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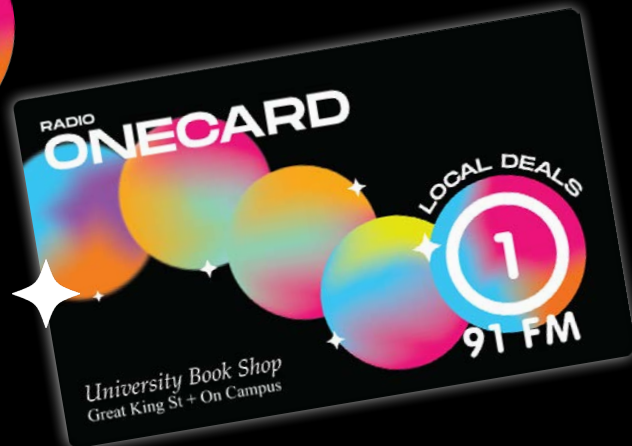
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CASSELLS

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dearest Editor,

You may think, given the upcoming local elections, that the people want Critic to review the candidates. NOT TRUE! The people want Critic to review the graphic design quality of the candidates' billboards, for which a certain candidate gets a big fat ZERO. It looks like he made it on PowerPoint. I bet Critic's graphic designers would do a better job.

Signed,
Art Connoisseur

Editor's response: This is an excellent point. We should've done this. And hell yeah, obviously Molly would've killed the design.

Dear Manager,

Have a nice day!
This is Lvy from China.
We are professional Rubber Hose manufacturer with rich experience and hope to cooperate with you, we have ISO3821/EN559 certificate. Mainly products: oxygen/acetylene hose, air hose, welding hose, lpg gas hose, water hose, twin hose, oil hose, sand blasting hose.....
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Looking forward to hearing from you soon, thank you dear friend!

Best regards
Lvy

Editor's response: Idk how we got on this spam circuit, but I'd much rather hear about hoses than the usual offers for free sex groups, so keep it coming.

Kia ora Mr. Editor sir,

I have read a previous letter to the editor and news article about the Psych building Galton House that is named after the father of eugenics.

I write to you after seeing a familiar face pop up during my MFCO222 lecture on Eugenics - none other than Francis Galton! The lecture went on to describe the horrific consequences of the movement, including mass sterilization in the US and its central role in Nazi policies.

Why has nothing been done about this yet? The Uni (or at least some members of faculty) are clearly aware of Galton's problematic affiliations to literally be teaching it in a paper.

The Uni claims that they don't have the records available to confirm the "rationale for the naming", but what reason could there possibly be to justify keeping the name of a man with such an awful legacy in a place of honour on our campus???

Regards,
Definitely not the author of the Galton article xo



Editorial: It's Our Fault

By Fox Meyer

RAD TIMES

GIG GUIDE



TUESDAY 27 SEPT	Open Mic w/ Holly Muirhead INCH BAR 7PM / FREE ENTRY / ALL WELCOME		
WEDNESDAY 28 SEPT	The Capping Show: Capping Nine-Nine COLLEGE OF EDUCATION 7:30PM / \$22 Tickets from ticketfairy.com		
THURSDAY 29 SEP	In defence of religious peace with Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir ST DAVID'S LECTURE THEATRE 6:30PM - 8PM	An Evening with Mike Moroney INCH BAR 8PM / KOHA ENTRY	K Motionz (UK) + Special Guests Ekko & Sidetrack (AUS) U BAR 9PM TIL LATE / \$48-\$58 +BF Tickets from moshtix.co.nz
FRIDAY 30 SEP	Voodoo Bloo - 'The Blessed Ghost' NZ Album Release Tour with Radicals THE CROWN HOTEL 8PM / PRESALES \$13 +BF, \$15 DOOR SALES Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz	Dale Kerrigan - 'The Water' NZ Album Release Tour DIVE 8PM / \$13 +BF Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz	OMMU: 3-piece improvised psych-rock and beat music INCH BAR 8PM / KOHA ENTRY
	Norman Foreman & Friends feat. house, breakbeat, jungle, DnB, & dubstep, with Flatline B2B Samuel, KTB, Moondog, Namu, Sarah Tonen, Sheila Tequila w' Reiner U BAR 9PM TIL LATE / \$10 +BF		Transition Audio DJ Workshop U BAR 5-7PM
SATURDAY 01 OCT	Postmodern Jukebox DUNEDIN TOWN HALL 8PM Tickets from ticketmaster.co.nz	An Evening with James Dignan INCH BAR 8PM / KOHA ENTRY	Keeltys - 'Strange' Dunedin EP Release Show w/ support from The Goonz U BAR 9PM / \$10
	Grecco Romank, Night Lunch, Human Susan DIVE 9PM / \$15 Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz	BASELINE 2022 feat. Alix Perez, SACHI, Disrupta, Amplify, T95, Savage, Paris, Suune, Thief & Cormman, Jousey, Flamingo Pier, Frank Booker, Andyheartthrob, Aunty Ei, 121 Soundsystem, Lucy, Twominds LOGAN PARK 12:30PM TIL LATE / R18 / \$83.99 Tickets from baselinefestival.co.nz	

It's fun writing about the Alpine Fault now because at some point in our lifetime it's going to be all anyone is talking about.

It feels like writing about the Christchurch earthquakes before they actually happened, or writing about how easy it would be to block the Suez Canal before the Ever Given showed us how to do it. But unlike those cases, this disaster is one that's come with decades of trailers. It's popped off every 300 years or so, almost like clockwork, for thousands of years. The last one was in 1717. You'll know it when you feel it, and life in Aotearoa will never be the same. Tick tock.

When this fault ruptures, it's going to be a national event. It's going to be generation-defining. It's going to be something we look back on as a country with remorse, and we'll celebrate all the first responders and helpful hands that were there to pick up the pieces. That sort of national memory comes up when we have tragedies like plane crashes, murders or other high-profile events, but this one is interesting because we actually KNOW it's coming. It could happen at any moment, it could happen in ten years. It could happen between this editorial going to the printer and this issue being distributed, which would be kinda iconic, to be honest. We know it's coming. We know it's gonna be massive, we know what we'll have to repair, and we know we have some of the best scientists in the world studying what the physics will be like, what the social effects will be like, and how the economy will respond. We have no

reason not to be prepared for it. Think about that for a moment: how many national disasters had people all over the country warning about it for decades beforehand? And since that's the case, will our grieving process be the same? What happens when the talking heads tell us "this has shocked us", over a backdrop of constant scientific warning? Scientists aren't prone to I-told-you-so's. People brush it off now as "just another disaster", but that's not how we're gonna talk about it after it happens.

What really gets me going about this subject is that it's a rare case of KNOWING a disaster is coming. It's driving down a nighttime highway, swooping around bends with your high beams off, and KNOWING that at some point you're gonna hit a wall - you just don't know when. So do you spend the meantime tidying your glovebox, because that's the only problem you can see right in front of you? Or do you spend it putting on extra seat belts, making sure the passengers are ready, and getting your insurance in order? It's easy to say "we'll deal with it when it happens". Easier said than done.

Do you have your disaster kit ready? Have you got water in your car? Have you looked at the materials on AFB's website? Nobody thinks it's gonna happen to them, until it does. And this one is gonna happen to all of us.

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Starters, Student Engagement and Ski Shenanigans Dominate OUSA Forums

Is it still a coup if they're voted in?

By Denzel Chung & Nina Brown
News Editor // Reporter

This week, we'll get the chance to vote for our very own student leaders. Critic Te Ārohi attended OUSA's Exec candidate forums last week to get a vibe check on the candidates, and found them agreeing on a surprisingly large range of topics, from student bars to low student engagement.

The forums were held last Monday and Tuesday, at noon in the Main Common Room. It seemed a relatively low-key affair: apart from Critic Te Ārohi and R1 staff live-streaming the sessions, the only other attendees were current Exec members, Exec candidates, their supporters and a smattering of students who just seemed to be having lunch.

Dominating the two meetings were members of the Otago Uni Snow Sports Club (OUSSC), who filled a table on both forum days. While not officially running together (forbidden under OUSA election rules), OUSSC have somehow managed to convince a member to run for every Exec position bar President. To add to their chaotic energy, several Exec positions actually have two OUSSC members running against each other. They are certainly committed to shaking things up, beginning with designating a campus "piss tree" where public urination will be allowed. Free the bird.

Prioritising a new student bar seemed to be a common theme among candidates – OUSSC or no. The two candidates for Welfare & Equity Rep who showed up, Lydia and Kaia, both backed the idea. Lydia

said that student bars would help "drinking move out of flats, so that professionals can step in and mediate those environments," and Kaia agreed, arguing that "a lack of student bars drives students to drink more." Imogen, who is running for Administrative Vice-President (AVP), said that "finding a solution" to the new student bar's location was going to be an important "focus" and "priority" for her.

Quintin, one of the Presidential candidates, has actually made "reopening Starters" one of his three policy priorities, and says that he would push to fix the "issue with the landlord" for it to open its doors again. "There's space to work with the landlord to make sure that Starters reopens. Simple as that," he said. This set up one of the few genuine points of clash across the two days, when fellow candidate Josh stepped in with a "fact check," saying that Starters closed as their building was an earthquake risk. "I'm not prepared to compromise student safety for the safety of having a bar," he said, adding that resurrecting Starters in its current form was an example of "political rhetoric that would not be sustainable longer-term". Quintin retorted that earthquake strengthening is a landlord problem, in the end, as it's their building and therefore their responsibility.

Improving student engagement with OUSA was also a common theme for many candidates. "People don't understand the importance of OUSA," said Quintin: "They see the green and the buildings, but they don't understand [OUSA's] interactions with the Uni, with the DCC

and the Government." He proposed improving transparency, making OUSA's reports, submissions and activities more transparent so students could "see what they're doing makes a difference, beyond just filling out a form online". Josh, for his part, agreed and said that more "lecture bashing, visiting first year halls and events... [would help] personify OUSA's presence on campus".

Keegan, who is running for both Postgrad and International Rep, said that changing up how OUSA works would help pique student interest: "it would be good to shake up [OUSA's] culture, as it feels stagnant," she said. Political Rep candidate Lily, meanwhile, cited a "disconnect between the students and their students' association" as a core reason she was running for OUSA. Fellow Pols Rep candidate Tessa said she would advocate for the Exec to "get 'round halls" and be available at regular "office hours," which she said would "help students feel like they're heard".

Overall, despite some mildly spicy clashes, the candidates seemed to agree on more than they disagreed on. They largely were passionate, eager to begin their roles and reasonably competent – even if Reid (running for both Clubs & Socs and International Rep) struggled for a few minutes when moderator Fox asked him why he would be "a better choice than nothing".

You can find the full candidate blurbs in the features section. Once again, happy voting.



Uni Staff Vote For Strike Motion

This is getting interesting

Image source: 'One hour strike at the University of Auckland', New Zealand Tertiary Education Union via Flickr.com.

By Zak Rudin

Chief Reporter // zak@critic.co.nz

A nationwide strike of Tertiary Education Union (TEU) members, including some of your professors, could be on the cards.

On Tuesday 21st, around 150 Uni staff united in the Main Common Room as part of a nationwide TEU "stop work meeting" to vote on a motion to go on strike. The motivation for the strike is to demand an 8% pay rise for staff with collective agreements with all eight of Aotearoa's Universities. There was near unanimous support for the strike action ballot with zero against and only three abstentions. Union members will vote on Tuesday as to whether a strike action will be taken.

Craig Marshall, president of TEU Otago, told Critic Te Ārohi, "we are looking for a payrise that reflects increases in the cost of living over the past three years in which our pay rises have fallen significantly far behind." Between 2008 and 2020 operating expenses went up by a whopping 18% while staff costs

only increased by 7%. Craig says that the problem was the lack of government investment in tertiary education. "The cake has gotten way too small and we are fighting how it is gonna be divided up," said Craig.

The vibe of the meeting was electric (insert "unionized" pun here). Before a vote was held on whether to hold a vote to strike, the floor was open for union members to air their discontent and grievances. Professor Brent Lovelock, Head of the Tourism Department, said the "last three years have been pretty tough" due to "oppressive increases in contract hours and workloads [increasing between 30-40%] and budget cuts". An AskOtago employee spoke up saying they're "struggling to keep up with what Uni is asking us to do and [we're] not given [adequate] resources." Ultimately, Professor Brian Roper, Head of the Politics Department, called for union members to put pressure on the University and government to "take industrial action!"

