

The background of the entire image is a dark, textured surface covered with numerous shiny, metallic, pill-shaped objects. These objects vary in shape, including some that are straight and others that are curved or bent. They all have a highly reflective, chrome-like finish that catches the light, creating bright highlights and colorful, iridescent reflections. The objects are scattered across the frame, with some appearing in the foreground and others in the background, creating a sense of depth. In the upper left quadrant, the word "ARIA" is written in a large, stylized, metallic font that matches the objects. Below it, the words "DRUGS ISSUE" are written in a smaller, simpler, metallic font.

ARIA

DRUGS ISSUE





WHAT THE  
DOSH!?

**Get \$10** when you  
download Dosh and go  
into a draw to **win \$10,000.**

The more you pay and get paid with Dosh,  
the better your chances.

T&Cs apply. See [dosh.nz](https://dosh.nz)



# FOR A FLYING START TO UNI LIFE.



RED BULL GIVES YOU WIIINGS. 



LETTER OF THE WEEK

**RE: Letter of the Week**  
I understand that we should be considerate of how hard of a time this is for staff, as well as students, but I think J.J. has forgotten who has the privilege here, the power dynamic. Is the power in the hands of students or staff? It's obviously staff. They have more access to money, access to leave, access to fuck us over if they're having a shit time (not that this happens often, but the point is that it CAN). Students don't have any of that. I understand that it's a tough time for staff too. Don't think there's anything wrong in saying that. But staff have the power, and the student experience right now is the thing that's being PAID for. Don't forget who the little people are, don't minimise the student experience in these shit circumstances. Talk about gatekeeping.

Sincerely,  
Phoebe W.

**Dear Critic,**  
If I'm supposed to "treat university like a 9-5 job", then when do I get paid?

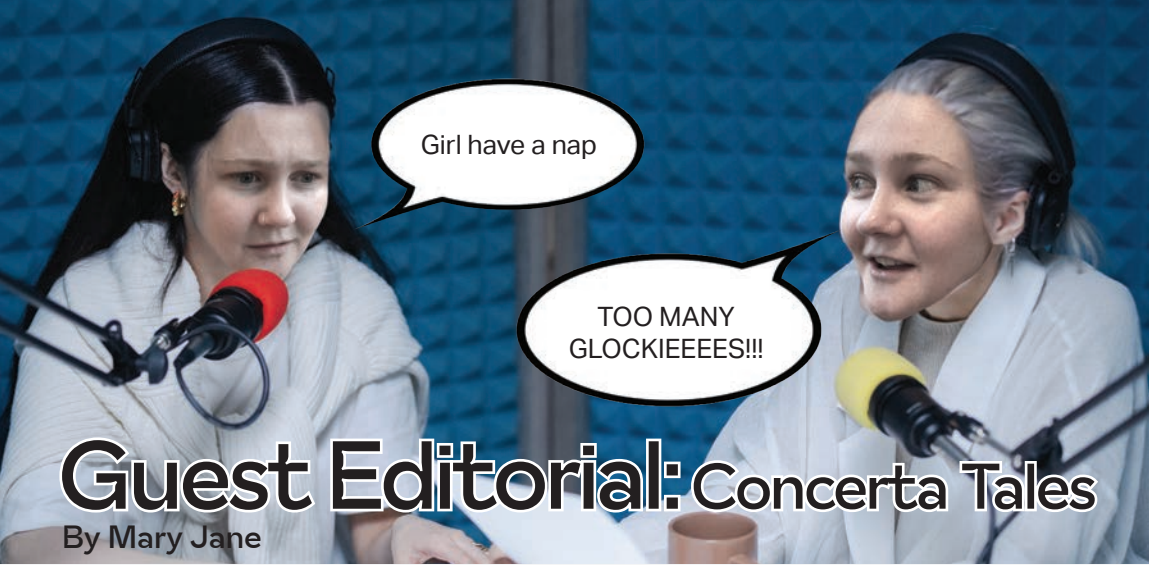
Gerry

**Dear Editor,**  
With our remarkable fame it was fair to assume we wouldn't need a mention within the moral alignment chart, after all, our people invented it! We totally get it. There are still people who think that Dungeons and Dragons is a thing of the '80s though, so we probably should have an introduction:

**Otago Roleplaying & Boardgames Society (ORBS)**  
60 members / Free to join  
We play tabletop roleplay games, live action roleplay games, and boardgames. Our games are currently run online so we can continue meeting during red as well. We're a really diverse society and welcome all alignments, so we suppose that makes us True Neutral! Find us on the OUSA clubs site, Facebook, or Discord.

Sincerely,  
The geeks of Otago University

University Book Shop  
Great King St + On Campus



I wake up. The radio station in my head is already blaring. Too many glockies. Too many fucking glockieeeeees! This song has been in my head for the last 36 hours.

Oh shit, I'm hungover. I'm anxious. The podcasters who run my internal monologue are arguing again. You've got a drinking problem, podcaster #1 tells me. No babe – you're just having fun, and you're overthinking this as usual, podcaster #2 reminds me. Go get yourself a Ribena and you'll be sweet. Something about blood sugar, right?

I get to work. I'm anxious. I've been pretty unproductive so far this week, and I'm going to need to force myself to focus today. Too many glockies! Hey, I wonder who that song's by? Now I'm on YouTube. The podcasters in my mind are agreeing that this new wave of mumble rap can only run because Young Thug walked. Hey man, Young Thug really is the David Bowie of our generation, posits podcaster #1. I mean, the JEFFERY album art? Sensational. Maybe I should print that out so I can put it on my wall when I get home. What was I working on again?

This is gonna be a long day.

Then, for the first time in my life, I took a Concerta. I've never been diagnosed with ADHD, as the path to that is long and expensive, but I believe I know myself well enough to recognise the symptoms. Personally, I've always had a weird internal relationship with being medicated – I've never been sure it's the right thing for me, so I've never experienced ADHD medication outside of a recreational sense, and not this specific brand. But fuck it – I'm already hungover on a Wednesday. Wash it down with a sip of coffee.

It's been 15 minutes. There's music playing out loud in the office. And there's no music playing in my head. Wait – there's no music playing in my head! This is kinda nice. I realise that I'm actually present, in the room, experiencing what's happening around me as a physical being, and not just as a pair of podcasters narrating and internalising my every thought and experience. The sense of impending doom I woke up with has subsided.

It's been 30 minutes. I'm sweaty. I look out the window. Everything seems a little more vibrant. Too vibrant? It's kinda making me dizzy, maybe I'm thirsty. Everything seems so real. Too real? I'm pretty comfortable with the comfort and chaos of my own mind, and at this point I can't decide if feeling this locked into reality is better or worse. Fuck, I'm really thirsty.

It's been 45 minutes. I notice that I haven't compulsively hit my vape in a while. Sitting still is possible right now. I'm not hyper, like the drug's reputation would suggest, instead I almost feel sedated. I think one of the pieces I'm meant to be working on said that people with ADHD will feel a low on the drugs, and people without ADHD feel the high. Speaking of which, I should probably get back to work soon. Actually, fuck it, I'll do it right now. I'm not avoiding or feeling overwhelmed by the task at hand, in fact, I'm quite enjoying being productive. Winning! But fuck, I'm thirsty.

It's been 6 hours. I've hardly eaten all day. The Concerta has definitely suppressed my appetite, and I know I should eat, but I don't want to. This is an uncomfortable feeling – one that I've worked hard to overcome since a struggle with heavy weed smoking. I get home. My heart is racing. My body is in fight or flight mode, but my mind doesn't care. The podcasters in my brain that would usually talk me through this have gone off-air. I don't know how to navigate this divide, so I try to sleep. Can't sleep. Oh shit, I'm gonna spew.

Overall, the Concerta gave me this hugely uncomfortable feeling that I had to choose between either being productive, or feeling like myself. I'm lucky enough to have been raised as though my neurodivergence was a valid part of how I function and learn, rather than as an affliction that I needed to overcome to succeed. If I had to do headstands on the couch to learn my flashcards, then we were doing headstands on the couch. Even now, if I need to nap every day after lunch to recharge and reset, then I'm napping after lunch. But not everyone has been afforded or taught the kindness and understanding necessary to navigate living with these feelings, and I can see this as being a large part of the reason that people decide to – or maybe end up feeling like they have to – medicate.

I feel grateful that my mind allows me to look beyond the dysfunction and confusion it often experiences with ADHD symptoms, and is something I can accept and deal with in my day to day life. I consider my neurodivergent ability an asset, and I excel happily within and despite it. But ADHD presents differently in everyone, and however you decide to validate your own experiences with it – diagnosed or not – the path to diagnosis and medication should be one walked without shame.

My internal podcast is pretty entertaining, and Glockies is a banger, after all.



DUNEDIN FRINGE FESTIVAL **FRINGE** Dunedin Fringe Festival is back from 17-27 March! Check out the events listed below or go to [dunedinfringe.nz](http://dunedinfringe.nz) for all event details, the full event programme and tickets.

MONDAY  
21 MARCH

**Chris Priestley & The Unsung Heroes**  
OTAGO PIONEER WOMEN'S MEMORIAL HALL  
7:30PM / \$20 / ALL AGES  
[Tickets from dunedinfringe.nz](http://dunedinfringe.nz)

**Maggie Cocco's Science for Sociopaths**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
*KOHA (RECOMMENDED \$15)*  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Sea Shanties & Salty Stories**  
PORT TO PORT FERRY, 39 PENINSULA BEACH ROAD  
12PM, 2PM, 4PM, 6PM / \$15 / ALL AGES  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Shakespeare in a Onesie**  
THE SWAN  
6:30PM, 8PM / \$10 CONCESSION / \$15 PUBLIC / ALL AGES  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Spectacle Presents: Disturbance feat.Chris Miller, Damo Smith, Holly Aitchison, Jess Covell, Sam Caldwell, Taarn Scott, and music from Night Lunch**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
ALL AGES / KOHA  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

TUESDAY  
22 MARCH

**Maggie Cocco's Science for Sociopathss**  
DUNEDIN FRIGE ONLINE VENUE  
*KOHA (RECOMMENDED \$15)*  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Rennie Pearson: Traditional Celtic Music**  
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, 31 ALBANY ST  
7:30PM / \$20 / ALL AGES  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Shakespeare in a Onesie**  
THE SWAN  
6:30PM, 8PM / \$10 CONCESSION / \$15 PUBLIC / ALL AGES  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Spectacle Presents: Disturbance feat.Chris Miller, Damo Smith, Holly Aitchison, Jess Covell, Sam Caldwell, Taarn Scott, and music from Night Lunch**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
ALL AGES / KOHA  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

WEDNESDAY  
23 MARCH

**Daniel McClymont's Tryhard Concerto**  
DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY  
7PM  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Maggie Cocco's Science for Sociopaths**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
*KOHA (RECOMMENDED \$15)*  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Rennie Pearson: Traditional Celtic Music**  
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, 31 ALBANY ST  
7:30PM / \$20 / ALL AGES  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Shakespeare in a Onesie**  
THE SWAN  
6:30PM, 8PM / \$10 CONCESSION / \$15 PUBLIC / ALL AGES  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Spectacle Presents: Disturbance feat.Chris Miller, Damo Smith, Holly Aitchison, Jess Covell, Sam Caldwell, Taarn Scott, and music from Night Lunch**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
ALL AGES / KOHA  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

THURSDAY  
24 MARCH

**Maggie Cocco's Science for Sociopaths**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
*KOHA (RECOMMENDED \$15)*  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Dunedin Fringe Late Night Line Up feat. Renegade Cabaret, Tama Anthony-Whigham, Harriot Moir, and music from Flying Man. Hosted by Dan Brader**  
EMERSON'S FESTIVAL THEATRE, 20 PRINCES ST  
10PM / \$15 CONCESSION / \$20 PUBLIC  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Shakespeare in a Onesie**  
THE SWAN  
6:30PM, 8PM / \$10 CONCESSION / \$15 PUBLIC / ALL AGES  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Spectacle Presents: Disturbance feat.Chris Miller, Damo Smith, Holly Aitchison, Jess Covell, Sam Caldwell, Taarn Scott, and music from Night Lunch**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
ALL AGES / KOHA  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

FRIDAY  
25 MARCH

**SLUR - EP Release**  
THE CROWN HOTEL  
8PM / \$5 STUDENT / \$10 PUBLIC

**Maggie Cocco's Science for Sociopaths**  
DUNEDIN FRINGE ONLINE VENUE  
*KOHA (RECOMMENDED \$15)*  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**Dunedin Fringe Late Night Line Up feat. JoJo Bellini, Ryan McGhee, Ben Hurley, and music from The Beat Skips. Hosted by Alan McElroy**  
EMERSON'S FESTIVAL THEATRE, 20 PRINCES ST  
10PM / \$15 CONCESSION / \$20 PUBLIC  
[dunedinfringe.nz/events](http://dunedinfringe.nz/events)

**My Grandfather is a Canoe feat. Oliver Tafuna'i and Hiliako Iaheto**  
MACANDREW BAY COMMUNITY HALL, 1 GREENACRES ST  
6:30PM / \$10

**EDITORIAL:**  
**EDITOR**  
Fox Meyer

**NEWS EDITOR**  
Denzel Chung

**FEATURES EDITOR**  
Elliot Weir

**CULTURE EDITOR**  
Annabelle Vaughan

**SUB EDITOR**  
Maddie Fenn

**NEWS REPORTER**  
Zak Rudin

**STAFF WRITERS**  
Sean Gourley, Keegan Wells, Ruby Werry, Lotto Ramsay

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Rosie Joyce (@skuxxfood), Luisa Sherriff

**DESIGN:**  
**DESIGNER**  
Molly Willis

**ILLUSTRATION**  
Rutene Rickard  
Daniel Van Lith  
Justina King

**PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER**  
Aiman Amerul Muner

**CENTREFOLD**  
Molly Willis & Rutene Rickard

**FRONT COVER**  
Molly Willis

**PUZZLE MASTER**  
Aleisha Chalmers

**PRODUCTION:**  
**ONLINE**  
Stella Inkpen

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Vincent Withers

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
Tim Couch  
Jared Anglesey  
Peter Ramsay  
[sales@planetmedia.co.nz](mailto:sales@planetmedia.co.nz)  
Phone: 03 479 5361

**READ ONLINE:**  
[critic.co.nz](http://critic.co.nz)  
[lssuu.com/critic\\_te\\_arohi](http://lssuu.com/critic_te_arohi)

**GET IN TOUCH:**  
[critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz)  
Facebook/CriticTeArohi  
Tweet/CriticTeArohi  
03 479 5335  
P.O.Box 1436, Dunedin



Critic is a member of the Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA)

Disclaimer: the views presented within this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or OUSA.

NZ Media Council: People with a complaint against a magazine should first complain in writing to the Editor and then, if not satisfied with the response, complain to the NZ Media Council.

Complaints should be addressed to the Secretary, [info@mediacouncil.org.nz](mailto:info@mediacouncil.org.nz)



## Bandana Burglar Behind Bars

Big Brother bamboozled by Bandana Burglar but bags him anyway

By Zak Rudin

News Reporter // zak@critic.co.nz

Nicholas Scott Kerr, aged 33, has been unmasked as the notorious bandana burglar. Kerr was at large between 2018 and 2020, during which time he broke into student flats, stole 51 items worth over \$22,000, and cut holes in the curtains of seven female students.

Kerr used the alias "Samantha Peek" (not exactly subtle) to earn a tidy sum by selling people's shit on Facebook Marketplace. So if you bought a sweet new home appliance from Samantha in the past few years, congrats: you're the proud owner of stolen property. Critic Te Arohi advises that you try to find the original owner.

Kerr was sentenced to three years and two months imprisonment from December 2021 along with an \$8,000 fine. The judge refused Kerr's request for name suppression which was "vehemently opposed" by five victims of Kerr's crime spree. The ODT originally reported on the impact that these crimes had upon Kerr's victims, which we have repeated below.

