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Uni feeling kinda shit?
Just want to complain?

Email me (please):
president@ousa.org.nz

ousa
EXECUTIVE



THURSDAY 02 MAR

Dante
THE CROWN HOTEL
8PM / \$5

Fraser Ross - 'Janice In The Dairy' Single
Release w/ Hannah Everingham
DOG WITH TWO TAILS
7:30PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Baseline Warm Up: 33 Below w/ Mousey
b2b Evo, System, and Undertow
U BAR
9PM
Tickets from eventbrite.co.nz

FRIDAY 03 MAR

Pretty Stoked - 'Day Today' EP Release
DOG WITH TWO TAILS
8PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Kāhū Rōpū, HŌHĀ, and GRVDGGR
THE CROWN HOTEL
8PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

SATURDAY 04 MAR

Six60
FORSYTH BARR STADIUM
4:30PM
Tickets from ticketmaster.co.nz

SUNDAY 05 MAR

Joel Fafard
DUNEDIN FOLK CLUB
7PM / \$20 / ALL AGES

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

LETTERS



EMAIL CRITIC@CRITIC.CO.NZ ————— LETTER OF THE WEEK WINS A \$25 VOUCHER FROM UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Hey Critic,

So Taieri college is threatening to fine people \$1000 for cumming in their drain (they're acting like they've got cum scientists and like a cum genome sequencing project or something). Like they say the sheer amount of cum in their drains is like denaturing and turning into concrete or something but like?? Who looks at a broken pipe and thinks?? Hmmmm??? somebody must be cumming in my drain!? Like come on man, there must be another way. Like what if I came into a tissue and flushed that, would that be okay? Who's job even is it to monitor the drains for cum? Like surely this is a cum nonspecific problem, like what if I shat in the drain huh?? What then? I'll do it.

Cumlocula

Critic!

I am shocked, flabbergasted, outraged and straight up cunted that it does not appear UoO have cum-proofed their pipes. We have seen the damage that a student body's student swimmers can wreak on our nation's wastewater system. Other institutions are taking a stand against this white tsunami; when will UoO be clear on their position in the War on Cum? In the time it has taken you to read this letter, a fresher has released a terabyte of greywater sewer-cide into a hall shower drain. If nothing is done, direct action ("NOT A CHILD DROPOFF ZONE" signs on all campus toilets) may be the only solution. We're a campus, not a cumpus.

Yours truly,
The Simulacum

STUDENTS. A MOMENT'S REFLECTION

I'm caught in paradoxical drives
These privileged youth, that alcohol divides
Though free from bottles for 40 years,
Your drinking clutters our walking lives
Post exam revels on the grass
Leaves left empties and broken glass
Where children, dogs and teams all play
You cheerily drink and let this pass?
It seems so careless and chaotic
Seriously, students, it's just idiotic
Children, and dogs in cutup grief.
These thoughtless mistakes are ironic
Make a belief to care for your own
Absorb and declare in this moral tone
That touches those you meet in your life
Who will love and revere the kindness shown

Critic,

Will 2023 be the year Critic has a dedicated queer-themed issue?

Sincerely,
Gayzed and confused



This debate has been raging for a while, but let me get you up to speed. Dunedin lost its last student bar two years ago (RIP Starters). Previous bars had closed because they weren't profitable or because they were bought out - sometimes by the Uni, sometimes not. Split hairs over that all you want, it won't bring them back.

So, here's the problem: with drinks in town sitting at about \$12 on a good night, students (in the middle of an economic crisis) are understandably reluctant to spend nights out in town. Instead, they get pissed at their flats because it's cheaper that way (fair enough, me too). Either that, or they get shit-faced at pres to save on drinks in town. Of course, you don't have to drink at all, but that's a whole can of worms for another time.

Right now, the problem is a lack of supervision. Students at student bars can be bounced or cut off if they've had too much to drink. Creeps can be dealt with by security. Crowds, in general, can be better supervised. Harm will still be abundant, but at least it'll all happen in one place.

