. You've swiped right on that guy and his big fish, or that girl with the huge... groups of friends. You exchange a few flirtatious messages on Tinder before one of you sends your snapchat username. Snapchat: the new second-base. A few face snaps are sent throughout the night, and before you know it you're a box and a half deep and standing outside their flat. Intellectual conversation and questions about yourself can wait until the morning. In the meantime, it's all about the root 'n boot.

Hookup culture in Dunedin, for many of us, is soaked in booze. But so are most of the things we do for fun; we go to the rugby drunk, we go to gigs drunk, even BYO's, a time-honoured tradition, are centred around finding an excuse to drink. There's nothing wrong with drinking, but it does seem to be an assumed part of anything we think is a "good time". And this includes sex. More specifically, this includes hookups.

As a clarifier, alcohol can obviously make it harder to both communicate clearly and think straight, so when alcohol and sex are involved, there is a need to be extra careful about consent. Although consent when drinking is possible, if someone is on their way to being blackout drunk, there is no way they can possibly consent. The intersection between alcohol, sex and consent could easily be an entire article on its own, but this piece is about what place alcohol has in Dunedin's consensual hookup culture.

We've all received the cheeky 3am 'wyd' after a night out, most likely from someone we've met on Tinder – the app which delivers hundreds of potential lovers right to your fingertips. No longer must we be subjected to the tedious mission of attracting someone from across the bar, nor must we (God forbid) actually approach that cute someone in the library/cafe/gym. When one student was asked if he would ever approach a girl sober, he said "I feel like that would be weird. Why would you?" Why indeed, when with a simple flick of the thumb, you can match with some-one equally interested, and be saved from rejection. Genius. Tinder, like alcohol, is a way to get around the awkwardness of propositioning sex in person, facing rejection in person, and confronting the reality of literally entwining with another human being. Tinder removes barriers by creating distance, and alcohol removes barriers by making the distance less personal. Together, they combine to form a hookup culture that is almost devoid of emotional investment or the "risk" of catching feelings.

For many in Dunedin, alcohol-fuelled one night stands are the norm, and that's not likely to change any time soon. Tim, a third-year, told us that he can't remember a single time he had so-ber sex at Uni, but "that's just the way Dunedin is, aye?" He said the "liquid courage" helped him talk to girls, because otherwise he'd be too scared. "Well, obviously, most of the time I've been hooking up with someone I've been drunk – you know I can't talk to girls unless I've had a few drinks. I just figure it helps me get the conversation going." When pressed about why he felt the need to "get over" something, Tim reflected: "I guess maybe if our culture didn't think sex was so taboo, we wouldn't feel the need to have liquid courage to get it started. Maybe, yeah, maybe it's a bigger cultural problem." Wise words from an unassuming breatha.

Rose, a fourth-year, agreed that alcohol and casual sex in Dunedin had a deep-rooted entanglement. "They're hand in hand. I can't see them separated in my experience of Uni." Rose wasn't a fan of alcohol's place in the bedroom. She told us "Most of my hookups were drunk, but the ones that were sober tended to have more meaning." She described a trope of "breathas not wanting to have someone who's clingy or anything because suddenly there's feelings involved", which is combatted by "having alcohol in your system [which] mutes those feelings and now there's no feelings attached." To Rose, alcohol was about avoiding the emotional side of sex.

According to the students we spoke to, the addition of alcohol into the mix of sex and love has created a disconnect between people – though they weren't all opposed to that. Inebriation may eliminate inhibition, but it also makes real, honest intimacy hard to come by. Sophie told us that "sex under the influence felt out of my control, something that I was objectified in and [where I] didn't really understand how the other person felt about me." She wasn't sure if "we were having sex because we actually liked each other, or just because we were drunk and that's the thing to do."

Inebriation may eliminate inhibition, but it also makes real, honest intimacy hard to come by.

For Jenna, "it started as like a 'haha gonna get drunk, go into town, and find someone to sleep with', but it eventually got to the point where I mentally couldn't have sex without being at the very least tipsy, so pretty much all my sexual experiences [in my first year] I hardly remember." Alcohol helped Jenna's confidence to hook up with people, but it quickly became a necessity. She told us that "I only had the confidence to let people see me naked when I was drunk." Since first year, Jenna says their relationships with both alcohol and sex have become much healthier. "I don't feel like I need to be intoxicated in order to have sex anymore. It's nice to be able to have sex and remember it, and be an active participant."

Like Jenna, Rose also found alcohol wasn't necessary in every sexual encounter. She argued that alcohol shouldn't be something we need to get over the "awkwardness" of sex, especially given that we're at Uni, a place she reckoned was the most sexually-accepting chapter of our lives: "I think Uni is quite liberating with the idea of sex. Uni is the place where you can be the most open about it." Sophie has also had more sober sex since her drunk sex experiences, and finds it easier to communicate desires and understand what the other person wants too. "I don't have sex with anyone if I've had too much alcohol, so I actually have control of the situation and also

understand more clearly the persons intentions." Tim hasn't changed.

Alcohol has numbing effects on the mind and the body. It slows us down, and sends us to sleep. It hits the mute button. "Unfortunately, people see liquid courage as more important than feeling your way through the steps of a very significant encounter like [sex]," said Rose. "Drinking mutes the most important steps in a sexual encounter, which is being in someone's space, knowing how they respond, and vice versa. When all those senses are muted, you can't really know for sure if you're really having a good encounter or not." Tim disagreed, and said that alcohol lets people get over their normal social anxieties and enjoy each other's company a bit more – even if it was just for one night. For the record, Tim also thought that all the girls he's brought home on the piss "have had a pretty good time", so make of that what you will.

At the end of the day, alcohol is still a popular wingman. Everyone pretty much agreed that it worked well to boost confidence, and that if it wasn't taken past a point, it doesn't have to be a bad thing. Inebriation gives us the mindset that we can be anyone, see anyone and get anyone. It makes everything funnier, everyone sexier, and attracting a lover that much easier. But for many students, sex that relies on alcohol feels like it's missing something intangible, and all of the students we talked to thought it was time we thought a little more about the role alcohol plays in our sex lives.

If it makes you uncomfortable to think about it, it's probably worth thinking about.

Enjoy your sex life.

Be honest, be responsible.

Get the facts.



