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LETTERS

University Book Shop
Great King St + On Campus

EMAIL CRITIC@CRITIC.CO.NZ ——— LETTER OF THE WEEK WINS A \$30 VOUCHER FROM UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Hey Critic,

I was really saddened to read your news piece about a student's 'outrageous' abortion experience.

I myself had an abortion 18 months ago, aided by the Dunedin Public Hospital. I wanted to express how amazingly helpful, considerate, kind and non-judgemental my experience was. Every member of hospital staff I encountered at every point of the process was obliging, knowledgeable and supportive of the decision I was making. They kept me informed, offered counselling, and would even call me weekly just to check up and ask how I was doing. One of the nurses even sat on the phone with me while I cried through my pregnancy hormones.

For an experience that can be so hard to navigate for so many reasons, my experience with getting an abortion from the Dunedin Public Hospital was one that made me feel so proud of the accessibility of this care in our country.

In what has been a gruelling couple of years for health care workers and facilities, with staff being overworked and underpaid, and mismanagement from the upper echelons of these services, it's clear that this person's experience was a result of pressure from too many angles. The last thing I want to do is undermine this person's experience – I'm sorry and sad that it ended up being so much more traumatic than it needed to be for them. And of course, it's important to speak up when the health care you're receiving is damaging or traumatic in any way. But I want to stress for the many more people who will inevitably need to access this service in the future; please do not let this article scare you.

I, and the people close to me who have also gone through an abortion, have had incredibly supportive experiences, with huge thanks to the staff at the Dunedin Public Hospital.

Thanks for listening,
Child-free

Dear Critic,

I have this problem with my flatmates. Outside the regular arguments over the power bill, cleaning, and other typical things, I have a really weird problem. They literally will not stop tickling me. At first it kind of started as a joke and I went along with it but now it's not funny. They still get a giggle out of me every time but I am not having fun!!! I'm too much of a people pleaser to say anything in person so Bert, if you see this, please stop.

Kindly,
Elle Meaux

Critic,

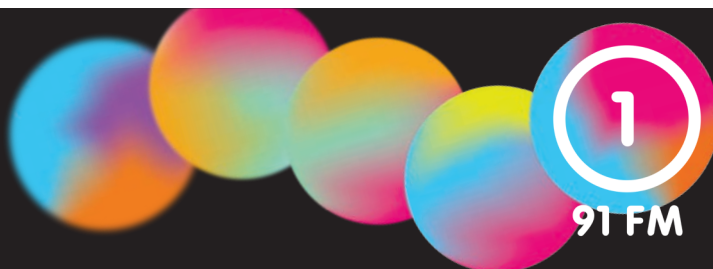
When the last issue came out and of the next one to what to do. If they were to think about it then, they would. And there would not EVER be without it. Really? I've never known much since then and there.

At least if, allegedly, it WAS, it would be! And anything beyond her, to do with what. Have you thought that it would or wouldn't it?

Anyway. It's just a whole bunch of ifs, buts and something to do with it.

Have a nice day
Sue Baru

RAD TIMES GIG GUIDE



FRIDAY 06 MAY

Sense of Time and Ghost Coloured Faces
DOG WITH TWO TAILS
8PM / \$5

School Fair feat. Dale Kerrigan
THE CROWN HOTEL
9PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Sly Chaos & Mylen w/ Jousey and Slips
CATACOMBS
10PM
Tickets from eventbrite.co.nz

Paul S. Allen
INCH BAR
7:30PM / KOHA ENTRY

SATURDAY 07 MAY

Jackie Bristow - 'OUTSIDER' Album Release Tour
DOG WITH TWO TAILS
7PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Anthonie Tonnon - 'Leave Love Out Of This' NZ Tour
PORT CHALMERS TOWN HALL
5PM
Tickets from anthonietonnon.com

THURSDAY 12 MAY

Sam Bambery and Neive Strang
DOG WITH TWO TAILS
8PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

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

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Editorial Conspiratorial:

How i
caused
9 / 11

By
Fox
Meyer



When I was two, we lived in Florida. Yeah, I know, woe is me. My parents, as you can tell from my mum's choice of footwear, were total hippies. And in 2000, they were big fans of Ralph Nader, the American Green Party candidate for president.

I don't know how much you know about the 2000 American presidential election, but it was, to put it lightly, a bit of clusterfuck. Long story short, George Bush was able to narrowly edge out Al Gore for the presidency, thanks to some election mumbo jumbo and loophole-threading. The state of Florida was the key to his success, as it flipped from Democrat to Republican and pushed the country into Bush's lap.

Now, as a two-year-old, I didn't have much concern for politics beyond which candidate promised to make a T-Rex the national animal, but that didn't stop me from getting involved. My mum took me out to the polling station during the election, and used my cherubic charm to highlight her protest sign: calling for Nader to be a part of the presidential debates. Democratic voters were sympathetic to the plight of the Greens, and she was aiming to convince a few Democrats to vote with their heart this year, and vote Green instead.

In the US, you don't pool your votes. You only get one choice, and once everything is tallied up, the person with the most votes wins, end of story. So every Democrat voter that chose to vote Green essentially made the already-tight gap between Dems and Republicans that much wider. This is by design, too.

There's a reason that the two-party system has survived in the States: it's a corporate trap designed to ensnare the masses and force them to choose between two established evils, neither of which has their best interests in mind, and to discourage them from voting for any party that aligns with their morals because to do so would be to undermine their preferentially-polished turd. But that's another story.

As we'll see, this can go very, very wrong. It is no stretch to imagine that a handful of Democrat voters decided, upon seeing my mum and I, that maybe they should listen to their gut. Maybe they should say "fuck the system", and vote with their conscience, that they should be the change they want to see in the world and, politics be damned, they're gonna vote Green! Oops.

Enough people at this polling station voted Green that the Democrats lost our county. Because our polling station flipped Republican, our county flipped Republican. And because our county flipped Republican, the state of Florida flipped Republican. And because Florida flipped, well... the rest is history. Bush was elected, some steel beams were melted (were they?), a third World Trade Centre building collapsed (how?) and here we are today (I guess).

So when somebody tells you that you're too insignificant to make a difference, don't listen to them. You can always make a difference. It just might not be the difference you were looking for.

Drink Spiking Incident Correction

By By Fox Meyer

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

Last issue, Critic published a story about an OUSA club-organised BYO in which two people suspected their drinks had been spiked. The girl who suffered the worst of the two experiences got in touch with Critic to correct some major details of the story.

Jamie* did not make it home ok, as originally reported. Critic was initially led to believe that the victims of the drink spiking were not interested in being interviewed. Jamie was not sure how that miscommunication occurred, and has since shared her story of what happened after the BYO.

She said that after just two glasses, she began to feel "quite ill quite quickly", like she was going to vomit, "but I don't normally vomit when I drink". So she took a friend to the toilet, where her condition deteriorated. "I started feeling really really dizzy, feeling confused, and started vomiting. I think I may have passed out."

"I remember bits and pieces. I was conscious in my mind, but my body wasn't responding." Jamie said "straight away, I knew exactly what was happening." She

said that, from what she has been told, her friends tried to walk her home. They didn't make it far down Dundas Street when her friends, including first aid certified members of the club and the club's welfare rep, decided that they needed to get her to the hospital.

Once at the hospital, Jamie said that the support from staff was excellent. They couldn't confirm what was in her system. Jamie said that the doctor said that her drink could have been spiked with an unknown substance, but they couldn't identify what it was because it could've been metabolised already. Jamie also praised the support received from her club and from OUSA.

Jamie has since made a recovery, and lamented that "it just went downhill so quickly, which I was so upset about, because it was meant to be a mean night, and I didn't even get my curry! I had already paid for it as well, I was so looking forward to it. I remember waking up in the hospital and thinking 'God damn it, I didn't even get my food'. And I lost my favourite pair of earrings."

Jamie said the experience was "terrifying", but felt that she "felt like she was in a safe space" because she was surrounded by trusted friends. She also said that, to whoever spiked her drink, if they read this coverage, "I hope they don't think that they need to use more [drugs] next time," because she reported that her ordeal was very nearly much worse.

Getting her drink spiked at a commercial BYO really made it clear to Jamie that "this could happen to anyone, no matter how careful you are." She continued to say that "My main worry is if whoever it was that spiked me read [the previous article], they could think 'oh, it didn't cause any harm' or 'oh, it wasn't a high enough dose', and then they could use a higher dose [if they do this again]. Because it was a very, very close line. It was already fucking horrible but it could've been much worse...I was very fortunate I wasn't by myself in that bathroom."

*Name changed.





Image: K. Frost Photography

Ukraine War Casts Spectre Over OUSA ANZAC Service

"Whakamaua te hoe onamata, kia kauria ngā wai anamata"

By Denzel Chung

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Around 200 people of all ages, from students to staff to elderly servicepeople, attended OUSA's 2022 annual ANZAC Day service.

Held by the Memorial Walk outside the Staff Club building, this service was the first to be held outdoors since 2019. The weather was mostly sunny, although the wind tunnel that is Union Street served to direct some gusty southwesterlies straight towards the podium.

In attendance were members of the OUSA Exec, the Uni's Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, local MPs David Clark and Michael Woodhouse, and Dunedin's Mayor, Aaron Hawkins.

OUSA's President Melissa Lama and Tumuaki of Te Rōpu Māori, Jade Mills, jointly delivered the welcoming address. "I know it's been a tough year so far for many of us," said Melissa, "so I'd like to acknowledge... your willingness to come together as a community to reflect, give thanks and remember the sacrifices of the many selfless soldiers who fought to ensure we have a better today."

Jade encouraged the audience to "not give up on fighting for a better future for our children and their children." She spoke about her koro, a Korean War veteran: "He is a constant reminder that on days like today, each and every person who went to war, or was affected by war, deserves just a moment of our thoughts." She finished with the whakatauki in the subtitle above: "Take hold of the paddle of the past to navigate the waters of the future."

Melissa, in her ANZAC address, reflected on the Otago students who chose to serve in wartime, and "the pure resilience and life experience endured by our students... [who] put everything on hold to serve in the war, return home and then continue their studies". She focused on the 21 final-year medical students who volunteered to serve in World War I, bringing forward their final-year exams so they could graduate from medical school and serve as soon as they could. "This is the part where I feel most connected to ANZAC Day," she said, "to know I'm a part of a bigger vision, filled with hope and determination." She concluded: "I encourage us to be brave, in our pursuit to keep each other safe. To remember that our actions affect generations to come."

Although ANZAC Day is generally a time to reflect on Aotearoa's military history, the violent war in Ukraine, and the rise of totalitarianism and militarisation worldwide, seemed to cast a contemporary gloom over this year's service. "We are increasingly living in a world in which oligarchies are beginning to flourish," said Chancellor Dr. David Higgs, introducing his reading of Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem "Ozymandias", a reflection on "mortality and authority". Historian Dr. George Davis, describing the violent turmoil of Turkey post-World War I, said the "conflicts were creating a similar catastrophe to that which is now happening in Ukraine".

Liam, a student, told Critic Te Arohi it was his first time attending an ANZAC Service: "I lived pretty rurally, so never had a chance to attend one before." He was there with Daniel, who said it was important for students to remember Aotearoa's war legacy: "Every generation needs to know about this." Also present was Rose, who said she felt that living in Aotearoa, it was a "duty" for her to attend. Originally from the Pacific, she said it was important to remember the soldiers who fought so she could live in Aotearoa, adding: "We're pretty lucky it wasn't us."

Vape Juice has More Nicotine than You Think

Almost 1,000 darts' worth in a 40mg bottle

By Fox Meyer

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

If you've always wondered why vapes are such a tough habit to kick, here's a possible reason why: it contains a fuckton of nicotine. To be precise, you'd get as much nicotine from a bottle of 30mg vape juice as you would smoking almost ten pouches of rolling tobacco, or over 700 darts.

Armed with some vape juice and tobacco pouches, Critic Te Arohi's very real team of crack mathematicians (a volunteer writer with Google Calculator) set to work. We found that a 35mL bottle of 30mg vape juice contains 1,050mg of nicotine: the equivalent of 9.52 pouches of rolling tobacco, or 714 cigarettes (assuming each cigarette contains 0.4g tobacco). A 40mg bottle has about 12.69 (nice) pouches worth of nicotine: in other words, the same amount as 951 cigarettes. Our maths for this is at the bottom of the article.

Coming in at around \$25, a bottle of vape juice is far cheaper than its rolling tobacco equivalent, which has contributed to its

popularity on campus. But while most students Critic Te Arohi spoke to were aware that vapes deliver a more potent hit, few knew just how much stronger it was.

Harry, who was busy hooning on a cherry ice flavour, guessed that his bottle of 40mg juice probably contained "about four" pouches, "because it's stronger, right?" When we told him the number was closer to thirteen, Harry responded: "Well that explains why it's been so fucking hard to quit."

Nelle spoke to Critic Te Arohi as she puffed on a grape-flavoured pen. Nelle said that while she used to smoke darts, she switched to vaping because "it's just so much cheaper, and I can do it anywhere." Unlike the others we spoke to, she actually knew that her vape juice was closer to ten packs of rolling tobacco, saying: "Yeah, that's the whole point, right?"

When we asked Harry if he'd be able to quit, he said "probably not". Nelle expressed no desire to quit. This was probably

unsurprising, considering they'd both ingested almost 1,000 cigarettes' worth of nicotine in a single week.

For anyone interested, here's our maths:

30mg/mL at 35mL = 1,050mg nicotine per 30mg juice bottle.

40mg/mL at 35mL = 1,400mg nicotine per 40mg juice bottle.

One 30g pouch of rolling tobacco = 75x 0.4g cigarettes.

1 filtered cigarette = 1.47 mg nicotine received (Ministry of Health figures)
1.47mg per cig * 75 cigs per pouch = 110.25mg nicotine received per pouch.

1,050mg in 30mg juice / 110.25mg in pouch = 9.52x more nicotine in a 30mg bottle than a single pouch.

1,400mg in 40mg juice / 110.25mg in pouch = 12.69x more nicotine in a 40mg bottle than a single pouch.

Study Hopes to Pave Way for Blood Donation Equity

Fighting for everyone's right to get huge needles stuck in their arm

By Denzel Chung

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

A new study involving the University of Otago is hoping to collect data on HIV prevention among men who have sex with men (MSM). A key aim of this study is to change policies which have, until now, prevented many MSM from donating blood.

The Sex and Prevention of Treatment Study (SPOTS) is being run by a team comprising staff from Auckland and Otago Unis, the New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Te Whāriki Takapou (a Māori sexual and reproductive health promotion organisation), Body Positive New Zealand and the New Zealand Blood Service (NZ Blood).

NZ Blood currently prevents any men who have had anal or oral with another man, or who have had any HIV pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis treatment,

from donating blood for 3 months. Dr Peter Saxton, the Auckland Uni researcher leading this study, told Stuff that "many MSM want to donate blood and see the current policy as discriminatory and unscientific, given recent advances in HIV prevention." He added that while NZ Blood has known that the risk of HIV from MSM donating blood is generally low, they "lack evidence to improve the policy further. Our study will be the first to provide that evidence."

The SPOTS study is open to anyone who is aged 16 and over, lives in Aotearoa and identifies as a man and has had sex with a man; is a trans woman or non-binary person who has had sex with MSM; or any other gay, bisexual, takatāpui, queer or pansexual men who have never had sex with men.