There's a metaphor for healthcare about putting an ambulance at the bottom of a cliff to help people who fall over and how it's better to just build a fence at the top. Student bars are neither a fence nor an ambulance. They're a

queue organising people to make sure that, as long as they're determined to fall off the cliff, they can at least all do it in one place so we only have to call one ambulance instead of six. It's not a perfect solution, but it's one people want.

Your student exec this year is made up almost entirely of Ski Club members who took advantage of low voter turnout to stack the cabinet. They're very, very keen on getting a bar back. So is OUSA in general - Starters was an OUSA venture, after all. The Uni seems to agree that having a designated drinking space makes sense but isn't leading the charge. The city seems... keen? I dunno. The new mayor had a six-point plan for student well-being and was keen on the idea of a bar, but I haven't heard of anything happening, and in the meantime people are going to Eleven Bar, which is a fucking shambles.

Basically, you're shit outta luck this year in terms of a student bar: somewhere the drinks are dirt cheap, the crowd is familiar, and safety is at least somewhat improved. You don't have that, and you should be upset about it. You should push and push and push until the higher-ups give you what you want. Until then, when the media paints us all as absolute munters for drinking in the streets, remind them that this is our only current option. Where else are we meant to go?

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27 FEBRUARY 2023



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Students Oppose Octagon Bar

You know shit's going down if students are objecting to booze sales

By Ruari Warren
Contributing Writer

Students and police united to object to Eleven Bar's liquor licence renewal at a public hearing on Friday February 17, concerned about the potential harm the establishment could be causing to the "vulnerable student population". An ex-employee has called the bar "the most cooked place I've ever worked", but bar management has vowed to be more vigilant.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) represented the student voice at the hearing. Long-term SSDP member Jai Whelan explained to Critic Te Ārohi that the group's objection was initially based on the bar's failure to file their application properly, which sounded boring, but quickly divulged into a rabbit hole of other allegations; everything from Covid capacity breaches to management drinking on the job.

Inspectors found four required licences and crucial systems missing (fire, training, manager register, manager list).

Police also had their objections, and shared with SSDP several statements revealing the licence renewal was more serious than anticipated. "Given what came out, I was somewhat personally surprised," said Jai. "I had heard [about] incidents but had been unable to substantiate [them]."

Four parties objected to the licence renewal: SSDP, Police, a medical officer and a licence inspector. Police actually applied to cancel the licence three separate times, and inspectors found four required licences and crucial systems missing (fire, training, manager register, manager list). Police also reported six instances of Local Alcohol Policy breaches, and witness testimony recorded three to five instances of managers drinking on the job, one of whom said that the managers were treating the bar as "their own private drinking establishment". Further allegations include management downplaying two instances of predatory behaviour on the premises.

Prakash Khattri is listed as a duty manager on the renewal application and is a shareholder in the business. He said during the hearing that mistakes had

"Ultimately, we think given the timing of the renewal, if Eleven is not fulfilling obligations under the Act, we don't want that harm to continue into the following week," said Jai.

been made at the bar, but he was unaware of them because he was busy with his business in Cromwell. This included not being aware of Covid capacity violations until six months after the fact. Khattri committed to spending more time overseeing his Dunedin bar by acting as the sole director and shareholder, effective December 20 last year. The Alcohol and Regulatory Licensing Authority had not been notified of this change, as is required.

With the first O-Week after a two year hiatus fast-approaching, these allegations spurred SSDP to redouble their efforts to prevent the bar from remaining open in a notoriously booze-heavy week. "Ultimately, we think given the timing of the renewal, if Eleven is not fulfilling obligations under the Act, we don't want that harm to continue into the following week," said Jai.

The hearing itself was a bit of a slog, Critic Te Ārohi can confirm. "It was an interesting experience," said Jai, "somewhat frustrating, though I wasn't surprised at how long it took." The hearing was adjourned indefinitely after several hours of debate over which statements and witnesses were admissible. Though Jai was "not too stressed about waiting for the next hearing", he was worried about those who may be harmed in the meantime. "People are going to get hurt," he said.