Amongst Kerr's victims was Mike\*, who lost \$4,800 worth of possessions. "He took everything I had when I was going through a really tough time. He took my money, my possessions, and my feeling of safety in the home."

In another incident, Sophie\* found Kerr peeping through a hole in her flatmate's curtains as she had gotten out of the shower. Sophie said that the incident "basically scared the shit out of all of [us]", resulting in her flatmate not sleeping in her bed "for weeks".

On another occasion, Kerr broke into Paige\*'s flat. He allegedly smashed her head into the wall, resulting in a severe concussion and ongoing neck pain. "I live in pain every single day ... he preyed on youths in vulnerable situations, with sexual motivations behind many of his break-ins," said Paige.

Sophie described how "student flats have low security, and because we all

live in one area it becomes a breeding ground for creeps." Castle and Leith are currently the only main streets with CCTV cameras. "There needs to be some put on Queen, Dundas, Cosy Dell, Warrender [and] London [streets] ... as they are all hotspots."

However, due to economic constraints caused by Covid, Phase 3 of the CCTV Project to boost the number of cameras on campus has hit a roadblock.

Since Big Brother can't look out for us, Critic Te Arohi suggests that we should look out for each other. Lock your doors and windows before heading out and report any suspicious activity to Campus Watch or the police.

\*Names have been changed to protect victims' identities

## Some Stuff not Known About KnowYourStuffNZ

Student misconceptions revolve around purity vs presence

By Ruby Werry & Fox Meyer

Staff Writer / Critic Editor

KnowYourStuffNZ does not test for purity. They test for presence of a substance, and that's what they report. The misconception that KYSNZ tests for purity is apparently rife amongst both students and our own Critic staff members.

It may seem like a small difference (presence vs. purity), but to KnowYourStuffNZ, this difference comes with legal implications. Brin, who works for KYSNZ, told us that "Under the second version of the Drug and Substance Checking Legislation Bill ... all the information we provide has to be relatively perfect in terms of harm reduction. If we were to give the impression that we could tell you something about a sample that we can't actually tell you, that could get us in trouble".

This means that KYSNZ can only tell you if the sample you have has a substance in it. Depending on the sample, their FTIR spectrometer can tell you how much of a substance is in the sample along with any other fillers, binders, colours, or whatever else is in the sample holding it together. However, given the level of contaminants and the standard of the ingredients used in the labs used to make drugs for the illicit market, there's no way the FTIR spectrometers can tell the 'purity' level.

It's a bit like the difference between telling the difference – by taste alone – between

top shelf fancy vodka in a posh bar and the vodka you've got brewing under the sink. The machine would taste both vodka samples, and say 'yep, it's got vodka in it'. But there's obviously a marked difference between the vodkas.

"I did not know that", said Maggie, a student who has used KYSNZ before. "Yeah, more students should be aware of that, but I assume that information is available", she said. "People just don't necessarily research before they rock up. I also assume the staff probably tell you when you get your test done, maybe it's just a slight miscommunication. When you're familiar with the process it's easy to forget that [the difference between presence and purity] is a technical thing for a lot of people. Making it really clear, in Layman's terms, is really important for anything like that. Medical, safety in general, it needs to be easy to understand".

This misconception does not impact, in any way, your ability to get your drugs tested. It just means that when a KYSNZ staff member says "we detected MDMA", they are not telling you "that's some really good shit you got there man, that's some pure MDMA if I've ever seen it". They can't test for that. That's not how it works. What they are saying is that they've found MDMA in your sample.

When they tell you that they detected MDMA, they're not saying that your drugs are pure. Brin said that "We are never excluding the presence of anything else, but we can say that we didn't detect the presence of anything else. But that doesn't mean that there aren't any traces of something else in there, just that our machine didn't see it with the limited window that it had access to."

"Being able to tell you if there are different compounds is really important, like the mix of MDMA and ketamine that we discovered during O-Week", said Brin. "If someone is expecting to only feel the effects of MDMA, and they don't know that there's ketamine in there as well, that could actually put them in danger. Ketamine mixes really poorly with a lot of other substances, particularly alcohol".

Brin said that the misconception presents KYSNZ with a bit of an obstacle. "We are a reliable, trustworthy health service, but people are misunderstanding what we're saying and it isn't helping. And while this misconception is really just a difference between two similar words, the implication on our end is far greater. The risk of that misunderstanding is not only on our end, but on the client's end as well. We never want someone to go away being less informed because communication doesn't work. We don't want people gaining false impressions about what is in their hand."

## Used Sharps Bins not Spotted on Campus

What hurts more than a needle injection? An unintended needle injection

By Zak Rudin

News Reporter // zak@critic.co.nz

Students For Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) have raised the question: where are all the sharps bins at? People who rely on insulin injections have allegedly been forced to carry "dirty sharps home after use" or "dispose of them in an inadequate fashion in bathroom/campus bins".

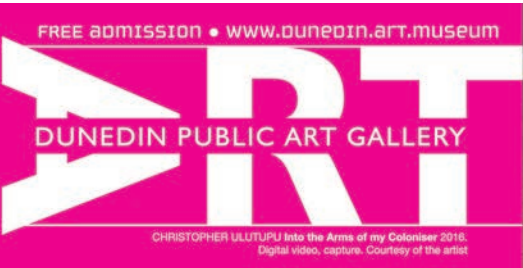
SSDP says that improperly disposing of used sharps places cleaning staff at "risk of injury and transmission of blood-borne infections or diseases." In lieu of these bins, used insulin needles could be thrown away in general rubbish. We fondled a few bags of trash to see if we'd get pricked by

a wayward needle, but found none. Further recon conducted by Critic staff found no designated sharps bins in the Link and library, so we reached out to the University for clarification.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Director Andrea McMillan responded by saying that "we have many sharps containers in our laboratories and have responded to demand on ourwider campuses (outside laboratory areas) previously, including supplying sharps containers for staff members' medical conditions." And while our quick survey didn't spot any

publicly-available bins, Andrea went on to say that "we would welcome kōrero with any advocates, including Students for Sensible Drug Policy Dunedin."

Sean, co-president of the Otago Disabled Student's Association, said that some club members reported that "it was a hassle brining in Tupperware to store their needles to dispose of at home." Sean further said that these students "raised concerns about the stigma of needles" and said "if [a sharps bin] were to exist, they believed its place should be at the Disability Information and Support Service."



FILM SCREENING  
**CHRISTOPHER ULUTUPU**  
**The Romantic Picturesque:**  
**The Postcard Trilogy**  
(screening time 1 hour)  
**FREE 5.30PM TUESDAY 22 MARCH**





## How Much Do Students Know About Saint Patrick, Primary Patron Saint of Ireland?

Survey says: very little

By Keegan Wells

Staff Writer // keegan@critic.co.nz

St Patrick is such a well-known name in North D that thousands wake up as early as 5am every year to celebrate him. But do students actually know that much about who he was, where he came from, and what he did? Critic Te Arohi hit the green-filled streets to find out.

First off, did he exist? "He's a legendary person, he might be real, he might not be. Mostly mythical," said one student. History disagrees. While there are legends floating around about his work, he definitely existed. He didn't begin existence in Ireland, though. Despite one student insisting that "He definitely gotta be from Ireland," he definitely ain't. He's actually a Pom, born in Roman Britain.

Next up, we asked students what St Patrick looked like. The answers ranged from "five foot five" to "really short, goatee, green hat" and "green face" to even "a ranga leprechaun". Moving rapidly along from these potential hate crimes, we then quizzed them on what St Patrick actually did. One student claimed, "He was Irish, and he is in the Bible being really kind to Irish people." Unfortunately, he is nowhere in the Bible, as Ireland is not in the Middle East and St Patrick was about 300 years late to the biblical party. Another figured he became a saint after "drinking 12 pints of Guinness in one hour". That might be true, we don't know.

We finally hit the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow when we found a student who confidently told us that "I actually know this, I went to a Catholic primary school." St Patrick, they said, "looked after animals". Unfortunately, this student may need some time in the confession box this Sunday: the only animal story to do with St Patrick is a legend claiming he chased all the snakes out of Ireland, which is not looking after them in the slightest. There were most likely not even snakes to begin with – any that would've made it across on settlement ships from England would've died out early. One student shared our scepticism: "How can you chase all the snakes out of Ireland? Maybe he got like three."

As well as all these lies, we also got quite a lot of refreshing honesty. Some students had "No idea, nope," adding, "We don't know, we're just dressing in green." One admitted: "It's a good excuse to drink. I don't really know who he is, I don't believe in the religion and I've never been to Ireland." Admirable.

After all these consistently wrong facts about St Patrick, Critic Te Arohi decided to tell bald faced lies about St Patrick, to see just how far we could go. We started modestly, telling a group of students that St Patrick invented Guinness. "Ohhhh that makes sense," they responded, with one

telling us "He loved to get on the piss, clearly, because that's how we celebrate him."

We went one further, telling another group that St Patrick was responsible for planting all of the potatoes in Ireland. "Was that because of the famine?" one asked. Her friend quickly jumped to St Potato's defence: "Yes, I'm Irish so I would know." Another student put two and two together, concluding "So he created vodka! Absolute fucking legend."

They also believed that St Patrick was the owner of the basketball team, the Boston Celtics, and that he was a saint who prayed to Allah. As the green icing on the Guinness cake, we told students St Patrick was still alive today. "That man is a legend then," one responded.

Regardless of whether people know who St Patrick is, what he did during the fifth century, and if he ever touched a potato, he lives on today. In his name, students will still drink at ungodly hours and leave more green paint around North Dunedin than a Halloween pickle party gone wrong. From the team at Critic, we hope your St. Patrick's day has been filled with light, warmth, and mostly incorrect facts about the patron saint.





## OUSA and Albany St Pharmacy Deliver Drugs to Doorsteps

Drug dealers take note, this is what real customer service looks like

**By Sean Gourley**

Staff Writer // [sean@critic.co.nz](mailto:sean@critic.co.nz)

Thanks to OUSA and Albany Street Pharmacy, isolating students can now get over-the-counter meds and other pharmacy goodies delivered for free. The service can be accessed via the OUSA Support Hub Website.

With Covid absolutely ripping through North D, many people who would've helped their mates pick up stuff have ended up being in iso themselves. According to Greg from Albany Street Pharmacy, this initiative was designed as a way to help with exactly that. For all the students "who are stuck isolating in their flats, and are not able to get someone to collect on their behalf", this service is for you.

The orders are processed, sealed and labelled by pharmacy staff before getting delivered by OUSA's network of staff and volunteers (usually alongside the food parcels). If you'd like a delivery, though, try not to sleep in. According to Greg, "The intention is that orders placed before 2 to 3pm are delivered that afternoon, depending on the number of orders, stock, and OUSA's workload."

As for what you can order, the sky's the limit, really. If it's available over-the-counter (i.e. without a prescription), they can be delivered. And yes, that includes condoms. According to OUSA's Sage Burke: "While the intention is to be able to provide help with symptom relief for unwell

students, there isn't a restriction on what products can be delivered with this service, at this point. We got the service running as fast as we could."

The OUSA service only covers over-the-counter products, but a separate delivery service (run by the pharmacy themselves) is also available for prescription medications, according to Greg. "If a person is Covid positive," he said, "there's a funded delivery service for prescriptions. This also extends to the prescription charges, with some conditions." Similarly, if you'd like to get those drugs to your door, it would pay to get your order in early: "Almost all scripts received before 3pm are delivered that day."

## Why Your "5 Plus a Day" is Looking Like "\$50 Plus a Day"

Tomato? More like, "toma-D'oh!" Am I right?

**By Rutene Rickard**

Illustrator // [rutene@critic.co.nz](mailto:rutene@critic.co.nz)

A year ago, a kg of tomatoes from Centre City New World cost \$2.99. Today, those same juicy round bois have almost doubled in price, costing \$5.49. In a quest to find out why hurling rotten tomatoes isn't the affordable pastime it used to be, Critic Te Arohi consulted Professor of Sociology Hugh Campbell, who teaches a paper on the "Global Politics of Food".

Keen shoppers would have noticed grocery prices spiking recently, and no, it's not all in your head. Stats NZ found grocery prices went up 5.4% as a whole in Feb compared to a year ago, with meat 7% more expensive, and fruit and veg a whopping 17% costlier. Hugh attributed this to a number of factors, one of which is the supermarket duopoly in New Zealand. The two big players, Australian-owned Woolworths (Countdown and FreshChoice) and Kiwi Foodstuffs (New World, Pak 'N Save and Four Square), sweep up 80-90% of NZ's grocery spend every year.

Hugh said this contributes significantly to how expensive food is: "We have a hugely concentrated and uncompetitive supermarket sector in NZ which gouges the suppliers who provide it with things like veges, and then charges massively for consumers. It is a real structural problem in our food retail system."

Alongside this, the pandemic has exposed what Hugh terms "the guilty secret of NZ fruit and vegetable production". According to Hugh, to keep costs down (partly due to supermarket pricing pressure), most of the fruit and veges you eat had been picked by contract labourers, brought in for cheap on temporary work visas, primarily from the Pacific, the Philippines and India. "With the pandemic," Hugh says, "they can't get those cheap workers any more, and because they've grown used to having that cheap labour, the whole market has fallen apart. [Growers] don't pay high enough

wages, have safe enough conditions, or decent enough housing for NZ fruit or vegetable pickers. So, they are simply leaving a whole lot of fruit and veges to rot unharvested. That is (also) helping drive up prices in the supermarket."

Finally, Hugh predicts energy prices will begin to play a bigger role in this royal clusterfuck of factors. The price of oil has jumped by around 50% since Christmas, largely blamed on increasing global demand as lockdowns end and, more recently, widespread sanctions on Russia (a major oil exporter). "It hasn't become a big part of the story yet, but over the next few months, the dramatically rising price of global oil is going to drive up a whole lot of food prices in NZ. This is because energy from oil is embedded in a whole lot of parts of our intensive agricultural and horticultural systems." So we have that to look forward to.

## Government Plans Cash for Containers Scheme

Instead of smashing bottles, use them to buy more booze

**By Denzel Chung**

News Editor // [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz)

The Government has introduced plans for a "Container Return Scheme". In simple terms, this means taking your bottles, cans and cartons in for recycling could soon earn you sweet, sweet cash.

Last week, the Ministry for the Environment dropped a consultation document titled "Transforming Recycling". NZ is actually one of the worst recyclers in the world – only about one-third of the stuff we chuck out ends up being recycled or composted, with the rest going straight to landfill. In world-leading countries like Germany and South Korea, well over half of the stuff they chuck out ends up being recycled in some way.

This plan is the Government's way of beginning to fix that. Alongside proposals to standardise recycling across NZ, including food scraps bins for everyone and making businesses separate their food waste from their normal waste so it

can be composted or used as animal feed, they've floated setting up a "Container Return Scheme". In effect, drinks producers will pay a 20 cent fee on every can, bottle or Tetra-Pak carton they fill with their drinks. When these are returned for recycling (through, say, a vending machine), this fee is then paid out to whoever dropped it off.

Environment Minister David Parker said in a statement that "With a container return scheme in place, we can increase our recycling rate for beverage containers to between 85 and 90 percent. This will also result in increased supply of recovered materials for our onshore recycling systems and container manufacturers."

Kate Bonne, from Students for Environmental Activism Otago, told Critic Te Arohi that this was a scheme they had "promoted in the past... [and] a long-awaited and important step in the right direction. There are too many perfectly

recyclable bottles on our streets and in our landfills."

She wasn't completely convinced by the scheme, though, and said that "It fails to address the root causes of container waste and issues relating to the production of those containers." Nothing returned through this scheme will actually be reused – instead it will be broken down to re-make new cans or bottles or, in the case of plastics, lower-grade stuff like rubbish bags. "Recycling should be the last resort," she said, and instead urged people to prioritise "rethinking, refusing, reducing, reusing or repairing".

And if you're deciding whether to stockpile those leftover cans and bottles from St Paddy's drinks to buy yourself more booze, don't hold your breath. The Ministry only expects a scheme to be up and running by 2025.