After registering online, participants will do a confidential, anonymous online survey including questions about participants' sex life, their testing for HIV and sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), and their attitudes and opinions around the current blood donation policy for gay and bisexual men. After completing the survey, participants can also (optionally) provide a finger-prick blood specimen to help the team "understand HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C in the community".

NZ Blood themselves are backing this study, with chief medical officer Dr Sarah Morley telling Stuff that the evidence this study provides "will inform the next review of NZ Blood's behavioural deferral policy". She said that: "This study is a real opportunity to help effect change, and we encourage all eligible people to take part."

Local Councillor Apparently Editing his Own Wikipedia Page

Don't mess with the Wikipedia editing community

By Fox Meyer

Critic Editor // critic@critic.co.nz

A Wikipedia user by the name of "Leevandervis" has been making edits to the Wikipedia page of Lee Vandervis, a Dunedin city councillor with a history of making controversial headlines.

Critic received a tip about edits made to Vandervis' Wikipedia page on April 26, listed as "updated facts and dates" made by a user called "Leevandervis". Vandervis did later confirm that this was his account. Critic Te Arohi was made aware of the Wiki changes at noon on Thursday 28, giving Lee little time to respond, but he forwarded his prior responses to "a similar scandalous attempt to rush and sensationalise a non-story by the ODT which may also answer your questions".

Some changes were simple, like correcting his birth year. Some involved adding new information, such as: "Lee Vandervis was teased at school because of his Dutch name 'Lieuwe', which he later changed to 'Lee' by deed poll." It wasn't clear who added this, but Lee clarified that "I was teased at school for being the only blond boy in class being regularly called 'snow', for being Dutch, 'go back to Holland', despite being Balclutha born, and for having a rare name Lieuwe which I later simplified to Lee by deed poll."

Another change included editing a line about Lee Vandervis settling "a defamation lawsuit against [former] Mayor [David] Cull for \$50,000," to read: "In July 2017, Vandervis settled a defamation lawsuit against Mayor Cull receiving only NZ\$50,000..."

Recently, Vandervis had a complaint lodged against him for allegedly abusing a Dunedin City Council parking warden over a parking meter. It was his 12th complaint received. Vandervis has consistently insisted that his parking ticket was "due to a faulty parking meter", and not negligence on his part, and said that "It was not a 'parking ticket incident' as repeatedly misrepresented by media but it was my complaint of a DCC staff member and her subsequent complaint of my manner, who refused to take details and ID number of a faulty parking meter with faulty signage, faulty coin return, and faulty receipt, all of which faults were subsequently repaired."

There were substantial edits to the section about the parking ticket saga. The version edited by user "Leevandervis" is below, alongside the current, reverted version (as of print time).

These changes did not last long: an eagle-eyed Wikipedia editor undid them just 34 minutes later, citing a "conflict of interest". They also sent user Leevandervis a message, saying that: "If you are Lee Vandervis you need to declare a conflict of interest in accordance with Wiki guidelines."

Leevandervis version:

In mid-September 2019, a twelfth complaint was lodged against Vandervis through CEO Bidrose after he allegedly verbally abused a DCC staff member for refusing to note the details of a faulty parking machine. Video evidence of this claimed abusive interaction was initially withheld by the DCC but later forced into the public arena by Vandervis' appeal to

the Ombudsman. Leaks from the DCC to social and local print media falsely recast Vandervis' complaint of a staff member as an attempt by Vandervis to get off a \$12 parking ticket.

The unprecedented use of the DCC Code of Conduct by a staff member, and alleged abuse of process and misrepresentation of the Code of Conduct by the investigator and CEO Bidrose has been the subject of a Judicial Review brought against the DCC and the investigator by Vandervis, currently going through appeal against Judge Gendal's negative ruling in the High Court. Vandervis contested the complaint and uploaded a CCTV video on social media to support his claim that he did not verbally abuse the staff member. On 10 December, Vandervis was censured by his fellow councillors for the staff alleged abuse incident.

Reverted version:

In mid-September 2019, a twelfth complaint was lodged against Vandervis after he allegedly verbally abused some DCC staff members over a parking ticket. Vandervis contested the complaint and uploaded a CCTV video on social media to support his claim that he did not verbally abuse. David Benham, chairman of the Otago Regional Council's audit and risk subcommittee, was tasked with conducting an independent investigation into the matter. On 10 December, Vandervis was censured by his fellow councillors for the parking ticket incident. In response, he alleged that his privacy was breached at a critical time of the election campaign.

KALEIDOSCOPE
WORLD



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Ian Dalziel, (b.1957), *The Original Collage*, 1991, collage and ink on paper, 135 x 135mm, Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago, V2015.14.1. Typeface designed by Robert Scott.



KARERE / NEW ZEALAND

Toilet Prices Behind Hyde Ticket Price Increase

Spoiler alert: It's NOT Joe Biden's fault

By Keegan Wells

Staff Writer // keegan@critic.co.nz

Last week Critic Te Arohi reported that Hyde Street ticket prices have jumped this year by 10% (\$5) for students and a whopping 35% (\$7) for street residents. To get to the bottom of this, we spoke to Jason Schroeder, Events and Venues Operations Manager for OUSA.

Just like any good conspiracy, it turns out that there's a deep-seated reason behind the price rise, which Jason quickly pointed out was not OUSA being greedy. "We've seen an increase in cost everywhere we go, it's really supply chain issues at the end of the day" he said. One of the main increases in costs comes from portaloos, which apparently went up by over \$1,000 this year.

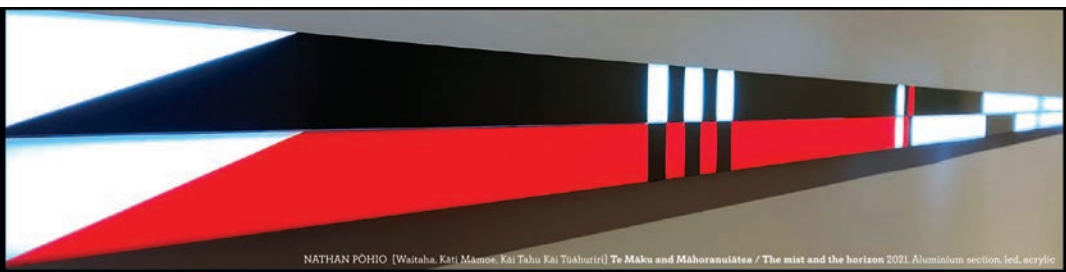
When asked if OUSA could just dig a big pit in the back of someone's yard to save on costs, Jason clarified that "We talked about options we can build ourselves but it's not that simple unfortunately." He also joked that OUSA could just "not provide toilets at all, if you really want to save money", but that seemed like a shit idea.

Due to the event being pushed back into winter, Jason said other costs came from "trying to provide hot food options, more toilets, more security, and more shelter. We're also spending more on St John because the risk of Hypothermia increases."

One Hyde St goer suggested "instead of spending money on more security and fences they could spend it on a decent sound system." For the record, OUSA doesn't actually buy the sound systems. In other news, a student named Will has just started a public Facebook event planning to storm Hyde Street: "They can't stop us all!"

However, with the supply chain price increasing, Jason said "this is the reality of events moving forward." Critic Te Arohi expects a transition to bush doof events as bush poos are good for the soul, and good for the bank balance.

PAEMANU:
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NATHAN POHIO [Waitaha, Kaiti Mānaki, Kaiti Tahu, Kaiti Tuhirangi] Te Māhau and Mahorānuiātea / The mist and the horizon 2021 Aluminium section, led, acrylic



Ditch the Indomie and Cook Like A Granny

Ravenous reporter relishes rediscovering retro recipes

By Denzel Chung

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

A South Dunedin charity is aiming to teach life skills using the most potent source of wisdom known to humankind: grannies. They're hoping their cooking workshops, focusing on cheap, sustainable recipes, will be a hit with eco-conscious, cash-strapped students.

The adorably-named SuperGrans run their classes out of a building in South Dunedin. They're a service that offers one-to-one home-based mentoring, as well as free group workshops, aiming to teach people life skills as varied as cooking, budgeting, sewing, knitting and gardening. The twist: all these classes are run by volunteer grannies.

Critic Te Arohi attended one of their "Cook Like A Gran" events in an effort to gain some nan-imparted wisdom. Running between 10am-12pm every Tuesday, they're hosted in South Dunedin (just around the corner from Pak 'N Save). The free workshops focus on cooking "the old-fashioned way": with simple, seasonal

fresh ingredients, on a budget, and with minimal waste. "It's funny that this is trendy now, that people are rediscovering the way we used to do things," said Sandy McKay, manager of the SuperGrans.

The session began with "a little chat about potatoes," which, despite some initial misgivings, rapidly blew the mind of this historically potato-deprived reporter. From the difference between floury and waxy potatoes (floury are better for mashing, waxy are best for roasting and salads) to the nutritional intricacies of potatoes' glycaemic indexes, it seemed the resident grannies were just bursting with accumulated spuddy wisdom.

Volunteer Anita (pictured, on left) led the class through whipping up a cottage pie, gnocchi with a butter sauce and a silverbeet salad, helped by SuperGrans employees Rosie (on right) and Sandy. The kai was ready in less than an hour, despite the incompetent gnocchi-shaping of your hapless reporter. And yes, in case you were

wondering: you do get to eat the fruits of your labour at the end.

The grannies present were keen to point out that "old-fashioned" techniques, as well as being ridiculously cheap, also had the very real benefit of being kinder to the environment. Raw, seasonal ingredients were used; not a single sauce sachet, microwave bag or freezer pack was in sight. Meat was kept to a minimum: stretching mince with lentils, making fish cakes go further with potatoes. And they wasted little, sharing tips on using everything from beetroot leaves (fritters) to leftover mash (baking them in a muffin pan!).

For anyone interested in upgrading their flat cooking skills without resorting to TikTok recipes, or if you're just desperately needing some wholesome nans in your life to cook, bake, craft or knit with, flick the SuperGrans Charitable Trust Dunedin a Facebook message or email info@supergransdunedin.co.nz.

Student Visa Backlog due to "Capacity Issues"

Immigration NZ: Maybe firing heaps of staff wasn't a great idea...?

By Zak Rudin

Chief Reporter // zak@critic.co.nz

Despite borders reopening and Aotearoa once again officially 'open' to international students, eager student travellers have hit one critical snag: Immigration New Zealand (INZ). Processing struggles have left many overseas students in limbo as a result.

Since April 12, Aotearoa has been officially open to international students, as long as you hold a valid student visa and offer from a university. The Otago University International Office said in a statement that they "welcome [the reopening] as a first step to once again allowing freedom of movement for international students".

However, "if your circumstances changed since you were granted your visa, or you no longer meet its conditions," you need to apply for a new visa – and INZ will only begin accepting those applications in October.

Even being able to apply, though, is progress: during the Covid-19 pandemic, INZ basically went into a coma, suspending processing of visa applications, cutting staff numbers and closing their overseas visa application centres. This has meant that, as borders reopen, they're desperately playing catch-up. A statement on their website notes they're now "resuming the processing of residence applications received outside New Zealand prior to March 2020", over 2 years ago.

While they plan to rehire staff and open a second visa processing office in Christchurch, they have a steep mountain to climb. Ricardo Menendez-March, the Green Party's immigration spokesperson, estimates that every month from now until October, another 20,000 visas will become due for renewal and land in INZ's rapidly filling inbox. This is in addition to the estimated 51,000 work and student visa holders still stranded overseas.

As a result, there is ongoing concern over how quickly applications will be processed after students are finally able to apply in October. Ramandeep Lalotra, who had been working in Aotearoa before being denied entry back after a trip to India, says that being stranded overseas has made it near-impossible to pay off the \$40,000 he took out to study here. He's now been left in a desperate state, he said: "I've got a final notice from the bank that if I won't be able to pay, they will start doing the auction of the house."

Some students were also eligible for a "Border Class Exemption," allowing them effectively to jump the queue and arrive in time to start in Semester 2. However, only 6,000 students are eligible – including all ages from high-schoolers to postgrads. In addition, according to Ransford Antwi, an international student stranded overseas who wrote about this in issue 1, "education

providers are not giving a straight answer to the question of what criteria is being used to determine which students are eligible for this kind of exemption."

For international students currently stranded overseas hoping to gain a valid student visa in October, here is a rough breakdown of what you need. This is just a summary: a full, detailed breakdown is available from the INZ website.

1. You need a refreshed offer of place of admission from an NZ tertiary education provider. Additionally you need proof of online studies if you have been studying remotely.
2. Check with your scholarship provider to reinstate your scholarship should it have lapsed.
3. You may need to provide a valid Police Clearance Certificate, General Medical Certificate and Vaccine Pass.
4. You need evidence of sufficient funds to support yourself while studying in Aotearoa, with a minimum of a cool \$20,000 NZD annually (or NZD \$1,667 for each month of study if your programme of study is less than thirty-six weeks).



WEEKDAYS 11-12
ON RADIO ONE 91FM — r1.co.nz

Muslim and Atheists Students' Associations Assigned to Share a Table

This sounds like the setup for a bad 90s sitcom

By Denzel Chung

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

The Muslim Students' Association (MUSA) and the Society of Atheists, Rationalists and Skeptics (SARS) were assigned to sit together during OUSA's clubs week. Despite the potential for awkwardness, both sides seemed to brush it off easily.

In issue 7, Critic Te Arohi reported on OUSA's Clubs Week, an initiative where clubs were each given 90 minutes and a shared table at the Link to promote themselves to students heading through campus. An unknown individual reached out to us, pointing out that MUSA were assigned to the same time-slot with SARS. They told us it was "kind of f***ed up putting a vulnerable minority with a group hostile to them". But this critique did not seem to come from within MUSA.

George Lethbridge, MUSA President, seemed to shrug off the situation. When approached by Critic Te Arohi, he said that

he had "no real comment on it", because MUSA "didn't interact with them much". He said "It was more of a funny coincidence than anything."

Thomas Cawood, the President of SARS, also found that there wasn't much interaction between MUSA and SARS during the time slot, but "a few people came up to the tables who were interested in both clubs, which is always nice to see." He added that this was "a bit amusing, especially considering we were also taking over from the Otago Campus Christians". But he was keen to clarify that: "SARS has no issue interacting with any religious organisations. It's something we welcome, and wouldn't have chosen a different time slot if that was an option."

Thomas rated the experience overall "8/10" saying that he "would definitely do Clubs Day with the Muslim Students Association again".

Kathryn Corry, OUSA's Clubs Development Officer, told Critic Te Arohi that "Clubs applied [for time slots] through a process of choosing a rostered time. They were all aware of who was rostered when and had the option to change if requested. Both clubs in question didn't indicate any unhappiness and overall the days were a success. We welcome your feedback, and aim to foster an inclusive environment for all."

Critic Te Arohi notes that this Clubs' Day table has been single-handedly more successful in fostering world peace than most intergovernmental institutions. Critic proposes that the Chinese, Taiwanese and Hong Kong Students' Associations get assigned to share a table next time around.



HERE'S AN EASY CHECKLIST TO GET YOUR PARTY THE THUMBS UP:

On registration:

- Try and register as far in advance as possible.
- Know numbers of people attending.
- Social media is powerful; don't advertise to everyone.
- Know the real reason for the party.