Since its conception in 2020, SSDP has pushed for "drug policy reform on all levels that will reduce harm and empower individuals to make informed decisions through education around drugs." More recently, SSDP member Scott Dunning has spearheaded a focus on liquor licence renewals as a way to ensure all vendors are properly trained to respond

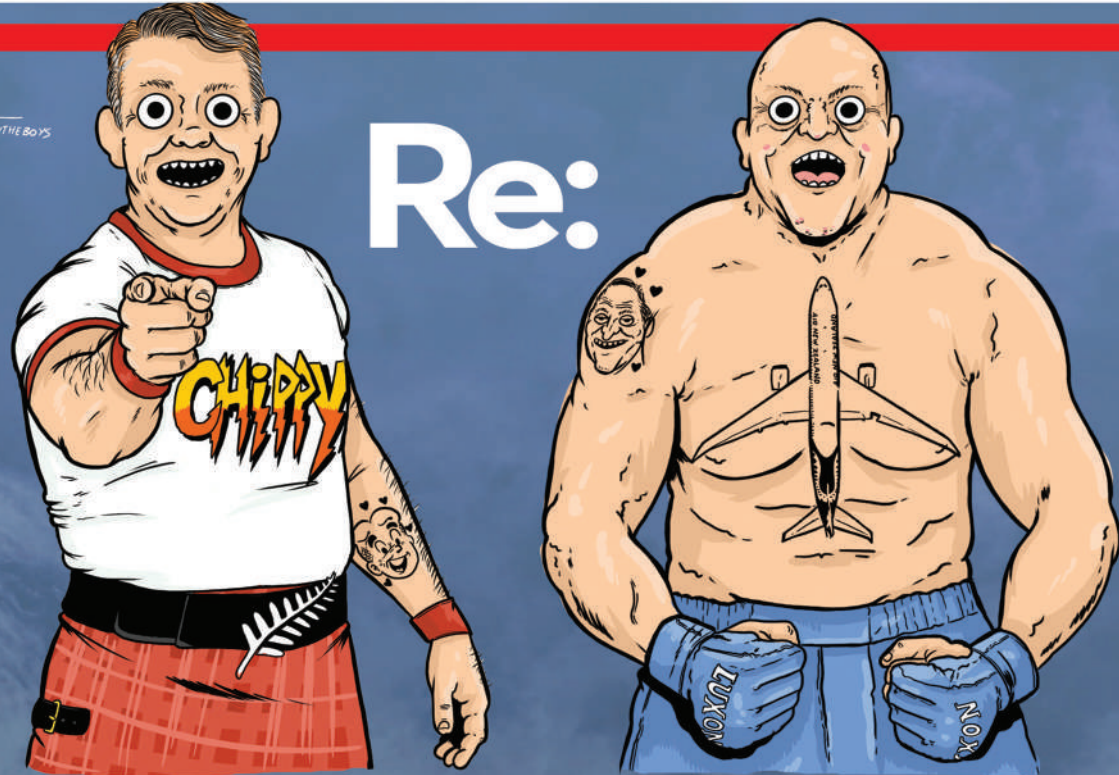
to drug-related harm (yes, alcohol is a drug). This includes not only alcohol poisoning, but also the serious risks when psychoactive chemicals are combined with alcohol.

SSDP doesn't want to shut bars down - they're just fans of "well-managed premises" as Jai put it. "Drug-related harm can also include harm that is exacerbated or caused by bad drug policy, and that is something SSDP is also keen to reduce, he told Critic. Staff should be trained in harm reduction and have overdose medications like Naloxone on-hand according to Jai: "Bars are a place where people use drugs. You're lying to yourself if you say that isn't where it's happening"

The group were unable to prevent Eleven Bar from operating during O-Week. Critic will continue reporting on this story as it unfolds.

© YEEHAW THE BOYS

Re:



ELECTION SHOWDOWN 23'



Stay up to date @renewsnz 



Arise Church Asked to Leave Tent City

Situation "in-tents", says punster

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

[Originally published online, Wednesday 22 February]

Arise Church has been asked to leave Tent City. As far as we can tell, they're gone.