**STAY TUNED!**  
COMING SOON TO RADIO ONE



## Dunedin's Gin Distillery Moves out of its Parent's Basement

How come gin is more likely to own a property than we are?

By Denzel Chung

News Editor // [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz)

Barely two years after opening, Dunedin's No8 Distillery has moved into a swish new location on Hanover Street – right on the edge of Studentville. Founder Julien Delavoie's selection of spirits, distilled locally with foraged botanicals, have been sweeping awards internationally.

Julien, from Normandy in northwest France, told Critic Te Arohi he had been distilling since he was 15 years old. His was a family with "four generations of backyard distillers... making cider, Calvados and rum with my grandparents".

He began making gin six years ago when he moved to NZ, said Julien, pretty much learning on the fly. He started his hustle out the back of the Dog With Two Tails in March 2020, "setting up everything with number 8 wire solutions". The horopito-spiced gin he made promptly smashed out a few international awards.

In January, he said, he decided to shift to a new place. "We started a bit too small," he admitted, saying it was "tricky" operating a distillery around a fully-functioning bar. His new place is about 20x bigger, with a factory, a bar and a liquor shop where Julien sells his own stuff as well as "rare and fine spirits". He loves the interactivity of the job: "You're not in a lab where nobody can talk to you... you know the brand, but you also know the person at the back of that." He runs tasting tours and workshops, and hopes to let people join him on his foraging expeditions soon.

Julien's range includes a bit of everything: gins, absinthe, limoncello, ouzo, pineapple rum and fruit liqueurs. He's expecting, too, with a new "baby" due in May: a mocha rum, made in collaboration with Dunedin companies Vanguard Coffee and OCHO Chocolate. The native plants he uses for his botanicals are foraged locally, with raw ingredients sourced from places like the

Farmer's Market – buying up the good stuff which isn't quite beautiful enough to sell, and would otherwise go to waste. Julien also operates a bottle return system, offering cashback off for anyone who brings their bottle back to refill with the spirits tap (yes, it's as cool as it sounds).

Something that surprised Julien was that students have begun embracing his gins: "Christmastime, a lot of students buy gifts for mum and dad, and I have a lot of PhD students in... people who want, and like, good spirits." It surprised Critic too, although spending \$70 on alcohol is probably all in a day's work for most of us.

The No8 Distillery is now open in the red-brick building, on the corner of Hanover Street and Filleul Street. Take it from us: if you don't love it, your parents almost definitely will.

## Otago Distillery Makes World's Best Vodka

Students still keen to just mix it with Red Bull and call it a day

By Fox Meyer

Critic Editor // [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz)

Joerg, creator of Broken Heart Gin & Spirits in Arrowtown, makes a vodka that has just been rated the best in the world. In the World Drinks Awards, his vodka beat out entries from 18 other countries for the title in the "pure neutral" category.

Coincidentally, and completely officially, Otago Uni drinkers are also rated amongst the best in the world. Critic reached out to Joerg to hear about how his spirits won such a lofty title, and what the average Dunedin student might think about his top-shelf drop.

A bottle of Joerg's vodka comes in at about \$80, which probably puts it well out of reach of your standard breatha – although at least one student we spoke to said that he'd try it, "just to see what nice tasting vodka tastes like". But there's a good reason why it carries this hefty price, said Joerg: the quality of ingredients and the purity of the spirit. It's also about water.

In an 80-proof spirit like his vodka, 40% of the drink is alcohol. "That means the other 60% is water, so the water is quite an important part", Joerg explained. The world's best vodka gets its water from a spring in Mt. Aspiring National Park, and from another source in Paradise, near Glenorchy. But water is just as important outside the vodka as it is inside it. "People say that you need a glass of water for every glass of wine [to avoid a hangover]," said Joerg. "But for spirits you need three glasses of water." Joerg's tips for hangover cures, by the way: plenty of water, a strong coffee, and some lemon juice, "for the Vitamin C".

It's worse for cheap spirits, he said: "Some cheaper alcohols can contain synthetics, which can come with some risks... higher amounts of methanol traces," or even surprise allergens. These mean "you end up more likely with a hangover [and] a headache," said Joerg. Broken Heart vodka, though, is entirely gluten-free,

and contains methanol traces at a rate of 3 parts per million, which is remarkably low (the legally-permissible limit in NZ is 700 parts per million). And for any non-chemists out there: methanol is the bad, blindness-causing stuff, while ethanol is the good stuff.

Despite the dire warnings, another student we spoke to wasn't convinced. "You can buy two bottles of lower-grade vodka for that price," he said. He reckoned that "good vodka still tastes like shit and our budget doesn't allow for that. No vodka is good. Maybe you'll feel less like you want to die after drinking it but you still want to die, just less. Instead of knives, it's a gun."

Joerg seemed to disagree. He said that "We all have to learn [to appreciate the finer things]. That's the interesting thing in life. When you're young, you might not care about a lot of things. When you get older you appreciate these things more." Feel free to reflect on that wisdom over a sip of the world's finest vodka.

**RADIO ONE 91FM**  
**GOLDEN**

YOU'VE FOUND THE  
**RADIO ONE 91FM**  
**GOLDEN TICKET**  
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE \$100 RICHER  
TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE TAKE THIS UP TO THE RADIO ONE RECEPTION AND  
COLLECT YOUR \$\$\$ | MORE INFO AT [R1.CO.NZ/GOLDENTICKET](http://R1.CO.NZ/GOLDENTICKET)  
PRESENTED BY  
WALLSTREETMALL

**TICKET**  
FIND IT & WIN \$100



PRESENTED BY  
**WALLSTREETMALL**



**ousa**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**ILLUSTRATION**  
**PAINTING**  
**SCULPTURE**  
**OTHER**



**EXHIBITION ENTRIES**

**BE PART OF THE 2022 STUDENT ART EXHIBITION**

Entries open: 14th March - 29th April 2022

Exhibition open from 9th - 13th May 2022

[bit.ly/artweekexhibition](http://bit.ly/artweekexhibition)

**ousa**



Wednesdays  
8:30 - 9:30am\*  
OUSA Clubs & Socs  
[ousa.org.nz/clubsandsocs](http://ousa.org.nz/clubsandsocs)

\*Otago University students only

**#comeplayousa**

**Clubs  
& Socs  
ousa**

**ousa** *student* support | **HUB**

For everything  
*life* throws at you

*We're  
just  
a click  
away*

[ousasupporthub.org.nz](http://ousasupporthub.org.nz)



## New American Football Club in Dunedin

Next, they'll be coming for our oil

By Keegan Wells

Staff Writer // keegan@critic.co.nz

Fans of American football, rejoice! A club has just been set up in Dunedin. They're open to pretty much anyone who's keen to play a bit of hand-egg, or chuck the ol' pig-skin around, or whatever those Yanks say.

American Football Otago was established just a few weeks ago by a couple of mates, with the help of the New Zealand American Football Federation. They kicked off with their first-ever scrimmage day last Sunday, 21 March, at the North Ground (aka the Alhambra Union rugby club). Tom, the President of American Football Otago, said they're "starting off with scrimmages of flag football," but hope to grow it into "a league sort of thing - [depending] on how many people are interested". If Facebook

popularity is anything to go by, they're off to a good start, with around 200 followers so far.

Growing up in Christchurch, Tom and his mates played in their flag football competition. According to him, it began with the simple thought: "Man this is heaps of fun, we should try to get this started in Dunedin." All it took was a quick message to the governing body of (American) football in New Zealand, and before they knew it, they got instructions on how to set up games as well as a whole bunch of football gear.

For any aspiring jocks out there, all you need to play is a pair of rugby or soccer boots (well, "football," if you're a

tea-sipping ponce). American Football Otago will supply all the other equipment. Tom says they will welcome "anyone who is willing to play, all skill levels, ages, genders. We just want to see people throwing the ball around and meet people who are like minded."

The first Sunday scrimmage session will include a brief overview of the basic rules everyone needs to know to get playing. Later in the year, they're looking towards a "national competition coming up... hopefully we're gonna build towards that". If you're looking for an entirely new personality trait, want to say things like "set HUT", maybe knock a few brain cells around, or have always been jealous of frat stars, now is your chance. Hike!



## RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE

**Patrice Le Sueur**

Kia ora!

If you live in one of Otago's outstanding residential colleges, please take the time to thank the sub-wardens, support staff and volunteers who are working tirelessly to keep you fed and well.

If you're in a flat, now is a good time to check if your place meets the government Healthy Home Standards. Landlords have 90 days to comply with the govt standards from the start of a new tenancy - i.e. 1st April for most of us.

The key to a healthy flat is ventilation - make sure you have a working extractor fan in the bathroom and kitchen. Likewise, if you have draughts or holes in walls and windows, get onto your

landlord ASAP. If you have any trouble or something doesn't seem right, contact OUSA Student Support email [help@ousa.org.nz](mailto:help@ousa.org.nz)

Lastly, do your best to look after your space (and yourself). Autumn can be a tough time for a lot of us, so keep an eye on your friends, clean your kitchen, make a meal, and go for a walk somewhere pretty. Before it gets utterly miserable be sure to check out a few beaches so you have some sunny memories to daydream about on zoom.

If where you live is giving you grief contact Student Support! If you'd like to see some big changes, let me know at [residential@ousa.org.nz](mailto:residential@ousa.org.nz)

Noho ora mai

Patrice

Residential Representative

**ousa**  
EXECUTIVE



100% MADE OF NEW ZEALAND



# Earn while you learn.

**Join the Silver Fern Farms Finegand whānau and get paid while you study.**

- Earn a minimum of \$24 / hr
- Transport available
- Flexible and casual hours available
- Bring your mates
- Feed the flat with discounted meat deals
- Learn in a new trade and industry
- Get your foot in the door of a global food business that may have a role for you after graduation
- Taking expressions of interest now for work from April 2022



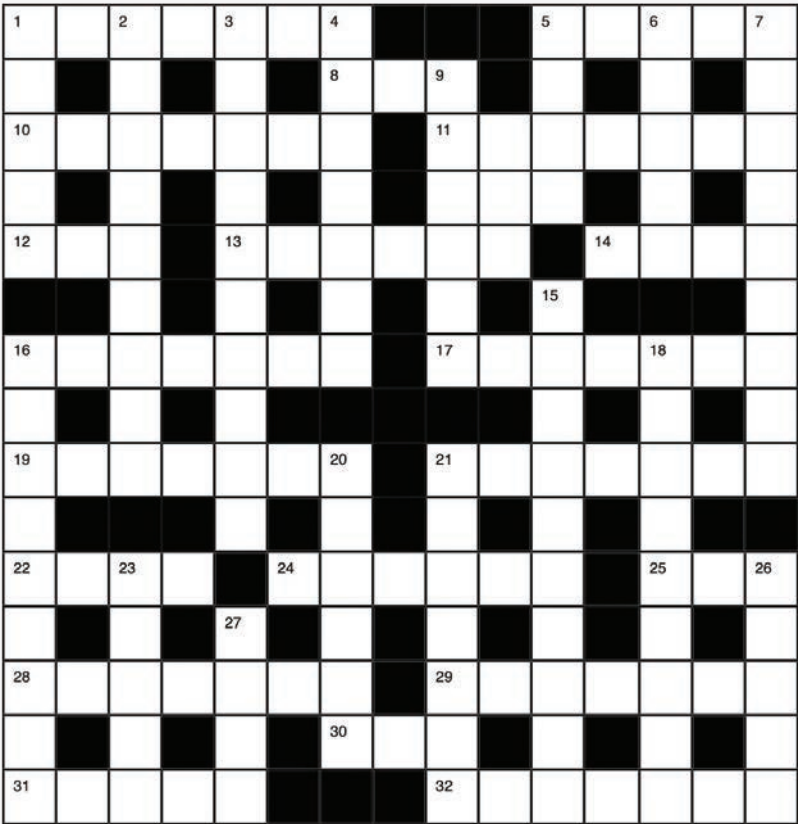
Email: [Karen.Nicolson@silverfern farms.co.nz](mailto:Karen.Nicolson@silverfern farms.co.nz)

Apply online: [careers.silverfern farms.com](https://careers.silverfern farms.com)

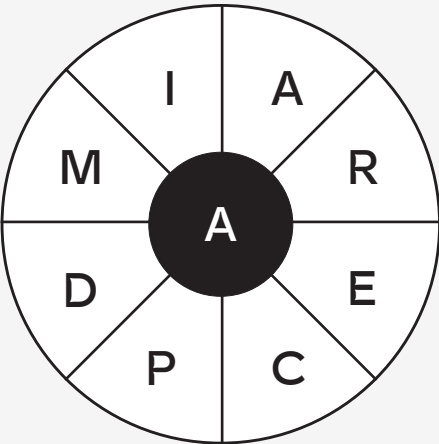


# PUZZLES

## CROSSWORD



## WORD WHEEL



Make as many words as you can using the central letter and without repeating any letters.

### WEEK 03 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1. Ogre 4. Misspelled 9. Fairy tern 11. Strummed 12. Rager 13. Shag 14. DNA 16. Broadcaster 20. Den 22. Echo 25. Incan 26. Big hands 27. Hexagonal 28. Wanderlust 29. Tier  
**DOWN:** 2. Grafton 3. Earful 4. Matamata 5. Sun 6. Escargot 7. Lifeguard 8. Die from 10. Rods 15. Abduction 17. Open fire 18. Stagnant 19. Rainbow 21. Endgame 23. Oboe 24. Kahoot 17. HAL

### MINI CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1. Wes 4. Soak 5. Ponzi 6. Inky 7. PSA  
**DOWN:** 1. Wonka 2. Eazy 3. Ski 4. Sons 5. Pip

### WORD LADDER SOLUTION: MORE-LORE-LOSE-LOSS-LESS

**WORDWHEEL SOLUTIONS:** 6–15 good / 16–20 great

Mazagran

ESPRESSO BAR

36 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MAZAGRAN

KEEPING CRITIC CAFFEINATED

### ACROSS:

1. Good place for a pint (7)
5. Mayhem (5)
8. Mixed martial-arts competition (3)
10. Traditional Chinese herbal extract (7)
11. Like Al Capone (7)
12. Weekly American comedy show (3)
13. 'Woman' (6)
14. Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist (4)
16. Vodka brand with intentional typo? (7)
17. Swindled (7)
19. Really bad pun (3,4)
21. UK rapper (7)
22. American dudebro (4)
24. Lacking in pigment (6)
25. "Dirty \_\_\_\_" sunglasses (3)
28. Titanic killer (7)
29. The B of BDSM (7)
30. Luxury fashion house (3)
31. Fresher fuel (5)
32. Poppable Japanese pods (7)

### DOWN:

1. Outfits that may attract egging (5)
2. Punished (9)
3. Actor who says 'woooooow' (4,6)
4. ID card photo perhaps (7)
5. HSFY paper (4)
6. Necessary for life (4)
7. Controversial herb (9)
9. Will still get you a degree (5)
15. "\_\_\_\_ Gurls", Katy Perry banger (10)
16. Dependence (9)
18. Lorde album (9)
20. Funeral oration (6)
21. What soccer players and babies do (7)
23. \_\_\_\_ Orange, Vietnam war weapon (5)
26. Scary honking birds (5)
27. Low carb diet (4)

## WORD LADDER

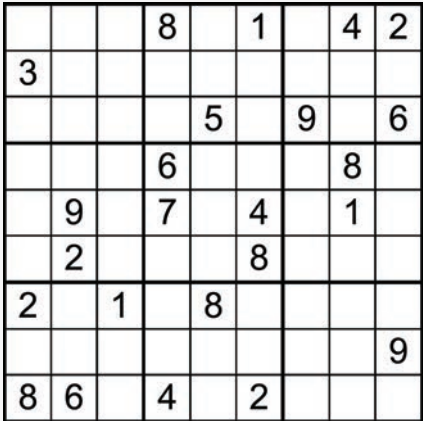
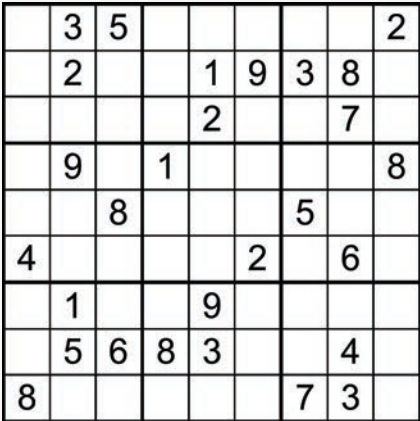
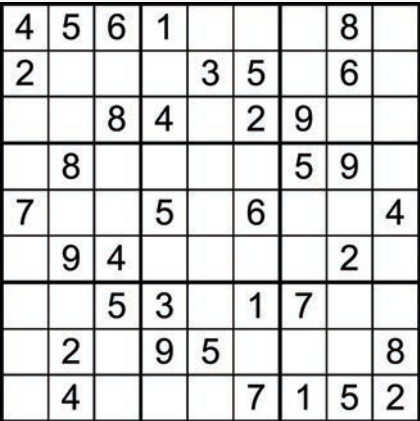
Change one word into another by only changing one letter at a time. The shortest solution should fit between the rungs of the word ladder.