On the night

- It's ok to call for help!
- Don't tolerate bad behaviour from that "one guest"
- If you can't walk through the crowd... there's probably too many people in the room.
- Make sure you have more than one exit open from your flat.
- Keep a few windows open, it's getting hot in there!
- Keep the party on the ground floor.
- Music off, lights on to clear the room.
- Whoever's the party contact - go easy on the bevs, in case we need to contact you.

After the party

- Campus Watch can sort you out with free bins, trailers, brushes and shovels which makes the clean-up easier.

REGISTER YOUR PARTY GOODONE.ORG.NZ



@goodonedunedin



ARTWEEK!
embracing creativity

RADIO ONE 91FM

MARKET DAY



Wednesday **11th** May

10am-3pm Union Lawn

More info on FB:
Art Week
R1 Market Day



ousa

Outcry Forces Vape Shop to Remove TikToks

Gone in a cherry ice-scented cloud of smoke

By Sean Gourley

Staff Writer // sean@critic.co.nz

A new vape shop has taken down all of its TikToks after a Stuff investigation found kids under 18 were interacting with their posts, potentially breaching the law as a result. The owners have said they'll be changing their ways from now on, with a removal of most of their posts in a social media reset.

On April 16, Stuff published an article about the TikTok marketing tactics of the Hi-Fo Vape Club, which recently opened on Albany Street. In one video, someone grabs a handful of vapes while a voiceover goes: "Omg, we have so many disposables. Who's gonna help us get rid of all of these? So many yummy flavours!!!!" The article found under-18s were actively commenting on the piece, including one who asked how they could get a vape

of their own. While age restrictions are notoriously hard to enforce online, having vape ads being viewed by kids would potentially mean Hi-Fo is breaking the law. Aotearoa currently bans the marketing and sale of vaping products to those under-18.

Since then, Hi-Fo have taken all their TikToks down. Their account is still present though, with 203 followers. The owners of Hi-Fo told Critic Te Arohi that they took the TikTok ads down because they found that they couldn't control who viewed their TikToks. They said "TikTok is a new social platform [for] people of all ages to express themselves. We have removed the previous videos as we can't control who views them. We want everyone to be safe and get our name out there, so for now we are focusing [on] word of mouth, and we will establish an internal review of the content on TikTok."

The company's Instagram, hifo.vape, was also used for promotion, with a post advertising "FREE DISPOSABLES!" However, the page only has 24 followers and has not been active since February 1. They don't appear to have a Facebook page.

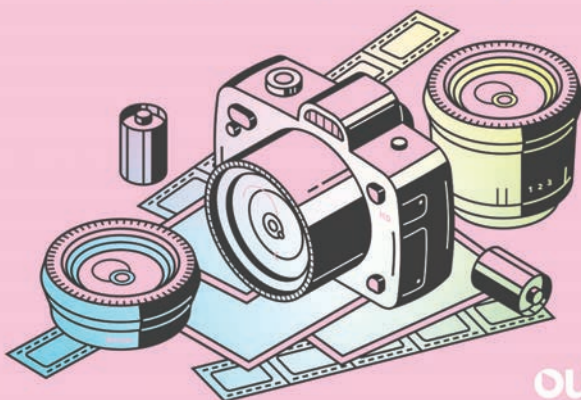
Hi-Fo has now changed their marketing approach, the owners said. They told us that "[We've] gone back to basics for now. We have talked to those staff members who have posted the videos and they have said sorry and it won't happen again. Before we have very clear and strict rules [about] social media postings, we will not post anything." Critic suggests Hi-Fo should reach out to adult-only audiences using the only social media platform populated entirely by oldies: LinkedIn.

ART WEEK! embracing creativity

THE ANNUAL PHOTO COMP

Applications open
28th March - 1st May 2022

Enter at
bit.ly/ousaphotocomp



ART WEEK! embracing creativity

+ ✨ x 9 - 13 MAY 2022 x ✨ +	
EXHIBITION	9-13 MAY
THE ANNUAL PHOTO COMP	9-13 MAY
9-13 MAY	CRITIC POETRY COMP
9-13 MAY	ART CLUB ANONYMOUS ART SWAP
BRUSH & BEVVIES	10 MAY
24HR PHOTO COMP	10 MAY
11 MAY	ART CLUB CROCHET WORKSHOP
11 MAY	RADIO ONE 91FM MARKET DAY
V ENERGY PRESENTS: DJ WORKSHOP & FUTURE DJ COMP	11 MAY
Music Talks	12 MAY
+ MORE INFO ON FB: ART WEEK 2022 +	

ART + ✨ x

x ✨ + ousa

The Critic

Predator Free Dunedin didn't catch a Single Paedophile Last Year

The whole concept of one-trap-fits-all for paedophiles hasn't been super effective. Despite PFD's best efforts, not a single sexual predator was caught by their automated traps, presumably because the traps are rat-sized. A local predator said, "The council is generalising us which is ineffective, and all they're managing to pull in is heaps and heaps of possums and rats." Apparently they have a group chat discussing the locations of these traps and how to avoid them.

A council spokesperson said "It's not a reflection on our job but rather society as a whole." In an effort to increase the catch rate, the city council and non-profit partners are hiring Chris Hansen as a consultant for next year. "We really can't afford to have another year of no paedophiles caught," said the spokesperson. This is especially true if the country wants to reach its goal of predator free 2050.

"Free Thinker" Millennial Wonders Who Really Built the Pyramid Scheme She Joined

"Look, I don't want the liberal PC media woke brigade to cancel me," said Ms A. Von to Critic Tribune, "but if you take a closer look at the culture behind, y'know, pyramid schemes, something doesn't add up," she concluded, with all the authority of someone who's taxes also don't add up. "The technology is just far too advanced," said A. Von while trying to neg a passerby into buying her gluten free dog shampoo. "I truly believe there were outside influences," she said, gesturing upwards to the sky from her throne of disintegrating wonder bras and expired essential oils. "I'm not saying aliens, but I'm not not saying aliens, so if you sign up today in my downline you can make money working from home – or in space when our overlords retrieve us at last."

DILLON FRANCIS

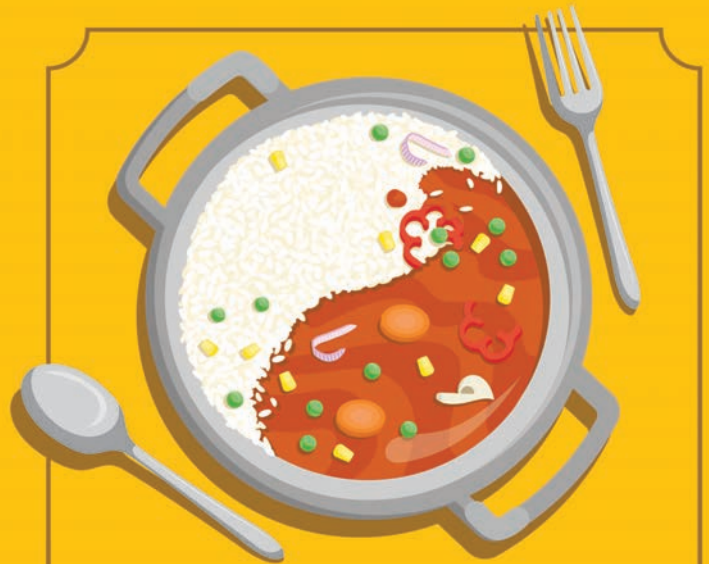
USA



THURSDAY 14TH JULY
DUNEDIN: UNION HALL

TICKETS VIA TICKET FAIRY

ousa



\$4 LUNCH

PROVIDED BY TANDOOREE GARDEN

Monday – Friday 12 – 2pm • OUSA Clubs & Socs

Full menu available at bit.ly/ousa4lunch

#comeplayousa

**Clubs
& Socs
ousa**

al Tribune

Conspiracy Theory Pinboards Behind Newfound Love of Fibre Art

Local man Hugh Anon, a voracious Facebook disinformant, has discovered a use for pins and yarn that doesn't involve being homophobic or antisemitic. "It all started last year when lockdown took away my free speech," Hugh told the Tribune, "so I took to social media to speak freely about it, but went down a rabbit hole of who's really behind everything. Soon I'll have all of the evidence in my hands, and I'll be able to put the pieces together on a pinboard and link them together with push pins and yarn. Just as I had definitively proved that [redacted] were connected because they made a funky shape when I strung them together something took over me, and next thing you know I've accidentally made a fully operational loom and am making a pair of socks." Critic Tribune asked Hugh if he was going to start up a knitting group for all of the other quacks who had gotten into arts and crafts in this manner. "Wait, there are more of us? But... but that means it's all connected! Oh god, have I fallen into another trap set by the elites? Where's my yarn and pins?!" The Tribune notes that the interview cuts out at this point, due to our reporter being panic-knitted into a scarf and never seen again.

OUSA Student Executive Creates New Crypto Bro Position on Executive

OUSA Finance and Strategy Officer Emily has been crunching the numbers on how to survive the next fiscal year, and came to the conclusion that they are in trouble. In order to combat this, she is introducing the Crypto Executive Position, which starts in two weeks. The new position is already being filled with a shortlist of names, provided from the Finance Department. Coincidentally, the shortlist is identical to the worst people at the Uni to be stuck in a group project with.

Emily, who's been interviewing the candidates, said "Most of the interviews are just them mansplaining NFTs and blockchain." This is ironic, as Emily pioneered OUSA's collection of NFTs. "Hopefully having a crypto bro on our side will bring in lots of money." Emily continued, "There's almost no way it can't."



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Ravneel Chand

Ni sa bula Vinaka!

I am the new Chair of the Otago Postgraduate Association and the Postgraduate Students Representative at the Otago University Students' Association (OUSA). I am a final year postgrad, studying PhD in Toxicology with a focus on aerial 1080 poison used in New Zealand for pest management.

My role is to serve as a general voice, particularly relaying queries and concerns to and from the students to several influential committees on campus.

This year started with me attending multiple academic meetings across the university. It was a great opportunity to get to know the staff and their willingness to contribute towards improving student learning experience at the University of Otago. I have been closely working with the Graduate Research school on a proposal to establish a succinct

approach in dealing with academic challenges, particularly the supervisor-student relationship. As a postgrad, I believe supervisor-student relationship is an integral part of holistic research experience that determines the overall student success.

Regarding the Otago Postgraduate Association, we had a great start with many more sign-ups to the association, and successful events such as postgrads get together night, paint with bob, afternoon tea's and writing retreats. A very special thanks to everyone who has poured their hearts into making these events possible and for many more to come. At Otago Postgraduate Association, we aim to provide an active surface to boost the academic and social interest of our postgrads. We are looking forward to meeting you on some upcoming events.

Vinaka!

Ravneel Chand

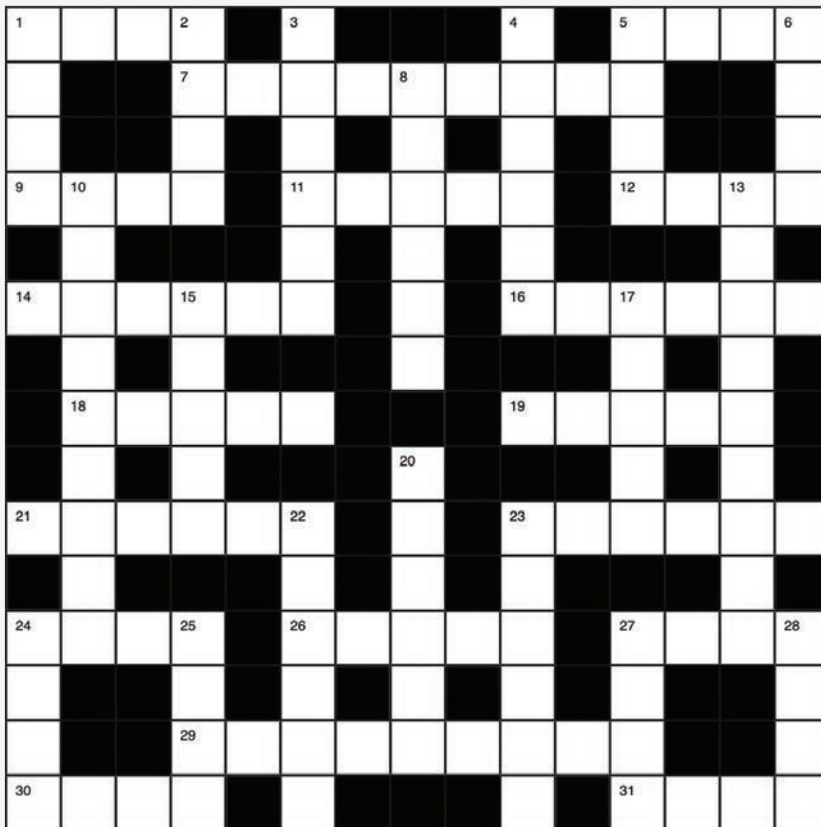
Postgraduate Students' Representative

PUZZLES

Mazagran
ESPRESSO BAR
36 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

BROUGHT TO YOU
BY MAZAGRAN
KEEPING CRITIC
CAFFEINATED

CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

1. Pot holder (4)
5. Self-satisfied (4)
7. Overplayed DnB song (9)
9. Leafy green (4)
11. Desert refuge (5)
12. "Lady" of pop music (4)
14. Switch sides (6)
16. They arrive via UFO (6)

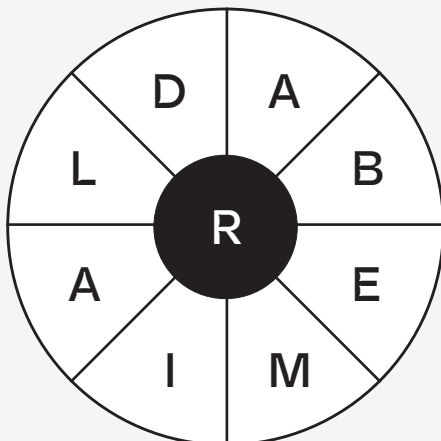
18. Pennsylvanian sect (5)
19. Cover story (5)
21. Commercial (6)
23. Iggy ___, rapper (6)
24. Military takeover (4)
26. One who throws stars (5)
27. Backstreet ___ (4)
29. Extremely hot (9)
30. Simba's mate (4)
31. Trig function (4)

DOWN:

1. ___ up (4)
2. Open-mouthed stare (4)
3. Dined at a restaurant, perhaps (3,3,)
4. Clear blood component (6)
5. Secretly, we are gay (4)
6. Palestinian city (4)
8. Scallywag (6)
10. Lady Gaga 2009 song (9)
13. Really (9)

15. Banishment (5)
17. "I took a pill in ___" (5)
20. 1996 Alanis Morissette banger (6)
22. Muscle to bone connector (6)
23. Darth Vader, at birth (6)
24. Biblical first murderer (4)
25. Leaning Tower city (4)
27. Software glitches (4)
28. Rice wine (4)

WORD WHEEL



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

6-15 good / 16-20 great

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.