Life goes on, it's good to have

JUST THE FACTS.CO.NZ
about Sexual Health and STIs

SEX ON THE SPECTRUM

**HOT
PROMISCUOUS
AUTISTIC
PEOPLE
NEAR
YOU**

BY LOTTO RAMSAY

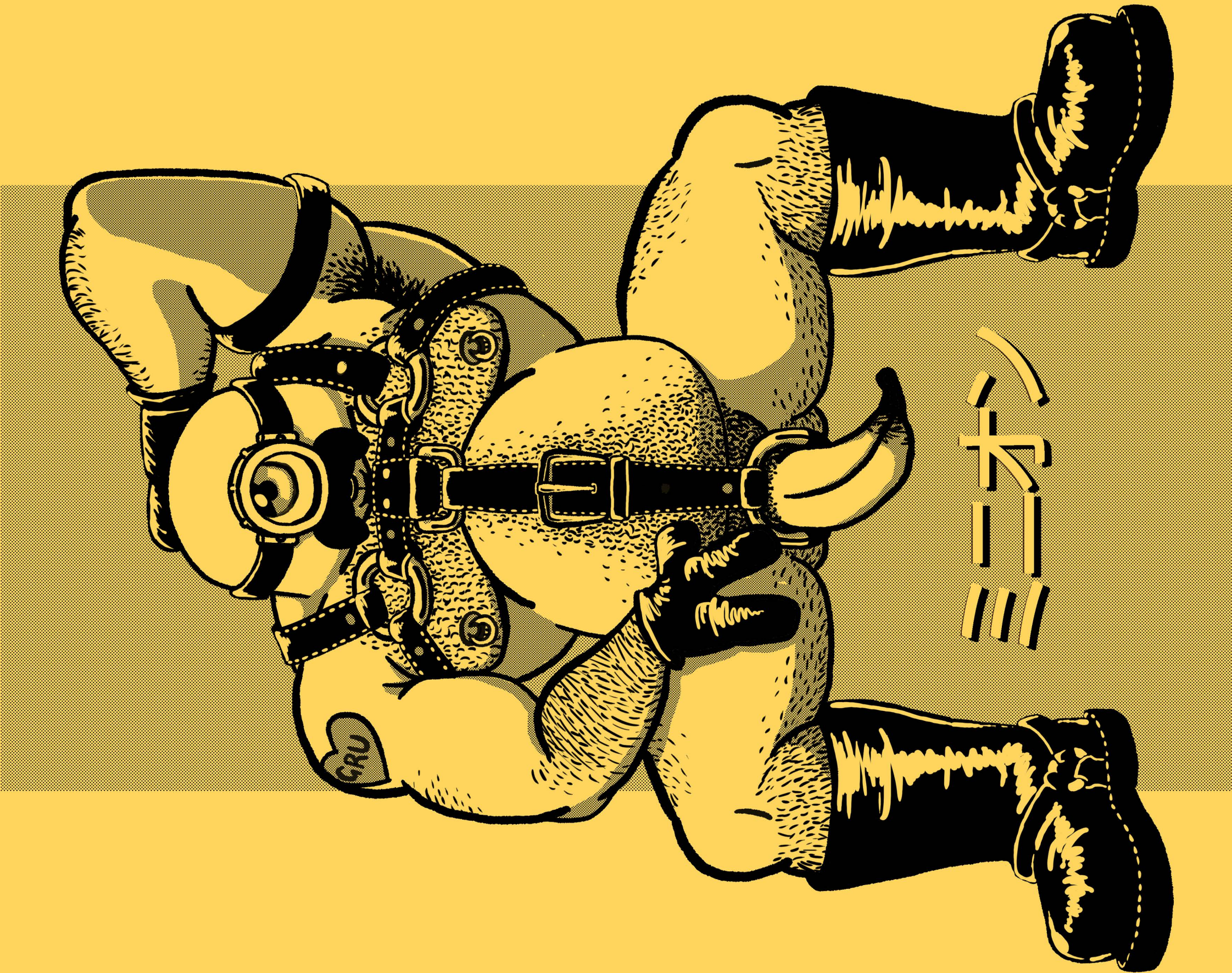


“THE FIRST TIME ME AND SHAYNA WERE HAVING SEX, AT ONE POINT THEY KINDA LOOKED UP AND SAID ‘DO YOU LIKE PORRIDGE?’”

Simply looking up the keywords “autism” and “sex” returns questions like “Can you consent to sex if you have autism?” and “How can an autistic partner be intimate?” A lot of the narratives around Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) frame those with the condition as a sort of ‘other’ to be studied, rather than a collective of diverse humans with diverse voices. While studies show autistic people are more likely to identify as asexual (or another sexual minority) than the general population, there are plenty on the spectrum who do pursue an active sex life – a fact often overlooked. A reporter from Critic Te Arohi sat down with some fellow autistic folks to talk sex, intimacy and freaky shit.

Flynn, a straight male aged 20, greeted me in the pitch blackness. The hippie retreat he was staying at was eerie at this time of night, and the native bush seemed to swallow us whole as we approached his cabin. Flynn’s room was filled with carefully arranged possessions, the walls lined with pictures of him and his friends. A macrame pot hanger by his bed housed multiple sex toys. He rolled a cigarette, and apologised for the mess – he’d already had two partners over that week. It was a Wednesday. “My behaviour conflicts with my condition,” Flynn said. “People I’ve known for many months haven’t come to the conclusion I’m autistic because I behave in a very sexualised manner, and vice versa... I enjoy the same kind of pleasure as anyone else.”

Flynn emphasised that he’s come a long way since his autism diagnosis at age 12. Among his autistic traits are hyper- and hyposensitivity to certain stimuli, creating sensory issues that can lead to a sensory overload or shutdown. Flynn said he was able to “find a way around the sensory issues that once held me back”. These issues are expected in everyday contexts, but they are seldom discussed with regard to sexual ones. “It’s the same with sex,” he continued, “I’ve learned to embrace the stimulation, the excitement, to the point where it fuels me. It’s led to me being more intimate than the neurotypical standard would be, which throws a lot of people off.” He answered questions rapidly and eloquently, occasionally apologising for getting off track. Flynn told me that he firedances as a hobby these days. He spoke of “the flow” of movement, something he likened to sex. “Every partner dances in such different ways,” he said, “it’s communication; not of the lips and tongue, but far deeper.” He hates small talk, but is “drawn to overwhelming sensations”, both in and out of the bedroom. “I’ve been able to live what some might quantify to be a normal existence, and yet I’m doing so on my own terms.”



Lily* is 19, queer, female-aligned, and autistic. She elected to do her interview over text, so as not to disturb her flatmates. I asked her questions over recorded voice messages, which she said helped her with tone. Her profile was littered with minimalist photos of insects and landscapes. "I was diagnosed with autism last year and had to kind of figure that out for myself," Lily's first message stated, "because I'm female, and not white, and I can mask to a reasonable extent so it wasn't picked up on earlier." Autistic masking, otherwise known as social camouflaging, is a coping strategy some autistic people – especially autistic women – employ to help blend into the neurotypical world, often to the point of emotional stress or fatigue. Similarly to ADHD, previously covered by Critic, the criteria and perceptions around ASD centre around typically-presenting white males, meaning those outside those bounds are often left behind. "It makes being myself just a little bit harder," said Lily.

"It was unpleasant growing up undiagnosed," Lily continued. She sent long messages with ease. "I couldn't have known that I wasn't 'wrong', just different. It also explained why I was so anxious when learning the social rules around sexual activity." As a result, she initially didn't know that she could have sex without sensory overload, "or that I needed clearer communication from my partner to be able to enjoy it". Lily is "particular" towards the sensation of certain clothes or foods, is pained by the cold, and is "almost always wearing headphones". She told me that "During sexual activity I'm quite temperature sensitive, but I'm more dissociated from it then because I'm enjoying myself. Sex is one of my special interests so it can sometimes overrule other discomforts." Sex positivity and the kink community is a topic she "loves learning new things about", as one of her favourite topics of autistic hyperfixation, or special interest. Kink is "an interesting way of including sensory stuff in a relatively regular activity", said Lily. "Getting to practise rope ties for fun was a great way of indulging in it while staying safe when I was younger." Lily enthused that "kink and BDSM has so many rules, and is so structured with the clearest communication ever!", which has helped her circumvent social difficulties associated with autism. "If someone outside of a kink space asked [for consent]" in an everyday, nonsexual context, Lily would be "pleased, but surprised".

I called Helena and Shayna in Wellington over dinner. Helena is a trans woman and her partner Shayna is nonbinary, both in their early twenties. I've personally been friends with Helena for years due to both being very gay and very goth, and we both came to the realisation that we were autistic around the same time. Shayna is autistic too, and they sat in on the interview to help out. Their first date was getting chips together while Helena was in town for a gig. "A lot of my social interactions are chip-based," laughed Helena, adding that "Shayna thought I was hot and mysterious until the second I opened my mouth." Helena said, "When it comes to actual intimacy I'm really bad at reading signals," she continued, "even a year and a half into our relationship, Shayna often has to be like 'Babe,

I'm trying to make out with you and you're explaining disease spillover events'" – one of Helena's special interests. Such a queer, loving, autistic relationship has been eye-opening for both of them. "At this point I wouldn't date a person who isn't autistic ever again," said Helena. It leads to a certain relaxed, uniquely neurodiverse atmosphere. "The first time me and Shayna were having sex, at one point they kinda looked up and said 'Do you like porridge?'"

I asked Helena if she believed there were any reasons why her autism went unrecognised for so long. "I'm hot," was her answer. "And I'm goth," she added, for good measure.

Though both Helena and Shayna have trouble with social cues normally, they are more than able to communicate well with each other. Sensory issues still pose an issue, however, even in the bedroom. "Our room is weirdly echoey and we'd be in the midst of it and one or both of us would get very distracted by how echoey the room was," Shayna said. "During sex I don't think I have any sensory issues other than being very distracted by sounds," said Helena, "I was really opposed to anything to do with latex, just thinking about the sound makes me want to peel my skin off.. I didn't realise I'm actually into latex until very recently, just cause I was thinking about the sound of balloons." I mentioned how much the sound of vibrators turns me off, to which Helena said, "I have a similar thing. I'm just in that crossover between autistic and musician where I'm tryna figure out what note the vibration is." Shayna added, "For the longest time she thought she just wasn't good at getting spanked and stuff in bed... when there's a pinch or a slap – giggles." This made Helena giggle again. "The one thing you can do to make sex better," Shayna told me, "is to stop thinking it needs to be sexy all the time, 'cos it's gonna be awkward and weird, and autistic people are better at being awkward and weird."