The lack of government funding has cascading effects for everyone (not just Uni staff). Craig explained that "a lot of staff are leaving because they can get better paid jobs elsewhere," meanwhile, "the slow loss of people compromises our ability to do all of our jobs." In the long term, the continued underinvestment in training for the past couple of decades results in a shortage of people adequately trained. "If you don't fund those areas to do their jobs properly you will not have those trained people in the future," said Craig.

The nature of a strike is designed to inconvenience people. However, Craig assured Critic Te Ārohi that they will discuss their plans with OUSA and aim to "make sure that there are no unintended consequences [to students]". However, no teaching will necessarily have an effect on people who go to lectures but "may not have much of an effect on those that don't", said Craig. Moral of the story, procrastination and laziness for the win.



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Otago Student Joins Highlanders Squad For 2023

A much better side hustle than UberEats

By Denzel Chung

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

It's common for students to have a side hustle alongside their study commitments. It is, however, a bit rarer for that side hustle to be playing professional rugby in one of the world's top competitions.

For business student James Arscott, however, playing top-level rugby has been a part of his entire uni life. Since 1st year, he's been representing Otago in the National Provincial Championship (NPC), the top national-level rugby union competition in Aotearoa. Originally from Timaru, he joined the Otago Rugby Union's academy while studying at Otago Boys' High School in Year 13, before joining the squad in first year.

Since he began playing for Timaru Celtic at the tender age of 4, James has been working his way up the rugby ladder. He told Critic Te Ārohi that he'd always had his eyes set on the peaks of rugby achievement: "I've always loved rugby, and I've always wanted to play for the Highlanders." From next year, one of James' goals will be ticked off when he officially joins the Highlanders squad. According to James, while the NPC is "still pretty intense," Super Rugby Pacific presents yet another step up: the intensity

of training, the pressure around games, the larger (international) following, and the fact that the players and teams he'll be facing are among the best in the world.

What's it like trying to balance uni life and pro rugby? For James, it was all about having "a good balance". Needing to stay in top condition to tough it out on the field means he has to train "pretty much every day," and not subject his body to quite as much abuse as the average Cumberland business student. However, he insists that "it's still important to have a social life... have a good time," and says he still manages to make his way to different uni events.

James says trying to maintain an adequate diet on a mainly student budget was a challenge. "You end up cooking more for nutrition, rather than enjoying it," he said. However, this year, the additional opportunities unlocked by a pro rugby salary meant that his flat (of Highlanders teammates) could splurge on a HelloFresh box. "It's way better, we can cook more as a flat and try new things," he said.

James has already been recognised by several lecturers and plenty of others

on campus. According to him, however, handling the fame that rugby can bring you, however, is a lot easier when you've got mates to keep you grounded. "They take the piss out of me, but they're still really understanding," he said. It also brings a few, less expected perks, including "playing the rugby card... too many times to count" when assignments start to press up against rugby season commitments. James told Critic Te Ārohi that "It certainly makes asking to reschedule assignments easier!"

For anyone who is lucky enough to find themselves needing to juggle a professional athletic career with the demands of student life, James had a few pearls of wisdom: "Put your sport first, but whenever you have an opportunity, socialise and have a good time. You don't get your Uni years back... and that's what's cool about Otago Uni, the social side. These 3-4 years will be the funnest years of your life, so make the most of it." Critic Te Ārohi is looking forward to cheering James and the 'Landers on from the Zoo next year, as soon as we figure out what the fuck a ruck is.

Students "Giving Back" to Rescue Choppers, Blood Donations

"A bloody good cause."

By Zak Rudin

Chief Reporter // zak@critic.co.nz

Following a gnarly Mt Hutt crash, two Otago Uni students recently partnered with the New Zealand Blood Service (NZ Blood) and the Canterbury Westpac Rescue Helicopter to take blood and money from students. For a good cause, of course.

Last year, Isaac suffered a compound fracture to his leg, leaving his foot attached by just his calf muscle. Ouch. Isaac was picked up by the Canterbury Westpac Rescue Helicopter and taken straight to Christchurch Hospital, where he had multiple surgeries and lost 50 units of blood in the process. One unit of blood, by the way, is roughly a pint. That's a lot of blood.

"It's a miracle he didn't lose his leg," said his friend Maddy. After staying at home in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton for a bit as he recovered, Isaac returned to the mean streets of Ōtepoti this year. Something about being in bed for seven weeks gave Isaac the time to think, and he eventually decided he "had to do something to give back." According to him: "A lot of special people throughout the day saved my life... [and I feel a] moral obligation to repay some of the things given to me."

To give back, Isaac launched a "hybrid" campaign: a "Team Red Challenge" with NZ Blood, encouraging people to give

blood, while also starting a Givealittle for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter (formally, the Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust). "We wanted it to be as inclusive as possible," said Maddy, and this meant accommodating all types. Those with more blood than money can donate their red stuff to the cause, while the queasier among us can instead donate to the chopper.

Isaac said he is "nothing but happy" with the success of the campaign, with donations of blood and cash arriving from all over the motu. As of writing, the "Isaac West Team Red Challenge" has amassed 90 blood donations, and another 89 plasma donations. This means a pretty respectable 84L of blood and plasma, or just under 255 Speights bottles full of the good stuff. Braham Stoker would be proud. Meanwhile the Givealittle page has raised \$3,675 – for reference, every mission flown by the chopper costs the Trust around \$5k, so they're most of the way there.

The success of the campaign can be largely attributed to social media. "We've made quite a community where when people donate they send in their photos," said Maddy. She was hopeful that the campaign would start the conversation amongst students about the importance of donating blood. "Without people going out of their

way in their own time and donating, [Isaac] probably wouldn't have survived," said Maddy. All of NZ hospitals' blood supplies come from the ~4% of the population who regularly, voluntarily donate blood, said Maddy. According to her, a reason for the low numbers could be that "it's not one of those things that is ever a priority until it's personal."

As it happens, donating blood is dead easy. "You just need to take an hour out of your day, every three months," said Maddy. If you missed out on NZ Blood's semi-regular campus blood drives, you can book an appointment at the Dunedin Donor Centre (on Princes Street opposite Briscoes), or flick a koha over to the rescue helicopter. You can also learn more and stay updated on Isaac's campaign on Instagram @isaac.team.red.



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US Air Force Plane Spotted at Dunedin Airport

American intelligence operatives struggle to find intelligence in Dunedin, promptly leave

By Fox Meyer
Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

An international intelligence group is meeting in Queenstown, and it appears that an American Air Force plane hopped over to Dunedin for Monday night last week. Why would American spies take a break from their busy schedule to visit Dirty Duds? We can only speculate.

The Five Eyes are an international group of intelligence agencies that New Zealand is somehow a part of, alongside the USA, Canada, the UK and Australia. Apparently they're meeting outside of Queenstown at the moment, which would explain a why the US Air Force is in the area. There's plenty to unpack there, but first we need to address the fact that for some reason, Five Eyes neglected to abbreviate themselves to the convenient "SI's" and instead opted for the awful choice of "FVEY", which just sucks. However, the sub-group names are far, far more entertaining. The USA/NZ/Aus group has the charming name of "ANZUS" (anus, haha) the Canada/

NZ/UK group somehow managed to land the name "CANZUK" (can suck, haha), and the worst of them all is some sort of commanding body involved with the SI's with the absolutely monstrous title of "AUSCANNZUKUS". That's a fucking crime, if you ask me.

Anyway, after photos of the American plane were posted to the Dunedin News Facebook group, commenters took to speculation with comments like "Spy lessons 101: Try to not get spotted entering a town for a spy convention", "so that's where the cocaine is coming from", and "*googles five eyes*". We were curious, too, so we went to check on the Dunedin airport register, only to find that there was no USAF plane listed for that day. Weird. We checked a 24-hour flight radar, and again, no listing. Very strange. So we emailed the airport, and were told (very politely) that "We don't have any information that would help in answering

your questions on this one sorry... Apologies we aren't able to help on this one." Apology accepted.

This left us only one option: calling the FBI to enquire about what's going on in Dunedin. Unfortunately, international calls are incredibly expensive, and the FBI has a longer wait time than Studylink, so we gave up on that. Wild speculation was the only way to go forward. Perhaps this Monday night excursion was to visit Dunedin's gig scene. More likely, though, it was a cheeky trip to the cas. Perhaps, as one commenter suggested, they just wanted to get a "DUD" listed on their register. Most likely of all, though, is that it was a mistake. The spies rocked up to Dunedin, saw that they'd landed in a cow paddock, interviewed some sows and said "this has got to be a prank, nobody actually lives here", and promptly turned around for Queenstown. Fair enough.

(More) Student Food Outlets Closed

Shit once again hits the economic fan

By Nina Brown
Reporter // nina@critic.co.nz

The already emaciated student food scene has taken another blow with the closure of three more campus food outlets for the rest of the year. In their most recent communications email (the one you stopped reading mid-way through the pandemic), the Uni announced the closure of Hunter Cafe, Frankly Sandwiches, and the Lab Cafe as of Friday 23 September.

The decision was reached "given the current economic environment" according to the email. In other words, shit has (once again) hit the economic fan and left student services in its wake.

Critic Te Ārohi spoke to heartbroken student Sam, Hunter Cafe frequenter and post-4pm half-price-pie-lover: "Sometimes you get a lasagne for half price. It's pretty mean." In an effort to keep the business afloat, we proposed that Hunter Centre students renounce packed lunches and pledge their lunch money to Hunter Cafe. Sam was not optimistic: "Med students are kind of poor so we can't really do that."

Tash, SPEX student and Frankly stan, was similarly displeased at the news: "I am so fucking sad about that." The Pepsi to Subway's Coca-Cola, Frankly is a "SPEX fan favourite" according to Tash, and will

be dearly missed. "You smash out a really hard lab in the PE department and then you get Frankly," she said. Upon being told about the Friday closure date, she vowed to make the most of it before then, "That's going to be my mission tomorrow."

So, if you saw a girl crying into a pile of sandwiches in the Link last week, chances are it was probably her. Critic sends our condolences.

On a more positive note, previous victim-of-economics Union Grill will finally be up and running again after more than a year of dormancy at the beginning of 2023. Returning students: rejoice!



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Pollinator Workshop at Te Oraka

What's all the buzz about?

By Zak Rudin

Chief Reporter // zak@critic.co.nz

Last Saturday, Animal Aquatic Plant Ecological Society (AAPES) and Slow Food Youth Otago (SFYO) joined forces to host a pollinator workshop at Te Oraka. The workshop had it all: "pollinator activities, groovy tunes and yummy snacks".

What even are "pollinator activities," you may ask? Well, they include such riveting stuff as examining the microscopic structure of flowers, making seed bombs and toilet roll seed pods, learning about vertebrates such as birds and bats, feeding honey bees with sugar syrup and identifying various bees. The chilled, wholesome vibe attracted quite a few students, including Tessa, who said: "This is the most fun thing to do on a Saturday morning." Jade, a 2nd year student in the process of making a seed bomb, told Critic Te Ārohi that her flat won't have a garden next year so she plans to "throw [the seed bomb] over the fence and give [the neighbours] a bomb of colourful joy."

According to Rose from AAPES and Gabby from SFYO, the collab between the two

clubs came about quite naturally. With AAPES being the "student club for all things natural" and SFYO focused more on "sustainable food systems and awareness of kai" (we profiled them in Issue 6, 2022), the two club heads were looking for ways to work together. What do you know: when you put food and insects together, you get pollination. "And that's where the seed [bomb sessions] started," said Gabby. The initiative soon blossomed (get it?) as the environmental groups reached out to the zoology, botany and ecology departments, who enthusiastically responded. "From what started off as a seed bomb making session grew and grew and now we have like 10 stalls," said Rose.

If you didn't already know from NCEA Science, pollinators are very important. Even though this month is Bee Awareness Month, lots of other things pollinate too – in Aotearoa, tūi and korimako (bellbirds) do the mahi for our native species. Despite our reliance on pollinators, "people don't realise how big pollination is in our everyday lives," said Rose. "Without

bees and other pollinators, we wouldn't have life," added Gabby, continuing: "We wouldn't have chocolate, coffee, potato chips without the bees." Life's essentials, in other words. While everyone Critic Te Ārohi spoke to at the workshop seemed pretty switched on, this could be due to the fact that if you are going to a pollinator workshop, you would probably know a thing or two about pollinators. Selection bias, or something like that. Biodiversity is critical for pollinators to survive whilst monoculturalism, such as that created through intensive agricultural practices, risks it all by taking away food for pollinators. "Introducing biodiversity can be put into every decision we make with climate change and transitioning to a more sustainable regenerative economy," said Gabby.

If playing with seeds, flowers and generally frolicking in nature floats your boat, you can reach out to AAPES and SFYO on Instagram, or follow Te Oraka and Sustainability at Otago, for the freshest events.