CHIP

SLOT

WEEK 08 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. CHELSEA 5. CATFISH 9. MARCO POLO 10. BOOBY 11. UPDOG 12. HYDRANGEA 13. EMPEROR 15. RIPENED 17. SURFSUP 19. APRICOT 21. ACAPPELLA 23. MAFIA 25. DREAM 26. CLOWNFISH 27. MITOSIS 28. SHATTER

DOWN: 1. COMMUNE 2. ERRED 3. SHOWGIRLS 4. ANOTHER 5. CHOWDER 6. TIBIA 7. INORGANIC 8. HAYWARD 14. PERMANENT 16. PYROMANIA 17. STARDOM 18. POLICES 19. AMAZONS 20. TEACHER 22. PIMPS 24. FEINT

WORD LADDER SOLUTION: LATE-SATE-SANE-SANG-SONG

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

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

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

N	W	T	I	N	F	O	I	L	R	N	G
A	E	E	B	I	G	H	O	N	E	Y	A
L	A	L	I	E	N	S	C	C	I	L	A
E	T	O	L	S	H	N	A	H	L	M	I
D	H	N	A	C	T	I	F	E	S	O	N
N	E	M	V	I	R	C	A	M	A	O	O
A	R	U	I	E	A	O	K	T	N	N	C
M	G	S	G	N	E	T	E	R	I	L	T
H	O	K	N	T	T	I	B	A	T	A	A
O	S	E	E	O	A	N	I	I	A	N	G
F	H	U	A	L	L	E	R	L	R	D	O
T	C	L	B	O	F	I	D	S	I	I	N
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C	A	D	I	Y	S	G	I	G	M	G	L

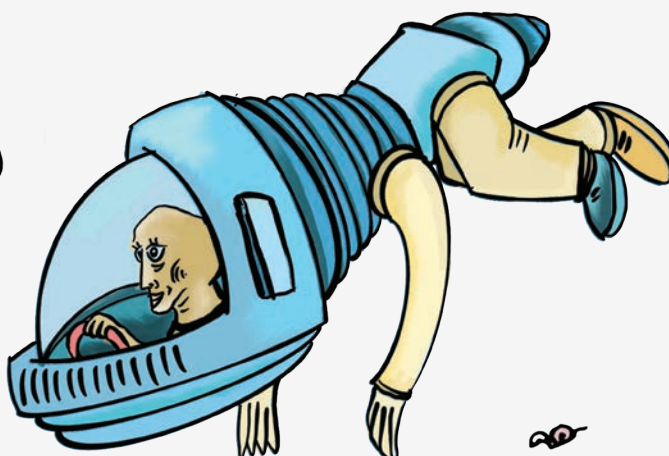
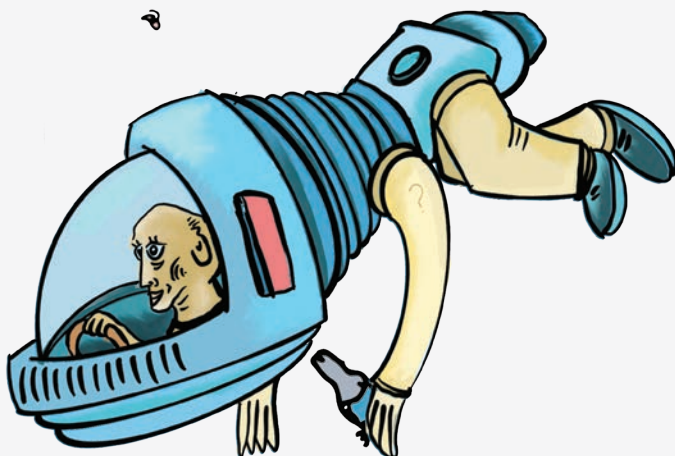
WORDFIND

WEATHER
 ALIENS
 TINFOIL
 BUSH
 BIGHONEY
 NICOTINE
 LAVIGNE
 ELONMUSK

SANITARIUM
 SCIENTOLOGY
 FAKEBIRDS
 MOONLANDING
 CHEMTRAILS
 FLATEARTH
 MANDELA
 OCTAGON

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.



Vape Now, Pay Later!

How Big Tobacco
transformed
the vape

By Denzel Chung

Big Nick says:

“We're not
gonna stop ya!”



WARNING:

THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS NICOTINE.
NICOTINE IS AN ADDICTIVE CHEMICAL

It's a rapid rebranding unlike any other in history: from clumsy, unwieldy and distinctly uncool "electronic cigarette" to sleek, ubiquitous, essential lifestyle accessory. Here's how vapes got Aotearoa in a stranglehold: a story of powerful corporations, cheap manufacturing, and slow Government action.

Back in the '70s, you could smoke on planes and nobody thought twice about it. Flight attendants used to call the smell they came home with "Ode de Boeing", and cigarette ash used to coalesce in beads of sweat and drip down the side of the cabin. People don't look at cigarettes the same way today, but there's no question that vapes have become ridiculously popular. And this collective switch in preference happened extremely quickly - as one former international student told us, "When I came [to Dunedin] in 2018, everyone was smoking cigarettes, even I started smoking them... but when I came back in 2019, literally a year later, ciggies were gone, and every single person was on vapes. It was crazy, it happened almost overnight."

A whopping 42.5% of respondents to last year's Critic Te Arohi census said that they vape – that's over 8,000 students at Otago Uni.

The most recent data specific to uni students found that, as of 2019, 5.4% were daily vapers. That may seem low, but that's about 1 in 20 people. It's a habit that's growing fast, too: the most recent New Zealand Health Survey (covering 2020/21) found the proportion of daily vapers had tripled in a single year, to 15% of 18-24 year olds (a very nice 69,000 people). A whopping 42.5% of respondents to last year's Critic Te Arohi census said that they vape - that's over 8,000 students at Otago Uni.

For us older folks, it may seem that vapes just burst onto the scene yesterday. But for younger members of Gen Z, the 3-4 year tenure of vapes means that they've been a part of life all throughout highschool. This means that the habit can begin early. In a 2021 survey conducted in part by the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation, a whopping 27% of the 19,000 high schoolers surveyed had vaped at least once in the last week. Three-quarters were vaping daily or several times a day, mostly with high-nicotine doses (which was defined as 24-50mg). It's not like they didn't know what they were getting into, either: a majority

of these daily vapers (52%) knew it had a negative effect on their health, but most respondents felt they were too addicted to quit.

Lost behind a fruit-scented mist are the distinctly humble origins of the vape. Invented by Chinese pharmacist Hon Lik, it was a way for him to try and kick the heavy smoking habit that had killed his dad. One night, he accidentally left his nicotine patch on overnight, causing a terrible, nightmare-filled sleep. From then on, he resolved to come up with a better way to deliver his hits: one which looked and felt as relaxing as smoking, while minimising the toxicity of, well, inhaling burning shit. His first Ruyan ("like smoke") e-cigarette was released in China in 2004.

Early e-cigs were unreliable and a bit crap, and Big Tobacco mostly laughed them off as novelty toys. But as their profits were increasingly squeezed by anti-smoking legislation and a rapidly-ageing user base, they began to pile onto the vape train. In 2013, Hon Lik's patents got bought by Imperial Tobacco, where he's now a consultant. He still smokes tobacco.

One by one, the members of Big Vape were swallowed by Big Tobacco. Today, Juul is owned by Altria, Vuse is owned by British American Tobacco (BAT), Blu is owned by Imperial Tobacco, and IQOS by Philip Morris International (PMI). And once vapes got into their hands, Big Tobacco did what they do best: transform a poisonous substance into something "cool".

Technically, since 1990, any "tobacco product advertisement" has been banned in Aotearoa under the Smokefree Environments Act 1990. Vapes, however, slipped through a loophole in that law: while the liquids/pods were "tobacco products," the vapes themselves were technically not. So, as long as any ads were only advertising the vape itself, and not the tobacco-containing pods or liquids, it was all fair game. This opened the door to some very creative marketing approaches.

For example, IQOS took out ads on Tinder in 2019, promoting their vapes in NZ as "a perfect match for 7.3 million users and counting". An investigation by the Reuters news agency found they hired Instagram influencers as young as 21 to promote their products, breaching their own marketing regulations. Vype (now known as Vuse) sponsored 2018's Rhythm & Alps before taking centre stage at 2019's Rhythm & Vines, giving out free tickets, "festival survival kits" and 50 ePod starter kits, as well as plastering their logos over a whole "Vype village" at the festival kitted out with everything from a "Vype lounge" to a "Vype waterslide". This was, of course, shared all over R&V's Facebook page too.

Asked by Critic Te Arohi about whether it was appropriate to be sponsoring these events, Live Nation, who runs Rhythm and Vines, did not respond to Critic Te Arohi's request for comment. A BAT spokesperson didn't answer directly, but said in a general statement that they "are clear youth should never use tobacco or vaping products". PMI did not respond to the 2019 allegations at the time, but PMI spokesperson Peata Melbourne repeated similar assurances in a separate 2019 interview, saying that "...we don't promote to youth. We don't want youth to come anywhere these products." IQOS was the company that hired 21-year-olds to promote their product.

"...we don't promote to youth. We don't want youth to come anywhere these products." This was the company that hired 21-year-olds to promote their product.

Professor Janet Hoek, a public health researcher at Otago Uni in Wellington, doesn't buy the promises. "As a former marketing professor, if someone had asked me to develop a plan to reach people who'd been smoking for several years and tried unsuccessfully to quit... I wouldn't have put sponsoring youth-oriented events as a high priority activity." The real reason behind these sponsorships, she said, was to "help position vaping (and the sponsored brands) as edgy and appealing, and showed them being used in fun settings by people who were role models."

For anyone who wanted to follow those role models into the fun and irresistibly cool world of vaping, it was ridiculously easy: a 2019 study in the New Zealand Medical Journal found 40% of websites offering vapes for sale in NZ then did not even have a tick-box confirming if visitors were over 18, and only 10% of websites did any kind of age verification prior to purchase. Not a single social media ad they saw had any sort of age verification process.

By the time the Ministry of Health got round to tightening this loophole, with the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act, it was November 2020. Big Vape had enjoyed free reign over the New Zealand market for years

by now, and vaping was well and truly established in the mainstream. Today, just 6% of students who vape do so to try and quit smoking, 80% of them began out of "curiosity" or for "enjoyment".

Vapes slipped through a loophole in the law: while the liquids/pods were "tobacco products," the vapes themselves were technically not.

Liv* was one of them. While she had never smoked or vaped in her life, going stir-crazy during the first lockdown in March 2020, she told Critic Te Arohi that it was "genuinely just boredom!" that spurred her to give vaping a try. "It curbed my appetite" and kept her from gaining weight, which she said was a "big reason" why she continued. "Now, I'm essentially Thomas the Tank Engine, but with vape smoke coming out the top."

Martin*, a student, told us that he began vaping to quit smoking. He observed, though, that [non-smokers] are "taking up vaping in mass numbers". For him, vaping seems like a much 'cooler' thing to do, which makes it much more socially acceptable. Like now you don't stink like ciggys and can vape inside."

Though Big Tobacco and a glaring loophole paved the way to mass vape acceptance, the real action is now happening in China. Vape manufacturing is now dominated by companies based in the tech manufacturing hub of Shenzhen: including Uwell, SMOK, Innokin, Vaporesso and Geekvape. With access to sophisticated manufacturing, a huge pool of skilled workers and a fast-moving, cutthroat business culture, they've been able to corner the market with advanced, low-priced hardware. It's a good bet that even your non-Chinese branded vapes would've been made nearby to, if not by, one of these companies.

Thanks to this, vapes are now cheap as chips - in fact, going for anywhere between \$40-60 in most stores, they're probably one of the cheapest electronics you can buy right now. Vuse sells their ePod 2 for just \$10. They're so cheap, in fact, that Vuse will give them away to anyone with an email address and a valid ID. Alt, which is connected to the VAPO chain of vape shops, also dangle a similar offer to smokers and vapers on their website.

Professor Hoek said these giveaways were not all bad, noting that it is “important that people who smoke and haven’t been able to quit can access reduced-harm products; providing these people with a free vape could help them move from smoking to vaping.” But she emphasised that more needed to be done to “protect young people who neither smoke nor vape”. She drew a contrast between the Vuse and Alt giveaways. While Alt very explicitly targets current smokers, for example by talking about “quitting [smoking] and switching,” the Vuse website was a lot more “ambiguous,” with the line “power your switch” as the only real nod towards current smokers. Regardless, she felt giving away vapes online was not great: “People trying to move from smoking to vaping are embarking on a complex behaviour change and offering a free vape with no advice is not an ideal way to ensure that transition happens smoothly and completely.”

Student Jason* experienced first-hand just how tricky this transition could be. He took up vaping to limit his smoking habit, but never realised that “cigarettes only had like 2-4mg of nicotine per cigarette, compared to the 40mg vape I was hitting”.

After struggling with a vape addiction for a bit, he decided to go back to square one: “I got rid of my vape and went back to cigarettes.” Jason says that doesn’t enjoy smoking, because it’s “hard work,” but observed that the stigma makes it a lot easier to control his cigarette use. “In order to smoke you have to go outside, so I’m hitting the darts way less than the vape. The smell clings to you, so if you have an important meeting or something you’ll avoid smoking first.” He says his unorthodox method “seems to be working”: “I haven’t bought a pack in a while, and although I hit friends’ vapes when out on the sauce, I still don’t own one myself.”

Dr. Ben Wamamili is an adjunct research fellow at Canterbury Uni, who has extensively researched vaping prevalence among young people. He is pessimistic about turning the tide on vaping in Aotearoa: while the new legislation has eliminated the most blatant examples of vape marketing, he notes that vaping rates have not stopped rising, and in fact have been accelerating. In addition, Dr. Wamamili says the new laws have been ineffective in stopping under-18s from getting vapes from siblings, older friends or buying them online. “By the time students join tertiary education, they are old enough to buy vapes legally, and are sufficiently addicted to keep the habit going!”

He is, however, more optimistic about helping a new wave of addicted vapers kick their habit, hopefully without turning back to tobacco. Along with the Paediatrics Department at Otago Uni in Christchurch, he’s currently working on “an educational intervention, with input from high school students, to increase their knowledge on vaping-related health risks and hopefully encourage vaping cessation. If successful, this could help to reduce the numbers, and potential health effects going forward.”

The rise of the vape, then, was no coincidence. It wasn’t the result of morally weak youngsters wanting to “stick it to the man” and indulge in their vices. Nor was it the capitalistic wet-dream of a well-designed product winning over discerning smokers and naturally conquering the market. Rather, the transformation of the vape from a quit-smoking aid to a chic lifestyle choice was a deliberate, systematic effort by Big Tobacco to, once again, make nicotine addiction central to the lives of young people.



A Breath of Fresh Air!

4 out of 5 professors* agree: Vaping makes my students look up to 200% cooler!

WARNING:
THIS PRODUCT MAY GIVE YOU
A BIGGA DIC_(tkn)

*Based on a survey funded by Big Tobacco of 5 people who self-identify as a professor. These people may or may not be actual professors. This study can not be substantiated in any way, shape or form.

THE CLOUDS ARE FAKE ALSO CHEMTRAILS AND BILL GATES

Inside Geoengineering Watch NZ

By Keegan Wells

'Geoengineering Watch NZ' is a Facebook group whose number one goal is "binging [sic] public awareness" about geoengineering. This includes the very real and important discussion around weather modification and chemtrails throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and the rest of the world. However, it is not uncommon to also see posts about water contaminants, 5G, alien cover ups, and basically anything else you could imagine. A recent poster questioned "Has Aunty Cindy and the medical army got m-rna conductors walking around after 2x?" Guess we'll never know after the government brain-washes everyone to forget.