“IT’S INTERESTING THAT THE PERCEPTION IS THAT WE’RE BASICALLY ROBOTS. LIKE, NAH MAN, WE LIKE TO MAKE ART AND FUCK.”

Keegan, 24, is a musician, who makes smooth alternative funk under the name Velvetene Shakes. "I have some jams about being autistic and horny," he told me. It was a late night call, and he had a crisp voice like a radio host. "I write a lot of my music about it 'cos it's kinda a double edged sword being diagnosed that young." He's a straight man, and was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome (now known as a form of ASD) in early primary school. Growing up with the knowledge he was autistic was a stigmatising but enlightening experience for Keegan, and that combined with his love of musical showmanship plus his Māori background is something he attributes to his extroversion and confidence. "Being able to work on that stuff means now when I tell people I'm autistic they're like, 'Oh, but you talk so well!'" Keegan said. These misconceptions apply to being sexually active as well. "They don't think of autism and sex as compatible," he said, "especially compared to most media representations." Autistic people are often infantilised by mainstream media, which favours an overly sterile, almost robotic savante stereotype. Though these stereotypes are easy to internalise, they often contradict the lived autistic experience. Removing the psychological and social barriers of stigmatisation and stereotype opens up a shared world of exploration for autistic young people. He called me a "sigma goth autistic" because of it. "It's so funny 'cos myself and every autistic person I know is so emotional. Like we're so fucking sensitive and creative," he laughed. "It's interesting that the perception is that we're basically robots. Like, nah man, we like to make art and fuck."

"I think because I've grown up so aware of the importance of communication and the potential barriers there are for me," Keegan said, "it makes it very important for me to make sure that communication with sex is at the forefront, and make sure we are always on the same page. Sometimes I'm worried it's gonna kill the mood a bit, but it never does and that's great. It like, actively improves the mood." Keegan's sensory issues are another major challenge for him, but he explained that there are "advantages and disadvantages." He said that "There's some great BDSM stuff you can do with it. Good things tend to feel really fucking good. You can also get sensory overload in the bedroom," Keegan continued, "which doesn't cut things short but it means you need to take a break, or you kinda need to 'stop getting sensations' which is counterproductive but beneficial to stamina." I told him he can just say 'pull out', to which he laughed. His openness towards sex was easy to riff off of: "Sensory overload is like 'Just give me two minutes and I'll hop back on','" I joked. "That's the funny thing about sensory overload," he continued, "you just need to have that time to yourself and then you can get right back to what you were doing, whether that be walking through a crowded place or fuckin'."

"My closing statement to all neurotypicals out there," Keegan said, "is that horny autistics are among you. You cannot escape us. We will always be there. And you should fuck one of us. You should fuck a lot of us, cos it'll be a great fucking time. Your needs

will be so thoroughly taken care of and it will be SO communicative."

I was fortunate enough to have time to interview Percy, who is 21 and a queer trans man. He is a talented artist, and his carefulness translates to his speech. He was thorough and succinct, pausing only to puff on a vape. "I find I tend to get infantilised quite a lot," he said, "and a lot of people are like 'Wait, you can't be sexually active 'cos you're autistic.'" Growing up being socialised as a woman he finds himself "okay" with most social situations, and like other autistic people I spoke to, he has adapted towards over-communicating to avoid errors. Still, there's a certain freedom towards an autistic approach to sex. Percy said that "I think the moment I learned what sex was I wasn't embarrassed or ashamed about it. It's just another thing that people do," autistic people included. Schedule rigidity and sensory overload still present issues, however, along with masking. The affinity for scheduling and planning that some autistics have can apply to sex as well, and Percy finds himself organising his whole day around it, which can be frustrating if it goes awry. "It's a whole fucking event," said Percy, "sometimes I'm just thinking about the cheese in my fridge or a video game I wanna complete tonight, and I kinda just lose interest." He's efficient and direct with partners, too: "I'm like 'here's a list of the things I'm into, the things I'm not into' – they're categorised, they're labelled, it's been, like, colour-coded," he joked.

“HORNY AUTISTICS ARE AMONG YOU. YOU CANNOT ESCAPE US. WE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.”

"Because I get really overstimulated in a lot of situations, kink during sex has actually really been beneficial," Percy said. "The sensory play is quite fun for me because it's something overstimulating that I can control." Intrigued, I asked if he had any pointers on coping with sensory overload during sex. "I personally use safe words regardless of if it's a kink scenario or not. It's really important, especially when you can have people with autism who are non verbal or limitedly verbal." The intersections between queerness, kink and autism are important to Percy. "There's like this weird liminal space between the way that everybody sees autistics and the way that autistic people who engage in sex actually are," he said. Factoring in being a trans man adds an extra layer of fear of being seen as a "predator". It's something he's acutely aware of and actively fights against. "You have to juggle these things when thinking about sex." Percy is proud of his autistic hyper-aware communication and his "black and white" strong morals. "In my autistic brain, that rigidity and that adherence to my own personal set of rules is more important than anything," Percy said.

"We're people." He concluded. "We have sex. It's not that complicated."

Sex Toy



Review

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

a t m s

ADULTTOYMEGASTORE

and the Officials at the Department of Cumsevation

Sex toys can seem scary if you haven't used them. To help us get over this fear, our friends at Adult Toy Mega Store sent us a full box of various sex toys to review – plus we've got a few listed here that people already owned. The office took their picks of the toys, took them home and gave them a whirl. It was certainly a bonding moment.

Satisfyer Pro 2 *The Old Faithful*

You've probably been recommended the Satisfyer Pro 2 before, but is it really worth all the hype? The short answer is yes. The first time I ever used this thing, I shit you not, I came in like 20 seconds. And that was only on the third setting. This thing goes up to 11 using air waves (woo go science!) for clitoral stimulation. If you want to get the job done on your own with no hassles, the SP2 is the way to go. It's not ideal to use with a partner if you're wanting them to fuck you at the same time as it's quite clunky (although if you are wanting to get railed while using it, I have found doggy to be the best option). Truly the SP2 is the vibrator for a clitoris-haver who is on the go and really doesn't have the time to be horny. Oh yeah, there's also a model that looks like a lil penguin, so that's pretty cute!

Try this if you're studying: Law or Med

Listen to: SZA and Doja Cat

Rating: 69/69

Cost: \$73.95

Satisfyer Wand—er Woman Wand *The Big Lad*

A body wand is the quintessential vibrator. It's the one that you see in movies and in porn, the "personal massager" that needs to be plugged into the wall in order to harness its full power. Thankfully mine is a Satisfyer-brand wand and is rechargeable rather than outlet bound. After having used it a couple of times I decided that this was not going to be a vibrator I used as often as the others. The intensity of this thing is earth shaking, and it covers the whole coochie. Again, the wand is probably better suited to solo play, but if someone wants to use it on you, the head of it is big enough that you'll have pretty good chances of them accidentally finding your clit. Also, this thing is hefty as, my arm got sore from trying to hold it in place for just five minutes. Whether or not a body wand becomes part of your regular sexplorations, I highly recommend keeping it at your bedside in case of an apocalypse situation because you could for sure knock a homie or two out with it.

Try this if you're studying: English

Listen to: Garage rock (just to really up the sensory experience)

Rating: 57/69

Cost: \$69.95





Vishnu Blooming Glass Wand

The Ice Penis

Okay, listen. Everyone saw the freaky vampire sex in Twilight Breaking Dawn: Part 1 and wanted to know what Eddy Boy’s ice peen felt like. After telling my flatmate that I was going to put an ice block in my cooch in order to have my Bella Swan moment, she gently nudged me to, instead, use a glass wand that had been put in the freezer for a little while. So I did. The cold glass is perfect for those who want to explore with temperature play, although it does warm up to body temperature eventually. The glass is also very smooth and super easy to keep clean! The shape and curve of the wand is also perfect for reaching the G spot and if you are prone to squirting, you might wanna put a towel down before you give it a go. Like most penetrative toys, if you require clitoral stimulation to cum, you’ll need to use something alongside it, but oh boy does it make it a million times more intense. The glass wand also gives a different sensation than a standard dildo, and it’s nice to change things up every now and then, don’t you think?