Tent City is run by OUSA, and stalls are given contracts to be there. Critic Te Ārohi, also part of OUSA, has reported extensively on Arise's allegations of intern abuse and their connection to the Otago student body. Their affiliated student club was suspended last year.

Nonetheless, the group was at Tent City on Monday. Quintin Jane, OUSA Student Exec President, said that he wasn't even aware that they were there until Monday

afternoon, at which point "we moved quickly to ask that they [leave]." Critic walked through Tent City on Tuesday afternoon, the next day, and saw no sign of their tent.

Otago Uni student Jordan told us that she wasn't stoked when she noticed the tent. She said it was "super concerning following the investigations and news last year" about how Arise treated its unpaid interns, some of whom were students. Having them appear to be affiliated with OUSA or the Uni was "dangerous" according to Jordan.

Debbie Downs, CEO of OUSA, said that Arise's contract was issued by Planet Media Sales, who were "unaware of the temporary suspension of the affiliated club, and therefore the inappropriateness of the church being at Tent City!"

Debbie told us that "Arise being in attendance on the first day of Tent City was an oversight on my behalf" because the decision to cancel their tent should have been made after the Exec voted to continue the suspension of Arise's student club on Friday, 17 February.



Otago Students

25th March • 6pm-6am
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Sign up

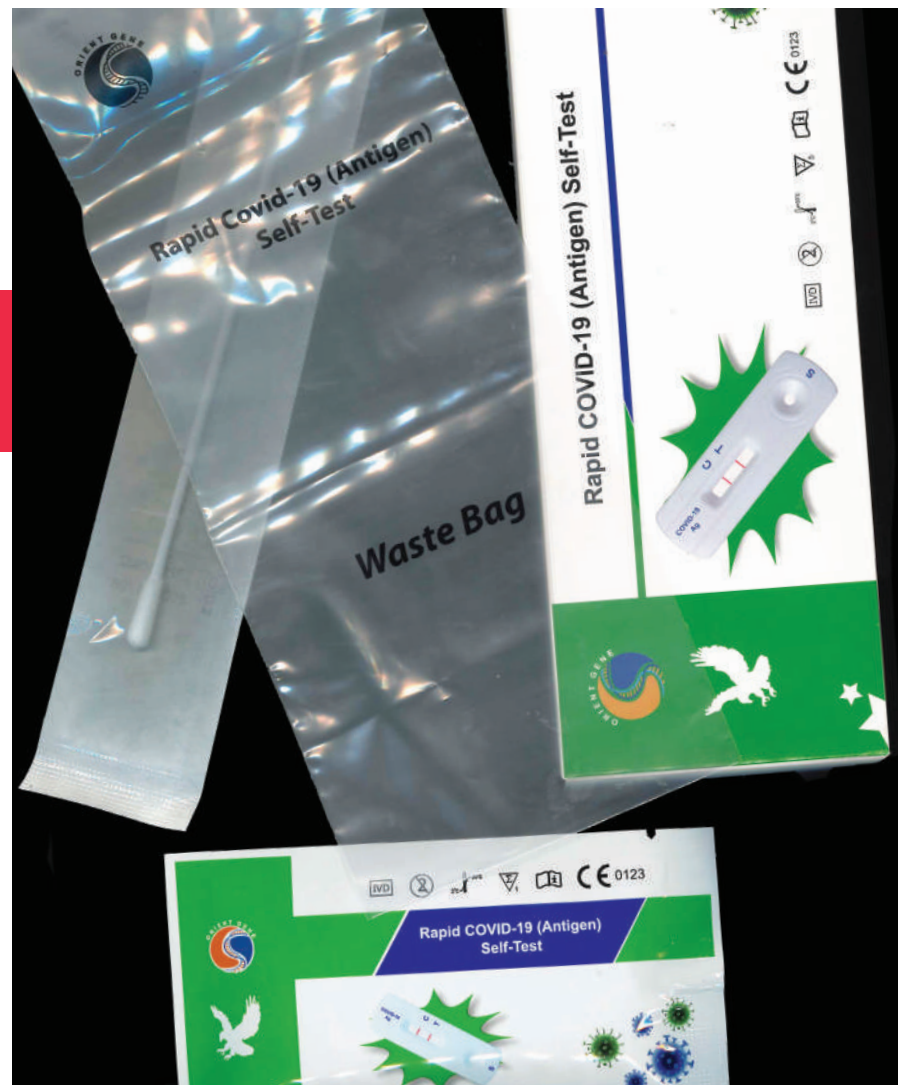


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Study: Some Students Intentionally Caught Covid, Didn't Report Positive Tests

Admin is ceebz, I guess



A recent study by a group of sixth-year Otago Med students claims that students significantly under-reported positive Covid-19 RAT tests, both to the Uni and Government. The study was conducted in 2022 between Flo-Week and the end of Semester One. 160 households in North Dunedin were randomly selected using Microsoft Excel – guess it's handy for more than just commerce students.

Unsurprisingly, the general vibe from students towards Covid testing, reporting and any other sort of admin was “ceebz”. According to the study, one third of students did not report their positive RAT test results. Around two thirds of

those students said they were “unaware that reporting was a requirement”. Grace, president of the Otago Disabled Students Association, told Critic Te Ārohi that it comes down to “a general attitude of apathy toward COVID”. Other reasons given for not reporting their positive tests included not knowing how, feeling that “reporting provided no benefit for individuals”, or simply that it is a “hassle”. One student said they “believed that they had the right not to report”. We get it, you study law.