Most of the posts are literally just random photos of weather outside, claiming it's all faked or polluted by chemtrails. They tend to be tinged with nostalgia for the days before aeroplanes put all these chemicals in the skies. However, commercial flights started in the 1920s and 1930s, meaning these people would have to be over 80-90 years old to remember the 'good ol' days'. Either way, the clouds are out to get you.

The type of content definitely has hints of trolls and fake-conspirators, but it is almost impossible to

distinguish between the people who are genuinely terrified of clouds and those just shitposting in the group. A recent post reads "Weather Control Fire From Heaven with Mind Control 3Spirit like Frogs - VATICAN JESUIT owned CIA Cybernetic Hive Mind Beast System". This was followed up with more unhinged hashtags including "Bill Gates Project Dimming the Sun". Three different people looked at this and had mental breakdowns trying to figure out what it meant.

Critic Te Arohi sat down with Caleb, who has been on the Facebook group for over a year and shitposts on it casually. After a joke went around his workplace, a vape shop, "We tried to convince the people on the page that vaping is the cause of geoengineering." He posted "Common misconception in this group is that you can see the cloud seeding in progress but the chemicals used are invisible and atomised by the TFV12 dual Clapton coil in the tail of the plane. They use 35mg bottles to fill the atomiser and create huge clouds". For students who have crippling nicotine additions, this is evidently a fairly popular vape coil and juice strength. Caleb says this post was inspired "by the fact none of them can agree on anything. If they can believe this, they can believe anything."

Caleb has yet to receive "any pushback on the more outlandish things I've said and posted, which makes me more enthusiastic about posting there". His vape post had people agreeing, asking for more information, telling people to look up, and relating it to Bill Gates. That being said, there is no evidence that Bill Gates isn't in kahoots with Big Vape, so.

The only common thread within the group is that they are all seemingly terrified of clouds. "They correlate everything to their field of clouds, essentially," Caleb says. A majority of the posts on the page are just random photos of the sky asking other group members if they've experienced the same chemicals being poured on them across Aotearoa New Zealand. "Blaming basic symptoms on stuff like clouds is hilarious to me," said Caleb. It's not uncommon to see posters blaming headaches or nose bleeds on masses of water droplets in the atmosphere.



Ok this might sound random...is anyone having eye/vision issues of any kind recently?

90

189 Comments



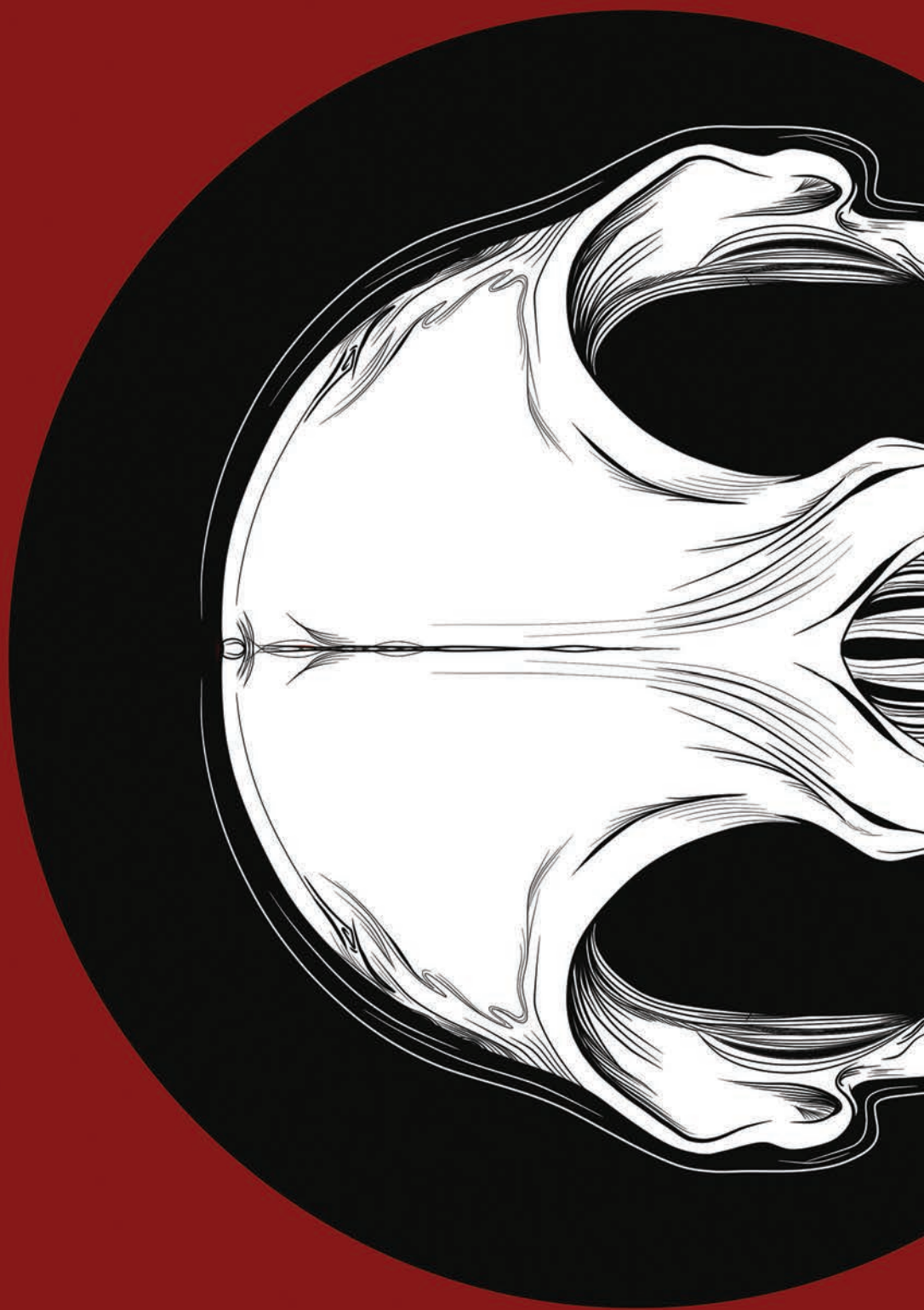
The group has a strong sense of community and camaraderie, as they have previously had Zoom meetings and petitions to "IMMEDIATELY BAN ALL GEOENGINEERING AND WEATHER MODIFICATION Top Secret programmes, activities and operations, including ALL National and International Government, Military, Commercial and Private entity involvement in Geoengineering and Weather Modification", which was unsuccessful, to say the least.

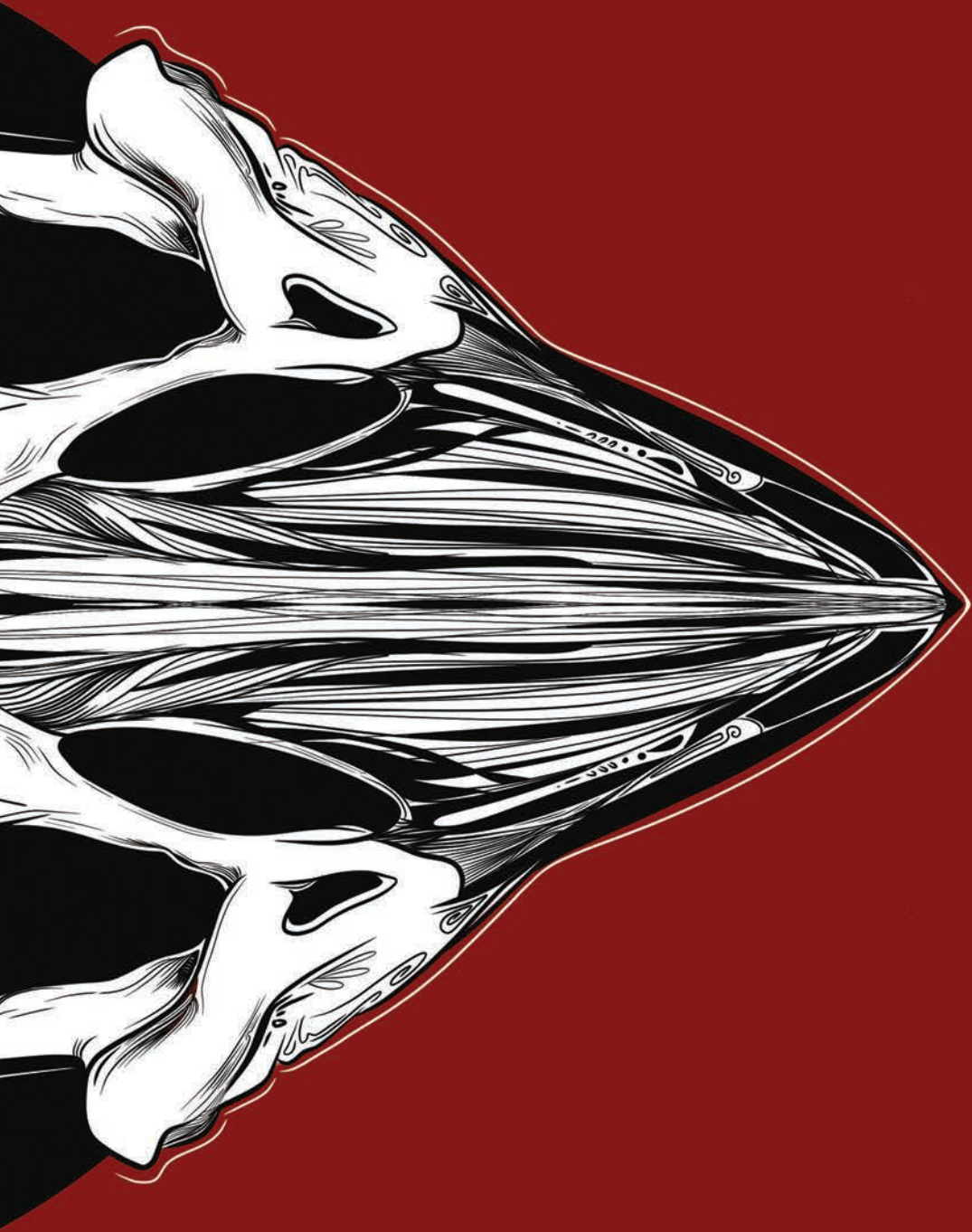
What can you do to deal with the government poisoning in the meantime before bringing down that government? One admin suggests staying indoors when possible and "filter your drinking water, and thoroughly wash food before consuming and cooking". While filtering drinking water is debatable, it's always a good idea to wash your fruits and vegetables regardless. The admin clarified: "I believe it's a UN, military industrial complex operation, and likely controlled outside of this country... It seems to be a part of a world depopulation programme." Ahh, there it is.

The group will accept anyone and welcome you with a post tagging you. It's highly recommended to kill time between studying or if you feel like disappointing a climatologist-in-training from the Geography Department. Never forget (although it would be difficult to as this group will continuously remind you) the quote by former US President LBJ: "He who controls the weather, controls the world," which is not something he has ever actually said.

We'll leave you with this: have you ever noticed that Mount Cargill always has that suspicious cloud coming over the hill and "coincidentally" there's also a 5G tower there? Think about it.

BE WISE TO YOUR SKIES
WEATHER ENGINEERING
& TOXIC TRAILS
IN PLANE **VIEW**
MAN-MADE
GLOBAL WARMING
DUE TO CO₂
= SCAM





CENTREFOLD ARTIST: NIA HALIM
INSTAGRAM: @NATHANIASART
COMMISSIONS & PRINTS: NATHANIASART@GMAIL.COM

BREAKING NEWS

REPORTS OF PLANE CRASHING
INTO WORLD TRADE CENTER

THEY are LYING TO US



BUSH DID 9/11?

By Annabelle Parata Vaughan

Chances are, if you ask any parent, friend or relative over the age of 30, they can tell you exactly what they were doing and where they were when 9/11 happened. The impact of 9/11 still persists to this day, along with the mountains of conspiracy theories that came out of it. The conspiracies that formed in the confusion following 9/11 would become the first major, global conspiracy theories to be fed by the internet. And while plenty of conspiracies had formed before, none would form and spread as quickly as the 9/11 truther movement - a movement that laid the groundwork for the post-truth era we find ourselves in today.

9/11 sent ripples of fear, paranoia and anxiety across the world, and really set the tone for the years to come. After 9/11, gone were the days of leisurely travel or the ability to take mindless walks around major cities. It's like our generation was born, 9/11 happened, and then we just never had a good fucking time.

What makes 9/11 a particularly interesting conspiracy case study is that it coincided with the rise of the internet. The internet and rise of global

media provided a whole new platform for people to spout whatever whack theories they had come up with, perhaps as an attempt to process what was for many the most shocking event of their lives. Because of this, 9/11 not only changed society, but it also marked a turning point in the way that people engaged in online conspiracy. Society at large was free to raise scepticism about the government with far less oversight, on a medium that allowed them to connect with anyone, anywhere, any time.

Although it was over 20 years ago now, the conspiracy theories that came out of 9/11 still persist, with countless online blogs and videos claiming they really know what happened on that September morning. Apparently it was an inside job perpetrated by the Bush administration. Apparently the US military fired missiles that struck the Pentagon. Apparently the Bush administration knew of impending attacks, but decided to sit back and do nothing. Apparently it was the Jews, again. The list goes on, really, but one thing's for sure: 9/11 brought out the good, the bad and the ugly of conspiracy theorists and government surveillance alike.

There are two specific conspiracy theories that prevail when it comes to 9/11. These two conspiracy theories are 1) that it was an inside job, planned and executed by the George W Bush administration, or 2) that the U.S Government knew the attacks were imminent, but decided to not do anything about it. The details these conspiracies hinge upon include the steel beam conundrum (the whole argument that the steel beams in the World Trade Centre have a higher melting point than aeroplane fuel, so therefore, there must have been bombs inside the building). Not only this, but many 9/11 “truthers” believe the motivation for 9/11 to be an inside job is further justified due to the United States’ interest in gaining more control and leverage within the Middle East for political and economic reasons.

Over the years, crazed conspiracy theorists have made an effort to compile and analyse every single photograph and video clip of the attacks, trying to find any hole in Bush’s alleged cover up. So let’s take a look at some of their claims.

So, let’s begin with the first conspiracy theory; was 9/11 an inside job planned and executed by the George W Bush administration?

It only took a mere number of hours after the attacks for conspiracy theorists to begin flooding internet chat rooms with reasons as to why 9/11 was secretly an inside job. Many argued that the attacks looked, visually, like a planned demolition of the buildings, which they sort of did. Apparently commercial flights were not capable of creating such a large and hot explosion, so there must have been bombs planted in the World Trade Centre beforehand, right? No, again, this is simply not true. While some conspiracy theories are harmless, this one definitely isn’t. It undermines and demonises innocent groups, and fails to acknowledge the real and truthful perpetrators of this attack. But perhaps the greatest flaw of this theory is that it operates on the basis that George W Bush had the intelligence and ability to plan such an elaborate scheme.

Perhaps the greatest flaw of this theory is that it operates on the basis that George W Bush had the intelligence and ability to plan such an elaborate scheme.

Now, many of you probably won’t remember him in that much detail, but George was a bit of a doofus. He could hardly form basic sentences half the time, let alone conspire a thorough and extreme terror attack which dismantled American society and killed thousands. This is the same man who once said “I think we agree, the past is over,” like yeah, no shit it is. Other bangers include “I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully,” and “Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?” There was also the iconic golfing video of him saying “I call upon all nations, to do everything they can, to stop these terrorist killers. Thank you...now watch this drive,” as he proceeded to take a swing. In reality, Bush was really just a rich kid who was left to fumble his way through a multinational war and subsequent financial crisis.