Try this if you’re studying: Fine Arts
Listen to: The Twilight soundtrack
Rating: 52/69
Cost: \$56.95

Satisfyer Men Vibration Masturbator

The All Work No Play

This one fell a bit short, I’m afraid. It started out promising: the toy was immediately perplexing, as it looks almost exactly like what would happen if a gaming mouse got knocked up by a fleshlight. So that was interesting right away. Confused by how to actually use the thing, I consulted ATMS’s online video guide. The sleek, subtle design of the masturbator was really driven home by the stock photos of men in full business attire showing off the toy as if it were a new Blackberry, which really set the mood. Unfortunately, it was a bit more business than pleasure when it came to using the toy. It felt good, sure, but it didn’t exactly get me off. I kept getting distracted and actually had to get myself hard again four separate times. I ended up finishing without the use of the toy, and to be honest, I felt a bit numb. Definitely the most I’ve worked for an orgasm in a long time. That doesn’t mean it’s not for everyone, though. There’s, like, 14 different settings on this thing, some of which might be better than others. I’m definitely going to give it another go, but for now, it was probably more trouble than it was worth. I just figure, if you’re gonna buy a sex toy, don’t worry about getting something that looks incognito. It’s a sex toy. Just buy a fleshlight, or something.

Try this if you’re studying: Marketing
Listen to: Lone Digger by Caravan Palace
Rating: 22/69
Cost: \$77.95

Share Satisfaction Gaia Remote–Controlled Couples Vibrator

The Sneaky One

This remote-controlled gem does its job, and it does it well. The 10 different settings allowed my partner to taunt me in 10 different ways, using its pulse function to have me on the edge of the bed. But we all know this wasn’t built for the bedroom, no, this is for use in public. Unfortunately for readers, I did not have the guts to wear it out to Pint Night and instead opted for wearing it around the flat to start off. The only disadvantage is that it can slip out quite easily, so tight underwear is a must. For how much power this puts out, it is still incredibly quiet. Not quiet enough to be unnoticed if you’re just chatting in the room but if there’s a speaker going, so are you. I didn’t cum from this vibrator because I got too excited and just wanted to be laid the good ol’ fashioned way but I came about 20 seconds in, so it definitely elevated the evening.

Try this if you’re studying: Human Relations
Listen to: Edge of Glory by Lady Gaga
Rating: 51/69
Cost: \$51.95



Satisfyer Twirling Joy Tip Vibrator

The Small But Mighty

The Twirling Joy is also a Satisfyer product, so the first positive is that it uses the same charger as the SP2! So if you’re like me and lost the charger, you can use the one from this to charge your other toys rather than borrowing your flatmate’s charger (thanks bestie x). Twirling Joy makes use of ultra cool technological advances and can be controlled through the Satisfyer app, so you can have someone else adjusting the vibrations as you use it (it also has the option for it to match the vibration to a song??). I’ll be honest, this one isn’t my favourite. I know it’s super cool that it can be controlled by an app but I found the shape to be a wee bit awkward to hold, and because it has such a small tip it can be difficult to get (and hold) in the right spot. If you want to get fucked while youre using it, it is small enough that it won’t really get in the way, but again, keeping it in place can be a challenge. The Twirling Joy is intense, but in the opposite way to the body wand. Because the tip is so small all of the vibration is very concentrated to one area, it can sometimes be a wee bit overwhelming, especially if this is your first experience with a vibe. Overall, it’s cute and compact, and if you want the very focused stimulation then this is for sure going to be something to try.

Try this if you’re studying: Politics
Listen to: Hyperpop
Rating: 45/69
Cost: \$57.95

Share Satisfaction Coco Suction Vibrator

The Bestie

Coco hits the spot, literally, and repetitively. It’s waterproof, and has 10 suction modes with up and down buttons, so you can go from a walk in the park to a full-on 200m sprint and back again without having to cycle right through. The head was just large enough to fit nicely around my clit and then some, and while the suction wasn’t immediately apparent, the vibration was robust and the suction increased with the higher settings. I fail to see how a mouth, a hand, or any other appendage would be able to do the job as well as this little gem. But while listening to a sexy British man reading me audio porn as I tested this, it became clear that using Coco in conjunction with some penetration would surely be a certified one-way ticket to O-town, with multiple stops. The highest three settings were intense in the best way, and had me posted up in my bed squirming exorcism-style. Hot. Small enough to tuck away in your bedside drawer with a cute little dust bag to put it in, it’s discrete in size – but the vibration isn’t the quietest. Not loud enough to wake up your flatmates, but you might be. Move over everyone, Coco is my new bestie.

Try this if you’re studying: Psychology
Listen to: Overseer - Screw Up from the SSX3 soundtrack
Rating: 60/69
Cost: \$69.95

Wireless Remote–Controlled Prostate Vibrator

The Richard

This one is a prostate-vibrator-cum-dildo that theoretically anyone can use, but especially fellow gays. On the box it came in (ok last cum pun I promise) the product is called The Richard, which I thought was funny because the only review for it on ATMS was by someone called Richard, who called it “toe curling”. I don’t think it hit my ‘P-spot’ but I honestly couldn’t tell and didn’t care. It felt like my entire body was vibrating. This is the only sex toy I’ve used on myself before but honestly, I’ve never came so fast. I didn’t feel much difference between the intensity levels, but you can do a few different vibration patterns which is fun. The secondary vibrating thing at the other end didn’t really reach anything, so was kinda useless, but if someone with a vagina used this I’d imagine it’d be great as extra clitoral stimulation. The biggest downside for me though, was that this toy (and the remote) are the exact same colour as my sheets, so I’m cursed to lose the remote every time I use it. Overall, it was the perfect size, a fun shape, and I’d definitely recommend it.

Try this if you’re studying: Surveying
Listen to: Loyle Carner & Tom Misch
Rating: 64/69
Cost: \$96.95



Between a Cock and a Hard Place

Antidepressants and your sex drive

By Kaia Kahurangi Jamieson, Radio 1
Science by Beth Wishart

When you think 'sexual dysfunction', you probably imagine emergency room flyers for Viagra. The words 'low sex drive' might conjure up a dead-end marriage, two snotty children and a fold-out couch in the garage for dad. What you probably aren't thinking of is your peers and pals on antidepressants, many of whom have to sacrifice their sexual functionality in order to medicate their illness.

Libido and sexual-dysfunction related side effects are among the most taxing for people on antidepressants. While the link between medicating depression and impacted sex drive is not necessarily obvious, sexual dysfunction is an incredibly common problem for patients on antidepressants. A 2015 meta-analysis from Medsafe NZ relayed that up to 80% of patients reported sexual dysfunction which emerged while on depression medication.

Lisa* is a student who has been taking antidepressants for just over a year. She described her medications, Amitriptyline and Nortriptyline, as 'hugely affecting' her sex drive: "I felt awful not having a sex drive while on the antidepressants. Sometimes it affected my partner, too. He didn't feel like I was attracted to him anymore because I couldn't orgasm. I didn't even want sex. It was an awful, rough time." Lisa struggled significantly with the sexual side effects of her medications, and at one point took a break from them to see if her libido would improve: "I actually stopped taking my antidepressants for about three months after a while to see if I felt better off them; to see if my sex drive improved, as I was getting sick of it. There was a massive difference; I felt like my old self again."

Similarly to Lisa, Josh* sporadically skips doses of his medication, Escitalopram, specifically to have sex: "If my wife and I have a weekend without the two-year-old, I often end up stopping for a week because it's nice to have the feeling and timing better; but then I start to feel sick, and have to go back on them." Although Josh's prescribing doctor told him nothing about the possibility of libido related side effects to his medication, Josh realised early on that his sex drive had changed, and brought up the topic in his six-month review. "I would've liked to know this was a side effect," explained Josh; had he known, he would have wanted to explore options other than antidepressants early on.

Amy* received no information from her prescribing doctors either, leaving her feeling isolated, especially considering the stigma of sex. "I lied to my partner about how I felt when it came to sexual activity," Amy explained. "There is such a stress on feeling good during sex, and enjoying everything, when there is sometimes barriers to this. I wanted badly to feel happy, but it cost me my ability to enjoy sex." Amy never discussed her decreased sex drive with anyone while on her medication; she was embarrassed to bring it up with friends, and worried nothing would change even if she mentioned it to her doctor. Amy only started taking Citalopram last year, but has recently come completely off the medication, describing that she "just wanted to feel normal again."

Not all patients find antidepressants reduce their sex drive; Meg* and Charlie* both found the opposite to be true. "Fluoxetine makes me SUPER HORNY," explained Charlie, while Meg described that her medication "didn't

affect my sex drive... I was a horndog, but I was dry as the Sahara – which could potentially just speak for the quality of men in Dunedin."