HEAD

TAIL

## SUDOKU

sudokuoftheday.com



## WORDFIND

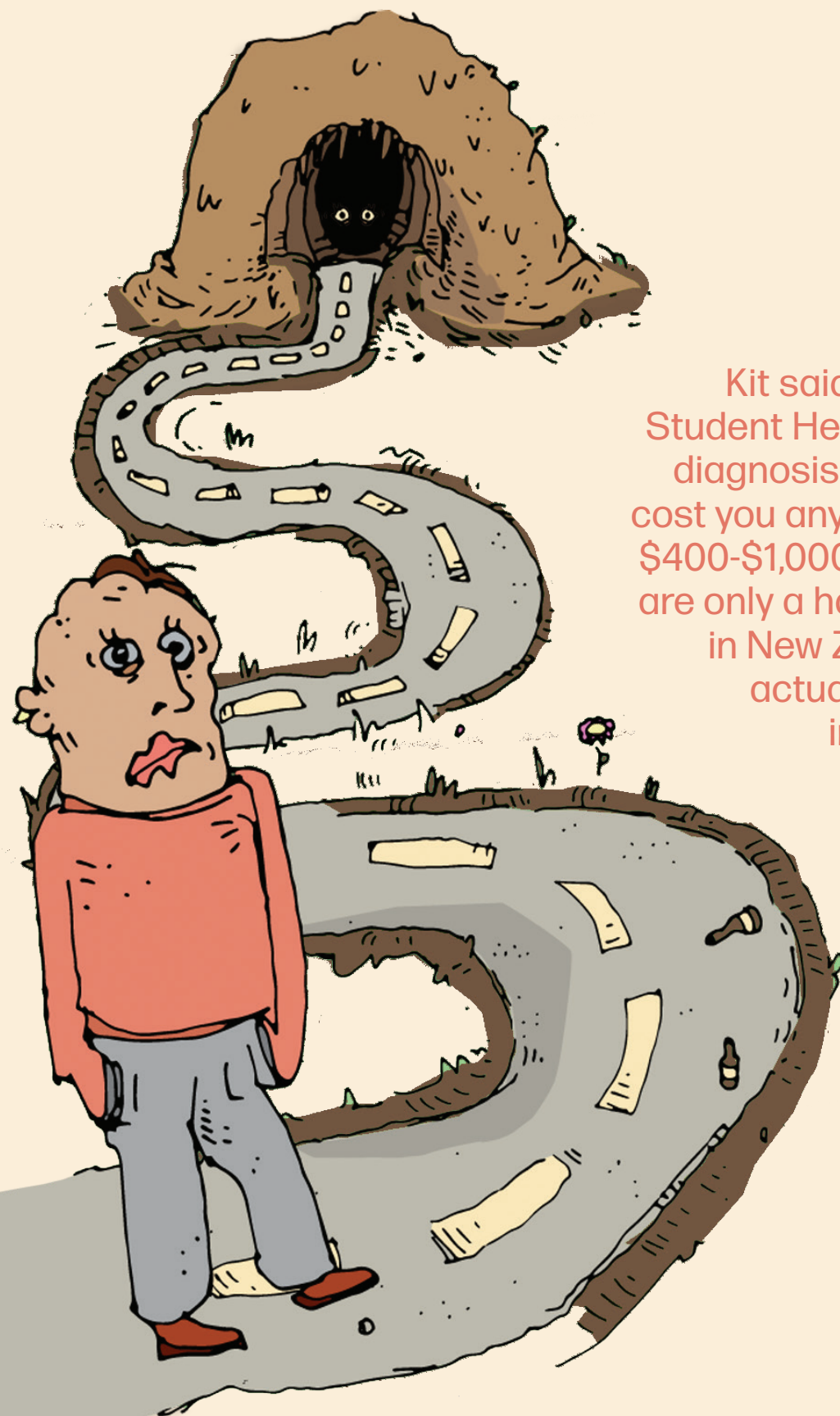
- ACID
- CAFFEINE
- CRACK
- KETAMINE
- NANGS
- SPEED
- ADDERALL
- COCAINE
- FENTANYL
- MDMA
- NICOTINE
- WEED
- ALCOHOL,
- CODEINE
- HEROIN
- METH
- PCP
- XANAX

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.







Kit said that outside of Student Health, obtaining a diagnosis as an adult can cost you anywhere between \$400-\$1,000, and that there are only a handful of places in New Zealand that will actually run the tests in the first place.

# ADHD

## THE LONG ROAD TO DIAGNOSIS

By Fox Meyer

Last week, we sent out two reporters to interview students about getting diagnosed with ADHD. Apparently they met a really, really interesting group of students with great takes on the situation, but our reporters - both of whom have diagnosed ADHD - were so excited about the interview that they forgot to record it.

Such is life with ADHD, though. Ideas about ADHD aren't limited to snotty 7-year-old boys anymore, and discussions of the disorder have entered the mainstream. Obtaining a diagnosis, however, remains tricky. Critic has already covered the "lost generation" of women who struggled to get their disorder recognized, which you can read about on our website, but we wanted to see what people thought of the condition's recent entrance into mainstream culture.

Either you know someone with ADHD or you know someone who thinks they have ADHD. It's like it's everywhere. For many it seems a bit too common, given the fact that the current percentage of adults with ADHD in the wild is estimated to be about 4.4%. That's a wee bit lower than you might expect based on a casual survey of your friends. Of course, undiagnosed cases are not represented in that number, and getting diagnosed as an adult, as we'll soon see, is no easy task. So, what gives? Either the reported number is way too low, or a significant portion of the young people we see on social media claiming to have ADHD are misguided.

An ADHD diagnosis is a tricky thing to come by. Dr. Dione Healey, Associate Professor in Otago's Psychology Department and a registered Clinical Psychologist, explained that a diagnosis for the disorder is not just about having a case of the fidgets and a restless mind.

"There needs to be significant impairment," she said, and both impairment and symptoms need to be present from childhood into adulthood. There are boxes that need to be ticked in order to receive a diagnosis.

And ticking these boxes is where many students get stuck. Obtaining a diagnosis through Student Health involves what Dr. Healey described as a "conservative" approach, one which a student described as "an absolutely hopeless nightmare". This arduous process is not without reason, though. Student Health is not staffed by unlimited professionals, nor do they have infinite time with which to investigate applications.

Kit\*, who we interviewed in the second part of this article, is one of many students who didn't go through Student Health for their diagnosis. Kit said that outside of Student Health, obtaining a diagnosis as an adult can cost you anywhere between \$400-\$1,000, and that there are only a handful of places in New Zealand that will actually run the tests in the first place. Dr. Healey told us that a few years back there was a way to get the diagnosis online, without ever meeting the doctor, but that option has now shut down.

The inaccessibility to testing has led many students to self-diagnose. Pam\*, a second-year at Otago, said that she self-diagnosed "because it felt like the right thing to do". She said that the disorder "clearly runs" in her family, but since nobody is officially diagnosed, she didn't feel like she had a shot at an official diagnosis. "So I just went online, checked the criteria, and felt like every single point was talking about me. So I made the call myself," she said. "I don't think it's a problem."



"We've been raised alongside smartphones, computers, and a whole world of technology that encourages us to be constantly distracted."

Self-diagnosis is a controversial approach. Some students that we spoke to were angry at the trend, with one telling us that it devalues their genuine claims to a disorder and makes society “see my problems as less of a problem”. They also complained that with “everyone” claiming to have ADHD, their own path to diagnosis was steeped in scepticism from doctors. But not everyone agreed. Another student, Keira, said something about how social media and people claiming to have it or who self-diagnose are actually really good for the overall movement, because it gives a spotlight to people and maybe encourages them to seek help. The fact that wider discussion has normalised the disorder was a good thing, according to Keira. Apparently, anyway. This is the interview that our reporters lost.

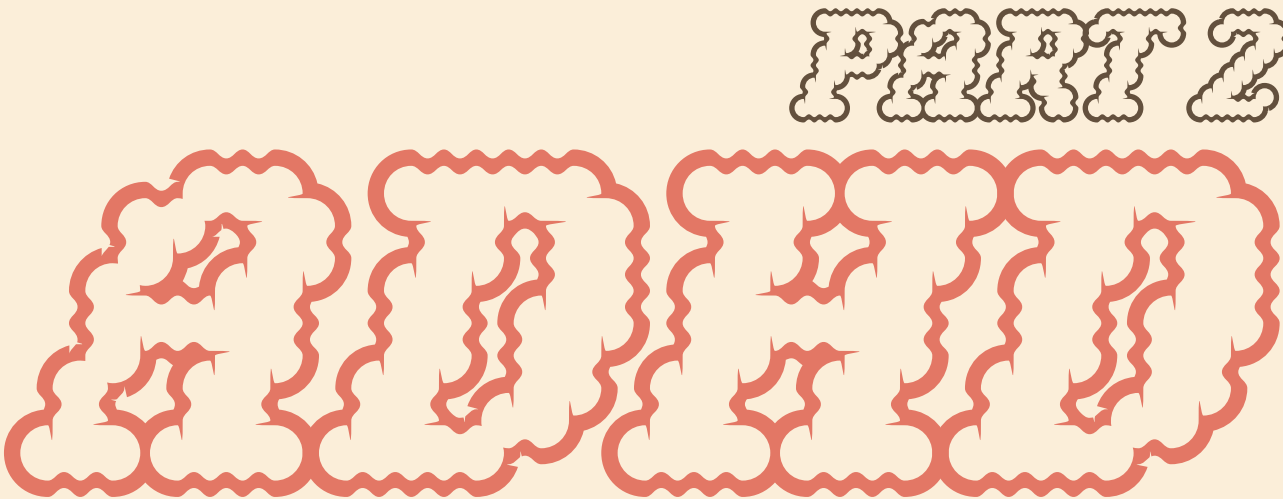
Anyone who self-diagnosed, like Pam, probably googled around until they ended up reading the DSM-5, a sort of Bible for clinical psychology. In the newest edition, changes have been made to the ADHD criteria. One notable change was a note about Autism Spectrum Disorder, which previously was not considered to be comorbid with ADHD as they're similar neurodevelopmental disorders. But the two can exist in the same person at the same time, and students like Charlie\* have struggled in the past to reconcile the two conditions as their stereotypes can conflict with each other. “I am one with the ‘tism, but now I have ADHD as a side piece,” said Charlie. She received her autism and ADHD diagnoses within the last few years. Outside of a

few “autistic special interest” moments, Charlie said that her ADHD primarily gets in the way of day-to-day life. “I would love to be the ‘colour coded day planner / bullet journal / google calendar’ flavour of autistic but instead I wake up at a different time every day and haven't eaten meals at an even vaguely regular time since I was a kid. Is breakfast at 9 or at 2pm? Is dinner at 6 or at midnight? I don't fucking know I, just go with it. I'm eating carrots for dinner.”

New Zealand's path to an ADHD diagnosis is steeper than in other parts of the world. Frederick was diagnosed with ADHD in the United States and said “it's definitely easier over there”. Frederick reported that he paid about \$400 for a diagnosis. While he agreed that he did indeed have the disorder, he thought it was strange that rates of the diagnosis “seem to have gone up”. He speculated that this was not because people are lying, but maybe more because “we've been raised alongside smartphones, computers, and a whole world of technology that encourages us to be constantly distracted.”

Fredrick reported that in the States, “pretty much everyone you meet our age will claim to have it, almost as if it's been accepted as a way to excuse any failed work attempt, any forgetfulness, anything. It's just a catch-all excuse for imperfection. But that's not actually what the condition is about at all, it's about not getting out of bed, it's about not feeling like you can finish anything you ever start. It's not ‘cool’, it's infuriating.” Fredrick further bemoaned that “ADHD is like a rallying call for anyone of this generation who thinks they have a problem because they can't function in a society designed to turn everyone into typewriters. And guess what? Everyone has a problem with that. No wonder they feel out of place.”

An ADHD diagnosis, for some, is a coveted means to free drugs. For others, it is a coveted means to a quieter mind. For most, it seems to be the solution to feeling like they don't fit in with the rest of the world, and for all, it's a path not easily travelled. But instead of medicating our neurodivergent population and leaving it at that, advocates suggest we should instead address the broader system that makes them feel out of place in the first place. Scholars like David Graeber suggest that we should examine why we stopped valuing a neurodivergent brain as an asset, and started labelling it a disorder. Perhaps we should consider how our work-obsessed culture might have encouraged so many young people to think that because they can't work eight hours a day, five days a week, that something must be wrong with them, instead of asking if there was something wrong with the system that put them there.



THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF PRESCRIPTION STIMULANTS

By Lotto Ramsay

Though stimulants have a, well, stimulating effect when taken recreationally, people with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder often experience the opposite. They may find that caffeine makes them sleepy, or that night-time versions of medications seem to make them restless. A similar pattern follows with stimulants. Medications such as methylphenidate (sold as Ritalin, Concerta, or Rubifen) and dextroamphetamine (sold as Dexedrine or Dexamfetamine) are psychostimulants used in the treatment of ADHD that work by increasing the amount of dopamine signalling in the brain. When used by people without ADHD, the effect is perceived as a “high” or even a “neuroenhancer” due to the increase in dopamine and accelerated heart rate, making it a well-known party or study drug. Despite this reputation, the science suggests that stimulants have a minor, if any, effect in helping with cognition in neurotypical people and could actually inhibit other parts of the brain. Basically for those without ADHD, abusing these medications could be equivalent to a strong cup of coffee and maybe half a wank. Even for people with ADHD, academic benefits can be minimal. Research shows that though stimulants can improve everyday functioning when living with ADHD, they may not be as effective in areas that pertain to studying. Essentially, prescription stimulants are far from a free ride.

The Ministry of Health lists stimulants as one of the most abused classes of prescription drugs in New Zealand, but still significantly behind opioids and benzodiazepines. Though they're primarily misused as study aids or party drugs due to their supposed cognitive and behavioural effects, a small portion of heavy drug users also use prescription stimulants intravenously. Because of this, ADHD psychostimulants are considered Class B Controlled Drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act, and

therefore can only be prescribed by certain specialists and in limited amounts. Additionally, as mentioned before, a diagnosis of ADHD is already hard to get and borderline inaccessible for some, making receiving medication an arduous task for people who are already struggling.

Kit\* is a student with suspected ADHD. They have been trying to get a diagnosis and prescription for more than eight months, but “There were so many obstacles... my GP [even] warned me off trying to get diagnosed because of the price and the difficulty of the process as an adult.” They told us that “I somewhat doubt I'll be getting stimulants, [especially] after instead being prescribed antipsychotics for acute mania that I wasn't experiencing”. Instead, Kit said they have had to source medication from friends with ADHD who “share meds that they tried but didn't work for them” just so they can focus. Kit has had to purchase Ritalin illegally on at least one occasion because they have difficulty studying and no accessibility support available to them without a diagnosis.

ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder that largely affects the frontal lobe, resulting in traits such as hyperactivity, impulsivity, and inattentiveness that impair everyday functioning. It's theorised that this is due to a lack of dopamine from a faulty reward system in the brain, leading those with ADHD to seek dopamine through risk taking behaviour or have trouble completing tasks due to the lack of a reward incentive. Stimulants help to even out this reward system, making it easier to stay motivated and maintain focus, while also satiating parts of the brain that are normally hyperactive. People with ADHD who take stimulants often report feeling calmer or quieter afterwards, and more able to focus without becoming distracted or overwhelmed. It just makes day to day life easier.



“We were on a bit of an MD bender and someone said that they had some Ritalin we could do”, Alex told Critic. “We cut up some lines and snorted it – I think we had two or three lines each – and afterwards everyone else was hyper and talking at like three hundred words a minute, but I was almost passing out and struggling to stay awake. I wouldn’t be diagnosed with ADHD for another ten years.”



There are only two types of ADHD stimulant medication that are funded by Pharmac NZ and available to patients. The first, methylphenidate, is available in several forms: as immediate- or sustained-release Ritalin/Rubifen, or in its long-acting form under the brand name Concerta, all of which are available at various dosages. Also funded is the stimulant dexamphetamine, or Dexedrine, which is only available here as 5mg tablets. Two non-stimulant ADHD medications are available and though they’re not as favoured, variety is key. Current literature suggests trialling a range of medications first, as ADHD presentation and response to different drugs can vary greatly. Other well-established ADHD stimulants such as Adderall (mixed amphetamines) and Vyvanse (lisdexamphetamine) are not currently available in the country at all due to cost, legislation around new controlled substances, MedSafe procedures, and fear of abuse.

In the US, for example, up to 20% of students have abused prescription stimulants for academic purposes, with Adderall by far being the most popular. In New Zealand, however, studies suggest that only around 3-6% of uni student drug users have misused prescription stimulants, usually gained from peers who distribute from a prescription – a punishable offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act, with up to 14 years imprisonment for distributing a Class B substance.

Liv\* is a twenty-something year old diagnosed with ADHD in the past year, and a self-described “hard out pusher” who illegally sells her medication to nonprescription users. She said she struggled to get a diagnosis and prescription at first, especially as a casual drug user. “My psychiatrist didn’t want to prescribe me ritties because I told her I love to party and use MD often, and in the past I’ve abused dexys.” Liv also said that “I never feel pressure to sell [prescription stimulants] ...especially when I feel like someone could genuinely benefit from a couple for stressful moments, or when I sense another ADHD person... or when there’s nothing else to put up my nose at a party.” She recently sold “heaps” at a festival. Liv claimed that she “actively lied to the psychiatrist to double the prescription to sell or share them”, and knows “at least one other person” who does the same. According to Liv, “I have shared it in probably equal amounts for both [studying and partying]” but “I know people [with ADHD] who struggle to get a prescription so I sell them some too”.

When we asked if she thinks ADHD is over- or underdiagnosed, Liv said that she reckoned ADHD was underdiagnosed, “because it’s so inaccessible to get a diagnosis. Like who the fuck has \$600 to spare [for some tests]?” Though it’s a contentious topic in some ADHD communities, Liv doesn’t mind that the neurotypicals she gives her medication to will experience a high from it

that her brain doesn’t reciprocate. “Nah, no qualms, I like people on my level.”

Ana\*, on the other hand, said that she feels others’ drug misuse could mean medical professionals treat her like a “criminal” for having ADHD. “[It makes me] nervous asking to try different drugs... I’ve been through a few while trying to find the one which is best for me... I’m terrified that they think I’m hoarding different drugs to sell. I’ve recently had Student Health refuse to give me my prescription because they didn’t think I needed it.” Though they may be seen as habit forming, recent studies question the addictive qualities of stimulants in people with ADHD. Roughly half of ADHD patients discontinue their medication before it’s recommended, and tend to take less rather than more even when it works in improving their condition.

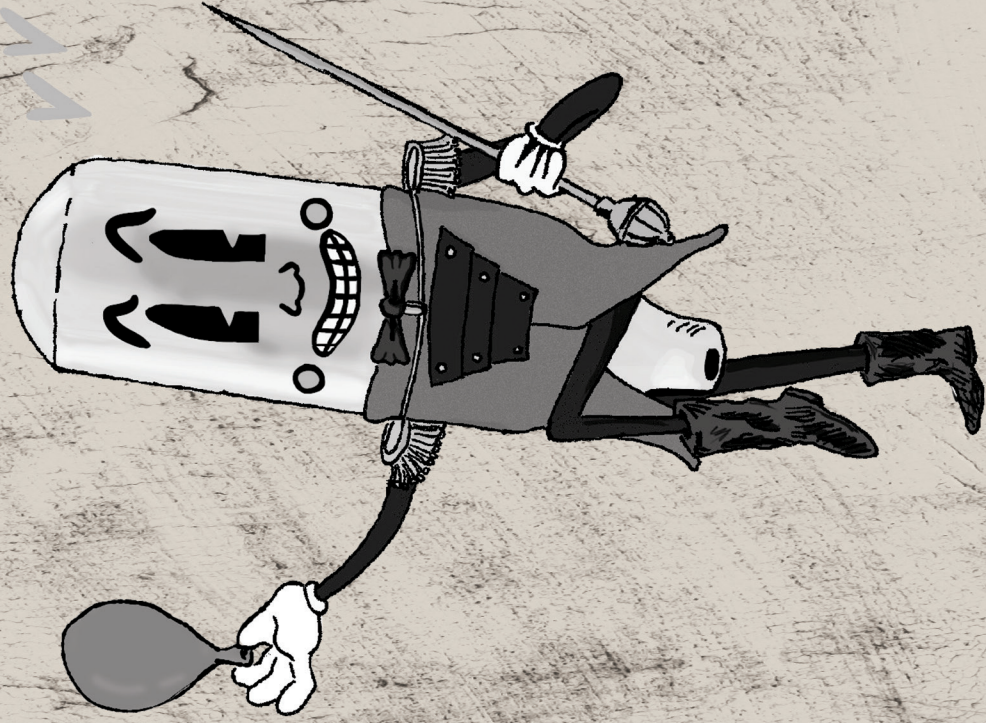
Fredrick moved to New Zealand with his American Adderall prescription, and said that he “sold those pills off for a killing. Internationals would come over from the US and Norway and seemed to think that they couldn’t pass their exams without it.” Since then however, Fredrick said that he’d “switched to a different script here and have never sold again.” Back in the states, he and his friends would use Adderall recreationally while drinking, “but that was awful. Lines of Adderall only suppressed our drunkenness, and the only times I’ve ever blacked out have been because of that combo.” Stimulant abuse carries risks of seizures and cardiovascular issues, which is increased when they are combined with alcohol or other drugs, especially when snorted.

While it was “easy as piss” for Frederick to get his prescription, Kiwi students face a different battle. Alex, from the beginning of this story, has only just gotten a prescription for ADHD medication – ten years after he first suspected it was needed. The specialist he fought so hard to see gave him careful instructions on starting his Ritalin at a low dose and increasing slowly, advice that Alex is following carefully out of fears of being labelled a drug seeker. “[Ritalin] helps with my anxiety, and stops me from freezing up when faced with some kinda task. It means I can stick to one train of thought instead of having like twelve and getting nowhere. It’s not perfect, but it makes things more manageable, I guess,” he said. “They’ve been extremely helpful – no one gets how disabling ADHD actually is. I just wish someone had listened to me when I was begging for help all my life”.

Alex would never consider selling his medication, but said he would give it away. “Only if I have a friend who’s undiagnosed and struggling, then yeah, of course. Even just to try it once and see if it works for them.” We advised him that this would be considered distributing a Class B substance, and could be punishable with fines or jail time. “Yeah, I’d still do it”, he said.



EXPERIMENTAL  
CULTURE



THE NANG PARADE



# THE BEST AND WORST *HYPOTHETICAL* PLACES TO DO *HYPOTHETICAL* DRUGS IN DUNEDIN (*HYPOTHETICALLY* SPEAKING THAT IS)

BY KEEGAN WELLS, *HYPOTHETICALLY*

## WEED

***BEST:***

BUTTERFLY EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM

The butterfly room is an incredible place. It's the most un-Dunedin thing that exists in Dunedin. The hot temperatures, the tropical plants, and friendly staff that check your back to make sure you're not taking any butterflies home with you – it all combines to provide a truly beautiful experience. Now imagine that, but everything is more vibrant and magical. Life is so delicate and cosy. Absolutely the best place to be stoned in Dunedin. Unless, of course, you're scared of spiders. Because they've got tarantulas in there too.

***WORST:***

LECTURE THEATRE

Surprise! Your morning cone did not actually help you wake up and now it is time for your 1 o'clock lecture. You've zoned out for the last 20 minutes because you can only think about another cone, and suddenly your lecturer has called on you. Time to either awkwardly ask what the question was or just bullshit something and hope it's relevant. Maybe you should stop having cones to "help you focus" as much. You also reek of weed. Nightmare.

## SHROOMS

***BEST:***

ROSS CREEK AND GLOW WORM CAVES

Spend a late arvo walking out to the Inverleith area. Take your shrooms and enjoy a brisk walk out to the Ross Creek waterfall surrounded by the beautiful Dunedin landscape. Bask in the sunset at the park, run around with your mates, enjoy your one precious life. Once the sun sets, head up to the glow worm caves (sober friend highly recommended) and be absolutely shook by the fact that nature produces its own little glow in the dark stars, as bright as your future once was.

***WORST:***

STUCK IN THE RICHARDSON ELEVATORS

Without a shred of doubt, the worst place to be on any psychedelic is a confined, corporate space. And there are none worse than the Richardson elevators, because this confined, corporate space is also suspended by a cable from the ground. Not chill or buzzy. The constant packing and unpacking of people into these small spaces is also seriously concerning. If that elevator got stuck, and you were trapped in there with several overworked law students, a full recovery is unlikely. You may get stuck with the Geography kids, though, and that's not too bad. There's about a 5% chance that they'll be on shrooms at any given time, too.

## MDMA

***BEST:***

LASER TAG AT MEGAZONE

This is the closest you'll ever get to being the main character in an action movie, and that movie is probably TRON. Running, dodging lasers, realising you're in love with your best mate. Not only will you have added endurance, but the lasers will also fondly remind you of previous times you've been on MD at decent gigs. It's just the right amount of stimulation. Your aim is perfect and resistance is futile. The only downside is having to walk past children and being confronted with the sobering fact that you might have an addiction.

***WORST:***

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL

Your mate suggested a cheeky Moana Pool visit and you thought it would be chat to go down the hydroslide. Suddenly, you're surrounded by water that is looking more and more bacterial. Your pupils are already huge, only to be magnified by swimming goggles. Why is it warm in this area? Is that my lecturer? Am I even wearing togs? Why is this kid asking me where their mum is? Why does it hurt to pee after getting out of the pools? You're too hot. You're in a confined space. You have to wait in a queue and everyone is looking at you. Avoid at all costs.







# ACID

**BEST:**  
THE BOTANS

Sun’s out, flowers are blooming, and there is still so much of the beautiful gardens to be discovered. Little worlds exist around every corner, each ready to be explored with childish wonder. Where will you go today? Perhaps to the Cedars of Lebanon Grove to admire the strong trees? Or maybe the Rhododendron Dell to look at the pretty flowers, which may or may not be moving. The world is your oyster, and you are the shining pearl, at least for the next eight hours. And after a long easy day of tripping, Gardens New World is just right across the corner for a blue Powerade and some snacks.

**WORST:**  
ALSO THE BOTANS

Pigeons, children, and the occasional talking bird – need we say more? Being around children when on any sort of drug is always the worst (see MD at Megazone, Moana Pool). It confronts you with the grim fact that the sweet children you see will either a) become you or b) nark on you later on in life. Either way it’s not looking good. The talking bird, Syd, is charming when sober but absolutely horrifying and depressing when on acid. The bars around his enclosure will quickly become bars around your headspace, bro, you gotta free your mind. And free the birds, while you’re at it. This is exactly the pattern of thought that will get you arrested.

# VAPE

**BEST:**  
CENTRAL LIBRARY

Every time there is someone vaping in Central Library, an overwhelming sense of comradeship washes through the building. Lucille Bluth’s “good for her,” line rings throughout the collective subconscious. There’s something so beautifully rebellious and also still studios about not even walking away from the desk for two minutes to have a cheeky hoon. Added benefits include the library smelling like something other than breath sweat for at least the next two minutes.

**WORST:**  
PINT NIGHT

Pint night is especially dirty for vaping because there is no outside area. If you leave you aren’t getting back in easily. This leaves students no other choice than to vape inside and then promptly get kicked out by the bouncers for doing exactly that. One student even got kicked out for vaping when they’ve never even had a hoon in their life. But with no true student bars in Dunedin, this is what we get. Dropping a vape here is likely as well, and recovery of said vape is not easy. If you’ve ever embarked on the long, convoluted treasure hunt to OUSA lost property or the bar staff to retrieve a lost vape, you deserve an award.

# METH

**BEST:**  
YOUR KITCHEN

Nothing says “speed” like a kitchen line. You’re about to crank out the best goddamn tacos the world has ever seen, just watch. You’re gonna slice those veggies like Gordon Fucking Ramsay. Cooking and cleaning haven’t gone so hard since the first human lit a campfire. Kitchen counters? Spotless. Fridge? Organised. Floor? Clean enough to eat off. Meth and kitchens have an illustrious history, and there is no place more deserving of your newly-unlimited energy.

**WORST:**  
DUNEDIN POLICE STATION

Not only have you been tweaking for the last few hours but also your mug shot isn’t cute, and you have a court date coming up. The bright fluorescent lights in combination with the fact you’re coming off of meth is giving you the worst feeling of your life. It wasn’t even that worth it in the first place, and the cops didn’t even TRY your tacos.

# KET

**BEST:**  
AT THE RACES

Why should the horses be the only ones getting drugged up on race day? They already get the fun of competing in the events, while us humans have to watch them. Show solidarity for your favourite horse by doing ket with them. Watch your step though because if you break an ankle there’s a slight chance you’re going to the glue factory as well.

**WORST:**  
THE POST OFFICE

The post office is the most normal place in the entire world. Ket is the least normal thing. Similar to antimatter and matter, such polar opposites should never go together. There is also a chance that introducing them will lead to their mutual annihilation, and while Dunedin can make do without you, we really can’t afford to lose a post office. The only thing worse than fighting for your life in a k-hole would be fighting for your life in a k-hole in a post office.

# NANGS

**BEST:**  
KICK ONS AT A FLAT

The night was successful, and everyone goes back to one flat when done with partying for the night but not ready to sleep. Then, the best person you know brings out the nangs and balloons that may or may not have been used already, but you don’t care. You’re just happy to be there. Chill music bumpin’, the whomp whomp feeling hitting, not a care in the world, life is good.

**WORST:**  
OUSA SAUNA

This is just the worst place for many reasons. Not only are you already lightheaded and sweaty from the extreme heat but you risk the chance of the other hippies in the sauna bumming nangs from you. Why should you give them up when you were the one who made the mission to a North East Valley dairy to get the treasured metal nectar? The extreme cold from cracking a nang paired with the metal heating up from sauna temperatures is also probably dangerous in some way or another.



# DEAL OR NO DEAL

BY JUSTINA KING

HE WAS  
REAL  
HESITANT,  
ACTING REAL  
SKITZED  
OUT.

From sketchy drops and Tinder swindlers to based grandmas and roleplaying dealers, buying drugs is an experience that can go a lot of ways.