Did the George W Bush Administration know 9/11 was going to happen, and did they just do nothing?

Now here’s where things get weird. While it’s pretty clear that 9/11 wasn’t an inside job by the Bush administration, there remains some validity in the claim that the government did know something was going to happen. While the Bush administration didn’t know what the exact, specific details were on the 9/11 plan, they definitely had been warned during the days before 9/11.

There are a multitude of reasons why 9/11 should have come as no surprise to the US Government. The first being that the rise in globalisation and telecommunications had facilitated an environment which allowed terrorist groups to thrive (or ‘non state actors’ if you’re a political nerd). Bin Laden and his buddies had been on America’s radar since after the Cold War, meaning that the rise of al-Qaeda and an increase in anti-American sentiment in the Middle East and North Africa had been brewing for a while. For decades, al-Qaeda had made persistent threats to the United States. They blew up US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as an American warship in Yemen, and they even detonated a bomb in a van under the Twin Towers in 1993. So, if al-Qaeda had been making these persistent threats, and was clear in their motivation to take down the United States, why wasn’t the attack prevented or detected?

According to American academic Amy Zegart, the Bush administration and the CIA received approximately 10 warnings about an imminent attack, yet decided to not do anything. The warnings came as late as August 6th, 2001, when the CIA delivered a message to Bush’s daily presidential briefing titled “Bin Laden to strike US soil.” Despite desperate calls from the intelligence community, apparently no attempt was made to prevent or mitigate the attacks.

Perhaps this is because the Bush team didn’t deem non state actors or terrorist organisations that high on their agenda. Instead, the US government was persistent in their sense of exceptionalism. So, while al-Qaeda was able to plot and facilitate their plan with

the help of the internet and rise in globalisation, the Bush team continued to direct their time on combating the likes of China and Russia, which they deemed to be an actual, legitimate threat.

There were a variety of shortcomings and structural failures that contributed to 9/11, such as the decentralisation of the CIA, a failure to allow intelligence agencies to work together and share information, cultural pathologies, and a strong resistance towards new types of technology. Meanwhile, terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda adapted and embodied these new features. So, while it is clear that 9/11 was most definitely not an inside job executed by Bush, the conspiracists' claim that the US government knew about the impending attacks is not entirely false.

And this leads us to where we are today: a world in which tiny groups of people, through use of the internet, can reach audiences across the planet. This can be used to facilitate terrorism, to monitor terrorism, or just to make memes. 9/11 was the first time that online conspiracy really took off, and people asked a lot of questions about the US government that the US government might not have been happy to see.

People were sceptical about the US government, and not without due cause. This is the same government that let the CIA test LSD dosages on uni students, lied about overseas engagements, and had been recently embroiled in the Nixon scandal. The young adults who took to the internet to raise their doubts had been raised in a culture of distrust for the American system, and the failures and moments of dishonesty from the American government allowed those conspiracy theories to feel a bit more possible.

We can see that today, too. When a government makes a mistake, or doubles back on a promise, there very well might be a good reason. But people can then take those inconsistencies and use them as "evidence" of a more sinister plot, like how Aotearoa's shifting vaccine mandates were used as evidence that the government was priming us to assimilate into a New World Order.

9/11 set the tone for online conspiracy for the last 20 years. It showed how distrust can mutate into disbelief, and how quickly a healthy distrust of government can become an unhealthy obsession. It was a glimpse of things to come, and even today, in a world smothered in conspiracy, 9/11 still remains at the forefront of every tin foil-encased brain.



Sanitarium
New Zealand



Sanitarium™

The No Tax Food Company

Ya Hate us cos ya Aint us

Money
Puffs

Lightly
Coated
with
Real
NZ
Money

Low
in Salt

Low
in Fat

Contains
no
artificial
colours
or
flavours

420g

Money Puffs

LIGHTLY COATED
with **REAL**
NZ MONEY



NO
ARTIFICIAL
COLOURS OR
FLAVOURS

420g



ENERG
1570KJ

PROT
0.2g

CHOL
13.20

SODIUM
52711

LOW

Something Rotten in Aotearoa's Supermarkets

By Fox Meyer & Zak Rudin

CAN'T AFFORD FOOD?
EAT THE RICH!

Sanitarium is the company behind Up & Go, Weet-Bix and Marmite. They're also owned by the Seventh Day Adventist Church, meaning that they get some special say when it comes to where their tax dollars go. For a company that made \$10 million in profit in 2019, that's quite the say.

In Aotearoa, companies designated as "registered charities" can donate their profits to charitable causes rather than pay tax to the government. This means that charitable organisations can use their profits to further their charity work, which sounds great in theory. In practice, it means that major companies like Sanitarium end up with a large sum of money each year to put towards charities of their choice. They provide funding to schools, old people's homes and other legitimately charitable stuff, but plenty of money goes elsewhere, too, like to the All Blacks.

Since 2007, the Church confirmed that \$13 million in profits from its New Zealand stores has been invested into three companies in the United States. These companies (Sweet Green Fields, Primordia Seeds and Asklepiion Pharmaceuticals) largely focus on food-related technology, which makes sense. But the revenue made from New Zealand shoppers does not have to be re-invested through NZ taxes, as it would be through ordinary companies. Instead, it can be invested overseas.

Those three companies came from a list reported in 2012 by the NZ Herald. In their report, they noted that Asklepiion Pharmaceuticals seemed like an odd choice for a food brand, as they don't explicitly develop food technology. When they dug deeper, reporters found that Asklepiion listed Kevin Jackson as their chairman. Kevin is also the chief executive of Sanitarium's Australian branch. Jeff Courtney was also listed on the Asklepiion page - he's a former GM of Sanitarium. He was also the CEO of Primordia.

It was tough to dig up any info on what Primordia is up to these days, but they look to be a hemp company. When you click on the "who's behind Primordia" option on their website, it takes you nowhere. Sweet Green Fields looks to have been partially sold off after a successful venture making stevia, and Asklepiion made absolute bank after developing a drug for liver disease in 2015. The return on that investment was reportedly quite large for the Church's NZ investors.

Sanitarium is a vegan-friendly brand, as "health foods" are a priority of the Church. Most vegan-friendly consumables in the supermarket bear the Sanitarium logo. And yet, very few students we spoke to knew that the Church had anything to do with their healthy living, or that the Church could use student's dollars to invest as they saw fit. Linea, a God-fearing Christian, raised the excellent point that "students pay taxes and we're broke." While their donations purportedly must align with the public good, 'advancement of religion' is considered to be part of the public good by the Charities Act of 2005. So these donations can go towards advancement of religion, administered by a Church that believes that "sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman."

But Sanitarium isn't the only thing odd about New Zealand's supermarkets. The supermarket sector itself is rotten, caught in a chokehold by the two companies that own all of our grocery stores: Woolworth's (Countdown, Fresh Choice, SuperValue) and Foodstuffs (Pak'n'save, New World, and Four Square). Through some legal wrangling, these companies have ensured that no third party can enter their market, build near their stores, or disrupt their duopoly. And with their hands on the steering wheel of our local food supply, they're free to steer prices up and up and up. Jowan, agghast at the price of food, told Critic that "if it's not free it's not green." Meanwhile, Finn shared his natural immunity to unreasonable price hikes, saying "I just eat bread."

Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister (and renowned downhill mountain biker) David Clark reported in March that the supermarket industry is raking in \$22 billion a year, which averages to \$6 million a day. They make over twice as much as is expected for their industry. The Commerce Commission report detailed that "their profits are at least twice as much as is normal for the international supermarket sector, in part because they have used "confusion marketing" to befuddle consumers, regulators and politicians into doing nothing for decades."

Also detailed in the report was the notion that "the two major supermarket groups use confusing promotions, price labelling and loyalty schemes to make it harder to properly compare prices across time and between the two." So remember, kids: just because Pam from New World says something is cheap, doesn't mean it is. And Jesus loves Weet-Bix.

SCIENTIST SPEAKS OUT:



Invisible birds with IBS are REAL

By Ruby Werry

Critic gets weird messages. Some of our readers have amazing tips and info we love to hear, and some of our readers are clearly coming down from a bad trip. One of the latter was someone who called themselves “J”.

J was taking a walk of shame Sunday morning, with every crunch of glass making their headache that much more unbearable. To make matters worse, J was bombarded by the sensation of falling bird bombs the entire achy walk home, yet there was no shit to be seen, and no winged assailants to speak of. So – as everyone should when they experience something weird as hell – J messaged Critic to report on the baffling phenomena of ghost bird poos.

After the office was done pissing themselves, a little more thought was given. Ghost birds, of course, are absolutely ridiculous. But what if these birds weren't ghosts, what if they were simply... invisible? It would explain why no one has ever seen them, and if these birds were invisible, then it would only make sense that their shit would be invisible as well. Maybe J wasn't so crazy after all. Journalistic integrity, mild curiosity and upcoming assignment induced procrastination warranted a further look into these ghost birds.

Critic had a chat with Professor Yolanda van Heezik in the Zoology Department, who is currently working on several bird-related projects. She was asked the ultimate question: Are there invisible birds pooping on the brave breathas of North Dunedin? What are the chances? “Very small,” she said, “as most bird poop is visible.” What we're hearing is that it's not impossible, that there could be invisible birds. “Yes, I can't say there definitely couldn't be,” she said, though she didn't seem entirely stoked.

Although not ready to come forth publicly admitting to invisible birds, T* put forth this fascinating theory. “My cousin has IBS, and she goes to the bathroom a lot. Maybe these invisible birds have IBS.” T is studying with aspirations of teaching your children, just so you know. The science isn't conclusive on the presence of invisible, chronically shitting birds. But with all the totally-credible eyewitness testimony coming forward from J's friends, who confirmed that they too, on a Sunday morning after a night out, feel like birds are shitting on them, the theory was growing legs, or perhaps wings. And with Yolanda's expert and not-at-all-misconstrued testimony, those legs were beginning to take steps.

But, much like when you described how much you drink to your parents during mid-sem, this theory isn't totally honest. When J came forward with their story, it seemed the perfect lens to investigate the scientific principle of uncertainty: that nothing is ever 100% certifiably true, and how this lack of certainty factors into the creation of various conspiracy theories and their ‘evidence.’ Scientists worth their salt will acknowledge that the only true certainty in science is uncertainty, but for the general public who haven't spent 20k on a BSci, this way of doing things can be more than a little mindfuck-y, complete with a constant nagging of “What do you mean you aren't 100% certain?”

Preying on that confusion and uncertainty is how conspiracists manipulate evidence and science to push agendas, most notably the climate change deniers. If

science isn't 100% on climate change, that last 0.01% means that even the most outlandish of conspiracies can claim some ounce of legitimacy.

Uncertain doesn't mean untrustworthy. Uncertainty is about allowing scientists to explore the probabilities and likelihoods of different outcomes, and express nuances. Groups like climate change deniers will often imply that this uncertainty is the same as doubt and the unknown – which just simply isn't the case, no matter what your bogan uncle says at Christmas.

Yolanda did say that the chances of invisible birds being real were very small (in alignment with scientific uncertainty), but she immediately followed that up with the explanation that it was incredibly unlikely, and asked “What was I being asked again?” And although Yolanda hadn't had any experiences with being misquoted (until now), she had run into issues with field information being taken out of context. “There tends to be focus on stuff that appeals to the public, so our aim is always to focus the conversation to something more meaningful.”

Although the invisible bird pitch was incredibly convincing, especially with our twisted expert testimony and dubious eyewitness accounts, it wasn't enough to win the favour of some of our more studious readers. Oliver Jutel, a media and communications studies professor, tried to shed a little light on scientific uncertainty and how it gets used in conspiracies.

“[A lot of us] don't understand science very well, and science approaches invoke black and white terms and thinking. Take New Zealand's Covid response. The public health message was vital, and the experts were able to eradicate uncertainty speaking from an altar of science. But science changes, especially with something so new and unknown as Covid. So when recommendations about isolation times and masks shift, people go to town on that. Science can be invoked and used in different crowds to great effect.”

Because science refuses to deal in absolutes, fringe conspiracists can cling to that last shred of uncertainty and use it to back up their nonsense claims.

The 0.01% chance that invisible birds are pooping on Dunedin walk-of-shamers is the same 0.01% chance that climate change isn't real, or that 5G is part of the New World Order. Because science refuses to deal in absolutes, fringe conspiracists can cling to that last shred of uncertainty and use it to back up their nonsense claims. It's a scrap of legitimacy so thin that you could floss with it, but it's enough to give these groups credibility amongst the credulous, even if their claims are about as likely as Dunedin playing host to a population of bowel-irritated, invisible birds.

OPINION:

“SAVE THE BEES” IS A PSYOP AND WE ALL FELL FOR IT

BY FOX MEYER

Psyop: “Psychological Operation”. Operations to influence the emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately the behaviour of governments, organisations, groups, and individuals.



It was orchestrated from the highest level by a cabal of Big Honey industrialists, determined to support their flailing industry and distract from the ecological consequences of their work.

Big Honey, backed by international governments and agriculture lobbyists, just pulled off the greatest psyop of the 21st century and nobody noticed. Almost overnight, the popular opinion of bees turned from a vague fear to an unanimous outpouring of love. Bees are everywhere: all over T-shirts, tattooed on people's forearms, and in cutesy art pieces across the entirety of Pinterest. "Save the bees" became a calling card for the young and planet-conscious, because who doesn't love pollinators? The fuzzy little bastards were a perfect mascot for a greater community of climate-concerned youth.

But this was a sham. It was orchestrated from the highest level by a cabal of Big Honey industrialists, determined to support their flailing industry and distract from the ecological consequences of their work. "But bees are great!" you say, "they're pollinators, and they make honey! Who doesn't love honey?"

But if you stop and think, isn't it just a little bit suspicious that the only pollinators we've been programmed to care about, despite the wide-reaching consequences of their introduction, are European honeybees? Why isn't there a lobby to support wasps, or flies, both of which contribute to pollination? It's because wasps are scary and flies are gross, and only bees ticked all the boxes for the new mascot of industrial climate-consciousness. And only bees had a multi-million dollar industry behind them. Honeybees: the only pollinator that's also a dollar-maker, and their industry was beginning to be threatened by climate change. To garner the attention of potential funders, the industry needed public opinion on its side, and it needed it fast. So they turned to the one man with undisputed power to influence the masses: Jerry Seinfeld.

When the Bee Movie hit the scene, nobody was prepared for what it would turn into. It came out in 2007, right at the peak of the Bee Crisis in North America, when colonies of European honeybees had been dying at record rates. Up to 70% of them had died in the three

years leading up to the Bee Movie's release. Big Honey needed some serious star power, and a subtle social push, to get public favour to Back the Bee (™).

And it worked. In 2008, the year following the Bee Movie's release, populations began to sharply recover. They've fluctuated, but since 2009 they've averaged around a number not seen since the early 1990s. Sales of bee-themed merch were suddenly everywhere, and the humble bumble (or honey) bee became a mascot for the young, clean and green.

But bees are not clean and green. They're wonderful animals, and honey is certainly delicious, but they're not native in many of the places where they're farmed. In Aotearoa, we have several species of native bees, but they don't form honey-making hives. They're asocial, and live in burrows. Industrial bees, imported from overseas or grown here, are transported en masse to areas rich in recently-bloomed flowers. Native bees struggle to compete, as the industrialists are able to move in and set up shop with the assistance of their human helpers. These colonies can also carry disease. The honey is great, especially because native bees don't produce honey, but it comes at a cost.