Max started taking Fluoxetine at 13, so the majority of their sexual experiences have occurred while on the medication. They don't mind having sex, but described it as similar to "eating when I'm not hungry". Max's sex drive has entirely disappeared since starting Fluoxetine, and since they started medication younger than many patients, they have struggled to understand attraction or experience sex for pleasure, leading to an atypical relationship to the concept of sex with a partner. "I never really knew what "normal" attraction was. Not feeling sexual, and in a desperate mindset to feel loved and held, I went out of my way to pretend to be a sexual being," Max explained. They dislike the side effects of Fluoxetine so much that they regularly attempt to come off the medication; just this month they have tried skipping doses three times, in spite of the fact that this makes Max feel like they are going "off the rails".

There are a significant amount of unknowns regarding the processes that cause depression or why antidepressants work. According to the UK National Health Services, antidepressants are thought to work by increasing neurotransmitters: chemicals in the brain, such as serotonin and noradrenaline, which are known to improve mood and emotion. Increasing neurotransmitters can interrupt pain signals, which is perhaps why some antidepressants can decrease libido. Moreover, there are many types of antidepressants, each with different effects. Lisa's Amitriptyline and Nortriptyline are tricyclic drugs which alter the chemicals around the brain's nerve cells, while Max and Charlie's Fluoxetine is a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI), which increases Serotonin. As a result, is difficult to attribute just one cause to the abundance of sexual side effects that individual patients, on a variety of medications, may experience. However, the answers with SSRIs may be known: SSRIs, some of the most common antidepressants, can influence libido and sex drive by dampening dopamine, a 'feel-good' monoamine neurotransmitter produced (in part) in response to sexual stimulation, to encourage us to keep at it 'till the job is done.

Of the eight people we spoke to, only one was forewarned by their doctor about the possible sexual side effects of antidepressants. Almost all of them described a definite stigma surrounding decreased libido, mentioning that they felt embarrassed, ashamed or isolated by their experience. To patients who find themselves experiencing sexual dysfunction on antidepressants, Healthline recommends either discussing the situation with a medical professional or giving your body a chance to adjust to an altered hormone balance. For Lauren*, whose doctor forewarned her of antidepressants' sexual side effects, Escitalopram halved her sex drive until month three; since then, she has regained her full libido and is glad she persevered with the medication, saying "the way they were helping my mental health outweighed the impact they were having on my libido." While antidepressants can certainly cause decreased or influenced libido, they do boast many benefits - including keeping some patients, like Max, on the rails.

*Names changed.

How to Take Tinder Photos

(That Don't Involve a Fish)

By Keegan Wells

North Dunedin Tinder is one of the nine circles of hell. If you manage to escape the aggressive post-hunt photos to the more left-wing side of Tinder, you end up with people describing their star-sign, Myers Briggs, and twenty other tests they've taken just to avoid reconciling with their own personality. It's not looking like a great place to find Prince Charm-ish, but there are a few steps you can take to set yourself apart.

What better way to boost your Tinder game than a few tips from a pro? We got Connor, a photographer who's shot for Victoria's Secret, to give breathas a few modelling tips, then had them hit the street so we could shoot a new profile.



Vibes

The time of day that you take photos greatly changes the vibes of the photos. If you want an "industrial" look, Connor suggested shooting in the middle of the day. Presumably this goes for all the surveyors out there who wish they were tradies, but their parents wanted them to get a degree. "If you want a cute moody look, early in the morning is best, and a summery look will come from shooting in the afternoon", said Connor. However, if you're trying to pull as much as possible, Connor recommends afternoon shots for their Golden Hour "tropical sunset type of vibes".

Also, get a good camera to take these photos. Not everyone will have an actual camera but please for the love of everyone stop taking photos on the outdated brick you're pretending is a Kodak.

Make it interesting

The next piece of advice Connor was willing to spill for free was "make the photo interesting", which really showcases the depth of talent he provided. He suggested the photo "makes sense of why they're doing it". Simply standing in the field doesn't make sense but "standing in a sports field with a ball does", for example. The photos shouldn't be forced, you want them to be candid. "You want it to look like one of the boys took a photo of you and you didn't notice they were taking a photo," said Connor. Easier said than done, but maybe if the boys are truly your boys, they'll help you out with this.

Not one to follow his own advice, Connor then followed Ben to Central Library to photograph him in full ski gear, to showcase his outdoorsmanship. While this shot did not make sense of why he was doing it, it definitely is interesting. "Every single person is sort of interesting in some way," said Connor, "[like] a cool job or hobby." If you can get a photo of you in these situations, they can lead into a good topic of conversation that people can reply to and riff off.



Framing the shot

Having the camera remain at eye level is a very neutral, familiar stance. This can make you seem friendly or warm. Once you start shooting from below, up at the person, "they've got power and they look bigger than you" said Connor. If you're shooting from above, "they look smaller than you, so they look weaker". The vibe of how you're shooting shouldn't be from the same exact angle over and over; use it to show the depth of your glistening personality.

We used angles to showcase Ben's sensitive side. Watering and caring for plants not only shows he can care for potential hookups, but the power pose shot from below demands your attention. The angle here teases a mystery: is this man wearing underwear?



The last rule for framing is the "rule of thirds". The frame should be split into 9 even boxes, and most smartphones have this option built in. Use it. At the intersection of these lines, put things of interest. "If you have a fish, put it at those intersections" said Connor. Or, counterpoint, put the fish down and pick up the frying pan to show people you like cooking and could wine and dine them.



Polish

After photography, comes editing. "Don't be afraid to edit the photos as well, to a degree" Connor advised. Evidently deep frying them is a no, but a bit of colour correction and framing never hurt anyone. You can use apps like Lightroom or VSCO, which Connor recommended as they are easy to use and "much better than nothing at all".



Bio

The final step to any good Tinder profile is the bio. A bio adds to the profile and once more gives a topic of conversation. Not having a bio at all is "definitely weird", according to random student Shannon. She was also avidly adverse to people who put their height in their bios, and "recycled internet jokes" which show a lack of creativity. Rather, she recommended you "come across like a normal person". Don't be yourself.

Another student, Mel, reckoned "unbridled horniness is generally a turn off", which was a shock. Moreover, having to correct your age in your bio versus what it says on your profile just shows that "they clearly just got Tinder at 16 and are lying" which is not only a turn off, but also illegal.

Go forth and take good photos. Care for your boys by taking candid photos of them, and make sure they don't have their height in their bios. Fish are actually okay, but mostly in an ironic way.

OPINION:

I'M GLAD YOU CAME

(BUT STOP ASKING ME IF I DID)



Picture this: it's late at night, and you're tucked up in bed with your special someone. Maybe you've met up with your sneaky link to do the dirty deed, or you've pulled at a party. Maybe you're one of those people who's in a relationship, and have just come back from date night with your partner. You're cuddling and kissing, and things are getting a little spicy. It's only a matter of time before the fondling and fingering under the sheets is in full force. It's hot, steamy and a little sweaty. Then, out comes life's most dreaded question:

"DID YOU CUM?"

From here on out, the moment is ruined. You begin to feel all tense and uncomfortable. You can't relax, and you start getting all up in your head, questioning everything, as surges of anxiety rush through your body. Even if you didn't finish, you might lie and let out a reluctant "yeah," because it's easier than having to answer follow up questions as to why you didn't. Or if you're feeling brave, you just straight up say 'no,' or, "I was close" if you're treading on the nicer side of things.

Now, look, I'm not here to try and make anyone feel bad, embarrassed or nervous about sex, especially to those of you who still may be new to navigating this world. But please, for the love of God himself, stop asking "did you cum?". It makes things weird, awkward, anxious and frustrating. I understand it's an honest question, and it usually comes from a good place of wanting to pleasure whoever you're with. But you need to stop straight up asking "did you cum?". And here's why:

It's a major turn off. According to the Journal of Sexual Medicine, experiencing the big O is harder with a vagina than a dick. In our sexual encounters, we have fewer, less predictable and more varied orgasm experiences than penis-owners, meaning that there's already enough pressure riding on the interaction. For most vag-owners, it takes us a while to relax or get comfortable in bed. Because of the inconsistency of our orgasms, it takes us a hot second to get out of our heads and into our bodies when it comes to being intimate, and asking "did you cum" causes us to immediately begin over thinking every movement and interaction from here on out. It also makes us feel rushed or pressured, further causing feelings of awkwardness, and sometimes just straight up infuriation.