POSTGRADUATE



Postgraduate Business Information Expo

Explore postgrad pathways in Business and discover how they can speed up your career progression.

Wednesday 5 October | 6-8pm

Te Wao Nui, Otago Business School

Food trucks, goodie bags and live music by Emily Alice.

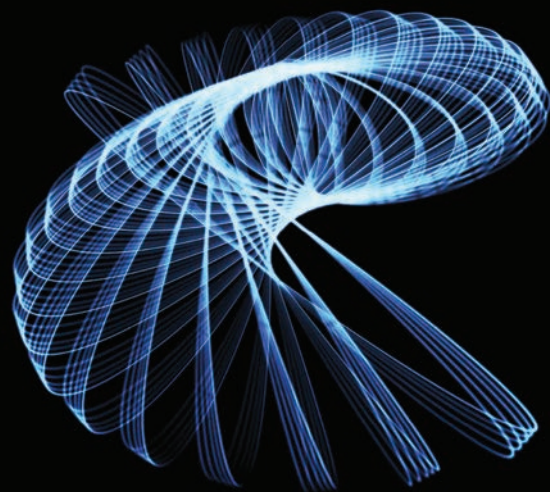
Come by and chat with current masters' students about their journeys and experiences. Learn about the scholarships and support services available to postgraduate students and take the opportunity to meet academics from a wide range of programmes.

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ODC Watch

*Farewell,
Your Majesty*

Whale finally laid to rest

#RIP

By 1958 he was living in Oamaru and on a visit to Timaru in February he was arrested and charged with "being a rogue and a vagabond in that he frequented a public place with felonious intent".

Prince Andrew origin story lol

The man in both photos has a small beard and a somewhat imperious pose.

Photos of my editor Fox Meyer

That's what I'll do.
I'll write to Queen Mary!

How to get left on read

IT is certifiably the strangest film in the city, possibly even he country.

Looks like someone finally saw Minions: The Rise of Gru

Details sought on artist linked to castle

Castle Street tagger still at large

Ardern recalls 'the best' motherhood advice from Queen

Freddie Mercury revealed as a great babysitter

Loss of faith in 'religion of rugby' may affect society

There's too much to unpack here

Size reduction 'not being contemplated', Little says

He WOULD say that

I was there as an 8-year-old and I can assure readers the crowds were nothing as large as those shown.

Reports from Hyde St 2022



RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE Patrice Le Sueur

Kia ora!

The flatting market is crazy, but it will get better, I promise. Thanks to some tenancy law changes for the first time in decades students have power to influence the flatting market in Dunedin. We must make sure we wield that power to our own benefit!

There haven't been many flat listings for next year this semester, so you might be tempted to hold onto your flat for another year, and if it's a good place to live I strongly encourage you do so, just inform your landlord that you'd like to re-sign, or roll over into a periodic tenancy (one with no limit) and you'll be sweet.

If you haven't decided whether you are going to re-sign your flat yet,

I'm sorry to say, you're probably a tiny part of the reason why there aren't many listings around. If you can, make sure you let your landlord know what your plans are in the next couple of weeks at the latest. If you don't, and then end up deciding to move much later, just remember that other flatting groups will need to view your flat before signing it, so if you don't want flat viewings during semester 2 exams, try to be decisive!

Finally, if you're in a College, make the most of your time there. Load up on the food and make some memories. Remember that OUSA Student Support is there for you if you ever need assistance with pretty much anything!

Bonne chance!

Patrice,
Residential Representative



Photo credit: Sam Harrison

Photo credit: Stefan Andrews

“ I'm really interested in temperate reef ecology and things like kelp forests – they fascinate me as they are so important. And I have a big draw to wild, remote places, managing anthropogenic impacts on them and working out how to further their protection. I'm really interested in marine conservation, protection and research as well. ”

Millie Mannering Master of Science in Marine Science

Millie completed her research master's fieldwork at the Lizard Island Research Station on the northern Great Barrier Reef. Her research examined the impact of microplastic exposure on predator-prey interactions of coral reef fish.

To find out more about your postgraduate options, speak to a lecturer or visit otago.ac.nz/sciences

POSTGRADUATE

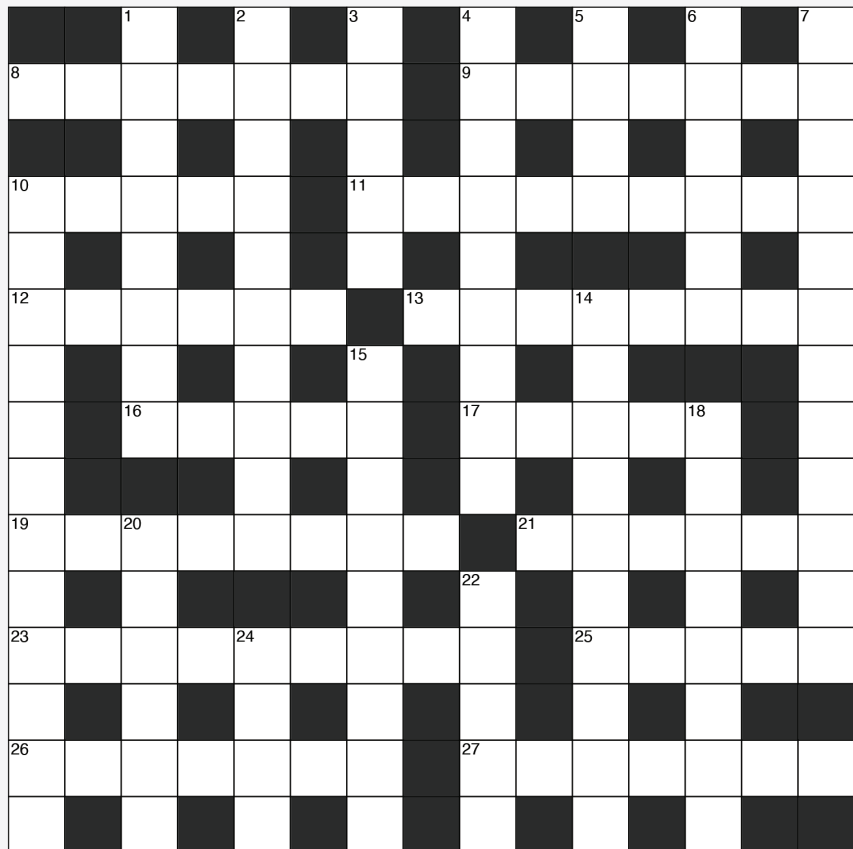


PUZZLES

Mazagran
ESPRESSO BAR
36 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

BROUGHT TO YOU
BY MAZAGRAN
KEEPING CRITIC
CAFFEINATED

CROSSWORD

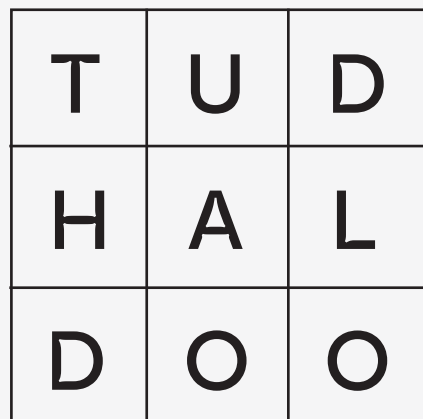


ACROSS:
 8: Rolled in Mexico (7)
 9: One of two rappers from "Sprung on the Westside" (7)
 10: Zodiac sign Critic rips into (5)
 11: What you do when you get in bed (9)
 12: **Warrior woman (6)**
 13: A good side gig for the highlighted clues? (8)
 16: The other rapper from "Sprung on the Westside" (5)
 17: Austin Powers' dad (5)
 19: Blimp-advert company (8)
 21: Film with a famous shower scene (6)
 23: Strike back at (9)
 25: Zones (5)
 26: **Jessie's profession from Toy Story (7)**
 27: Cruising (7)

DOWN:
 1: A piece of the past (8)
 2: **Uncontacted tribes HATE them (10)**
 3: **Smaller type of door? (5)**
 4: **Everyone's favourite order number (9)**
 5: Slippery, slimy fish (4)
 6: Bar on Albany St (6)
 7: **Karma Sutra subject, OR, a hint to the highlighted clues (12)**
 10: "...How sweet the sound..." (12)
 14: Complicated European breakup (10)
 15: Unable to (9)
 18: Can't leave a room (8)
 20: Canada's capital (6)
 22: Rock with a special surprise inside! (5)
 24: Star Wars Princess (4)

WORD BLOCKS

Make up the 9-letter word hidden in these blocks, using every letter once.



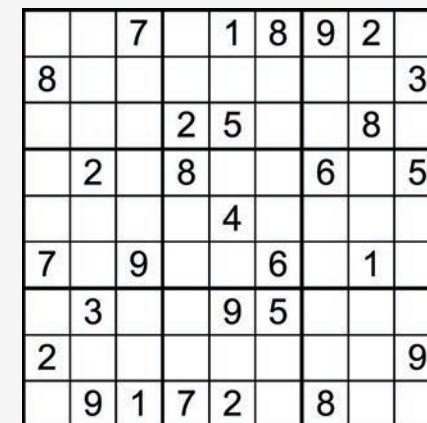
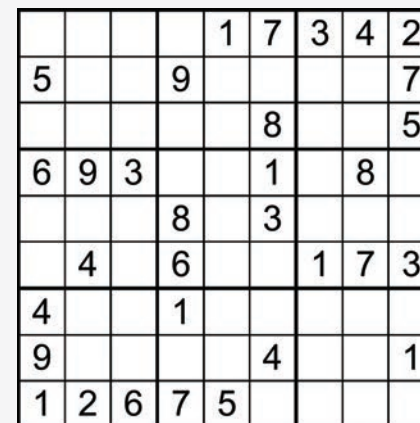
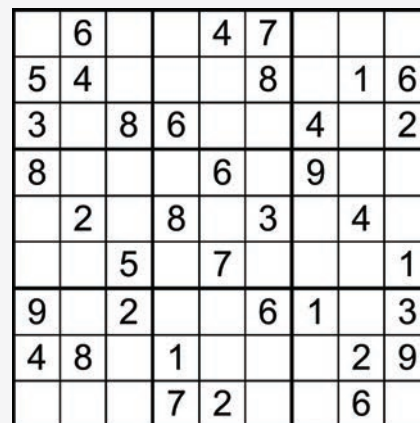
WEEK 23 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. TŌMAU 4. HINAMOĀ 8. MOA 10. PONGA 11. TIO 12. HEKE 14. NGAHOA 15. ONGAONGA 16. TE 17. PIA 18. KĀPITI 19. KŌRERO 22. OPE 24. AU 26. ROROHURI 28. ARAWAI 29. OATI 31. KAU 32. RAIHI 33. URE 34. AMERIKA 35. OTIKI

DOWN: 1. TŪPUNA 2. MANAAKI 3. UMA 4. HĪMENE 5. NOEMA 6. MATANGI 7. AROTAHI 9. ATE 12. HAKOKO 13. KOTA 18. KŌWHAI 19. KARAKIA 20. RARAUHE 21. KUIA 23. PŌWHIRI 24. ARONGA 25. PIRITI 27. HĪKOI 30. TAU 32. REO

WORD LADDER ANSWER: MAHI-MAHA-MANA-WANA-WAKA
WORD WHEEL ANSWER: RANGITOTO

SUDOKU



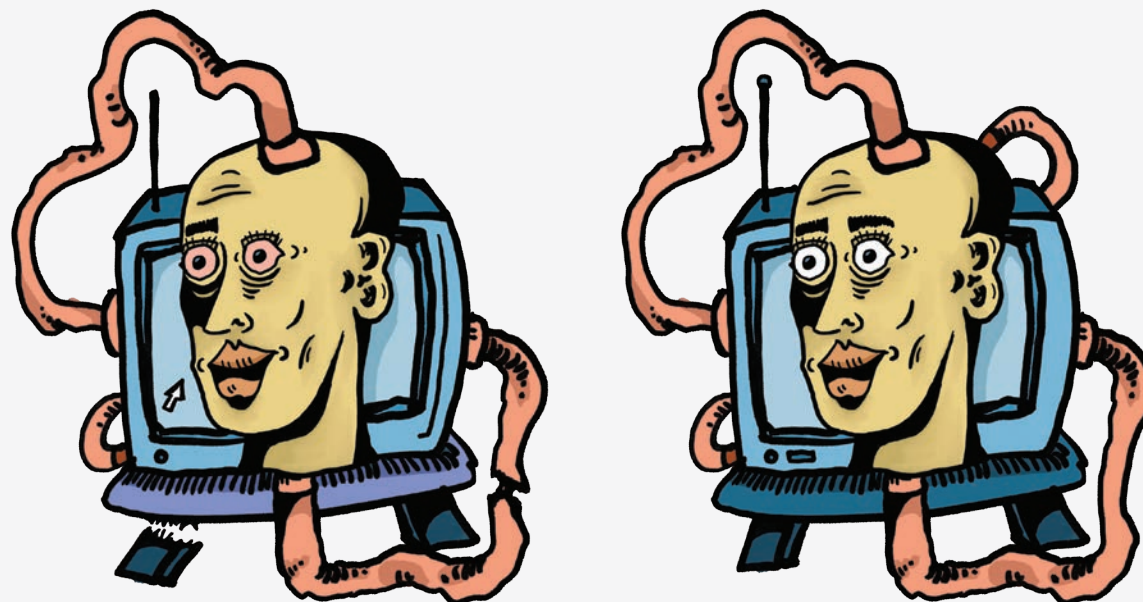
WORDFIND



- BEAVERS
- BEIBER
- CANZUK
- CHURCHES
- DEPRESSION
- DONUTS
- DRAKE
- FRENCH
- GANDER
- ICEHOCKEY
- IGLOO
- MAPLESYRUP
- MOOSE
- NEWFOUNDLAND
- PETROL
- SNOWFALL
- TRUCKERS
- QUIETRACISM

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.