Figures from the NZ Drug Foundation show that 80% of New Zealanders have tried the ol' Wacky Tobacky by the age of 21, and 44% of adults will have tried other types of illicit drugs in their lifetime too. All of these people have to get their hands on the drugs somehow, and unless you're in the 6% of medicinal cannabis users able to get a legal prescription, that means buying drugs illegally. In an unregulated black market, it's mostly luck whether or not you'll get a relatively wholesome quirky deal, an annoying waste of time, or a messy, dangerous experience. We spoke to students with a wide range of experiences when acquiring drugs: the good, the bad, and the downright bizarre.

As long as recreational drugs remain illegal and unregulated, buying them often means going to great lengths, and often with great risks, to do so. Hana\* recalls meeting up with her friend Patrick at Meridian Mall to hang out before he disappeared to 'get money out'. Hana and her friends followed Patrick to three banks, before realising that he was meeting his dealer in the car park behind Lincraft. "We didn't see him for several hours after he'd left us to wait for him. We assumed he'd been trafficked." He hadn't.

Aaron described the wild goose chase he went on with his friend to find weed. After settling "for anyone who would reply to us", Aaron and his mate found a dealer. "It took us a while to get any replies or information from him, so we started the deal feeling pretty frustrated. He finally told us he was in Corstorphine, and that he wouldn't be able to drop off anything to us - we had to pick it up ourselves." They walked from North East Valley to town, then bussed into Caversham, before being told to instead meet at Bayfield. The dealer then changed the pick up location to Musselburgh. He gave us directions to meet down an alley by LJ Hooker, which was hardly any help, because we didn't know any alleyways in Musselburgh - let alone the one by LJ Hooker. When we finally got a hold of him and traded a \$50 note for a tin, we quickly realised we did not get our money's worth." Aaron described the weed he got as bad quality, and that it tasted "like it had been saturated in diesel".

The first time Riley bought weed was as a fresher, in 2019. He arranged to meet a dealer from Snapchat at Woodhaugh Gardens. He "headed there nervous as fuck, looking for weirdly shiny Holden Commodores on the way". Riley's pick up went smoothly, but he complained that the dealer "pulled out his Supreme x LV wallet and spent 10 mins talking about it... all the other deals I've done in public took about 10 seconds and that's about as long as it should be".

While buying weed is usually an inconvenience, it can be a danger too. Megan told Critic Te Arohi of her experience trying to buy weed for a family friend who was suffering from chronic pain. "Normally she got a family member or something to get weed for her, but for whatever reason she wasn't able to do this anymore and so my friend asked me if I could suss for her. I was like 'sure, how much?' and she said 'an ounce or two'." Megan was nervous, as this was ten times more than she'd ever bought in one go.

Megan found, via Discord, someone willing to sell her an ounce (28 grams). She hopped on her motorbike and met up with the dealer. It went relatively smoothly, although Megan said that he was "real hesitant, and was acting real skitzed out". The following day, Megan went on Discord and reportedly discovered that "someone tried to buy 2 ounces off the same dealer about 2 hours after I got my ounce, and [apparently the same dealer] stabbed him in the head and ran off with his money." Megan described their experience as a "close call".

Sometimes the lengths you're willing to go for aren't for the drugs themselves, but for the people you're taking them with. Culpeo bought MDMA in Dunedin, to take at a festival in Waikouaiti with a group of friends, including a girl he "really liked" at the time. One of their friends went into a testing centre at the festival, and reported back that the drugs were "50% bath salts and 50% sugar". When the girl he liked said she was still keen on taking the drugs, Culpeo "didn't want to look like a square" and told her that he was also keen. "Immediately after we took it, our friend said they lied and it was actually perfectly good MD." Culpeo told Critic he realised he was such a "simp" that he was willing to take contaminated bath salts. Culpeo didn't end up with the girl in his story, nor did anything ever happen between them, but at least he didn't do bath salts.

While picking up drugs can be a hassle, or downright dangerous, many students seem to have had their successes. Ryan recalls buying acid last year, and though he "ended up being \$5 short" in cash of what he owed the dealer, it worked out after he "bought the dude a frozen coke to compensate". Pamela found her weed a little closer to home. "For a good summer or two, my drug dealer was my grandmother," she told Critic. Though her parents had no idea, whenever Pamela and



NANCY DESCRIBES AN "ALMOST FOOLPROOF" WAY SHE MANAGED TO GET WEED WITHOUT SPENDING MONEY. SHE MATCHES WITH GUYS ON TINDER AND ARRANGES TO MEET FOR DINNER.

her friends wanted to sesh, she would "go to grandma's, grab some baking, hang out for an hour or two, and leave with about \$75 of weed for free." Pamela's grandma was elusive about where she was getting it from, though, always giving a different answer. "Sometimes it would be from a friend who left it behind, sometimes from an activist friend who now distributes weed and gets their growers to drop some off to her, or she swapped her pavlova recipe for a gram. All equally plausible."

Wes used to get weed delivered by "two or three high school students who were obviously into Dungeons and Dragons, as they would come over with black trench coats with silver dragon rings, long ponytails and questionable facial hair." Wes says these young dealers would show up with the weed in silver locked briefcases, the kind usually reserved for handing over large sums of cash in tense movie scenes. "They would open it with a key and inside the briefcase they had all their strains organised in colour coded tupperware. Their gimmick was that they would never touch the weed, they had a set of chrome platinum chopsticks they would use to pick up the bud and weigh it for you." They would come anytime you needed, but getting onto the list of customers involved getting two references from current customers. Wes says that, ever since, he's been searching for something that holds up to the "gold-standard level customer service" provided by these boys, but that he hasn't been successful.

Not everyone is lucky enough to be dealt weed by D&D nerds with chrome platinum chopsticks. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and many users feel the need to take things into their own hands when their dealers don't follow through. Nancy describes an "almost foolproof" way she managed to get weed without spending money. She matches with guys on Tinder and arranges to meet for dinner. After dinner, Nancy goes back to the guy's place with him. "At some point he's like 'you wanna, you know...? Fuck?' and I'm always like 'Hell yeah. Should we have a sesh though? Special occasion and all'. Soon after they usually say something along the lines of 'Sure, gotta piss first though. Weed's in that drawer.' And then I take it and go."

\*Names changed.



HARDER THAN HE NEEDED TO BE:

# RECREATIONAL VIAGRA

By Fox Meyer & Sean Gourley

Viagra can make your penis feel like it's throbbing. It can put unnecessary strain on your blood pressure, and it can lead to erections that, just like the infomercials claim, can last for more than four hours. Ross, a student here, didn't seem to give a shit about any of that.

Ross took Viagra about 30 times before his third year of Uni. He does not need to take Viagra, and never has. He also strongly recommends that you do not try Viagra, mostly because, in his own words, "it fucking hurts, bro." But that didn't stop him from trying. According to Ross, Viagra can create an incredibly painful throbbing sensation in your penis, which is "not great". Also according to Ross, people take Viagra to have a good time, because "Who's taking Viagra for any other reason than to have a good time? Like, if you're taking it, you're probably expecting a good time."

He also does not have a prescription, and when pressed on where he got the drug, Ross told us that "he wasn't sure", and that "he couldn't remember" if he stole it or bought it or whatever. So that was suspicious. At one point, he claimed to have had "at least 20-or-so" pills in his collection. He took these pills before sex, supposedly because "it can make you just go and go and go... you know how sometimes after sex you can't get hard for a while? That period of time goes, like, way down and you can just keep going over and over." Critic asked Ross if his sexual partners were actually keen for "that sort of appetite" but he didn't really understand the question. It's possible that the blood meant to be in his brain had gone elsewhere.

Viagra does, however, work "real well" in combatting whiskey dick. "That's never a problem," said Ross, who's self-described as "a bit of a drinker". According to Ross, whiskey dick was one of the biggest reasons he took Viagra, second only to "having a good time." He said that it did not provide a high, and that the only notable side effect was "genuine pain" in his penis which, again, is completely perplexing.

Mysteries abounded in Ross's story. How he got the pills in the first place, why he took them, and what the point of this entire fucking exercise was, was completely beyond us. Of all the drugs you could illicitly obtain and then take at a party, Ross chose to take the only one whose major side effect is "incredible penis pain".

Wondering if Ross was alone in his experience, the Critic team went to Reddit for answers. One user on Reddit claimed that a blood clot formed in his penis over the course of 12 hours, which led to him losing his little fella. He said that "if you have an erection for too long and don't do something about it, you can develop a clot in the dorsal vein of your penis. Your penis then becomes ischemic, and will die, and have to be removed." We have no idea if this is true, but it sounds like it sucks. Or, at least, it'd be hard to suck.

Another user said that Viagra has a magnifying effect on other drugs, because of how it reallocates blood flow. "It magnifies the effects of alcohol," they said, "which means I have to pay attention to drink LESS than I otherwise would. On the flip side, it magnifies the effects of THC, which means a few puffs and I'm getting more hallucinogenic experiences than usual."

Finally, a third user warned against taking too much. "A full pill is overkill," they said. "Viagra is short-lasting compared to the other PDE5 inhibitors, and very potent. The dosage for men with erectile dysfunction is 25mg through 100mg. Since you are healthy, and because you want to minimise side effects, I recommend taking less than 25mg." Try telling that to Ross, who insisted he "just wanted to have a good time and it worked".

Recreational Viagra, by all accounts, seems like an absolutely terrible time. A hard time, if you will. And while Ross said that there are, in fact, Viagra dealers in Dunedin, "the blue pills aren't nearly as popular as the other drugs they carry." Shocking stuff.

HARDER THAN IT NEEDED TO BE:

# OBTAINING VIAGRA

By Ruby Werry

For those of you keen to give casual Viagra a go, be aware that – much like in daily life – if you don't have a dick, things are gonna be hard. Allegedly, Viagra is available over the counter at pharmacies, but there's a catch. Just like most high-level positions in government, for easy pharmacy access to Viagra you've got to be a man over 35. If you fulfil this requirement then all that's left is an interview with the pharmacist, and bada-bing bada-boom, you're lifting curtain blinds with your dick in no time. But if these criteria pass you up, a doctor's prescription is needed.

Despite being visibly under 35 and girly, I decided to give it a go at three pharmacies. God loves a trier. Bargain Street Chemist was staffed by a relative newbie, who was incredibly confused by this request and therefore had to go get her supervisor. Fair enough. The oldie who was in the line behind me muttered how she couldn't believe what "kids are doing these days," really set the tone for the rest of the day. The pharmacy supervisor was equally as confused, but decided to humour the venture. "Is this for you? You're not picking up a prescription for Dad?" she asked. "Yup, it's for me!" I said cheerfully (who is close enough with their dad to pick up his Viagra?!). "Well, are you over 35?" The pharmacist held eye contact for far too long while asking this question, and pigs would fly before a "yes" answer would. Bargain Street was a bust, but some valuable lessons had been learnt. Strike one.

So, tail between my legs, the next stop was Antidote. This wasn't much better, despite an attempt at mild deception this time, but on the upside the pharmacy was empty of judgmental customers. "Is this for you?" I was asked, again. "No, for my boyfriend, things have been hard at the moment. Or, not hard," I said. Potentially an acting workshop would have been a worthy investment, as the pharmacist looked at me the way a tenured professor looks at the fresher interrupting their lecture to ask if 'this will be on the test' before denying me. Strike two.

The final pharmacy, Albany Street, would stop this investigation in its tracks. This time I admitted that the Viagra was for me. "What do you do in your free time?" the pharmacist asked. My answer, "I'm really into chemistry and compounds," was admittedly, incredibly weak. The response? "Go home, kid." This was a death blow. The investigation needed to be shut down before another pharmacist could worsen my deep-rooted fear of failure, but he attitude of the professionals at Albany Street was iconic. An untapped geopolitical resource, the Albany Street pharmacists could humble Russia within the day.

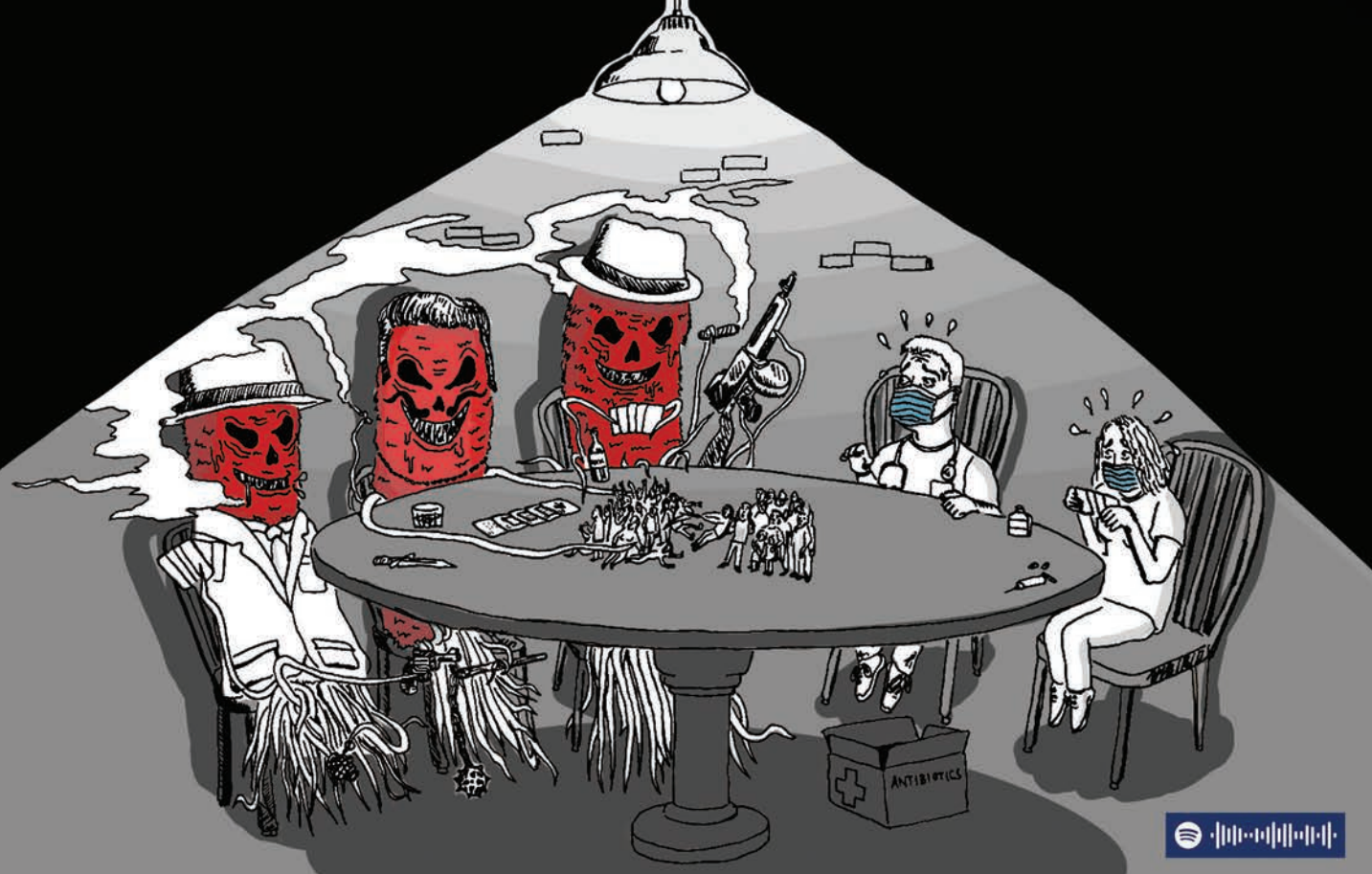
Salvation came in the form of a brown paper bag found outside the Critic office, addressed to yours truly. In it were some Erectile Dysfunction pills with the incredibly subtle name "ExtraBona." Off-brand Viagra like this and various ED pills are available at establishments such Peaches & Cream and Shosha. If Viagra is medical weed (legal, organised and tested), then ExtraBona is a sketchy back-alley deal with a crack addict. The bottle looked like something out of a South Park episode, and the ingredients looked dubious at best, but down the hatch it went.