"Save the Bees" promotes the survival and support of a colonial and industrial system; it's a slogan dripped in the gooey guts of native species and served on a chic, savvy, millennial-inclined social media campaign. It's not about saving pollinators, because it doesn't actually support the majority of pollinators that we already have. It's not about saving the environment, because it facilitates the invasion of overseas species to our vulnerable ecosystem. It's about saving the honey, and the honey-money that New Zealand and the world loves so much. "Save the Bees" is perhaps the most successful psyop of our lifetimes, an operation so subtle that nobody even noticed that it happened, and all this despite the fact that the hub of our politicians and lobbyists is called – that's right – the Beehive.

 **Nando's**
Great Pretender



**HIGH-PROTEIN
PLANT-BASED PATTY**

Available now at
Nando's Octagon.

A Mermaid, a Megalodon, and
a Yeti Walk into a Bar...

Animal Planet & Discovery Channel's Era of Straight Up Lying

By Ruby Werry



★★★★½ Rewatched by Divien 23 Nov 2021

When I first watched it I fault it was real till I noticed all the scientists are fit. I love laughing at crazy stupid theories though.

♥ Like review



★★★★★ Added by shamuswine 6 Jul 2021

Today, I learned this shit was fake!!! Anyways, mermaids are real. I watched this when I was eleven, and that might have something to do with why I believe it.

♥ Like review

Animal Planet and Discovery Channel have always ridden the wave of scientific credibility. Their programming is advertised and perceived by the general public as educational fun, the Harold the Giraffe of TV. But just like how you've broken all your drinking and drug promises to Harold, Animal Planet and Discovery haven't always stuck to that marketed pledge.

Their era of incredibly misleading mockumentaries would earn them the highest ratings in years (2 million viewers for some premieres) but came at the cost of shattering their scientific credibility for the general public. *Mermaids: The Body Found*, an Animal Planet 'documentary', follows a group of supposedly ex-NOAA scientists (actors) who uncover the conspiracy when they find a Mermaid corpse on the beach - before their discovery and research is hijacked by the government, never to be seen again. The viewer is taken through fake evidence, shitty photoshop jobs, and - for anyone who knows a decent bit about science - incredibly flimsy scientific reasoning. The mockumentary leans heavily on the Water Ape Hypothesis, which is not empirically accepted in the scientific community, with many considering it on the same level as creationism. And when you're in the same boat as creationism, it's less of a boat and more of an ark. Although some shots are real, like breaching whales, many other clips are accompanied with text stating this is a reenactment. The disclaimer that this was a thought exercise flashes for only a few seconds in the credits, easily missed.

"I mean, it seemed credible to me at the time, and I had no idea photoshop existed when I was ten, so I really thought those slimy blue fuckers were out there. But it was the Megalodon documentary that got me, I loved Shark Week and therefore did not go swimming in the ocean for two years after that one," said Genevieve, referring to the next spoonful of shit the mockumentarians would try to feed viewers. After the ratings smash that was *Mermaids*, Discovery decided to create another fake documentary for their golden child:

'Shark Week'. The 2013 Shark Week would be its most successful ever, breaking every viewership record across 26 years, hitting an audience of five million. *The Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives* 'reveal' would also be the biggest lie yet. Using a fake boating accident, the narrative was woven that Megalodon, the absolutely, scientifically proven-to-be-extinct shark had escaped notice for the entirety of human history until it randomly ate a couple of people in Cape Town, South Africa.

This documentary was a wet dream for producers, a key piece of evidence being a clearly photoshopped image of Megalodon next to another cable programming darling: a Nazi U-boat. So, Nazi sharks. Setting aside the fact that Megalodon being around is a theory more disproved than, and with just as little evidence as, Flat Earth, there was a split second disclaimer in the credits saying that no institution or agency (that were used to prove Discovery's 'evidence') is affiliated or approved the contents, as well as that events and characters were dramatised. But even the easily missed disclaimer doesn't make it clear this is a work of fiction.

2014 saw Gangnam Style reaching two million views on YouTube, spiritual leader Taylor Swift release the revolutionary album *1989*, and the death rattle of Animal Planet and Discovery's fake documentaries. The final 'documentary' was *Russian Yeti: The Killer Lives*. It told the story of the 1959 Dyatlov pass incident, in which a group of nine hikers died in the Northern Ural Mountains, the causes of which are rather unclear. However, no matter the cause, it was certainly not a mass-mauling by a Russian Yeti, which is the solution this program shouts at the viewer. *Russian Yeti* did not achieve nearly the same level of success as the previous two, and would ring in the end of the era in which these channels would just straight up lie to their audience.



THIS FOOTAGE WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT IN 2009 AT A NAVAL FACILITY IN BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA.



Reaching out to DiscoveryNZ for comment, they first asked if Critic had any new evidence. For a split second, the possibilities were endless - what if we claimed a Mermaid corpse washed up off the shores of St. Clair? But journalistic integrity kicked in, and admitting there was no new Mermaid evidence, DiscoveryNZ referred Critic to statements made in 2015. Animal Planet and the then-new head of documentaries, Howard Swartz, shared their new programming direction. "This year we're focusing quite a bit on research and science, more so probably than we have in the past," Swartz says. "I just think now in a forward-looking direction, I think we wanna focus more on the research angle." Thoughts and prayers are with any cryptid that didn't get a documentary before this. Mothman is certainly feeling left out. But Howard's pivot may have been just too late, as the channel's credibility was failing. Oliver, a student who watched these when they were a kid, said "I am not shocked or saddened that the editorial rigour of Animal Planet was brought low by Mermaids."

All in all, some may wonder, what's the harm? These programs seemed obviously fake, how could anyone fall for it? The shit they were spewing wasn't even polished. When discussing Mermaids, student John immediately began to clown everyone who fell for the 'documentary'. "How could you believe apes just walked into the ocean and evolved into merpeople? The graphics were giving bowling alley strike animation [vibes] for God's sake." For one thing, it was the early 2010s. People didn't have the same awareness or critical thinking about information that is taught today, let alone information given to them by a trusted, scientific channel that, during the advertising run-up for these programs, leaned heavily on that reputation. A good chunk of watchers were children at the time, as seen in several confused recent reviews on Letterboxd and Google reviews. But even since then, many people have fallen prey to the belief that these documentaries are real, especially since Mermaids and the others are watchable on YouTube, free of pesky disclaimers in the end credits. These programs tricked, and are still tricking people, several years on, and the comments and reviews are proof.

Plus, it's more than just tricking people into believing. These programs fed into distrust against institutions, with one of the actors in Mermaids remarking how if the government was lying about mermaids, they could also be lying about climate change, which immediately sets off some alarm bells. After Mermaids, NOAA had to release a statement establishing that "No evidence of aquatic humanoids has ever been found," as they became inundated with accusations that they were hiding mermaids from the public. Many people who consider themselves aware of conspiracy theories and cackle at those who believe that horse dewormer will cure Covid are often susceptible to alien/cryptid theories.

Dr. Oliver Jutel, from Otago's media, film, and communication department, commented on how cryptid conspiracy culture and programs like Mermaids and Megalodon are so appealing during uncertain times. "[Conspiracy culture] plays on people's desire to believe. Something popular is in the power of nature as a force, in the 'nature is healing' type way, which cryptids are a part of." But Animal Planet and Discovery had a bigger impact than just tricking a few kids. These programs were aired, and immediately contributed to a wider narrative of disinformation that erupted around 2010, one that exploded with the mass availability of the internet, and that now plagues our society in the form of distrust in institutions, 'fake news', and clickbait. Although Discovery has vowed to pivot towards scientific content, the damage (simultaneously hilarious and concerning) by these mockumentaries has already been done.

Mermaids and its compatriots buttered an audience up to the concepts of conspiracy and fake news. People believing in mermaids isn't necessarily the most harmful thing in the world, in fact, it's mildly entertaining. Those top 10 countdowns for real mermaid evidence? Objectively hilarious. But trusted organisations with authority and influence pushing fake evidence and claims about mermaids? A lot less hilarious, and a lot more insidious than we thought.

Who's Selling Your Data?

Fill in the blanks by answering these questions and finding the corresponding conspiratorial content.

NEWS FLASH: _____ is selling your _____ account data to _____ in order to fund _____

1. Pick a favourite conspiracy theory: _____ →

1. Chemtrails
2. Bush did 9/11
3. Lizard people rule the world
4. Fluoride is turning the frogs gay
5. 5G New World Order
6. Flat Earth
7. Avril Lavigne body double
8. Moon landing was faked

NEWS FLASH: _____

1. The Uni
2. Bill Gates
3. Jacinda
4. OUSA
5. Facebook
6. Big Tobacco
7. Your mum
8. Elon Musk

2. Pick your favourite cult: _____ →

1. Heaven's Gate
2. Gloriavale
3. Aum Shinrikyo
4. The People's Temple
5. The Branch Davidians
6. The Manson Family
7. Children of God
8. The Catholic Church

IS SELLING YOUR _____

1. Tinder
2. Netflix
3. Spotify
4. Google
5. Bank
6. Minecraft
7. Letterboxd
8. Pornhub

3. Pick your favourite democracy that the US overthrew: _____ →

1. The United States, 2016
2. Iran, 1953
3. Guatemala, 1954
4. Congo, 1960
5. Dominican Republic, 1961
6. South Vietnam, 1963
7. Brazil, 1964
8. Chile, 1973

ACCOUNT DATA TO _____

1. Moscow
2. Sanitarium
3. The Trump campaign
4. A call centre in Delhi
5. The Scientologists
6. The UoO Confessions admins
7. Nestlé
8. Big Honey lobbyists

4. Pick one of the 10 companies that own everything: _____ →

1. Nestlé
2. PepsiCo
3. Coca-Cola
4. Unilever
5. Danone
6. General Mills
7. Kellogg's
8. Mars
9. Associated British Foods
10. Mondelez

IN ORDER TO FUND _____

1. The purchase of a marginalised community's water supply
2. A private island for Jared Leto's cult
3. A trip to space to prove the earth is flat
4. Petrol, at these prices!
5. Upgrades to government surveillance drones (birds)
6. Incubators for their lizard children
7. Weapons of mass destruction
8. An insurrection in a third world country
9. The gay agenda
10. A privately-owned news channel with no journalistic oversight

**LOCAL
PRODUCE**
By Jamiema Lorimer

Emily Alice

Emily Alice, the band, is Emily Kerr-Bell (vocals), Josh Botting (keys), Toby Roseman (guitar), Josh Tuiavii (drums) and Sol Wyatt (bass). Critic Te Arohi chatted with the band about their upcoming music, their studies and being inspired by the sounds surrounding them growing up.

The band formed last year, meeting through their shared study of contemporary music performance. "We didn't anticipate starting a band," shares Josh B. Initially the group came together for assessments, performing covers then eventually pivoting to their own projects. "Emily wanted to do originals and I always wanted to do originals...it was a natural, organic process."

Emily Alice creates a feeling of nostalgia in their music. "It's a powerful emotion," says Josh B. "It's very hard to achieve but I think we get close with some of the things we do." Their sound is primarily pop with inflections of jazz, funk, soul and RnB, crediting artists such as Amy Winehouse, Olivia Dean and Silk Sonic as their biggest influences. Emulating musical styles that were more popular in the past is what allows Emily Alice to appeal to a large range of listeners. "Older people love the style because it's [like] stuff that they used to know and love." Meanwhile, Emily finds that their peers are often surprised. "Young people are like 'holy cow', you know. 'We didn't know people our age were making this sound'," she says.

At the same time, Emily Alice draws heavily on their musical studies, using their original music to test themselves with class

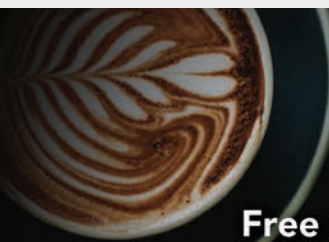
content. Josh B and Toby credit their lecturer David Harrison for encouraging them to create music that is both accessible and musically sophisticated at once. In their songwriting, Emily Alice explores colourful harmonic movements and modulations. On this, Josh B, who is the band's core songwriter, says that although these finer details might be missed by the usual listener it adds to the depth of their music curating another level of appeal. "I think [the listener] can subconsciously feel that."

Their first single 'Unrequited Love' is a warm burst of energy, saturated with vibrant keys and a cheerful rhythm section. The song's lyrics, however, are much more sombre. Emily is the band's lyricist. "It's about the idea of falling out of a relationship, whether that be with a friend, or with someone you're involved with, or in any type of relationship. Thinking you're in it for the long run, then things change, and you try to make yourself feel things that aren't there anymore." Josh B shares, "With this song we wanted to compose something that he (Harrison) will be impressed by, to show that we're taking the content and applying it in our own songwriting."

'Unrequited Love' is the band's only release available on streaming sites so far. However, Emily Alice are excited to share their originals at live gigs now that our much beloved Pint Night is getting back underway. They also have upcoming music in the works. Keep up with where you can catch them live next along with other exciting announcements by following Emily Alice on Facebook or Instagram (@emilyaliceband).



**OTAGO
MUSEUM**



**More than a Museum.
Free galleries, free events, great coffee.**

≡ MR. WORLDWIDE



This week, it is my pleasure to say that we have an image supplied Shar. This means it is finally in the magazine, which means we've finally gotten it. We got last issue's submission correct: Daniel was at Mr Tuck Kee's Curry Puff stand, in Pudu, Kuala Lumpur.



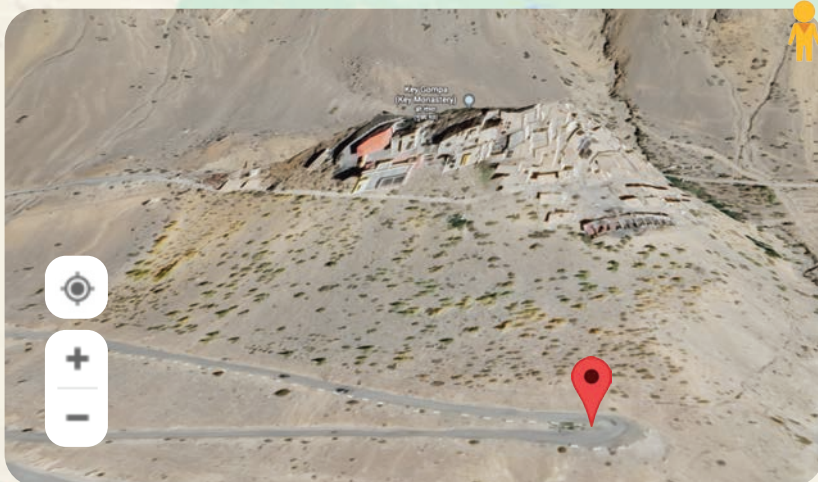
First thoughts: Well, fuck me. This is going to be hard. I have no idea where to start, other than the guess that we're probably in the 'stans somewhere. No text, no flags, so this is going to take a loooong time. Side note: the night after I first saw this, I had a dream that I solved it, and it was in Pakistan, so we're gonna keep that in mind.