BLEEDING OUT:

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PRESSURE

By Elliot Weir & Lotto Ramsay

Underfunded and understaffed, Student Health Services is buckling under the pressure. Students say they're "rushed in and rushed out" and "feel like [they're] going to get screwed over every time". Many have given up on Student Health Services altogether. There are steps being taken by senior staff, however, that could significantly improve things. Staff care deeply about their work, but students still complain. Critic Te Ārohi investigates.

When Tai* called Healthline about the severe heartburn and stomach pains he was experiencing, they told him he needed to see his GP in the next 24 hours. When he told Healthline that his GP was Student Health Services (SHS), and that they were booked out, they told him to ask for an emergency appointment the next morning. Tai called up right as SHS opened, and after waiting for an hour on the phone, he was told that there were no more emergency appointments available for the day. The earliest he could be booked was three weeks away.

After being passed between SHS, Urgent Doctors and the Emergency Department at the hospital, Tai gave up and went to his family doctor in Invercargill. "From now on, I 'see' my doctor at Invercargill using phone or video chat consults because it is far easier that way than waiting for Student Health."

Tai's story is not unique. After falling and cutting her elbow, Leah "just needed a plaster" and popped into SHS on her way home to see if they could help her out. Leah said "they were like 'you need an appointment and there's nothing for 2-3 weeks,'" and felt that SHS could have just given her a plaster and she would have been on her way. But it's not all skin-deep; other students had more serious issues they felt SHS should have been able to see them about.

"This year I've gone to the emergency doctor to treat a really bad chest infection just because Student Health couldn't get me in for two weeks," said Megan. "I was up before 8am calling every morning for those two weeks, but every time I called, the line was booked or the spots for the day had been taken."

"It feels like you can't get the help when you need it cause the wait is so long".

"They tell you you can make an appointment in a month's time [but] by then your sickness will have either gone or developed into something much worse that requires urgent doctors," one student remarked. Another student had a surgical cut that was infected, and wanted to get it checked out. "I kept trying to get an appointment and they [SHS] were like 'we've got none, go to the Emergency Department' and the Emergency Department was like 'go to Student Health' ... It feels very disconnected at the moment because they are so understaffed and overworked." A dozen other students we interviewed agreed, with one saying that "it feels like you can't get the help when you need it cause the wait is so long".

Even when students have managed to book an appointment, some were left waiting for a call from SHS. Kayli had a telehealth appointment recently that was scheduled for 4:00pm. "I start work at 5:00, and at 4:30 I need to get ready for work. They still hadn't called by then, so I called in and they said 'very soon', and then they didn't actually call me until 5:10 and by then I was at work. Not really a comfortable place for a telehealth appointment." Four other students had appointments they were told they would receive a follow-up call about. They never received a call, and weeks later (months later, in some cases) they called SHS and were told that their follow-up call had simply been lost in the system.

58% of the respondents to our annual census said they'd had issues with booking appointments at Student Health, and another 22% said that while they hadn't, their friends had. Margaret Perley, Head of Student Health Services, told Critic that routine appointments currently have a three to five week waiting time and acknowledged that it's "a struggle". In addition to routine appointments, there are also a limited number of urgent and same-day appointments available, but "when they're gone they're gone," which, in practise, means students have to call up exactly when SHS opens at 8:30 in the morning and hope they get through before all the appointments are gone. Gemma, one of the students we interviewed, said that "You have to have the number plugged into your phone ready to call when they open. If I woke up five minutes after they opened I'd have this feeling of defeat 'cos I still couldn't go to a doctor."

Margaret told Critic the number of same-day appointments available depends on the amount of staff working that day. This can range from "15-20" appointments to "quite low numbers" and on a bad day they "may not have any" same-day appointments available. SHS will reserve some urgent appointments throughout the day, but acknowledged that these may often be all booked out too. Richard Mooney, the SHS mental health and wellbeing leader, said to Critic that "students may call with urgent concerns, but we do have a finite resource and we're acknowledging it's diminished quite significantly". He stressed that in those cases it's important to go to the Emergency Department or other options, and that SHS can help students explore other options if needed.

Margaret noted (and students agreed) that behind the backlog of appointments is "a huge issue with GP staffing in New Zealand and worldwide, and that's been a problem prior to Covid as well". The funding for student health comes partially from government subsidies, but most is paid by students in the form of the Student Services Fee and the appointment fees at SHS. Student Health Services is budgeted to employ the equivalent of 10.88 full time staff (FTE), but as Margaret explained, they've currently only got about half of that. "We're currently running with 4.65 vacancies for GPs. That's huge."

There are steps being made to hire more staff, and Student Health Services has just finished the paperwork to hire 2.4 FTE for next year. However, Margaret reckoned there are a few other factors affecting the dearth of available appointments. Firstly, there's the newcomer: Covid appointments. "Because there's full PPE for the doctors... those appointments are for a longer time period and therefore there's less capacity." Second, Margaret pointed to the "complexity of appointments", particularly when it comes to mental health appointments. This involves a higher workload as the issues students are coming in with are "not as simple as they used to be for a GP appointment." But Richard and Margaret both stressed that taking care of students, both mentally and physically, is the top priority of every Student Health staff. There just aren't enough staff.

The vast majority of students we talked to pointed to the need for more staff as being behind many of the issues at Student Health Services. Many students also highlighted the lack of an online patient portal system to allow students to book appointments, order repeat prescriptions, and check health records easily – and hopefully prevent appointments and follow-up calls from being forgotten. ManageMyHealth was used until the pandemic, but SHS suspended it as they had to "be very very risk averse" and screen patients individually throughout Covid.

Fortunately, Margaret told Critic that ManageMyHealth is "being turned on again at the end of the month", which could help solve a lot of these issues. Margaret and Richard made it clear, however, that repeat prescriptions will always be a bit more complex at SHS, where students aren't seeing the same GP every time, and it can be important to have appointments with a GP to check up on how a medication and dosage is affecting someone, and if it might need adjusting. Specifically with ADHD medication, Richard said "there's really quite strict parameters in terms of how you can and can't administer and prescribe those medications without checking in with a [patient] in person. So it's not so much trying to create hoops for people to jump through, but being certain we are adhering to best practice in that space".

Every single person Critic Te Ārohi talked to brought up appointment availability as a key issue undermining SHS, which is a systematic obstacle that Student Health staff are actively working on. But some students had more specific issues. David, a trans man, faced "ridiculous" hurdles getting the care he needed because the computer system wasn't set up to account for transgender people existing. "If you were having a vaginal swab you couldn't select you were male in the system. I felt very embarrassed, and not super comfortable." David also felt uncomfortable with some of the questions he was asked, like 'do you think you'll ever have a sex change?', which he thought was well-intentioned but made him feel "humiliated" in a vulnerable setting.

Margaret said that SHS has been listening to feedback on things like the use of pronouns, and that it was something staff "are constantly working on". Richard told us that making SHS an inclusive and safe place for all students was an "ongoing challenge in terms of continuing our upskilling and education for the team" and was something they would continue to work on.

Regarding forms being unable to fully recognise transgender patients, Margaret and Richard explained that this was still a problem when referring information to other places like SCL laboratories, because SHS has to send in data compatible with their electronic referral messaging system. Those places are working on updating their software to fix this. But within SHS itself, just a matter of weeks ago, staff implemented a patient information system that recognises patients' correct gender and is still able to get them the care they need, which "is much better" according to Margaret.

Routine appointments currently have a three to five week waiting time.

When Bella talked to a nurse about contraceptive options, she said the nurse “asked if I was willing to try the pill and I said ‘no I don’t want to get anything else,’” because Bella was at risk of blood clots. When Bella looked at her patient records online afterwards, she said the nurse had written “discussed other contraceptive methods and patient is willing to try the pill”, even though Bella was clear she didn’t want to take the pill. “Ideally my records would reflect what actually happened.”

Initially, when Bella went into SHS to discuss contraceptives, a nurse “quite heavily persuaded me to get an IUD which I wasn’t comfortable getting”, and Bella was eventually convinced after being told it was “super painless”. For Bella, it was anything but painless. “I had to pull over and stop [my car] because I had really bad cramps. I got home and went to bed and couldn’t move because the cramping was so bad... The idea was to get it so I could have safe sex with my boyfriend, and I couldn’t even do that [because of the pain].” She told us that the pain was so intense that “For the whole [first] week I just couldn’t really move. I went downstairs for food and that was it. I had bad cramps for six months and it’s only gotten normal a year and a half later.”

Eleanor and Gemma also weren’t happy with how their IUD concerns were handled. “I got an IUD last year and I complained that since I got it I’ve been having daily cramping. They said it was normal,” said Eleanor. “It lasted nine months”. Gemma told us that “[a SHS nurse] sorta kept pushing, saying I should get one... Asking the first time is a fair response, but I was so adamant that I didn’t want one.”

When informed about these experiences, Margaret told Critic that IUDs are always an option that is given, and that they can have a lot of benefits, but readily acknowledged that it is an invasive procedure. Margaret said that she “would not expect anyone to feel pressured into having that [procedure]” and said she would meet with the nurses’ team to discuss how these options were being presented to patients.

Reproductive health was not the only time students felt ignored; one student recounted how he went in for counselling and left feeling like his concerns had been dismissed because he didn’t meet the criteria for depression. “There’s a difference between communicating ‘you’re not that depressed’ vs ‘you’re not experiencing a crisis but let’s see if we can improve things,’” he said. Leah told us, “I don’t go to them at all anymore. The way they’ve handled my issues is they’ve just brushed them under sorta thing.” A few other students also said they felt “judged” and “told off” about their smoking, vaping, or weed use and that they thought students would be less likely to share relevant medical information if they thought they would be judged for it.

Margaret from SHS said she “wouldn’t like to think any student in a room with a clinician felt brushed off or not listened to, however, there are time constraints with appointments, so there can be a sense of being rushed.” She said that the feedback she has heard from clinicians is that “wearing masks at appointments is also quite prohibitive for reading body language” which can hinder communication, which Richard added was especially pertinent in mental health appointments. Mental health is always at the front of student’s minds, and the same is true for SHS staff. But as the conversation around mental health becomes more and more commonplace, more and more people are seeking treatment for it, putting more and more stress on the limited resources at SHS.

“Our staffing level really hasn’t changed for many, many years,” Margaret said, and to be able to offer every student appointments when they wanted them they would “almost have to double the workforce”.

While Margaret and Richard understand that “it’s not perfect”, they are proud of the work of the staff at Student Health Services over the past year, and they encouraged students to “continue to contact us if unwell... we will do our very best to provide care or refer onto other providers when needed”. Richard described the team as “motivated and committed to doing the best we can”, and said that “the people who work here wouldn’t work here if they didn’t enjoy it... we’re not here to get rich”. Richard said he sometimes has to tell his staff in the mental health team “stop putting extra appointments in your templates, I know we’re busy and demand is really high but you need to look after yourself”.

Efforts to fill out the vacancies at Student Health Services are ongoing, but Margaret indicated that even the full 10.88 FTE of staff they are budgeted for wouldn’t be enough to fully meet demand. “Our staffing level really hasn’t changed for many, many years” Margaret said, and to be able to offer every student appointments when they wanted them they would “almost have to double the workforce”. Margaret also indicated that offering higher salaries could help attract more staff, but they didn’t have the funding for that either.