Charlie* told Critic Te Ārohi that they didn't feel the need to report as “there's no real reason to if you're isolating anyway and

By Zak Rudin
Staff Writer // zak@critic.co.nz

doing the right thing.” Kat, a public health student, also said that the “reliability of Covid tests aren't that great.”

Grace told Critic Te Ārohi that it is important for students to upload positive RAT tests to give an accurate gauge of risk. “Without this information being accurate, disabled students are unable to make informed decisions that greatly impact their health,” said Grace.

The study also found that students did not fare so well on the Covid-catching side of things. Around half of participants said they “interacted normally” with positive cases in their household. Meanwhile, **a quarter of students said they deliberately attempted to catch Covid from their household contacts.** We'll leave their methods up to your imagination. This initially bizarre behaviour was likely due to the rule at the time that every positive test within a household would result in an iso restart. Sick (literally).

For six students interviewed, however, iso requirements didn't stop them from “meeting social commitments” (aka hitting Castle St). Critic Te Ārohi sincerely hopes y'all had a great time drinking away your Covid and spreading it to your mates.

The study admits there “may be inaccuracies due to flatmates not knowing the reporting status of others in their flat.” However, the study claims that this is counteracted by “social desirability bias” as students could overestimate their reporting to try to impress the hot young aspiring doctors conducting the study. Something the study does not consider is the ingenuity of some students to simply not test in the first place. Schrödinger's cat, baby. Charlie told Critic Te Ārohi that there's “no real point [in testing] as we know everyone else has it.”

Whatever the case, it is clear there was still considerable under-reporting of positive Covid cases. A spokesperson for the Uni told Critic Te Ārohi that “under-reporting of positive Covid cases in the community is a national issue, not just an issue among students.” Kind of like saying climate change is a global problem, Aotearoa only contributes a small part to it.

*Name changed.

Campus Watch Scores Free Period Products

Reckons “we got the whole lot” of government stocks

By Nina Brown
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Over the summer break, Campus Watch legend Annabel Cole secured ten pallets of menstrual products for students. They'll be available for free at the Campus Watch office, OUSA buildings, and at any of the uni colleges while stocks last.

Periods aren't cheap. While a cool indicator that you're not pregnant, they can take a toll on menstruating students' bank accounts; depending on your flow, each period can cost up to \$15 in sanitary products. In this economy?