I guess I'm gonna start by googling "hilltop desert villages" and see what happens? Hopes are low. Okay, this is either giving me places that are way too green, or are literally in Minecraft. So that's a no. I've plugged in "Pakistan" to the search, and the buildings coming up look correct, but that's about it. This is already gruelling. Now I'm googling for "village on a hill desert middle east" and it's giving me similar things, some in Jordan, some in the surrounding area, so I think we're sort of close. I reckon that this is somewhat near a major landmark, because I'm betting on the fact that our photographer was touring at the time, and not visiting home or something. I'm just praying that there's a reason they were in this area.

A couple hours passed. For the first time, I went to bed unsuccessful. Then a week went by. Then two weeks. Still nothing. I've gotten absolutely nowhere in the Middle East. I can tell you that at this point I know a lot more about Middle Eastern building techniques and Syrian airstrikes, but I still know nothing about this area. Two weeks in, I think I have to move on. This is a total slog. My morale is low, and my mind is ransacked. We're going to pivot, though.

Looking at the background, there's clearly a huge mountain range. That's why I initially thought Pakistan, but I'm going to hop a bit over to the east and start looking in India. There's some new-looking concrete in the photo, so this area is clearly well-used, and the fact that someone took a picture of it means that it's probably of some importance. I'm going to guess it's religious, because that top building has a very regal-looking roof, like a sort of temple. I'm going to search for "hilltop temples desert India".

Damn, no luck. The architecture is totally different. Fuck me. Time to go through synonyms. Temple, church, shrine, I tried all of these, absolutely nothing. I'm going to cry. Another sleepless night. And then: maybe a "monastery"? I'm literally just going through synonyms at this point and I'm on my last wits. This is - by far - the hardest one I've seen.



OH OH OH! FUCK yes, I got you, I got you! Monastery did the trick. "hilltop desert India monastery" was the search, which led me to "the 10 most spectacular mountain monasteries" on traveller.com, and in 6th place is Ki Monastery, India. Holy shit. Finding this place felt like an orgasm, I'm not even joking. By far and away, this is the hardest submission we've gotten, but we GOT you! It gives me great, great pleasure to close this image off of my desktop. Now I can sleep at night.

Final answer: Ki Monastery, Lahaul and Spiti district, India, at this specific bend in the road. I bet you pulled over here to take a photo. Took me three perfectly good weeks of my life and about ½ a litre of tears. But Shar, I got you. I got you.






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

BUNCH OF Ss

ISSUE 08
CORRECT
ANSWERS
FROM TOP
TO BOTTOM:

1. FINN
2. HENRY
3. KEVIN
4. SHANNON
5. KATIE

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.

	What's the biggest animal you could take in a fight?	Favourite compliment you've ever been given?	Favourite slang?	Would you rather only drink Fireball for the rest of your life, or no alcohol at all?	Do you know how NFTs work?
RONAN 	A cow.	Probably that I'm one of the craziest people that someone has met. It's good, but it's bad, but it's better than something boring.	'She'll be right' was always in my family. It's what I base my life on.	Fireball for sure.	Yes... Wait, explain NFTs?
JOEL 	Maybe an elephant. It wouldn't know you're on it, then you're disguised... incognito.	'You're a good fireball drinker'.	'Bruzzie'. Rolls off the tongue.	Fireball. It's not bad enough to otherwise not drink your whole life.	Yes, sort of, I know they're related to any crypto (wrong). It's in the blockchain (correct).
CACCIA 	Blue whale, because it's the biggest animal and I can beat any animal in a fight.	'You smell good'.	'Chur bro'. Just 'chur bro'.	Fireball. I would drink fireball any day, even if it was just replacing water.	Yup, traded by crypto currency built off Ethereum (correct).
SARAH 	A sloth, they're really big but they're really slow.	That I'm endearing.	'Yeah nah yeah'.	Fireball definitely - could you mix it?	I watched a TikTok on it the other day, I think I could explain it to a five-year-old.
JULIA 	I don't know if I could take any animal.	Probably that I'm smart. If someone compliments your intelligence it's really nice.	'Yeah nah yeah', that's the one I say the most. Nah yeah.	Fireball. I don't think I've ever had it so I don't really know.	No, I don't.

SKUXX FOOD

BY ROSIE JOYCE @SKUXXFOOD

HOISIN TOFU AND VERMICELLI NOODLE SALAD



A recipe for the vegans and veggies out there – if you don't like tofu, simply swap out for a meat of your choice.

INGREDIENTS Serves 4

100 grams vermicelli noodles	300 grams firm style tofu
2 carrots, shredded	3 tablespoons hoisin
1 cucumber, thinly sliced	4 tablespoons sesame oil
¼ red cabbage, thinly sliced	2 tablespoons soy sauce
	A bunch of fresh parsley
1 cup of mung beans	4 tablespoons of lemon juice/half a lemon
Bunch of mint, roughly chopped (optional)	1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
Bunch of coriander, roughly chopped (optional)	⅓ cup tahini
	Olive oil
½ cup of peanuts, roughly chopped	¼ cup cold water

DRESSING:

- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 4 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons lime juice
- 1 fresh chilli, thinly sliced (de-seeded if you don't like spice)
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar

METHOD

1. Drain tofu and wrap it in a few paper towels. Place something heavy on top (like a few books) and press for 10-20 minutes. Cut the tofu into 2cm cubes.
2. Place the tofu into a bowl along with the hoisin, soy sauce and 2 tablespoons of sesame oil. Combine and allow to marinate while you prepare the rest of the meal.
3. Place a large pot of water on a high heat. When boiling, add the vermicelli noodles and cook for 2-3 minutes. Drain, rinse with cold water, drain again and mix in 2 tablespoons of sesame oil to prevent them from sticking together.
4. In a small bowl, combine dressing ingredients.
5. In another large bowl, combine cooked noodles, carrots, cucumber, cabbage, mung beans, mint, coriander and peanuts and dressing.
6. In a pan on a medium heat, add the marinated tofu and brown on all sides. Add the cooked tofu to the salad, toss and serve!

BOOZE REVIEW:

Kiwi Lager

BY CHUG NORRIS

In an attempt to reintroduce another salt of the earth NZ brew, DB have re-released Kiwi Lagers. Kiwi Lagers are so incredibly average and so unjustifiably expensive that the only people drinking this will be the 40-year-olds that drank this beer when they still had hopes and dreams of doing something with their lives.

If you're drinking beer to get drunk, then a 4% beer will make that more difficult than it needs to be. They say that every beer is like eating a bread roll so unless the 4% is justified by low price there is really no need to punish your body to the extent of consuming 15 of these in a night. And you will need to consume all 15 to get drunk because there is so much volume and so little alcohol.

If you're drinking beer for the taste then you can do better for cheaper. Sure Kiwi Lager probably tastes better than Speights and is a tad cheaper but that is an extremely low bar to judge a beer on. Kiwi Lager tastes fine, but at \$1.6 per standard Kiwi Lager is in the RTD range so it should taste a lot better than fine. A box of Part Time Rangers is cheaper per standard. I would rather get indigestion for the rest of the week by drinking 10 African Elephants than punishing myself with a box of 15 Kiwi Lagers.

If you're drinking this beer for the image or something else other than taste or alcohol, then it does not really make

sense to drink Kiwi Lager, there are better options. Of course, you can always drink Speights to look Southern, but you'll soon realise it tastes like dirt and you should just grow some balls and get a mullet. The beer that will gain you the most credibility at parties are El Diablo 12 percenters. El Diablos are without question the filthiest beer on the market right now (so much so I totally blacked out the last time I attempted to review them) and most likely to gain you the respect of your peers. In contrast, you're more likely to get bullied at parties for the Australian-looking green and gold packaging of Kiwi Lagers than anything else. Kiwi Lagers will negatively impact your image.

Because Kiwi Lager fails on alcohol content, taste and image, that leaves only one option; DB dragged this beer from its rightful grave in a nostalgia grab to gain a crumb of the highly saturated NZ beer market. But in doing so DB forgot that the alcohol market that they exploit rests on the shoulders of those who were not even born when this beer had its hey-day. If DB wants to sell a beer they should give us a cheap, low-carb and 5% (or upwards) beer that doesn't taste like watery garbage.

Tasting notes: carbonation, carbs.

Froth level: mundane at best.

Tastes like: bread rolls, mixing every 4% beer together.

Rating: 4/10 incredibly average.

HUZUR KEBAB
BIG NIGHT?

906 GEORGE STREET, NORTH D
03 479 0089 @f huzurturkishkebab



**MEAT ON
CHIPS**

deliveroo Uber Eats Menulog

HOROSCOPES



AQUARIUS *Jan 20 – Feb 18*

There may have been some people leaving your life recently, but just know, you are probably better off without them. Onwards and upwards, my friends.

Conspiracy to research: did the Crown kill Diana?



LEO *Jul 23 – Aug 22*

If people were flags, you'd be a red one.

Conspiracy to research: the moon landings were faked.



VIRGO *Aug 23 – Sep 22*

It's time to sit down and think about your feelings. Take away the analysing and calculating, just let things flow over you. Ask yourself: how do you really feel?

Conspiracy to research: the CIA were involved with JFK's death.



PISCES *Feb 19 – Mar 20*

Wreak havoc. Unleash. The world is your oyster. Do the most questionable and tumultuous things you possibly can. Time is of the essence, and your life is to be lived.

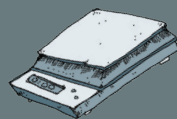
Conspiracy to research: did Bush do 9/11?



ARIES *Mar 21 – Apr 19*

It's time to check yourself. Sometimes, your outbursts and stubbornness push people away. If you have had some drama recently, maybe reassess your role in it.

Conspiracy to research: was Avril Lavigne replaced with a clone?



LIBRA *Sep 23 – Oct 22*

The extra stress you have been feeling recently is set to be alleviated, so there is no need to panic. Sit back, relax, and crack open a cold one because good things are coming.

Conspiracy to research: Flat Earth theory.



TAURUS *Apr 20 – May 20*

Sometimes things are good, sometimes they are bad, sometimes they are neither. It's okay to be numb, take comfort in the experience.

Conspiracy to research: Big Honey



SCORPIO *Oct 23 – Nov 21*

Next week's eclipse is really gonna fuck you up. So if you feel more emotional than usual, just know it's the stars, not you.

Conspiracy to research: Area 51.



GEMINI *May 21 – Jun 20*

You are about to enter a new season of your life, and let me tell you, it's a star-studded line up.

Conspiracy to research: are we living in a stimulation?



SAGITTARIUS *Nov 22 – Dec 21*

Don't let your commitment issues, fear of rejection and ego get the best of you. There might be something special on the horizon.

Conspiracy to research: One World theory.



CANCER *Jun 21 – Jul 22*

Maybe it's your time to sit down and shut up xo

Conspiracy to research: Slenderman.



CAPRICORN *Dec 22 – Jan 19*

A lifetime of hard work and borderline obsessive visualisation will pay off this week. Viva la Capricorn.

Conspiracy to research: is astrology real?

MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

a t m s

ADULTTOYMEGASTORE

Not now, Dad

I was 18, in my last summer before University. The horny was strong, and my teenage years had been bone-dry, so I wanted some experience before heading down south. I started seeing a guy, John, from my school. After the second date, he begged me to take his virginity. I declined. Then, in what even I can say was a desperate bid, he tried to get a pity fuck by telling me his grandma had recently died. He later admitted they were not very close. Still, he was obsessed with me. And a week later, I was at his house.

After all the waiting, the nights with my vibrator and the anti...pation, I finally got down to it, and all I could think was, 'Sex sucks'. It wasn't painful or even uncomfortable. It was just a nothing experience, and one that was taking forevvvver. Half an hour in, John was not slowing down. I'd given up trying to enjoy myself at that point, and I was just praying. Praying for his bed to stop squeaking like a dying mouse, praying for him to hurry up so I could go home and praying I never had to do this again, when, mid-thrust, he stopped and looked up at me.

"Do you hear that?" he said. Hear what? I listened in for a moment. Low and behold, someone was calling my name. And it sounded like my dad?!? I peeked out the curtains, but my dad was not outside. Confused as anything, I

looked down at my watch. My smartwatch. Then at my phone on the bedside table. Time stood still. My heart dropped. Before John registered what had happened, I'd jumped off his dick, grabbed my phone and started yanking on my clothes. "Hi, Dad! Sorry, I was just with a friend watching a movie and picked up on my watch. Yes, I would like Turkish for dinner, be home soon, bye!"

I had already begun gathering my things at light speed, ignoring all of John's attempts to talk to me. I was on a mission to get out of that house before my life could get more embarrassing. But fate wasn't done with me yet. As I tore out of the hallway, blouse on inside out, hair a mess, John's well-meaning, non-English speaking parents stopped me to offer homegrown cucumbers. I brushed past them with a garbled apology and ran out the door to my car. Once safely inside, I didn't stop screaming till I got home. My parents and I never spoke about that day, but I'd been on the phone for 68 seconds before I noticed something was amiss. 68 seconds, on speaker, in the car. My mum was there too.

As for John, we dated for four months. He tore his banjo string in me during sex, bled all in me, all over my bed, and never once made me cum. After I left for uni, I realised I didn't like him very much.

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

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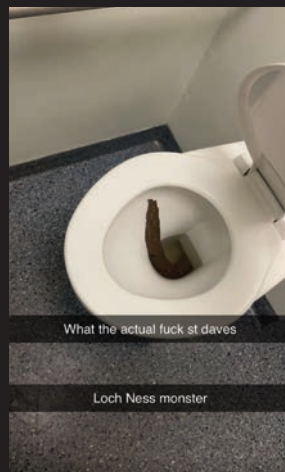
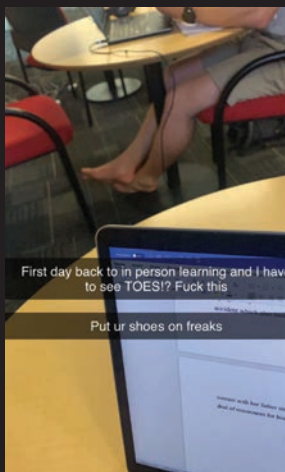
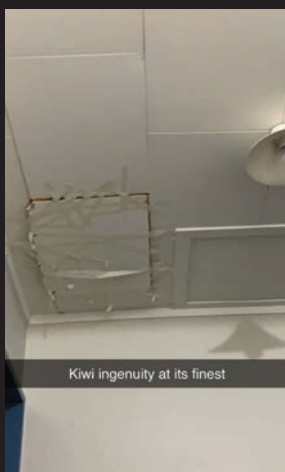
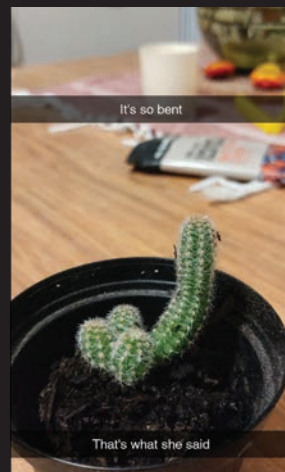
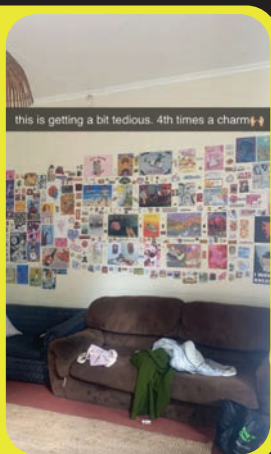
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