For those of us without a dick, here's what you can look forward to if you try ED pills: a flushed face and feeling mildly woozy for about 10 minutes, without even a hint of increased horniness. You could go on a roller coaster for the same results and probably have a better time. As an overall drug experience, I wouldn't recommend it if you don't have a dick. It was a 3/10 experience, but it was, as the name suggests, a solid one. But there are plenty of easier things to get your hands on that are more fun. Once again, for women, life remains hard in all the wrong ways, and not even the power of ExtraBona could fix this one.



# HARDER, BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER: ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IN NEW ZEALAND

BY FOX MEYER



Imagine an STI that you can't treat. You go from doctor to doctor, from pill to pill, but nothing can clean out your undercarriage. The infection starts to spread. Like the one-night-stand you contracted it from, the infection refuses to leave after you make it clear that "we're done here".

Bacteria can get into your body in many ways. In fact, you're crawling with bacteria as you read this, most of which are either completely harmless or genuinely beneficial. You can't live without them. But there are harmful bacteria, too, and for these we have a secret weapon. Antibiotics revolutionised the world when they became available in the 1930's: they've made the world a place in which you can safely heal from trauma, and you don't need to have six kids in the hopes that at least three may grow old enough to till the cornfields. But it's been a double-edged sword.

Every time you take antibiotics, the drugs work their way through your system, stifling populations of bacteria inside you – the good, and the bad. This is great for infections, it means that your body has a much higher chance of surviving. But it comes at a cost. There is a small chance that even just one bacterium inside you will possess some mutation, some genetic trick, that renders it immune to the antibiotics you've just taken. It survives the medicinal onslaught, and its children inherit its genetic immunity to the antibiotics. This is bad news. This is how we end up with strains of bacterial infections that cannot be treated by antibiotics. And, yes, this potentially includes several STI's. It can also include infamous infections like Bubonic Plague, or Tuberculosis, which used to have the charming moniker of "The Consumption". Doesn't sound like something you want to come down with, does it?

There has only been one case of antibiotic-resistant Tuberculosis in New Zealand. Can you guess where? It was here, in Dunedin. The man infected with this strain was treated at the cost of \$10,000 a month. Drugs had to be flown in from the U.S. to treat him when our stocks ran out, and this is just for one person. He made a full recovery, but as the rate of antibiotic prescriptions continues to go up, so too do the rates of resistant strains.

Brian, a recent graduate from Otago, works with people who studied this field at Uni. He told Critic that antibiotic resistance was a bigger problem than it's been since 1930, when the drugs were invented. And speaking of inventions, new antibiotics can't just be churned out of a lab at the drop of a hat. "There is not a single class of antibiotics that we have created ourselves", said Brian. "Every last one of them was first identified in a fungus and then appropriated for human use." As humans continue to push out to the untouched regions of the planet, we extend what Brian called "a fingerprint that degrades diverse ecosystems and that costs us opportunities to take these molecules and these drugs and use them [for our benefit]." We cannot simply create antibiotics, we have to learn them from nature. And as we continue to chop away at that nature, we will continue to lose potential medicines before they're ever given a chance to be helpful.

In the meantime, while we continue to prescribe antibiotics, human error is building a veritable army of treatment-resistant bacteria. Every time you don't finish your prescribed course, the few most resilient stragglers are allowed to multiply, and their progeny is that much stronger in the face of future treatment. These bacteria can cause illnesses like TB, sure, but they can also be responsible for many of the sexually-transmitted diseases that we can dismiss as an "oopsie" today.

Take Syphilis, for example. Syphilis, in its later stages, can enter your brain. Al Capone had it, and towards the end of his life, he was basically insane. It actually became uncool to be associated with the most notorious American gangster of the day, even amongst his fellow inmates on Alcatraz. He completely lost the plot because of untreated Syphilis. Syphilis can also "fuck with your bones", according to Brian, and would be an absolute nightmare if suddenly resistant to treatment. "Part of this new era that we're going into is that you will have untreatable STI's again", said Brian, "and that's terrible. As a society, I think we've forgotten what it's like to have those."

But it's not just resistant strains that are causing concern. Every time we use antibiotics, we make the general population of harmful bacteria just a little bit stronger. So, next time we take antibiotics, that first line of defence has to be just a little bit stronger as well. We're caught in a microscopic arms race, with each side bringing bigger and bigger guns to the table, and your helpful bacteria can get caught in the crossfire. Take your gut, for example. Bacteria live there that produce neurotransmitters, the stuff that regulates brain function. When you take an antibiotic – any antibiotic – you're essentially swallowing gut napalm. And the stronger and stronger that we have to make that first line of defence, the more and more of your helpful bacteria get burned away.

Critic also spoke to George, who studies a particularly gnarly strain here at Otago. She told us that the World Health Organisation is most concerned about what they call the "ESKAPE" pathogens, six pathogens that each correspond to a letter in the acronym ESKAPE (Staph stands for 'S', for example). George said that the Uni gets samples of bacteria from people at the hospital and all over New Zealand, and that "some of the samples we get out of patients are reeeally nasty". She said that when a new antibiotic is tried on a sample, an "R" is put in the spreadsheet if it's found to be resistant. "And looking at some of those results, it's just R, R, R, all the way down the sheet".

George said that of all the global crises, bacterial resistance was pretty close to the top of their concerns. "You should 100% be worried about this. And climate change. And all of the plastic in the ocean. There's a lot of things to worry about and this is just one of them". George said that, like the burgeoning climate crisis, "We're approaching the post-antibiotic era pretty rapidly at this point. That era meaning that if you get an infection in your foot, you'd probably need to get your foot amputated instead of just taking some amoxicillin. We're fucked six ways from Sundays, this is one of the ways we're fucked."

From the very beginning, scientists have been warning people about the dangers of antibiotic resistance. Any time you prescribe antibiotics, you are at least somewhat increasing the likelihood of helping to create a newly-resistant strain. But how are we meant to judge the current and dire need of someone who needs antibiotics against the future wellbeing of our communal immune systems?

"I would say the last two years have shown us that as a global community we suck at dealing with infectious disease threats", said Brian. "New Zealand really needs to break away from the rest of the world and get a hold of this. And that starts here. Dunedin has lots of medical professionals doing exactly that. We need to support them, and we need to be good antibiotic stewards." And you need to make sure to finish your prescribed course of antibiotics.





CW: Psychosis

# RARE BUT SEVERE REACTIONS TO WEED

BY LOTTO RAMSAY



Weed is the most widely used illicit drug in New Zealand, and for good reason. Cannabis has wide applications for mental and physical health, has no reported cases of fatal overdose, and in many ways is significantly less dangerous than alcohol. The long-running Dunedin Study estimates that by the age of 21, 80% of us will have smoked weed at least once, and up to 20% of the former could meet some criteria for a clinical dependence. Weed is synonymous with student culture to the point that it's at nearly every party or hangout, but what happens when it just isn't compatible with you?

Though smoking weed in small amounts is completely harmless for most people, others can experience rare and awful reactions. These vary based on a variety of factors, such as age, tolerance, genetics, and presence of mental illness. Little talked about and seldom experienced, the more severe end of cannabis side effects go well beyond greening out.

Symptoms such as hallucinations or psychosis, depersonalisation (feeling "outside your body"), derealisation (feeling like everything around you is "fake"), recurring panic attacks, and loss of motor function are all documented side effects that can last far beyond the usual buzz. For some, extensive cannabis use could lead to a later diagnosis of a serious illness such as Cannabis-Induced Psychotic Disorder or Depersonalisation-Derealisation Disorder, (a dissociative disorder that can be caused by substance abuse, most frequently weed), or it could otherwise exacerbate existing conditions.

Critic reached out to people with experiences ranging from panic attacks and dissociation to longer-lasting symptoms of psychosis. Many participants echoed sentiments of feeling "alienated" because of their experiences, citing a lack of resources and that smoking weed is "a huge part of socialising amongst young people" that they feel left out of.



The first time Amy\* smoked weed was with friends who smoked regularly, but even they were confused when she had a severe panic attack and then found herself unable to move. "I felt really dizzy at first and could feel myself starting to panic. I realised I could barely see and had to crawl back inside. I only just made it to the door by the time I passed out. When I woke up I had been moved to my friend's room, but I felt dissociated, with no motor control. I had to manually breathe all night." Amy said this experience made her feel like she had done "something wrong" when she hadn't, but when pressured to try smoking again she kept having the same response, no matter what she tried. "I think it's so important that people hear about this," Amy said. "Some people just don't mix well with weed."

Max\* had diagnoses of psychosis and severe anxiety prior to trying weed, but found that smoking made their symptoms so much worse. They told us that "Almost every time I smoke it, I have increased paranoia and feel like I'm not real. It's consistently a feeling that someone is watching me, and oftentimes I see horrific figures or shadows and I freak out. It gets pretty bad, sometimes to the point that I need other people to constantly remind me that I'm okay. I have moments where I feel like my body isn't mine or my surroundings are fake. Usually when this happens I sorta mentally black out, where I'm conscious but I don't remember it and I only come to a couple hours later." Even though Max now has "moments of dissociation throughout my weeks" following their experience, they still feel a bit self-conscious about not being able to sesh with friends. Still, they concluded by saying that "It's completely normal that something doesn't work for everyone. It's not something to be ashamed of."

Liesel\* had someone call her a "drama queen" after she first reacted to weed so severely that she was unable to move and had to be carried "the whole way home". She recalls, "The cone went down easy [but] the ground beneath me collapsed into waves of static. My heart pounded until it was sore and I couldn't breathe." Liesel's susceptibility to weed toxicity is rare, and has made doctors and counsellors confused. Her friends could only watch as she was "paralysed" and no one understood what was happening. "I couldn't stand. I started convulsing violently, over and over. I don't think I've ever experienced a more traumatic thing in my life," she said. Liesel smoked weed again a second time after being convinced to by others, but suffered a repeat experience and now has PTSD as a result. "Most people I talk to seem to not know what it is so it fucking sucks... I haven't even recovered yet." Despite all of this, Liesel, like everyone who responded to Critic, is pro-weed. She just wants to be understood when she turns it down.

Though the psychoactive effects of marijuana have been known for a very long time, research into how it can cause psychosis or dissociative illnesses and why a select few are vulnerable is still relatively new. The Dunedin Study found that weed smokers were more likely to be diagnosed with a psychotic disorder by their late twenties, with the risk being doubled for those who smoked regularly from a young age, and especially those that had a family history of similar mental illnesses. For the most part, it seems to come down to genetics - while weed cannot "cause" disorders such as schizophrenia, it may interact negatively with a certain gene, increasing the risk for the individuals who carry that



gene. Prior conditions play a role too, with disabled people or those with mental illnesses appearing to be more at risk for a negative reaction that may even need medical attention.

Nate\* has fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, BPD and OCD, and experienced episodes of psychosis as a teenager prior to smoking weed. They can smoke weed in small amounts to help with their pain, but any more "can send me into a very paranoid [or] psychotic episode. I'll dissociate and it'll generally trigger a panic attack." Though Nate, like our other participants, has had their regular experiences dismissed as just needing to "smoke in a different environment" or "the whole 'you need to find the right strain' type nonsense", they are lucky to have friends who are "understanding and gentle with me when I end up in that paranoid space".

"I think the thing I wish people did differently was just to have more respect for people who have different experiences with weed," said Nate. If you're around someone having a bad reaction to weed, kindness is key. Provide them with company and a quiet area to ride it out with lots of water and food if possible. Keep noise and lights low if they're overstimulated, monitor their breathing and heart rate, and don't be afraid of seeking medical attention if you're worried.

"While I'm a huge supporter of legalising weed," said Nate, "I do wish there was more education and representation of the negative reactions some people can experience from it without it being tied to [anti-cannabis] nonsense, so that people can be prepared for their friends to have certain reactions and then respond in a helpful and happy way." Overall, the most important thing is to be understanding if people say they can't smoke, or respect it if they say that they know they'd have a bad time this sesh. Stigma and fear of ridicule only make these experiences worse, so don't be a dick. Besides, though it may be underreported, the concept of having a psychotic response to a psychoactive drug really isn't that far fetched.

*\*Names changed.*

# INSERT FEAR-MONGERING ANTI-DOPE SLOGAN HERE

BY ELLIOT WEIR

Ever wanted to stage, and then lose, a poorly-thought-out war on plants? Ever wanted to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on a publicity stunt that leads absolutely nowhere? Ever wanted to disenfranchise an entire swath of the population at the drop of a hat? Well, then this is the quiz for you. Go ahead and use this nonsensical tool to generate a bogus slogan to brainwash the next generation of good, Christian minds. We can't have them smoking that lightning lettuce, after all. We all know that only leads to sin.

## FORMAT FOR YOUR SLOGAN: Y'KNOW, SMOKING THAT [1] [2] WILL [3]

### [1] PICK AN ANIMAL

- Fennec Fox: Devil's
- Jellyfish: Wacky
- Gecko: Green
- Flamingo: Dank
- Tapeworm: Party
- Pangolin: Electric
- Tapir: Jazz
- Rhino: Evil
- Star-nosed mole: Skunky
- Bumblebee: Lightning

### [2] PICK A HAT TO WEAR

- Fedora: Grass
- Piss-stained bucket hat: Cabbage
- A very French beret: Lettuce
- Abe Lincoln's blood-splattered top hat: Ganja
- Bedazzled snapback: Tree
- Stinky pirate trifold: Weed
- Krusty Krab Official Employee Uniform hat: Dankety dank

### [3] PICK A SHOW TO BINGE WHILE STONED:

- Love Island: Ruin your life
- Community: Make your girlfriend run off with your best mate
- One Piece: Make you infertile
- Euphoria: Give you retrograde amnesia
- Adventure Time: Make everyone hate you
- Planet Earth II: Make your toes fall off
- It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia: Let the gays win the war
- Gilmore Girls: Make you want to fuck your mother
- Bob's Burgers: Make you hate Jesus
- Making a Murderer: Turn the fucking frogs gay
- Bojack Horseman: Give you AIDS
- Arcane: Make your voice really high, like, Alvin & the 'Munks high
- Taskmaster NZ: Make you drop out of Uni and become a rabid socialist
- Staring at the Chromecast and waiting for the pictures to change: Lead to crack





LOCAL PRODUCE  
By Jamiema Lorimer



ASIA MARTUSIA KING AND  
THE UGLY CLUB

It's every prospective students' dream: coming to the University of Otago, flatting on Castle Street, and dating a nice bird. Not a human girl, a bird. Like a literal bird. No? Not quite your speed? Well, if it is, you can do exactly that in 'The Ugly Club', a video game developed by Asia Martusia King that is both her Master's project and a love letter to Dunedin.

Asia recently wrapped up her Science Communication degree. 'The Ugly Club' was a component of her thesis and is the first video game to be submitted in the degree's history.

'The Ugly Club' is a dating simulator. You're the newest human on campus and you've received an invite to the hottest social event: the Bird Of The Year Ball. Queue the cast of critters pursuing you to secure their invite as your plus-one. In 2-D Ōtepoti, the Castle St Bros are flocks of seagulls and the Hyde St Hoes become kererū who get messy after just one can of fermented nectar. "I really wanted to encapsulate the Dunedin stereotypes...I went through the species first and I tried to pick out things that would justify that personality" says Asia.

The main characters of this crossover episode are Ryan, the frog/med student, Wayne, the wētāpunga/film-studying softboi, and Ngaio, the long-tailed bat/loud party girl who talks exclusively in all caps. For example, Asia took the solitary life of the wētāpunga and translated it to the doc-wearing, chain-smoking Wayne who definitely sends texts at 2am like 'u up?' and 'wanna come round and watch a hitchcock film ;)' at least once a week.

The game shares lots of parallels with the show Bojack Horseman. Non-stop animal puns, kinda hot animal characters with an uncanny

semblance to everyone you know IRL, and a very existential undercurrent. But this time, the existentialism comes from your flatmates reminding you at every flat meeting that your own species is responsible for the deaths of their friends and family.