With two student-age daughters, Annabel feels strongly about the issue. “I just see it as being, for those who don't have access, another barrier from their studies. It's something small that we can do for students that they don't have to worry about.”

Annabel told Critic Te Ārohi that, since starting work at Campus Watch six years ago, she has been “trying to source a regular supply of sanitary products for our students”. This was met with “mixed success” in the form of one-off donations from both OUSA and The Period Place.

Under the eye of Aunty Cindy, the Ministry of Education began to regularly supply secondary schools with free sanitary products. This service was not extended to tertiary students. Following an alleged change in supplier, however, the Ministry got back in touch with Annabel to offer what remained of their current stock: “From the amount [they gave us],” she said, “I'd judge we got the whole lot.”

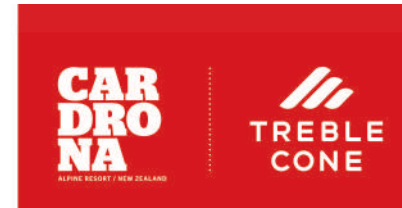
Two students Critic Te Ārohi spoke to were stoked at the news. Having recently come off contraceptive, Anna said that the one thing she's dreading about getting her period for the first time in five years,

“apart from having a period, is buying menstrual products. They're as expensive as meat these days.”

It was important to Annabel that the service be discreet: “No one needs to feel embarrassed or that they have to ask... You walk in the front door, we have sanitary sanitary products, we have condoms. You can help yourself.”

She estimated each pallet to be level with her height at 5'4”, and in total “will last around six months” distributed around campus. While an impressive amount for a one-off suss, Annabel says it's unfortunately “not the long-term solution that I'm looking for.”

“I regret that it's not forever”, she said, but she was adamant that this wasn't the end of it. “We'll keep working on it and a long-term solution will hopefully turn up one day.”



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HIGHLANDERS

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7.05PM Highlanders v Blues

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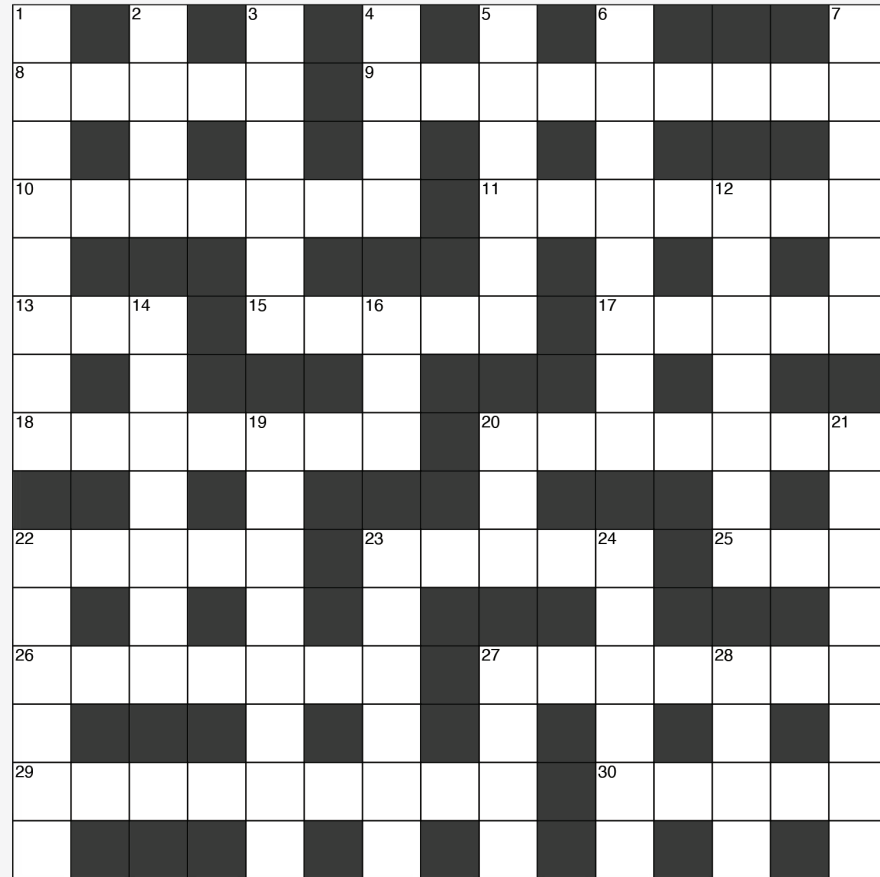
HIGHLANDERS