"Asking if you came is like asking me if you finished your job, at work," said Millie, who's been through this plenty of times. Also, not to sound like a dick, but you should know when someone finishes. Asking "did you cum?" is kind of like experiencing a major earthquake and then asking someone "did you feel that?" Like, no shit, Sherlock, I did. If you've done it right, there is no way you'll feel the need to ask that question. You'll feel the movement in someone's legs, or their grip tighten on you, or moans and wails being let out. But if someone is just laying there, staring blankly, chances are they aren't cumming any time soon. So pay attention to someone's body language, because you can tell a lot from that. Instead of asking "did you cum?", communicate in bed, ask your partner how they're going, and how they feel. Make them feel comfortable enough to give you directions, or to lend a hand. If they have a vibrator, use it. Technology is your friend, not your foe. Creating a safe and comfortable environment is half the battle. Once you've achieved this, plus communication and the ability to listen to your partner, chances are they'll be finishing, and you won't be having to ask any stupid questions.

Also, giving anyone the big O requires some effort. Now look, I know that for some of you breathas, putting in a little effort and consideration might seem like a big ask considering your low standards and misogynistic tendencies. But if you don't want it to get out that you're a shit root, I suggest you take this advice. Rubbing someone's inner thigh for five minutes is not going to get them over the edge. Now look, this might not be entirely your fault. Perhaps you went to Catholic school and learnt about celibacy, or maybe you had a really shit biology teacher, but it often takes more than a measly rub or lick to make someone finish. Take your time, because sex is about both people enjoying themselves, not just one. Don't rush anything or move on too quickly. Ask questions, provide comfort, and pick up a biology textbook so you can learn where the clitoris is. Practice on an orange, I don't know, just put some fucking effort into it.

So there you have it. Please stop asking if we came. It's weird, it's awkward, it's invasive, it ruins the moment, and honestly, if you have to ask, the answer is probably a "no". Instead, focus on comfort and communication during the whole thing. You can thank me later.

VENGEANCE — CAPITALIST: I SOLD MY EX'S SHIT AT OUSA MARKET DAY

BY LOTTO RAMSAY

Look, we all know that relationships are a give and take. It's just that sometimes that might mean it's a given to take your ex's possessions and then sell them on campus for profit.

At the start of first semester I buried my teenage romance of two years, and I thought I'd made my peace with it. Eventful events followed soon after. It turns out peace, like student loan forgiveness, was never an option, so I did what any sane person would do: booked a stall for OUSA's Re-Ori market day with the intention of making a buck while crying in public. I called my very professional entrepreneurial small business start-up "Vintage, Handmade & My Ex's Old Crap" but definitely did not tell OUSA that.

I took the bus to my ex's with a suitcase and shamelessly started raiding his wardrobe for things I had given him, lent him, or simply just wanted, offering to sell them back to him if he really, really needed them. I then bused right back to my bachelor pad and got to it. Justice never sleeps, so neither did I – I was full of pills and left everything to the last minute, so I stayed up all night pricing clothes and making shitty cardboard signs, among which were ones saying "Fuck it dude, just make me an offer" and "All prices are very subject to my fickle little whims, and I answer to no one".

ALL PRICES ARE
VERY SUBJECT TO
MY FICKLE LITTLE
WHIMS, AND I
ANSWER TO NO ONE.

It was pissing down on the Wednesday of market day. The organisers had kindly said that people could arrive early with their cars, but I am far too gay to drive, so I had to take two trips, lugging my suitcases and racks through the downpour to campus. I arrived late and damp, as I often do. My crude setup attracted a lot of attention, which I was quick to pounce on with my wild disregard for the price tags I'd spent so long making. After all, I did have a sign saying, "Prices ARE negotiable – I am VERY easily manipulated". For example, the Auckland Zoo polar fleece imbued with two years of volunteer guide knowledge went for the fair price of \$4.50 and a 20c euro coin from someone's pocket. Capitalism always wins, amirite?

Trades were more than welcome, too. Customers short on change for even my aggressively liberal prices were encouraged to hand over random shit on their person, or otherwise indulge a deep dark secret, or perhaps give a little song and dance. One customer paid in a combination of cash and a spirited rendition of 'Strip that Down' by the topical Liam Payne. Another customer was forced to pay us in genuine compliments. I sold a plague mask (my ex's costume from a past Halloween together) for \$4 and the promise to fetch me some cutlery, so I could eat my meal-for-one without leaving the hustle. I also gave a pair of his shorts away for free, because they'd been in the bottom of my laundry basket for so long and I was sick of them. I consider that a win-win.

I made a decent amount of shmoneys, but the overall gain wasn't financial – it was emotional, nay, spiritual. My online banking is now flooded with transactions saying "Fuck Matt*", which earned each customer a discount. Ironically, the sheer, euphoric mild high I acquired from watching my ex's favourite leather jackets sell for less than \$20 is a feeling that cannot be bought. I made friends. I made foes. But most importantly, I was able to make a real difference: blurring the line between normal breakup behaviour and genuine moral/ethical misdemeanour.

*Name changed so I can keep joint custody of my cat.

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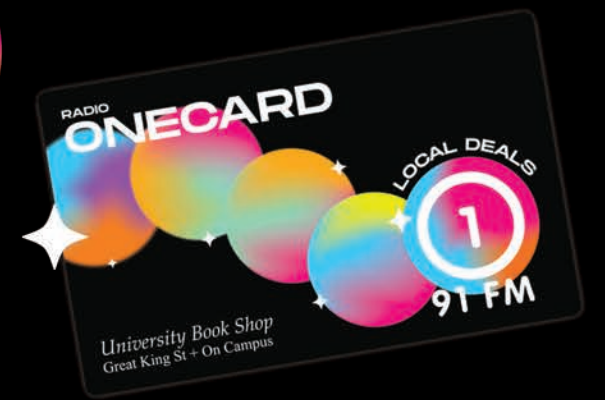
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LOCAL PRODUCE
By Zak Rudin

SWOOPING TŪI

Swooping Tūi is a brand new initiative designed to provide menstrual cups to people of lower socio-economic backgrounds in and outside of Aotearoa, through selling natural moisturising creams. Critic Te Arohi sat down with Mahina Walle, the second-year ecology student who started the initiative, to learn more.

The idea came about when Mahina did a school project back in 2018. She was looking at some of the issues faced by menstruators in developing countries, specifically access to schooling. "It really shocked me how much education people miss out on [when they are on their period]," said Mahina. Meanwhile, "around that time I started finding out about reusable menstrual products and the environmental impact of disposable menstrual products." The next step was natural for Mahina. "Everything is interconnected, and if we want to understand the full effects of certain issues and how to solve them, we can't think of the problems in isolation. By looking at these problems together we can think of comprehensive solutions," said Mahina. "Reusable menstrual products help menstruators and the environment so they make the most sense."

Swooping Tūi has had a successful start. Mahina has been to three markets to sell her moisturising creams and they are currently stocked at Te Oraka (the student-run thrift store at the old Unipol weights room on Anzac Ave). So far, Mahina has made enough money to donate 36 menstrual products. Mahina plans to continue with the initiative for the foreseeable future and see how it expands. "Obviously it's something I'm really passionate about and would like to see grow," she said. For the meantime, Mahina plans to keep it relatively small-scale, seeing as "it's just me doing all of the work, making the creams and reaching out to people."

Mahina has around 13 years of experience making moisturising creams. She started at seven years old, when she found a recipe for them on the back of beeswax wrapper at a local market. What began as cute gifts for family members has turned into a successful

fundraiser. Mahina now makes the moisturising creams at the Kaikorai Rugby Football Club, which allows her to use their kitchen for free.

Mahina donates all profits gained from selling her creams to supply people with menstrual cups where they are most needed. Wā Collective and AWWA are organisations which provide menstruators in Aotearoa with menstrual products and period underwear respectively. Mahina also donates to Ruby Cup, a social enterprise which distributes menstrual cups to 26 countries throughout Africa and Asia. Ruby cups do not need to be regularly sterilised and they can last up to ten years.

Globally, 88% of menstruators do not have access to sanitary products. Many people in developing countries do not go to school when they have their period, primarily due to the heavy costs of sanitary products and the lack of clean places to change them. "You hear of stories of people having to make the decision between food or menstrual products because they're so expensive," said Mahina. Menstrual cups can cost as much as \$60, which is not a feasible reality for many, especially those living on one or two dollars a day.