The game essentially asks us to consider the more leathery creatures of Aotearoa as just worthy of conservation funding as the feathery creatures. The anthropomorphic characters were not just to pander to the furry gaze. "These creatures might be ugly, and we don't really see them as worth protecting. But they're closer to us than we think." Asia chose the form of a video game for its interactivity. "You have to take accountability and action to progress that narrative." The in-game decisions the player makes are not so far from the decisions we make in our everyday lives.

If Asia's childhood passion of making froggy adventure comics was her lvl 1, then 'The Ugly Club' is Asia at lvl 10. If she were to reach her dream job potential of lvl 69, she says "If I lived in another time, [I] would be some old guy like Darwin, who just explores the world and draws animals. Maybe a bit less colonial." You can keep up with Asia's animal drawings and more, at @asiam\_art\_usia, and if you are not a basic bitch Apple user you can download and play 'The Ugly Club' from the website itch.io.

Critic's final question to Asia was who she would date from 'The Ugly Club'. "Definitely Wayne. He's just so obnoxious. I've met so many Waynes in real life, but I just can't help but love them so much." If you too can quadruple-fist as many durries as Wayne the wētāpunga, please, hit me up.



BUNCH OF Ss

- LAST WEEK'S CORRECT ANSWERS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:
1. REUBEN  
2. SUSAN  
3. RILEY  
4. CHLOE  
5. ROXY

Each week, Critic asks five students five of the same questions. See if you can figure out which row of answers came from which student. Answers are published weekly.

	Would you do shrooms with your parents?	Have you ever had laced drugs?	Thoughts on nangs?	What did you vote in the cannabis referendum and why?	What's your closest run-in with the law?
PAUL 	Probably with my Dad but honestly Mum would be a laugh, I reckon. They were born in the 60's - they've definitely been there already.	I took them willingly but I guess that's a yes.	Fuckin' bop.	I voted yes because it is a public health and education issue. Regulation is not only important but it's... it's just the smart way to go.	Once we dug a hole in our lawn and lit a fire in it and the cops came round and said "hey friends, you better put that out".
MARGE 	Hell yes. Think Mum is keen and I can't wait. Think she did shrooms when I was like 2 or whatever.	God I hope not, I think I would know though.	Too cold for me tbh.	I voted yes because if alcohol is legal, weed should definitely be legal.	I once had a full conversation with a fully-armed Air Force security guard while coming up on shrooms. Then we squatted in an American general's home and wore all his clothes.
TIMMY 	Absolutely not. I'm high on life without drugs.	Never, I'm certain, I just wouldn't.	Heavens no!	I would vote yes because I want people to do things safely.	A speeding ticket, haha.
ADDIE 	Yes, but I won't elaborate.	Nope, never.	Uh, double shaka?	Yes, because it's ludicrous the amount of money spent on alcohol treatment whereas cannabis is still considered an illegal drug.	Haha, I was like 18 years old, just finished a massive hotbox down at the riverbank and a set of lights pull up and I was like "I think that's the police", and they made us open our doors and clouds just started billowing out and he said "you guys are idiots, go home".
DJ 	Absolutely, with my dad, he'd be crazy.	No, thank God.	Good for whipped cream?	Yes, because we really need to keep it safe and regulated.	I was deported from Austria for being an overstayer. Had to spend a night in a refugee camp.





BY ROSIE JOYCE @SKUXXFOOD

CHICKEN BURGERS  
WITH GRILLED  
PINEAPPLE, AVO AND  
CARAMELISED ONIONS



It took a lengthy discussion between myself and 5 of my flatmates to work out how to explain what butterflyng a chicken breast actually entails. I hope you learn something from those 10 minutes we’ll never get back.

INGREDIENTS

Serves 4 (one burger each)

2 chicken breasts	2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
220 grams panko bread crumbs	2 avocados, mashed
½ -1 cup cup flour	1 can sliced pineapple, juice drained and patted dry with paper towels.
3-4 eggs, whisked	A bunch of shredded lettuce
4 bread rolls/burger buns, cut open	Oil for frying
4 medium onions, thinly sliced	
2 tablespoons brown sugar	

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 220 degrees celsius on the grill function.
2. Heat oil in a pan over a medium heat. Add onions and fry for 10 minutes, until they start to brown. Add brown sugar and balsamic vinegar and fry for another 10-15 minutes until they have reduced and become sweet and delicious.
3. While the onions are cooking, butterfly your chicken breasts. This essentially means placing one breast flat on your board and holding a sharp knife along the long side of the chicken. Then using a sawing motion, slice through the breast, parallel with the board. Do this to both breasts. You should now have 4 pieces of chicken.
4. Put the flour, eggs and bread crumbs in three separate bowls. Add salt and pepper to the breadcrumbs. Coat each piece of chicken in flour, then egg, then breadcrumbs. If you want the chicken to be extra crisp, repeat the egg and breadcrumb steps.
5. In another pan, heat oil over a low-medium heat. When the oil is hot, fry each piece of chicken for 5 minutes on each side. After this process, slice into the middle of the piece to check if cooked through. Continue frying for an extra 2 minutes on each side if needed.
6. Remove chicken from the pan and add the sliced pineapple. Fry on each side for around 3 minutes, they should become golden and caramelised on each side.
7. Place opened burger buns in the oven. Grill with the door open until the buns are golden. This should only take about 2-3 minutes - careful not to burn them!
8. Assemble mashed avo, chicken, caramelised onions, lettuce, and pineapple in your buns and add sauces of your choosing, I recommend aioli. Serve with fries! Pictured is home-made kūmara fries, they go hard.

BOOZE REVIEW:

JAMESON  
IRISH WHISKEY

BY CHUG NORRIS

This St Paddy’s day I was on a diet, so I bought a bottle of Jameson whiskey instead of beer. Instead of standing around in near darkness and hating our lives, a group of us decided to go for an expedition to the reservoir for a change in scenery. I did not want to be lugging around a glass bottle in a forest, so instead I fished a Just Juice container out of the recycling and poured about half the whiskey inside.

As we were about halfway up to the reservoir, one of my flatmates questioned the authenticity of my Irish ancestry and my love of potatoes before stealing my hat. Naturally, I could not take this slight lying down. I had to respond with force so I tackled him to the ground. But in the scuffle my juice container sprang a leak, and lacking any alternatives, I was forced to scull the remaining contents. This was not the best move.

If you sip a glass of Jameson by your crackling Irish hearthfire, it is sweet, smooth and relaxing. If you chug half a bottle of Jameson from a dirty juice container in a forest, it is foul, acidic and enraging. By the time it was finished, I could sense a blackout was definitely on the cards. But, perhaps thanks to the protection of St Patrick, I did not blackout, I just became extremely intoxicated.

The forest is a magical place when you are shitfaced. Even the simplest things like a cool tree or a tiny

waterfall filled me with childlike wonder. Time had no meaning as I strode through the bush with joy, but it did not take me long to wander off from the group and become lost. Very lost.

After my shoes became wet after crossing a stream, it all became too much. In my daze I curled up next to a tree and resolved to wait until I had sobered up enough to soldier on. But just as a drunken stupor overcame me, I heard a voice calling through the forest. I looked up and made out a tiny silhouette in the forest ahead of me.

Stumbling to my feet I began to follow the figure through a winding path between the trees. Soon I found myself on a main trail again and sure enough I found my way back to the group in no time. I am told that I was only gone for a matter of minutes but who knows for sure. The forest is a magical place when you are drinking Jameson, especially if there are leprechauns about, and even more so if YOU are one of those leprechauns.

**Tasting notes:** trees, Just Juice, sweetness without sugar  
**Pairs well with:** leprechauns, mental breakdowns  
**Froth level:** top o’the mornin’ t’ya  
**Taste rating:** 8/10



# HOROSCOPES



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20 – Feb 18

Sup baby, take me out to dinner.

*Drug to try: The humble weed brownie.*



**PISCES** Feb 19 – Mar 20

Not everything is a metaphor. Stop reading into every single miniscule detail of your life. It's just not that fucking deep.

*Drug to try: Shrooms.*



**ARIES** Mar 21 – Apr 19

Tis the season to be absolutely un-fucking-hinged.

*Drug to try: Psychedelics baby.*



**TAURUS** Apr 20 – May 20

It's time to be a hermit. Ignore all sense of responsibility. Go off the grid. Buy a hut in the bush.

*Drug to try: Serotonin.*



**GEMINI** May 21 – Jun 20

You need a drink. Tequila is perhaps best.

*Drug to try: MDMA.*



**CANCER** Jun 21 – Jul 22

Mummy issues aren't cute. Go get a therapist, wanker.

*Drug to try: Stick to alcohol, you are too weak for drugs.*



**LEO** Jul 23 – Aug 22

With the full moon on the 18th, Leo is gonna have some massive fucking revelations. The only question is if you're gonna discover empathy or lose what little you have.

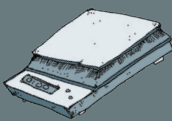
*Drug to try: Concerta.*



**VIRGO** Aug 23 – Sep 22

Remember to check in on people. I know things are overwhelming, but it's important to remember that you do actually have friends.

*Drug to try: Xanax.*



**LIBRA** Sep 23 – Oct 22

You have been experiencing some trials and tribulations recently. Don't beat yourself up. Dress up hot and take a shot.

*Drug to try: Nangs.*



**SCORPIO** Oct 23 – Nov 21

I was thinking with my dickkkkkkkkkk. My shit dumb!

*Drug to try: Viagra.*



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22 – Dec 21

Ain't nothin' harder than being a swag-ittarius.

*Drug to try: Sobriety.*



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22 – Jan 19

It's a week for nachos. Treat the flat to some culinary excellence. Remember the guac!

*Drug to try: Margaritas and acid.*

# MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

a t m s

ADULTTOYMEGASTORE

## A Cocktower Confession

Once upon a time, in a place not too far away, your girl did something a lil' bit nasty on Uni grounds. I had been going to some university events which I shall not name, in the sake of protecting my identity and, well, my ego. While I was there, I met a pretty cute boy whom I shall call [redacted].

I had noticed him from afar but had not ventured off to have a chat, as I was feeling quite shy. I thought he was way out of my league. After a couple of weeks of continuous flirting, we had a big BYO. At this time, I may have gotten a bit silly and started to feel that dutch courage working its magic. On the walk home from the BYO, the boy and I started chatting and man, the way he looked at me gave me those good ol' fanny flutters.

Fast forward to the afters, and I was even more drunk and doing a lot of seductive dancing around him. I'm no Shakira but I'm not your drunk dad at a BBQ, either. This is when it started to get good. He grabbed me and took me into the bathroom at this flat and we started passionately making out, he grabbed my ass and put me on top of the sink pressing himself closer. I hopped off the sink and proceeded to rip my favourite pair of jeans so badly that my bum was sticking out. This only fuelled the fire.

I gave him head, both of us so turned on that we realised we needed to leave this bathroom. We sheepishly and conspicuously left the flat party, him with a boner on and me with my bum out, like God intended. The trek to my flat included a walk through campus so we decided to make the most of it. We walked through the archway towards the Quad lecture buildings and he pulled me down these dodgy dark stairs that led only to a concrete wall.

Not a bad spot, so I turned around and he slipped it in. Pretty proud of this, we carried on, but there was this giant, tall building, all lit up, that caught our eye. It was a building that would make a great backdrop for, say, grad photos. You know the one. It was the Clocktower building. We excitedly walked over and I assumed my position. Pressed against the entrance to the clocktower building I admired the scenery of campus while he thrust it in and out. Finished, we made ourselves as presentable as possible (with my ass hanging out) and continued the walk home.

Now, if nothing else, I'll bet you anything that this story will make your future grad photos hit different. There's like a 99% chance that you're gonna take your grad shots in the same place I stood while I took his cumshots. And I hope that cursed knowledge sticks with you forever.

Have something juicy to tell us? Send your salacious stories to [moaningful@critic.co.nz](mailto:moaningful@critic.co.nz). Submissions remain anonymous.



Get \$10 off!

Use code CRITIC22 to get \$10 off anything on-site!



You come first.

[www.adulttoymegastore.co.nz](http://www.adulttoymegastore.co.nz)

a t m s

ADULTTOYMEGASTORE



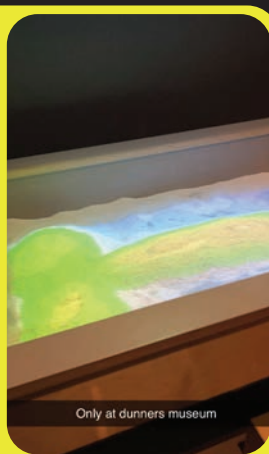
# SNAP OF THE WEEK



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

## SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT  
CRITIC ON  
FACEBOOK  
TO CLAIM  
YOUR REDBULL



Only at dunners museum



Pregnancy tests in New Worlds bathrooms.  
God I love North Dunedin



Im coming out as a proud Comic Sans lover



Have the critic staff heard of control variables? You can't compare milkshakes of different flavours as equals 🤪



I mean... if you say so



Playing lotto just to win half a tank of fuel



Bagodel recipe:  
ingredients: expired bagel found in the rubbish, mi goreng, and self-hatred



Café Tokyo providing the goods



Critic! Please could you feature our dear Julie, she passed on Sunday. RIP



give me serotonin you bastard



Tested positive for getting on the piss

# THIS CARD GETS YOU FREE SH\*T

University Book Shop  
Great King St + On Campus  
10% off full-priced items.

## A+ BURGERS

10% off all menu items purchased in-store.

## BOSS PIZZA • BURGER

Free upsie any burger from single to double OR medium pizza to large.

Burger + fries + drink OR snack pizza + fries + drink for only \$12.90.

Waffle Wednesday: \$5 ALL DAY!

## BURGER N BEAST

\$10 burger and chips every Monday and \$5 burgers every Tuesday. (T&Cs apply).

## CORNERSTONE INK TATTOO STUDIO

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

## LUMINO THE DENTISTS

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

## ONLY URS BEAUTY PARLOUR

Student specials: eyelash lift/perm special for \$42 & eyebrow shaping wax/thread only \$12.

Only available in-store with your 2022 Radio Onecard.

## OTAGO MUSEUM

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

10% off for all students at Otago Museum shop.

## RA HAIR

\$20 spray tan.

\$159 1/2 head foils including toner, plex and hydration treatment.

\$209 keratin smoothing treatment and supporting take-home product\*.

\*Surcharges may apply.

## STIRLING SPORTS

10% student discount on all full-priced items.

## SUBWAY

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



## DEAL OF THE WEEK

### LA PORCHETTA

10% discount on all items and beverages.

### ADJØ

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

### COMES FIRST DINER

\$10 Happy Burger, \$10 Wings N' Fries, \$10 Tap Wines & \$12 Crafty Pints.

### GELATO JUNKIE

\$1 off double scoop gelato.

### GO RENTALS

20% off any car hire in Dunedin using the code: explore20

### LARNACH CASTLE & GARDENS

'Big Kids go Free' - one free entry with one paying adult.

'Ride Share' - Two or more in your car? Get a 50% discount on each entry.

### NU YOGA DUNEDIN

Two week introductory pass for \$32 (\$40/\$35 w/ concession) with promo code: nuROne. T&C apply. Limited to one person per pass.

### SAL'S AUTHENTIC NEW YORK PIZZA

Buy any large pizza online and get a free 1/2 cheese pizza using the code: DunedinStudent.

### TAKEICHI

Free special topping with every bowl of Ramen.

### TM AUTOMOTIVE

\$60 warrant of fitness fee.



REGISTER TO UNLOCK  
ADDITIONAL PRIZES!  
[R1.CO.NZ/ONECARD](https://www.r1.co.nz/onecard)



[illegible]

Added by SIN:

\*a-PVP analogs: all PVP, PHP, PPH, PPP, MDPV, pentedron, hexedron, hexen

\*4-MMC analogs: methcathinone, ethcathinone, all MMC, CMC, CEC, methylene, ethylene