PUZZLES



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CROSSWORD



The (#) tells you how many words are in the solution. If a clue doesn't have a (#), it's a one-word answer.

- ACROSS:**
- 8. Formerly Gardies
 - 9. Deserving respect
 - 10. Cold-blooded animal
 - 11. Perfect lounge for a frog (2)
 - 13. Angeles or Santos
 - 15. Tomato pie
 - 17. Xbox devotee
 - 18. Deliver via iPhone or parachute
 - 20. "Saturday Night Fever" trio (2)
 - 22. One Direction's Horan
 - 23. Book 1 of The Last Airbender
 - 25. "All the Stars" singer
 - 26. City that blew its lid
 - 27. Take the air out of
 - 29. Tea, when not in bags (2)
 - 30. American bird
- DOWN:**
- 1. Protection from sun and rain
 - 2. Golfer's concern
 - 3. Pipsqueak
 - 4. Scandalous suffix that could be added to each highlighted answer
 - 5. Big name in '30s aviation
 - 6. Comes before the main event
 - 7. Week-long party
 - 12. Spoils lovingly
 - 14. Piss-taking tone
 - 16. A short shock
 - 19. No longer worried
 - 20. Controversial BOTY winner
 - 21. It's rising (2)
 - 22. Body part that's only censored half the time
 - 23. American politician lambasted for sending dick pics
 - 24. Involuntary action
 - 27. Batty, foolish
 - 28. Golden Fleece ship

WORD BLOCKS

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

D	T	O
H	U	A
D	L	O

F	J	C
K	D	F
A	E	O

O	E	R
P	I	N
F	U	B

SUDOKU

sudokuoftheday.com

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

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

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

WORDFIND

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

- OWEEK
- PUB
- YUNGGRAVY
- POWERADE
- SAVAGE
- PONG
- HUNGOVER
- GIGS
- ZINGERBOX
- NETSKY
- SLAB
- ALLOWANCE
- HALLFOOD
- LESHGO

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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they don't even know I came dressed as the pink and white terraces

FLO AND O PARTY THEMES, REVIEWED

COURTYARD: BACK TO SCHOOL MONDAY 13TH

Appropriate for day 1 of parties. Makes sense. Opportunity to wear some kinky outfits.

Eyewitness testimony: Seemed to have the most turnout as a uniform is pretty easy to source. People got sloshed immediately and many could be found flailing in the gutters by 6pm. It also coincided with the superbowl, which I know many flats got up for. Overall, it was high calibre. A certified classic theme which provided many-a-moment of joy.

Eyewitness testimony 2: Agree with above. A notable massive police presence this year, as early as 4:00pm.

FRIDGE/FRIDGETTE: VALENTINE'S DAY (PINK/WHITE) TUESDAY 14TH

The clear choice for the party theme on V-Day, but also gives the lucky geologist a chance to dress as the pink and white terraces (they don't even know I'm dressed as the pink and white terraces).

RACECOURSE/TUNNEL: DAY AT THE RACES WEDNESDAY 15TH

We've all seen this one before. Who's going as the horse? Who's getting all the ket?

Eyewitness testimony: Most indulged in shades of mediocrity (including myself). I think there were a few issues with the host. It got trashed (obviously), one of the DJs had his stuff stolen, and police presence was heavily felt. Too many people trapped in the k-hole, I reckon.

Eyewitness testimony 2: Most missed the actual host because they finished at 9pm. Heard from someone who knows hosts that they wanted to fully commit to the day at the race's theme. Kick ons were highlight of the night.