As mentioned, Student Health Services is funded by government funding and students directly. None of the funding comes from Otago University itself, and some students thought that the Uni ought to help fund SHS so that students can study without worrying about their health. Responding to this, a University of Otago spokesperson said the Uni “annually receives a finite amount of funding” and highlighted “Disability Information and Support, Te Huka Mātauraka (the Māori Centre) and Te Pokapū mā kā ākoka o kā Moutere o Te Moana Nui ā Kiwa (the Pacific islands Centre)” as areas they were putting funding into.

The spokesperson told Critic Te Ārohi that “funding allocation is considered annually based on priority needs. Currently, funding is not the main issue affecting Student Health Services, rather the shortage of GPs means their budget is underspent.” We showed their response to one student who had recently been to SHS, who found the Uni’s answer to be “a bit of a cop-out, really”.

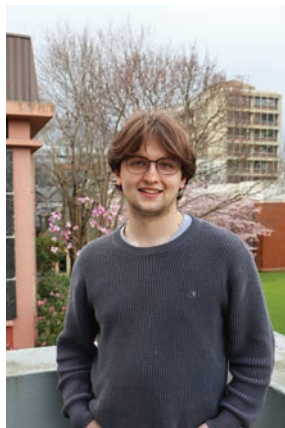
“The Uni has a duty to care for its students, right? If money is the problem, then the Uni needs to throw money at that instead of just getting us to pay for it. They have a massive budget, and ‘finite’ doesn’t mean ‘small’, it just means ‘not infinite’. But if the number of GPs is the problem, then the Uni needs to help them find those GPs. I don’t understand how they can tell me that med school is insanely competitive, and then say they can’t find any GPs. But at the end of the day, I know they don’t want this to be the situation. We don’t want this to be the situation. So why is this the situation?”

*All names changed for privacy.



OUSA 2022

EXECUTIVE ELECTION NOMINEES



PRESIDENT

QUINTIN JANE

Kia ora, I'm Quintin, and I'd love to be your OUSA President for 2023. If elected, I'd increase OUSA's engagement with students, to prioritise direct involvement in OUSA's advocacy within the university and wider networks. I'd continue to work with the current landlord, and other vendors, to reopen Starters Bar, and I'd also work with the University to develop clear, universal guidelines around supporting students isolating with COVID-19.

Currently, I'm in the final year of my BAsC, studying Politics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. I'm also a News Reporter with Radio One, where I've regularly published content about student issues and politics. I've been the President of the Otago Mathematics and Physics Students for the last two years, and I founded the Otago Chemistry Students Association in 2020. I've also been the student representative on the Science Divisional Board since 2020. If you want experience and unwavering student focus, then Vote Quintin!



PRESIDENT

JOSH STEWART

My name is Joshua Stewart and it is my pleasure to be running for President. OUSA has and continue to provide so many services and duties to students, and it would be my privilege to continue this work and bring my own flair to the role!

My platform is simple. I am running...

- For a Safer campus
- For a Rainbow campus
- For a Te Tiriti-led campus

I bring both a range of experience in leadership roles, and activism. I believe that I have the passion for advocacy and the experience in governance to be your most effective voice and represent the student body.

Ngā mihi
Josh



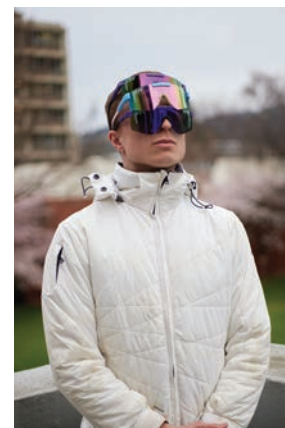
ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

SEAN TEOW

Kia ora everyone,

Being Admin Vice-President requires experience within OUSA and knowledge of how uni systems work which I have both of having been on this year's Exec. Being a student leader isn't just about the advocacy work and meetings, it's actually being there for the students, knowing from those dusty mornings to heavy assignment grinds that there are real issues we face at Uni.

I've managed teams for the past 2 years and know what obstacles face the Exec, obstacles we can avoid with my experience. A vote for me means a vote for a well-prepared Exec.



ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

MAC DEAN

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Supported by [REDACTED]



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

CYRUS YAM

Hello, I'm Cyrus Yam from Hong Kong, running for the 2023 International Student Rep. I've been an international student since 2020 and this is my first year at Otago. I have had a great experience as an international student in Dunedin, which is why I want to help international students fuse with the local community by introducing the Aotearoa culture to them, creating opportunities for international students to consider Otago as their second home - improving relations between international and local students. I commit to creating a safe space dedicated to international students and promote cultural diversity through different intercultural events."

Cheers,
Cyrus Yam



ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

IMOGEN MACALISTER

My name is Imogen Bring-Back-Student-Bars Macalister.

Stats: 90words/min, 100% accuracy.

There are two things I would love to achieve as Administrative Vice-President 2023.

ONE: hearing the concerns of students (I love partaking in worthwhile complaining), AND ensuring exec feel supported in their role to address these concerns (I got you). thats ✓ some good 🍌🍌🍌 shit right 🍌🍌 th 🍌🍌 ere 🍌🍌🍌🍌 if i do say so mysel f 100 i say so 100.

TWO: bring back student bars (at least ONE for the LOVE of big tiddy goth gf's everywhere). and those are my goals. right there (chorus: right there).

THANK YOU!
IMOGEN bring-back-student-bars MACALISTER



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

KEEGAN WELLS

Kia ora,

My Name is Keegan, and I stand for your rights and a good time.

Since I came out the womb in California I knew I had a greater purpose in life. That purpose is being your international student rep for 2023. If you choose me to represent all the diverse international student voices, I will lobby for more international scholarships, free te reo Māori classes for internationals, and to stop the uni from shutting down our blackboards when we forget to submit our visas to the office. Also student bars. The university takes great advantage of international students and if elected I will fight anyone who keeps trying to do that.



FINANCE & STRATEGY OFFICER

PETER BARCLAY

Hi,

My callsign is flaming dragon! I recently completed my masters in finance by watching the wolf of wall street twice and I'm here to run this association into crippling financial disarray. My first and most important policy for OUSA is tax evasion, FREE MONEY!! I'm thinking we spend it on a student bar, and if taxes aren't enough, I'll liquidate as many of OUSA's assets as needed until we can afford a [redacted] bar, I think we should call it puzzles. My last policy is to rave in the marsh until they turn it back into the Gardies, xoxo



FINANCE & STRATEGY OFFICER

EMILY FAU GOODWIN

Kia ora,

I'm Emily, and I am extremely excited to be re-running for the Finance & Strategy Officer role for 2023! I have been the FSO for almost a year now, but one year is too short to achieve all the things I would like to within OUSA. One major achievement of the role this year has been helping make financial decisions to bring OUSA out of a deficit and working on business plans for the future. If I was to be re-elected, I would like to continue work on current projects and find ways to introduce more student-oriented events/venues!



WELFARE & EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE

KAIA KAHURANGI JAMIESON

Kia ora! Ko Kaia toku ingoa. As Welfare & Equity Rep, I would work to keep student life exciting, memorable and outrageous, while ensuring we are all looked after. This means a ground-up approach to supporting mental wellbeing, more student bars, alignment with Te Tiriti, a level playing-field for disadvantaged students, and support of initiatives like The Sophia Charter, to guide us in prioritising student welfare and safety. I want Dunedin to be a place where everyone can have as much fun as I do (whatever fun means for them); unobstructed by financial, residential, safety, academic, mental health or social stressors.



WELFARE & EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE

CONNOR MOUSLEY

Kia ora,

My name is Connor, born and raised in South Africa, I came to NZ to study at the University of Otago. I am currently studying Psychology which is one of my many passions, alongside mental health. I am running for Welfare and Equity representative because I am keen to make mental health services more accessible for students in order to better support the people studying here at UoO. I hope to make a difference for you and your future here in Otago, and if you vote for me, I can!

Cheers, Connor Mousley



ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE

TOM BOLUS

Kia ora, I'm Tom. I am 20, originally from Tauranga but slowly acclimatising to this cooler end of the country. I'm in my second year at Otago, on a journey to one day combine my love of learning and teaching with the challenge of neuro. I want to be helpful. I want to make a difference. I can promise you that I'll always keep an ear out because I want you to be heard. Make sure to scan the QR code on my poster to have your say on what you want me to change. Let's make next year better.



ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE

MIA HEAPHY BUTTS

I've been engaged with several academic support systems over my four years at university. I understand what the university does effectively and where there are gaps in academic assistance for students. I am committed to becoming a voice for all students to ensure that all forms of support are available throughout your university experience. I have three main goals as academic rep. Increasing your accessibility to academic support by offering more papers for PASS tutorials. Easier access to academic pathways, includes a faster process of requesting course advice appointments. Improving academic assistance by reforming the application process for special consideration.



WELFARE & EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE

LYDIA O'CALLAGHAN

Hi! I'm a Theatre Studies major and am passionate about mental health advocacy, environmentalism, and promoting a safe drinking culture for students. As a queer student, I am hoping to be able to amplify the voices of others, improve access to mental health support for all students and work alongside other environmentally minded organizations to better the community. We need to get parties out of flats and reopen student bars, like Starters, so we can combat overcrowding and have designated security for when conflict arises. I am also a Cancer.



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

KEEGAN WELLS

Aha, no, don't vote no confidence, you're too sexy!

I really can't do worse than an empty seat, right? Please just vote for me. I can't go back to the bug dimension, please I'll do anything.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES REPRESENTATIVE

REID EBERWEIN

Clubs and Socs Rep? Isn't that just a fancy way of saying freeloader? Maybe. But maybe not! I'm running for this position because I'm passionate about how the importance of clubs and societies can impact a person's time at university. I hope to increase interclub relations while increasing the outreach of clubs and societies to more students, especially first-years. And remember, a vote for Reid is a vote for a scabies-free campus by 2030.



POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE

LILY STOCK

Kia ora!
My name is Lily Stock and I'm running to be your Political Representative for 2023. I'm currently in the final year of my BA majoring in Politics, entering postgraduate study next year! Three key priorities I have if elected into this position are being someone who is approachable, tackles the disconnect of communication between students and OUSA and ensures Otago students are advocated for as we undergo an election year. Wellbeing is at the forefront of my desire to be on the exec, ensuring students are not being put under increased stress due to local and national government decisions.



RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE

LILLY BAIRD

Approaching my final year, I have seen the good & bad of living in Dunedin. Over this time my passion to represent the student's voice has only increased. Flating in Dunedin is well-known across the country, unfortunately not for all the right reasons. If elected, I aim to reduce the amount of rubbish on the North Dunedin streets, creating a cleaner living environment. Secondly, I aim to form a partnership with the university colleges where leftovers are offered to local students to combat high food wastage and limit occasions that students must choose between heating and eating.

Vote Lilly!



RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE

TOM BOLUS

Kia ora, I'm Tom. I am 20, originally from Tauranga but slowly acclimatising to this cooler end of the country. I'm in my second year at Otago, on a journey to one day combine my love of learning and teaching with the challenge of neuro. I want to be helpful. I want to make a difference. I can promise you that I'll always keep an ear out because I want you to be heard. Make sure to scan the QR code on my poster to have your say on what you want me to change. Let's make next year better.



POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE

TESSA CAMPBELL

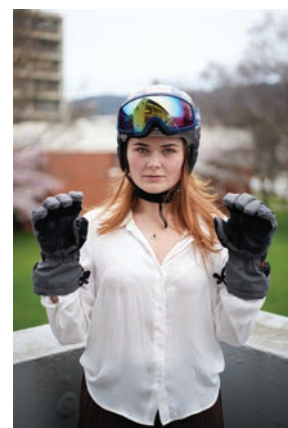
Kia ora,
I've got all the skills and experience you could ever want for your political rep. An experienced submission writer, I will represent you with quality submissions for the issues that matter most to you - renting, climate change, diversity, inclusion, mental health, and more. I plan to make concise, easy to access information for the general election, giving you the power to make an informed vote without all the hassle. With my event management experience, I'll make grilling your local MP candidates more fun than ever! I'll work hard to give your voices the power they deserve. Vote Tessa!



POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE

WILL MURRELL

Politics. Politics? Politics! Vote Will. Vote Will. Vote Will. Vote Will. I am an apolitical conduit for all of your political desires. Have something you want changed? Have something you DON'T want changed? I'm your man! Vote Will. Vote Will. I am super keen to get involved and get the student body involved in local, national, international, intergalactic and interdimensional politics. What makes me a good candidate? I will sell myself out to the highest bidder, immediately. I also have a really sore tummy, but I am being very brave about it! Vote Will. Vote Will 4 a student bar.



RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE

MILLIE HOGG

I'm Millie and I'm running for Residential Rep. I'm four years into a double degree, with majors in ecology, statistics and data science. When elected I will continue to advocate for your safety and support. I believe implementing practical ways to support residents is key to this, such as night-shift guards in colleges being trained in handling mental health crises to ensure ongoing mental health support, talks in colleges every semester on consent and anti-hate to cultivate respect, regular visits to colleges/flats, and getting rid of the Wall People (people who live in the walls). Vote HOGG.



RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE

BOB LEE

Hey guys, Bob is not my real name. I am a 2nd year who is doing first year law AGAIN along with media studies. I lived at Knox for two years and I am moving to a 6 man flat in Dundas next year. Originally from Malaysia and have been in Dunedin for 6 years, so I would say I am pretty immersed in the dunners culture with a hint of Asian values. I will advocate for the residential hall that I had so much fun at and advocate for the relatable problems that arise when flating next year.

BASK VOL. III:

A DEEP DIVE INTO ŌTEPOTI'S NEWEST CREATIVE COMMUNITY

By Kaia Kahurangi Jamieson

There's something about this city. Something that made Chris Knox pick up a guitar, Taika Waititi envision a film set in his dingy student flat, and Steven Malkmus refer to us 'home-baking Kiwis' in Pavement's recently blown-up TikTok hit *Harness your Hopes*. We come here and we stay here for a reason: Dunedin is like nowhere else. Your neighbours are your mates, and your mates are your neighbours; there's always day drinks when the sun is out, and there's always gigs when there's somewhere to hold them. There are beaches everywhere, and it's the best student culture in the world.

A similar tale is told by Isaac 'Chaddy' Chadwick, Sam Charlesworth, and Rocket O'Leary, a group of young musicians and filmmakers whose latest creative project BASK III highlights the unique Dunedin student culture. The three St. Clair local legends migrated south to capitalise on Dunedin's culture and pursue their various passions. Perhaps it's sheer luck that they met, but more likely it's the extreme concentration of students and subsequent everyone-knows-everyone-ness of Ōtepoti life. The BASK series is the creative love child of Dunedin

resources and student ambition. Over the past three years, Chaddy has been producing a film a year - recounts of his student life and experiences. The films are raw, real, well-made and creative, focusing primarily on the surfing culture of Ōtepoti. The films aren't limited to surfing, though; what makes them so outstanding is the glimpse they offer into the world of Ōtepoti student surfers: the house parties, dusty sunrise surfs, couch burnings, skate competitions and gigs. This year Chaddy premieres his final film of the three, shot and edited over the past 12 months.

"The films came about really organically," said Chaddy, "I had been taking some photos and videos of the boys surfing when we met in 2020, and then one day we were just driving out to the beach and it came up that we could throw a clip together." Chaddy explained that what had started as a lighthearted, spur of the moment idea quickly grew to be a major project, driven by his passion and surroundings: "I thought: wait, I love filmmaking. I love surfing," he said. "In Dunedin, you're free. You're away from home, away from parents. You can do whatever you want here. From there, BASK just kind of kept growing and growing."

Two BASK films (aptly BASK: VOLUME I and BASK: VOLUME II) are currently available on YouTube. Each is a carefully curated, easy-viewing portrait of Dunedin student life. The second film shows some clear advances from the first, in terms of gear and technology, experience behind the camera and confidence to take risks from the film's director, Chaddy. The quality of both films and Chaddy's quick improvement has meant the BASK series has turned a lot of heads in the New Zealand film and journalism industries; he has even been approached by New Zealand Surf Journal and was taken on as a writer due to his films. Chaddy is determined to make this third film of the series his best yet, and has enlisted the help of other talented and passionate locals to make BASK III as powerful and representative of Dunedin in 2022 as it can be.

With the first film, Chaddy "just wanted to capture everything I was experiencing as I was experiencing it, and put it all into this really raw, grommy film". The young director feels like he took the second film of the series

a little too seriously at times, trying to make an intense, refined, cinematically correct piece. "This third one is an exhibition of everything I've learned", explained Chaddy, "as well as taking that naivety and innocence from Volume I and putting it in there with the skill, knowledge, and gear I have gained since I started."

Part of creating something grommy is to get a bunch of groms on board. Sam Charlesworth is not only one of the main surfers in BASK III; he's also the mastermind behind the film's soundtrack. Frontman of the band The Beatniks, with a handful of albums under his belt, Sam is another example of the self-perpetuating cycle of Dunedin creativity: the city attracts people due to its culture, and the people who come here make the culture stronger. "The city definitely inspires a lot of what I do now," explained Sam. "I still create music how I always have, but when you're creating, it's your body and mind channelling everything around you into one thing. So, whether you acknowledge it or not, everything is an influence - the weather, the city, the people."

THIS FILM IS FIRST AND FOREMOST DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF CIVIL, AS WELL AS LIVING LIFE TO THE ABSOLUTE FULLEST YOU POSSIBLY CAN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD, HERE IN ŌTEPOTI."

Rocket explained that what made BASK stand out alongside commercial surf films was that the latter are "real serious and pretty uptight. [Commercial filmmakers] have been given a budget, and they're trying to make the film so that they make money, whereas, for us, with the original music and surf wipeouts and crook shit, it's just students filming and surfing and partying. We're just expressing our lifestyle down here, which I think is a lot more entertaining than any professional stuff." Despite the homegrown scarfie vibe, the BASK films have high production values, and are only enriched by the raw, rough and ready content.

For everyone involved behind the scenes of BASK: VOLUME III, it has been a tumultuous filming period. "This year has been an incredibly heavy one," explained Chaddy; "We nearly lost Sam, Gracey and Fi in a horrific car crash at the start of the year, and then later Jamie Civil - a local, who featured in the previous BASK films, and was someone all of us looked up to and idolised - tragically passed away. It's been a massive struggle to push through at times, but at the end of the day, we've pretty much made it. This film is first and foremost dedicated to the memory of Civil, as well as living life to the absolute fullest you possibly can at the bottom of the world, here in Ōtepoti."

On Dunedin life and creativity, Chaddy said "you enter a bit of a different mindset down here, and it makes you think outside the box. When you arrive here, it's so unmediated. There aren't any constraining factors because everything here is outside the box; for instance, everyone's image of surfing is nice and sunny, but down here it's ragged and grungy and wild. You come down here, hearing about everyone that has done crazy, creative things, and you can really feel it. It's just like, bam. Do whatever you want. It's weird. It's crazy. It's radical."

If you need some Dunedin-style weird, crazy, radical-ness pumped straight into your veins, BASK III Premiers at the St. Kilda Surf Club on the 14th of October. There will be a couple of films screening, as well as a set by Sam Charlesworth's band The Beatniks, who've been on a short hiatus recently and no doubt have some pent-up rock chaos to unleash. It's free entry, and free bragging rights for when Sam, Chaddy and Rocket end up in the weird, crazy, radical Dunedin hall of fame.

The BASK series is often complimented for its rawness and realness. Chaddy says his favourite reaction to the films is when "Old Scarfies" tell him the film reminds them of their grom days. Chaddy felt that a natural step for the third and final film, in order to really offer a representative picture of the surf scene, was to involve as many people in the filmmaking process as possible. "I feel like it creates a more accurate and truthful representation of what I'm capturing," he said. Sam explained that the third film would still be "grungy and kind of hectic" like the past two, but with music to match: "some of the tracks are kind of lo-fi; raw, but still high quality. A lot of it is super, super grungy, gritty rock music."

Taylor 'Rocket' O'Leary thinks the success of the films is based on a combination of the quality and quantity of surf in Dunedin, as well as the unmistakably Dunedin student experience captured throughout the series, as the surfers move from Castle Street out to St. Clair and St. Kilda.

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UNIPOL: OPIOID OF THE MASSES?

**THERE'S A
REASON IT'S
FREE, YOU
FOOLS!**

BY HUGH ASKERUD



It's a Saturday night. You've decided to do scrumpy hands and are midway through the second bottle feeling at the top of your game. Then it strikes you: that 'what the fuck am I doing' sort of feeling that inevitably leaves you in tears. Everyone has moments like this, where life can feel hard to cope with. So where do you turn? For many, it's the gym.

If this was the 15th century you'd get slapped on the back and sent to church, but in the spiritual wasteland of studentville there is really only one place to turn: Unipol. What strange and dark secrets lie in this bosom of repressed trauma? Importantly it must be questioned: does excessive exercise swallow up its victims into a sea of emotion and endorphins or is this compulsion merely a healthy vessel for scared students to liberate their ligaments?

This wasn't going to be an easy question to answer. Each breatha and beezy I saw that had committed to the gym for more than four days a week had assumed a mask of stoic resolution, meaning the questions of pesky journalists would fail to penetrate such a hard exterior. To truly infiltrate the gym, I was going to have to masquerade as a dedicated gym devotee. After strapping on my sexiest singlet, snorting a line of pre-workout, and arming myself with thoughts of Tyler Durden, I felt truly prepared to delve into the heart of darkness. While I only did the mahi for six consecutive days, this was a hard enough task for a gangly first year such as myself, and it made me appreciate the willpower that each gym shark must maintain.

Feeling more confused than tired in the weights room on my first day, I bumped into Alex, who greeted me with a smile. It was a welcome change from the anguished scowls so many others had assumed. A passionate advocate of the Gym Life™, Alex argued vehemently that working out was like a "personal science". Continuing with vigour, he suggested "Everyone pretty much keeps to themselves [here], but that's alright because the gym is all about personal growth". Summing up his musings with a smile, Alex said "Going to the gym is like finding a perfect balance between the mind and the body".

Could Alex's ramblings be deemed merely narcissistic or did working out day in and day out actually lead to enlightenment? Alex's assessment also sounded strangely as if he was advocating for some form of arcane, musclebound religion. Though I was pretty sure the Buddha hadn't been working on his bench press while trying to achieve nirvana, I nonetheless consulted Professor Benjamin Schonthal to see if his scholarly eye had ascertained a link.

Schonthal informed me that "physical challenges are part of many religious traditions, from fasting, to pilgrimage, to quite dramatic bodily trials such as walking over hot coals". Schonthal also warned me to "Never skip leg day," subtly implying his own faith in the Gym Life™. Shocked by these statements, I wondered: could Gym Life™ be a new form of religion, one focused on excessive ritual and the pursuit of individual enlightenment?

Venturing once more into the gym, I endeavoured to uncover the truth of this phenomenon. Speaking to the sage-like Samir, he felt the gym provided "A good excuse to

get up early and let the frustration out." Nodding with intent, he summed his speech by saying that "It really clears your head out, especially after exams". One Unipol employee, who claimed to be a devout gym goer, reminisced that she "[Remembered] being injured a few months ago and thinking about how much I actually relied on the gym". Sounds suspiciously like symptoms of withdrawal, no?

Perched on his throne of the weight machine, Josh* remarked that "It's not just physical energy you use in the gym, I think it's pretty equal between that and the mental aspect." With a head full of questions, my exit from the gym was quickly impeded by the enormous presence of Callum who quickly cottoned onto my theory, commenting, "I don't believe the gym is a religion if that's what you're suggesting, it's more a practice of self-discipline". After this prophetic wisdom, Callum ended his sermon by declaring "There are heaps of social and mental benefits [to working out] as well".

While each gym-goer explicitly denied Unipol's religious role, they had all suggested that the ritual of the gym provided them with a greater sense of mental well-being. Speaking to the Unipol employee who had gone through withdrawals did make it pretty clear that while such intense devotion may seem positive from an insider's perspective, an individual could attain a pretty severe dependance on the exercise endorphins, which may not become clear until taking a step back. Indeed, studies of actual gym addicts (not just gym enthusiasts) suggest that "15% of exercise addicts are also addicted to smoking, alcohol or illicit drugs". But is this statistic reflected in the drops of sweat shed within the gym? Can we believe scientific studies showing "ratings of compulsive exercise associated with ratings of anxiety and depression"?

Reflecting back on my own experiences as an undercover devotee, I questioned if I could now empathise with the gym-sharks I had initially been so quick to scorn. While writing this article has given me a deep sense of satisfaction, images of perfectly sculpted human beings now linger within my mind. I find myself thinking about my body in a way which disturbs me. Additionally, the slow dawn of enlightenment was constantly staved away by embarrassment at my inability to work any of the complex machinery. Seriously, what the hell are you supposed to do with so many pulleys?