A core focus for Mahina was the environmental impact of sanitary products. "Billions of pads and tampons are disposed of each year. In comparison, a single menstrual cup can prevent more than 30kg of menstrual product waste in its lifetime," said Mahina. Mahina also extends her environmental focus to her moisturising creams. The creams are made out of all natural ingredients, including, "locally sourced NZ beeswax, organic shea butter, organic coconut oil, sunflower oil, vitamin E oil and essential oils." The glass jars used to store the creams can also be returned for a discount.

You can find Swooping Tūi on Facebook or reach out to Mahina via email: mahina.walle1@gmail.com.

HOROSCOPES



AQUARIUS Jan 20 – Feb 18

Things are going well, aren't they? The progress you've been seeing will continue so long as your attitude remains positive. Don't get yourself down.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Roleplay as the cast of Cars 2.



PISCES Feb 19 – Mar 20

Cupid's arrow has been firing this week. ARE YOU NEXT?

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Make a sexy playlist featuring local music.



ARIES Mar 21 – Apr 19

If you're concerned about being too loud, congrats, because you're being too loud. Sometimes it's better to listen than to ramble.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Audio porn.



TAURUS Apr 20 – May 20

You need to put down the LEGO set and find the clit. Sometimes it's not all about you.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Ask them to call you Mr. Worldwide.



GEMINI May 21 – Jun 20

It's hopeless, I know. Nobody is responding to you, and it's probably because you've convinced yourself you don't deserve it. Treat yourself to a nice evening, and remember who's #1 before looking for #2.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: There's a plethora of vibrators out there, most of them are very quiet.



CANCER Jun 21 – Jul 22

Is she really that into you? Probably best not to send that risky message. Do a bit more recon before going all in.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Try a new lotion.



LEO Jul 23 – Aug 22

Remember: it's not you, it's them. It's always them. You don't need to change a thing.

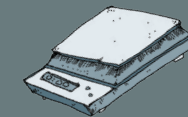
Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Inflatable Sex Doll 3000.



VIRGO Aug 23 – Sep 22

There have been a lot of Minions in your life recently, and it's only going to get worse. Embrace it before it embraces you.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Sexy pics.



LIBRA Sep 23 – Oct 22

You need to embrace the sudden invites out, forget about work, and have a good time. Also, your drug test is not going to pass.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Grapefruit your man.



SCORPIO Oct 23 – Nov 21

If you've been feeling a little lonely lately, it's probably because you need to take a shower. People can smell it, it's not cute, and you need to fix it.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Butt (and nose) plugs.



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22 – Dec 21

Workplace drama is about to unfold to a whole new level. Make sure to keep notes.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Tell them beatboxing is your kink.



CAPRICORN Dec 22 – Jan 19

He's a little young for you, but that's never stopped you before. Just keep in mind that boys mature slower than girls.

Fun way to spice up the bedroom this week: Ski gear strip tease.

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SKUXX FOOD

BY ROSIE JOYCE @SKUXXFOOD

PUMPKIN, FETA, CARAMELISED ONION & SPINACH QUICHE



I realised I only give you recipes for pasta or noodles so here's a few different carbohydrates. Go crazy.

INGREDIENTS

1/4-1/3 pumpkin, cut into 3cm cubes	100 ml cream
Olive oil	Salt and pepper
3 onions, thinly sliced	Bunch of parsley, roughly chopped
3 teaspoons brown sugar	100 grams feta
3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar	1 sheet of savoury sheet pastry, frozen
1 bag of baby spinach	1 tablespoon of butter, softened
2 teaspoons thyme, dried or fresh	1/2 cup of grated cheese
5 eggs	

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. On a baking tray, place cubed pumpkin, salt and pepper, and 1-2 tablespoons of olive oil. Mix together, and place into the oven for 20-25 minutes or until the pumpkin is soft. Leave the oven on for the quiche.
2. Meanwhile, heat 2-3 tablespoons of olive oil in a pan over medium heat. Add onions and cook down until soft, stirring occasionally. When they are starting to brown, add brown sugar and balsamic vinegar, mix together and cook for a further 5-7 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Add the bag of spinach to the pan along with the thyme, cook until the spinach has just wilted. Take off the heat.
4. In a bowl, whisk together 5 eggs, cream, salt, pepper and parsley.
5. Allow the frozen sheet pastry to thaw for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, use a paper towel to spread some softened butter onto a pie dish. Roll out the pastry slightly so that it fits your pie dish. Place your pastry over the dish and use your hands to mould the pastry into the dish. Poke holes into the base of the pastry with a fork.
6. Scatter the pumpkin on top of the pastry, followed by the caramelised onion and spinach mixture, and crumbled feta. Pour the egg mixture on top and sprinkle over the cheese. Place the quiche into the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown.

BOOZE REVIEW:

GUINNESS

BY CHUG NORRIS

Ireland may have shown themselves to be a superior rugby force in recent weeks, but at least our national beverage doesn't taste like watery-piss vegemite. Guinness is the most overrated trash that has ever been produced on a large scale. Its popularity in Ireland is all the more unusual considering the reputation that Ireland has as a beacon of alcoholism and excessive drinking. You would expect the Irish to have at the centre of their culture an impressive brew. But this is sadly not the case.

The taste of Guinness is the first major hurdle when trying to enjoy both the drink and yourself. It is not that Guinness tastes bad; there is no immediate unpleasantness. Rather drinking Guinness is something like talking to a med student at a party. They do nothing to offend you, but you quickly realise there is simply no personality that makes you want to continue engaging with them. Guinness is thick and bland. It becomes a struggle to get down as soon as the marketing hype dies and the taste of toasty-dishwater sets in.

But what is even more embarrassing for Ireland, whose emigrants are perhaps single-handedly responsible for the harmful drinking culture New Zealand now enjoys, is the strength of Guinness. It is a pathetic 4.1% ABV. At that concentration, consumption of Guinness is not only disappointing, it is also not justified by any significant gains to your blood alcohol levels. The double-banger of blandness and low-alcohol makes the consumption of even a pint of Guinness a boring and punishing experience, and the consumption of anything more an act of self-hate.

If all this is not enough, then consider the price. Guinness comes in 440 mL cans. A six pack usually sells for about

25 dollars. At 1.4 standards per can this puts Guinness in at a staggering 2.97 dollars per standard. That is worse value for money than almost any other beer, RTD and in fact anything but very high-end spirits. Sure, the can looks cool, and that nitrogen foam makes a fine looking head, but can they really justify paying 25 dollars for under 10 standard drinks? You might as well just burn money, the warmth it will provide to your flat will get you a bigger kick than a can of Guinness.

An explanation for the popularity of Guinness in Ireland is truly a mystery. Perhaps they have some sort of collective Stockholm syndrome, whereby they sympathise with Guinness despite the pain it inflicts upon them. Perhaps, Guinness has a monopoly over beverages in Ireland to the extent that even if people wanted to drink something else, there are simply no other alternatives. Maybe they are held hostage by the tradition the drink carries: perhaps they remember fondly the taste of dirty dishwater as they sipped Guinness with a cherished relative, or maybe the fame came from the war era when there was literally no other option. Whatever the reason, they seriously need to get rid of the stuff. It would be doing the world a favour. And sure, maybe "it tastes better in Ireland," but we're not in fuckin' Ireland, are we?

Tasting notes: aromas of potatoes, if you listen closely you can hear the hit song 'Galway Girl' by Irish artist Ed Sheeran.

Froth level: getting a yellow card for the exact same thing that got a red card in the game before.

Tastes like: breakfast dishwater, disappointment.

Overall rating: 2/10 make it stop.

Chook this out!

Flash your student ID and get
20% off at Nando's Octagon!





This week we have an image supplied by Jeff. We were spot on with last week’s location, but it cost us our dignity. Fraser was looking at Larry the Lobster in Kingston SE, by Adelaide.

First thoughts: Budweiser stadium, we’re in the States for sure. Is there a Budweiser stadium? Let’s do this.