Despite a number of conflicting testimonies, I do believe it's possible to compare regular exercise to something of a religious experience, making exercise addiction something of a cult (not that anyone I talked to was an out-and-out addict). Though a religious experience it may be, what form of religion is free from violence, pain, and suffering? To the same degree, the amount of variety in the gym experience is what defines it. While some pious students such as Alex may be able to deal with the mental barrage that accompanies working out, others may find themselves plagued with the "perfectionism, neuroticism, narcissism and obsessive compulsive traits" suggested by the studies we read. So, while Unipol may be a quick way to feel like you're back on top of your life, remember what the Buddhists say: pain is certain, suffering is optional.

*Names changed.

The Beths

Liz Stokes on 'Expert In A Dying Field'

Aotearoa indie darlings, *The Beths*, released their third album 'Expert In A Dying Field' mid-way through this month. To Critic's surprise, the album is not actually about our humanities/marine science students and staff looking on in despair as their department is slowly snuffed out by dwindling University funding. Still, there's a lot to relate to as *The Beths* sing about self-doubt, anxiety and change, casting glittering spells through their sugar riffs and their most tender, full-bodied harmonies yet. On one of Critic's Beths days ever, we were lucky enough to chat with Liz, singer and songwriter of *The Beths*, just ahead of their show at Glenroy Auditorium this Saturday. This interview has been slightly edited for length and clarity. We wished we could have kept in the part where Liz does her impression of an American accent.



Critic: So *Expert In A Dying Field* has just been released and it has been met with such positive reviews so far. I was wondering what experiences and emotions informed this album?

Liz: It's quite funny. You record all these songs, you write them all and then it's quite a long way now, from when I wrote them. The latest one I wrote was probably November 2021. It's still interesting, looking back and trying to spot the themes, or the emotional things, from this end. It's hard to remember exactly what you were feeling at the time, except for the times when it's obvious from the song. I feel like there's a lot, looking through the album, about coping and the people who help you cope. The 'coping' is coping with change as well. We've all had to adjust a lot in the last few years to a whole lot of different things, living in a slightly different world. I feel like those are the kind of themes that come up. And I don't know how I feel about them. I guess I've felt a lot of things over the last couple of years. A lot of them have been pretty sad.

Critic: Yeah, I feel like it has a whole spectrum of emotions on it. Uncertainty and anxiety are ones that especially shine out to me. It kind of captures the human experience right now. It's really beautiful... I've heard, with having a bit more time to work on *Expert*, it's quite different to how your previous record *Jump Rope Gazers* came to be.

Liz: With *Jump Rope Gazers* we finished touring and we had three months to make the record. I'd written the songs already but it was a hard deadline and we were gonna go touring straight afterwards. Which, of course, we didn't, because we handed that album in March of 2020. What was so strange about the album cycle for *Jump Rope Gazers*, is we would have hypothetically toured that record for eighteen months. Instead, we toured New Zealand, we played some festivals over the summer and that was kind of it. It was at the end of 2020 that I was like 'Okay, I've written some songs but I need to get down to business.' I want to write at least twenty songs and I want to be able to choose, not just the best songs, but songs that feel like they fit on the record. The biggest writing period was probably at the start of 2021.

Critic: On this new album, how do you feel that you've grown the most as a band? Are there any elements that you're particularly proud of on this new one?

Liz: I really do think we've grown as a band. I feel like we're all comfortable with what we are and have a sense of what we make. It means that you can try things out in a way that doesn't feel self-conscious. You can try on different feels or different sounds and know that it's still gonna be you at the end of the day. It's still gonna sound like you, you feel kind of confident in that. We've all developed as players as well. Jonathan has, since he started recording our first EP, he's come such a long way. He's always trying to improve and I feel like he's just managed an incredible sounding record. Ben and Tristan's playing is always great. They're always finding new ways to try and be creative... I feel like I'm reigning them in a little bit sometimes. But I also feel like that's part of the tension of trying to make a song that feels like a good song. It sits somewhere in the middle.

Critic: It's been amazing to watch your growth over the last few years as well as how you're dipping into other peoples' work in New Zealand, especially with Jonathan producing for Hans Pucket recently. It's really exciting. A mutual of ours, told me that you all studied together at the University of Auckland's Jazz School, albeit in different years. How did you come together to be *The Beths*? And what are the highlights of those early days?

Liz: I actually knew Jonathan since high school. I knew Ben since I was in high school and he was in Uni, from playing music in Auckland. I think in some ways, it was a reaction to jazz school. I wanted to play guitar again. I wanted to play an instrument that I was kind of bad at again, get good at it and have fun with my friends, playing in a rock band. That was not an experience I got to have in

my high school band, which was a folk band. I wanted to rock out. I was like 'I'm 23 and I want to start this now.' It's never too late to start rocking out. You wanna start? Start now. And we did. Jonathan helped me record some demos. From there, Tristan joined the band a couple of years later. We've had a few different drummers. He was such a natural fit for the vibe. I played with him at Uni, we were in a few different years and stuff. That's the thing about studying jazz in particular, it's collaborative music. While you're there, you're playing with other people definitively, you never really play by yourself.

Critic: How does it feel to have started out very much ingrained in the Tāmaki Makaurau scene, a very local music community, to becoming this massive national band that is now touring globally? Do you carry that same energy that you started out with or does it feel quite different?

Liz: It feels different in a lot of ways. I feel like we try to be the same people and carry the same energy. Our very first tour was a DIY one. It was before *Future Me Hates Me* came out. We played to rooms of between five and maybe sixty people on a good show with big local bands that would be on the Billboard in the UK, and a couple shows in the States. That felt cool. Like, we've done this. If this is all it is, then I'm stoked. Then the album came out. We just ended up not coming home, really. We just kept touring for a long time off the back of that. I think I didn't really realise it. It wasn't like we exploded from rooms of twenty people to rooms of a thousand people. The next tour we were playing to rooms with one hundred to two hundred people. The next tour was slightly more and the next tour was slightly more, and then there was the pandemic. But we're still not a hype-y band that has exploded. I feel like that means we're able to manage it between us. We are ambitious and we do want to be able to do this for as long as we can. We're just trying to stay ourselves as we do so.

Critic: We've heard that student audiences, particularly US college radio stations, have been really big supporters of *The Beths*. How important do you think student media and these student audiences are in building that hype and sustaining yourselves as a band?

Liz: It's been huge for us. First of all, in New Zealand, even back in 2016, 2017, when we were just touring locally, playing in Auckland. Booking our first national tour when we came down to Christchurch and Dunedin, having a song on local student radio was so important. And it meant so much as well. It really felt like a way to tap into the heart of a community that you aren't of, because we didn't grow up there. It's been a real privilege to be played on student radio stations. They're so important. They're so beloved. We've had a lot of luck with that.

Critic: Okay, awesome. One more question, I promise it's not sinister. The big question now is what breakfast food would you consider each of the Beths, including yourself, and why?

Liz: This is a hard one. Jonathan is Vogels. Vogels with butter and marmite. And why? I just know that he really likes to eat that breakfast. It's straightforward and practical. It's not a breakfast that's too involved. Both Ben and Tristan really enjoy cooking so I feel like they'd be a more put together breakfast. Maybe Ben's something weird like a breakfast pizza, he's just kind of a strange man. I feel like Tristan's a very elegant French omelette. It's like you need a lot of practice to get it right. He's the man who's done a lot of practice. I don't know what I am. I'm an egg. Eggs on rice, maybe.

The Beths are Liz Stokes, Jonathan Pearce, Benjamin Sinclair and Tristan Deck. They are based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Their third album, *Expert In A Dying Field*, was released 13 October 2022 on Carpark Records. The Beths are currently on their NZ tour and will be playing in Ōtepoti Dunedin on 1 October at Glenroy Auditorium, supported by Dawn Diver. You can and definitely should get tickets from thebeths.com. You also definitely should try and get *The Beths* to sign this issue of Critic Te Arohi.

In the Eye of the Beholders

By Esmond Paterson, Madeleine Fenn & Justina King

This column is supported by DPAG, but they have no influence on the reviews.

Every week, we send two writers to an art exhibit in Ōtepoti Dunedin. One of them will choose a specific piece, and describe it to the other without them looking. They'll try to figure out what the piece actually is before diving into their thoughts on the entire exhibition. You can't ascribe any one meaning to any one piece of art, so this functions a bit like a game of artistic telephone. Let's dive in.



Code Breakers: Women in Games

Justina:

The piece I'm looking at is digital and interactive. Its visuals centre on a cyberpunk inspired cityscape. There is a particular focus on movement and navigation through urban space. It uses 3D elements, seen from a side-on camera view. It is accompanied by electronic beats.

Esmond:

Ok, this must be some kind of video game? Or perhaps some kind of virtual reality experience? My guess would have to be an entry from the Mirror's Edge series.

The answer:

We're looking at Ninja Pizza Girl, an indie platformer video game developed by Disparity Games. It's part of Tūhura Otago Museum's Code Breakers: Women in Games exhibition.

Now, before we start, you might be thinking to yourself "are video games art?" Generally, when we think of video games, we don't tend to consider the artistic processes behind it. But from 3D modelling and texture painting to voice-acting performances and sound design, video games are an amalgamation of many forms of artistic expression. They take a whole team of creatives to make. Long story short, a game is one big art collaboration!

Around half of gamers are women, yet video game development remains disproportionately male-dominated. Well, it's time to level up and smash that glass ceiling. In this exhibition, Tūhura Otago Museum presents several video games all created by women of Australasia, celebrating both their creations and personal stories. The featured games span a variety of platforms and genres, with something for all the gamer gurls and boyz.

The first game we checked out was SPARX, a free online game initially released in 2013. It was created by a team of researchers and clinicians from the University of Auckland. The game is targeted towards teens as an e-therapy tool, making use of cognitive behavioural therapy, and it aims to equip its players with the tools to resolve issues related to mental health; something SPARX should be, and has been, commended for. It is rare to see a video game have a genuine focus on mental health rather than using it for a cheap plot trick, however, its visuals were where this game fell flat for us. Textures are muddy and pixelated and characters design and animation are janky. But it is from 2013, after all, and it wasn't made by some triple-A company.

The next game we tried to play was *Need for Speed: No Limits* for iOS: a racing game developed by Firemonkeys Studios and released in 2015. We were greeted with a slew of pop-ups, and were almost tempted to

purchase the daily deal on the fastest car (now down to only tens of thousands of in-game currency!). But we decided it was best not to test whether microtransactions would process on the museums' iPad.

Another iOS game that we checked out was *Māori Pā Wars*. A forthcoming title, developed by Metia Interactive. It's a tower defence game set in our very own Aotearoa! It sees you placing Pā, aided by Atua to defend against hordes of warriors and native beasts, all in a cute illustrative style. Seeing Māori culture depicted so lovingly and appropriately (looking at you *Far Cry 3*!) was heartwarming. It really showed the potential video games have for representation when done correctly.

The last game we tried was *Tearaway Unfolded*, developed by Media Molecule and Tarsier Studios: a platform-adventure game released in 2015 for the Playstation 4. This game has a mesmerising art style, wrapping around a world made of paper, and in-game animations run at a specific FPS to emulate the style of stop motion. The game goes the extra step to immerse the player through its implementation of the lightbar on the front of the DualShock controller; being able to aim and "shine" the light into the game world and watching it physically affect it was awesome. Flowers bloom, enemies are drawn like moths to a flame, giving you the sense of god-like power over this adorable world.

Whether you're a video game vet or just needing a break from that essay, pop across the road to Tūhura Otago Museum to experience the mahi of some inspiring developers, and smash that digital ceiling on the way.

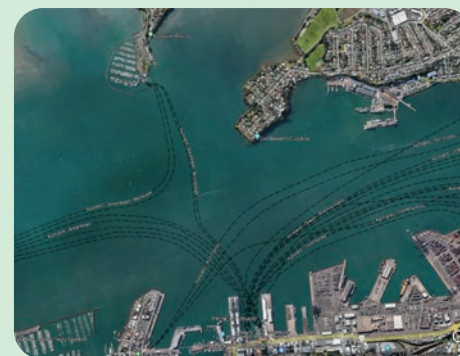
Recommended song for your visit: *Infinite Amethyst* by Lena Raine.

MR. WORLDWIDE



This week, we have an image supplied by Jeff. We got last week's correct, Ellie was at Prospect Point, Vancouver.

First thoughts: Looks like this photo was taken next to a populous harbour judging by the cargo ship in the background, possibly New Zealand?



Analysing the size, shape and colours of the traffic cones placed next to the suspiciously pristine cabin we can identify that this is indeed New Zealand. The fact that they haven't been stolen lets us know that this photo wasn't taken in Dunedin.