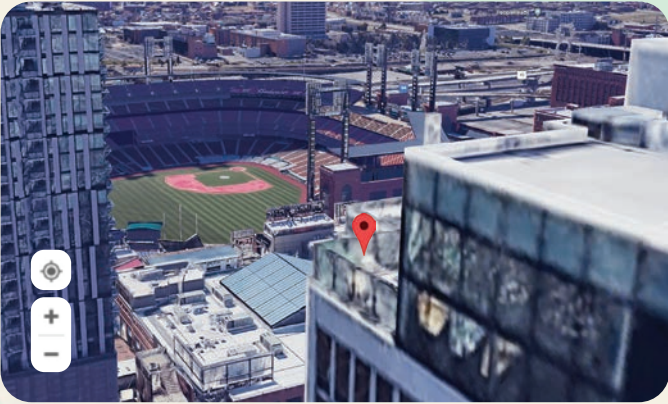
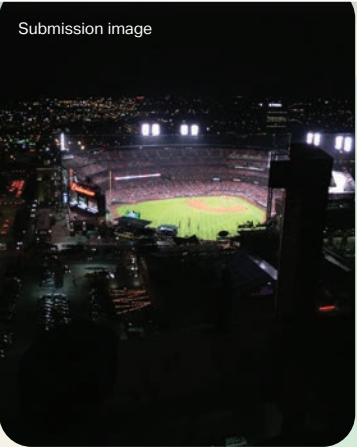
Last week, the author for this column decided not to Google something that would’ve saved them lots of time. They did this to protect their integrity. Fortunately for me, I have no integrity left to lose, so I’m gonna start off by googling “Budweiser Stadium” and not spend two hours clicking through Midwestern American cities like a total loser. And bang, there we go: Budweiser Stadium (technically Busch Stadium) is in St. Louis, Missouri. Pretty much as ‘Merican as you can get. So now we just need to triangulate where we are. Let’s look at the “Purina Building” in the back and try to get our angle right, because the stadium is right next to that building.

Google Maps has the Busch stadium located right next door to the HQ. Score. A stock photo confirmed it with the Budweiser name and the Purina building in the back. Actually, this stock photo looks like it’s in the exact same location, which is bloody convenient after last week’s shitshow. In the bottom right corner, I can see red writing on a sign, which looks like it’s in exactly the same place in the stock photo - just it’s daylight, so it’s easier.

We’re definitely in the Hilton St. Louis at The Ballpark, but it was a bit of a curveball (ha); a big glitzy building has been built in the last few years which appears on Google Earth, but not in this photo. Bet that was a trick question, but it doesn’t matter, we’re confident in the Hilton. Google tells me that the top floor of the Hilton has a deck, which is attached to the “Three-Sixty” bar, which has such rave reviews as “Horrible Experience” and “Ruined our vacation which we had been planning for two years”, so that’s nice.

Final answer: Three-Sixty Bar at Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark. Took about 20 minutes.

Want to send in your own picture? Send an email to maps@critic.co.nz and we’ll give it a shot. Correct answers will be published next week.



MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

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Get your story featured and win a sex toy with thanks to ATMS

Mr. Squirt, Mr. Peanut Butter

It was your average Saturday night on Re-O week, I'd finished up at Castle and figured it was time to pull. I had just seen the guy that ghosted me pull another bird and I needed to crack on. With perfect timing, I got a Snapchat from a Tinder guy who I had been talking with a little. I thought, “yeah, let’s give this guy a chance”, and we headed to his place, which was scarily close to mine. At this point, I REALLY needed to pee, but I decided that I was a big girl and I could hold it. I got there, and we head up to his room. After a few minutes of awkward small talk, we started kissing, which resulted in his hand down my pants. We got to the juicy stuff and started fucking.

I thought I was doing a good job holding in all the urine I had stored in my bladder. Then, I felt something wet on my thighs. I just ignored it at first, until I looked down and saw a clear liquid all over my legs. At this point I thought to myself, “fuck. Did I just piss on this guy’s dick?” I got up to see the horrific puddle and mess that I had just made spanning about a quarter of this dude’s bed. I went to the bathroom to see if I still needed to pee, and turns out, I did! I peed a LOT. I realised I must’ve actually squirted. I thought this stuff in porn was fake and had no clue I had this talent, as no other guy had made me squirt.

But I was still extremely embarrassed of the mess I had just made and needed to get home.

I told Mr. Squirt “I’m just gonna go home, sorry, I’ve never done that before.” He was disappointed that I didn’t stay, and we began to chat about his room. This led to Mr. Squirt telling me about his love for peanut butter, and the fact that he just eats it straight from the jar. I didn’t think much of it, until he showed me his drawer which had probably 15 empty jars of peanut butter he had smashed. I realised it was definitely my time to go home, and maybe this Mr. Squirt guy was actually kinda weird.

The next week rolls around. He had sent me a few Snapchats, and on Thursday I agreed to him coming over since I felt bad for not staying last time. We fucked again and I didn’t squirt, which I pleased about, because I just knew that washing my mattress protector would’ve been a bitch. Afterwards, there was absolutely no good chat from Mr. Squirt and I realised I actually didn’t like him as much as I’d thought. He slept over, said some weird shit in his sleep, we woke up, and fucked again. Then, it happened.

I could actually feel it coming, so I grabbed a towel mid-sex and placed it underneath to catch the waterfall that was about to come out of me. It was a torrent. I’ve been too embarrassed to hang out with him again since then. It’s just too messy. Sorry Mr. Squirt, it’s nothing personal.

Actually, maybe it was the peanut butter.

Have something juicy to tell us? Send your salacious stories to moaningful@critic.co.nz. Submissions remain anonymous.

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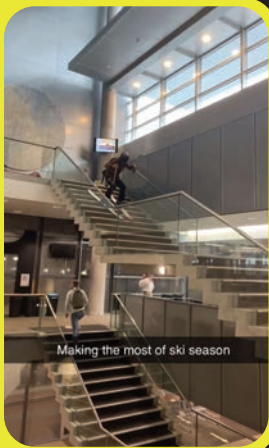
SNAP OF THE WEEK



SEND A SNAP TO US AT @CRITICMAG.
BEST SNAP EACH WEEK WINS A 24 PACK OF Red Bull

SNAP OF THE WEEK

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Making the most of ski season



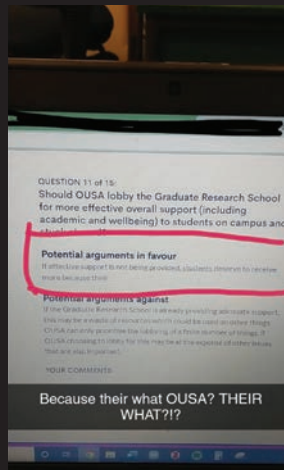
Finally someone asking the big questions



...special edition flavour?



The ducks are performing a satanic ritual



QUESTION 11 of 16:
Should OUSA lobby the Graduate Research School for more effective overall support (including academic and wellbeing) to students on campus and abroad?

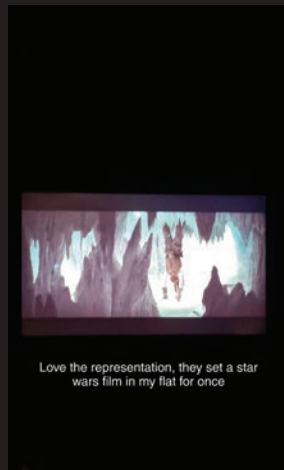
Potential arguments in favour
It effectively supports BUNN being provided, students observe to receive more a better support

Potential arguments against
If the Graduate Research School is already providing adequate support, then the need for additional support is not as clear. OUSA should focus on other areas of support, such as academic and wellbeing, rather than financial support.

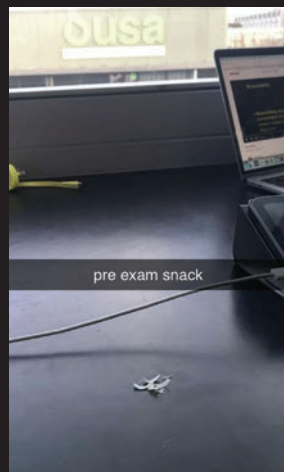
YOUR COMMENTS:
Because their what OUSA? THEIR WHAT?!!



letting the dog(s) out in central



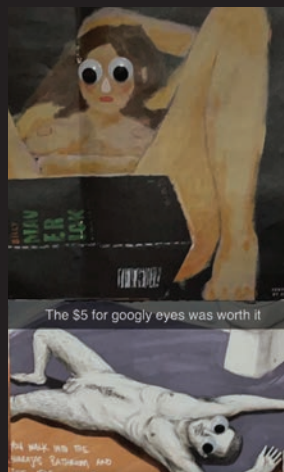
Love the representation, they set a star wars film in my flat for once



pre exam snack



Everyday low 🥰



The \$5 for googly eyes was worth it



walk your wheels sir



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