There are some strange neon wiggly lines within the windows, could this mean that this is related to an art project? Or has a toddler been let loose with paint inside this building? The only place in New Zealand where a potential art project could inhabit a whole ass house would be Auckland, so I will start my search there.



Looking around the Auckland oceanfront there is an area, Devonport, that looks similar to the landmass that we can see in the background. Due to Auckland's size, it is incredibly difficult to pinpoint areas in the background precisely, which is why we turn to ship routes. Auckland has many ferries and cargo ships entering its ports, which means it has dedicated areas for both categories. It seems the vast majority of ships enter Princes Wharf. Scouring the wharf from head to toe I see what looks like the building we're looking for off in the distance.

Due to some level of ineptitude on our part, we could not manage to get over to the building. After some time spent seeing our goal within rock-throwing distance and manifesting our ability to get there, Google Earth decided to finally let us place the little orange man next to the building. Thanks to Claude Clark of Google Earth for being a real one and taking a photo just for us.



This building is oddly placed and incredibly suspicious. Searching google for "Auckland neon house" we find that this building is actually used for the world's shittiest pun, "The Lighthouse", those neon lines are lights hence "The Lighthouse". It is also definitely an art project, one made by Michael Parekowhai. Controversially there is a statue of Captain Cook in the centre of the 1:1 scale 1950s family home. Luckily it was built as a dig at Cook and Jeff isn't directly supporting his colonial efforts!

The background matches up, and it is indeed Devonport. Thanks to Claude Clark of Google Earth's perfect timing there is also a cargo ship in the background ticking every box off for this to be "The Lighthouse".

Final answer: Jeff is in Auckland, Queens wharf, taking a photo of the infamous Lighthouse.

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.

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BY ROSIE JOYCE @SKUXXFOOD

LEMONADE



The ultimate dust buster. Easy enough to make with only one brain cell. If you didn't already know how to make lemonade, well, now you do. Vodka optional.

INGREDIENTS

Juice of 3 lemons
½ cup sugar
3 cups water
10 ice cubes

METHOD

Add all ingredients to a blender and blend until foam starts to form on the top (ice cubes can still be chunky). Enjoy!

BOOZE
REVIEW

COUNTRY

MEDIUM WHITE WINE *is a most exquisite vintage*

BY CHUG NORRIS

Goon has a reputation as a low tier, last-resort type of potation. But while this scurrilous reputation may hold true for pretentious European attempts at goon (see Chasseur), the New Zealand-made Country Medium White Wine is a cardboardeaux that excels and excites in taste, mouthfeel and, most of all, ingenuity.

Minerality is the first note that hits your palate when you imbibe CMWW. It is subtle but distinctly reminiscent of the sandy beaches and soils which so often characterise our antipodal part of the world. It also stands in contrast to the acidity which later scorches the tongue in an at first excruciating, and then invigorating, assault on one's orifice.

CMWW's oppressive acidity has been oft-criticised by lesser wine critics as a vile, wretched and sometimes painful characteristic. But it is, in fact, none of those things, and those people are losers. The multi-tonal acidity of CMWW is its most unique feature.

Behind the aforementioned tongue-scorching, the interplay of the acidic notes is divine. Each one vies with the other in a playful competition for one's tongue which leaves the CMWW enjoyer stunned by overwhelming sensation at every sip. On the back

of the tongue, a metallic taste builds in wonderful contrast to the more front-end acidity. The skilfully crafted interplay of acidic and metallic tones is what transforms CMWW from a mediocre goon-sack into a wine that presents a truly gripping experience in every drop.

One would expect a masterpiece as fine as CMWW to be beyond the price range of the unwashed masses, but one would be mistaken! A three-litre cask of CMWW accommodates 27.2 standard drinks and retails for 27 dollars. This means that it achieves what, I have been told, some plebeians refer to as 'the golden ratio.'

In summation, Country Medium White Wine is an exceptional find at such a low price point. It opens with a nostalgic minerality, astonishes with a bold acidic symphony, and finally, it follows through with a smooth metallic finish to create a totally unique and indisputably exquisite vintage. One hell of a drop.

Tasting notes: mineralic, acidic, metallic.

Froth level: Elizabeth's cardiogram.

Tastes like: putting a 9V cell on your tongue.

Overall rating: 9/10 electric nectar.

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HOROSCOPES



AQUARIUS Jan 20 – Feb 18

To all my Aquarius baddies, your love life is set to intensify so get ready! May your life be filled with love, lust and liquor.

Check off the to do list: Vote in local elections.



LEO Jul 23 – Aug 22

Hm. No visions or prophecies for this week sorry. Just keep Leo-ing through life, Leos.

Check off the to do list: Create a study timetable.



PISCES Feb 19 – Mar 20

Sometimes, people can make you feel bad for being confrontational and direct about your feelings and boundaries. Fuck 'em! It's not your fault they can't handle strength and communication.

Check off the to do list: Pay off the student loan.



VIRGO Aug 23 – Sep 22

While your instincts may tell you to have fun and party, keep moderation in mind. It's getting to the end of the year, and your priorities should be grinding, not gearing.

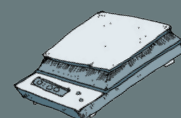
Check off the to do list: Wash your bed sheets.



ARIES Mar 21 – Apr 19

Apparently y'all are pressed about how rough I've been on Aries this year. Well, too bad. Maybe if you weren't so obnoxious, things would look a little different.

Check off the to do list: Change your door lock.



LIBRA Sep 23 – Oct 22

Although you like to play it cool and flirt your way through life, it's time to abandon this mentality. Live out your teenage fantasies and do some crazy shit. Cry over a failed relationship. Buy yourself some candy. Skateboard to uni. World's your oyster.

Check off the to do list: Find a new hyperfixation.



TAURUS Apr 20 – May 20

If you were an inanimate object, you'd be the sexy Lisa Rinna M&M. Keep serving cunt.

Check off the to do list: Restock your weed.



SCORPIO Oct 23 – Nov 21

Unsure what's up your ass this week, but it must be something big, that's for sure.

Check off the to do list: Go thrifting for a spring look.



GEMINI May 21 – Jun 20

Gemini, things have been a little tough for you recently. Just remember to focus on the positives in life, and surround yourself with good people. Better days are to come! Enjoy your youth.

Check off the to do list: Open your savings account.



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22 – Dec 21

Get a fucking grip. You might think you're friendly, but you're actually just overstepping. Read the room, for God's sake.

Check off the to do list: Refill your vape juice.



CANCER Jun 21 – Jul 22

The line between friend and foe is often blurred. The people who say they're harmless, often aren't. Be aware of others intentions, and set those boundaries baby!

Check off the to do list: Vacuum your room.



CAPRICORN Dec 22 – Jan 19

Only thing going down on you this week is your grades. It's time to get that ass into gear. All brain, no head.

Check off the to do list: Get an STI check.

MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

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Chemical Warfare

Being Dunedin's premier gay, I started my night by browsing my way through Tinder's flawless feed. Dodging the constant barrage of poor attempts at sexual ice breakers, I came face to face with the most handsome breather one could ever set their eyes on. His beautiful, sharp, chiselled jaw could very easily fulfil my brewing knife kink. I immediately hit him up and expected the night of my life. We started flirting straight away, and soon I asked him to come over. He said yes.

I jumped up and had a shower, deep cleaning every crevice he could possibly enter and abuse. My lavender-scented soap begged me to slow down as I reduced it to nothing but crumbs. I sat on my bed, ready, waiting for the Prince Charming to my Fairy Godmother to arrive.

The knock on the door sent shivers down my spine. I was ready. Opening the door I was immediately hit with... the smell. A smell that could kill. This seemingly perfect man's BO ravished my unsuspecting nostrils. I promptly hid my gagging behind a yawn and invited him in. We sat on my bed in my room talking about our very limited things in common. He told me how cosy my room felt and how pristine it smelt - thanks Kmart \$12 Candle! He then went further and complemented how beautiful I smelt, however, coming from this man this was not a compliment.

He attempted to further our night, gabbing my thighs and looking into my eyes he leant in to kiss me. I panicked and jumped up. I made the point that I needed to put music on to let my flatmates know of the ritual that was about to go down. The smell at this point was so bad I felt woozy standing up. I was not prepared to know how his unshowered cock smelt. This night 100% needed to come to a very very fast ending.

I started my spiel. I ranted about my day, emphasising how rough it was. I had never so quickly come up with such a bullshit story on the spot, yet he continued to listen. I stood by my door giving very obvious hints for him to leave. He did not stop listening and talking, all while his potent BO spread into every inch of my room.

Eventually, he left, after I stressed how tiring my day was and how much I needed to rest. I immediately took off all my bedsheets and opened all the windows and doors possible. The smell lingered. As soon as I opened my door to waft the wretched smell out my flatmates all simultaneously gagged.

The moral of the story is: don't judge a book by its cover, because the contents could have a BO that could knock a small child unconscious.

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

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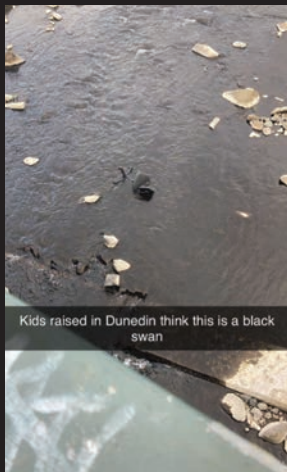
Spot the scream of existential pain in this weeks wordsearch

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



biohazards on the ground

just north d things 🍷+



Kids raised in Dunedin think this is a black swan



The angel of Albany St. who protects pedestrians bc the DCC fucking won't



Always use multiples layers of protection, kids



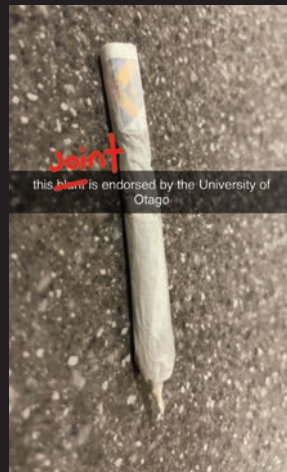
Naughty handprints spotted at central



Capitalism lost an icon yesterday



Cant wait to eat my McLettuce



this joint is endorsed by the University of Otago



Everything reminds me of her



eeny meeny miny moe - coloniser edition



How???

NEED A NEW STUDY BUDDY?

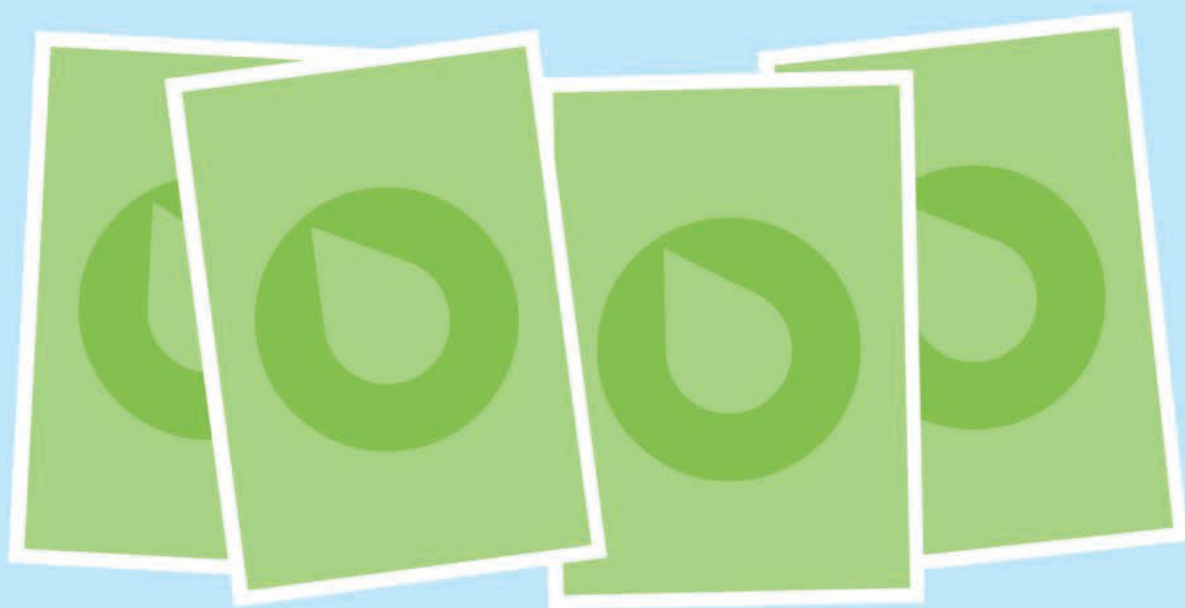


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