JUNGLE: RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE THURSDAY 16TH

Is this Tarzan themed? Or boxing themed? Either way, it's a pretty good theme - plenty of room for creativity, plus it pairs well with jungle juice so you've got your drinks sorted. Solid theme.

COMPLEX: DOUBLE DENIM FRIDAY 17TH

People sleep on double denim, but a denim party goes fucking hard. So many people have random bits of denim that they've been itching to break out. This theme is super flexible and usually means you can wear something you're okay with trashing, and everyone looks good in photos. All round a solid 10/10. Plus, denim is workwear, so it usually has heaps of pockets - that means lots of drink storage. Nice.

Eyewitness testimony: This was one hell of a night. The fact that I was too drunk to remember anything else reflects how good it was.

THIRSTY: WHITEOUT SATURDAY 18TH

Sort of the opposite of the denim party; all stains are immediately visible and it's not nearly as pocket-friendly. Boo-hoo.

Eyewitness testimony: Approximately ½ of the New World Gardens morning staff called in sick after this one. Lots didn't really bother with the theme. Host was reported to be a good one. Was it at the calibre that the Saturday night of Flo-Week deserves? No.

Eyewitness testimony 2: As opposed to the last five nights of flo (police called it the 'chillest' year so far and all the hosts have been super accessible), it was totally crowded due to the arrival of freshers (and year 13s since it's a saturday? A bunch followed us home to give their dad's an address to pick them up from). Castle back to being chaotic.

SMACKDOWN VS RAW: WRESTLEMANIA SUNDAY 19TH

This has potential if people get into it. Wrestlers are already in crazy costumes so it really would not be that hard. The only downside is that it gives boys an excuse to start wrestling, and nobody wants to see that. It's that awkward bit where they're both kinda leaning on each other cos they don't wanna really go too hard, but they also don't wanna lose so it's just tense and everyone's like "ok bro, let it stop."

Eyewitness testimony: Got stopped at 10:30pm but there were only like 20 people in attendance because it was a Sunday. Good times reported by those who attended but the real venues of the evening were the Northern cemetery and Alhambra rugby club which were both closed down by the police extremely early.

FEISTY: FRAT PARTY MONDAY 20TH

If you've ever been to a frat party you'll know they aren't as good as an O-Week party. Still, the romantic idea of a frat party is something Castle Street wants to be like, hence why it's on the list. Like how NZ in general just sucks up to the USA, this comes part and parcel. It's kinda simp behaviour, tbh. Lame.

THE CASTLE: TRAFFIC LIGHT WEDNESDAY 22ND

Honestly this is one of the laziest themes ever. It's super awkward and nobody really wants to just put it all out there. You can do better.

Theme Change: The flat realised they could do better so they changed the theme to Golf Pros and Tennis Hoes, which, honestly, is way better. Activewear should be worn by drinking just because it's so much easier to clean, but this theme does have the risk of putting you in contact with actual golf bros and tennis hoes, neither of which are a good time.

ADVENTURE TIME: TRIPPY THURSDAY THURSDAY 23RD

What does this mean? Acid? Idk, but after two straight weeks of partying you might be sick of booze and this could be exactly what you needed.

BIG RED: RED OUT FRIDAY 24TH

Host Switch: Death Star is now hosting the finale on Saturday, Big Red's 'Red Finale' is now called 'Red Out.'

Sure, I guess. I don't know what this means. I'd probably rather take a nap at this point. In my experience the Mongrel Mob initiation rumours underlying the entire event have been a bit of a buzzkill - or, maybe they give it the edge the last night two weeks of Castle needs. That being said, word is tons of people planning to skip, too worried about encountering Mongrel Mob.

DEATHSTAR: PIMPS AND HOES SATURDAY 25TH

No, no, no. So much no. More on this later in the year. Just genuinely tasteless, but very on brand for Deathstar. Definitely tasteless but seems to be pretty popular with everyone. Getting the sense most girls are planning to show up as pimps.

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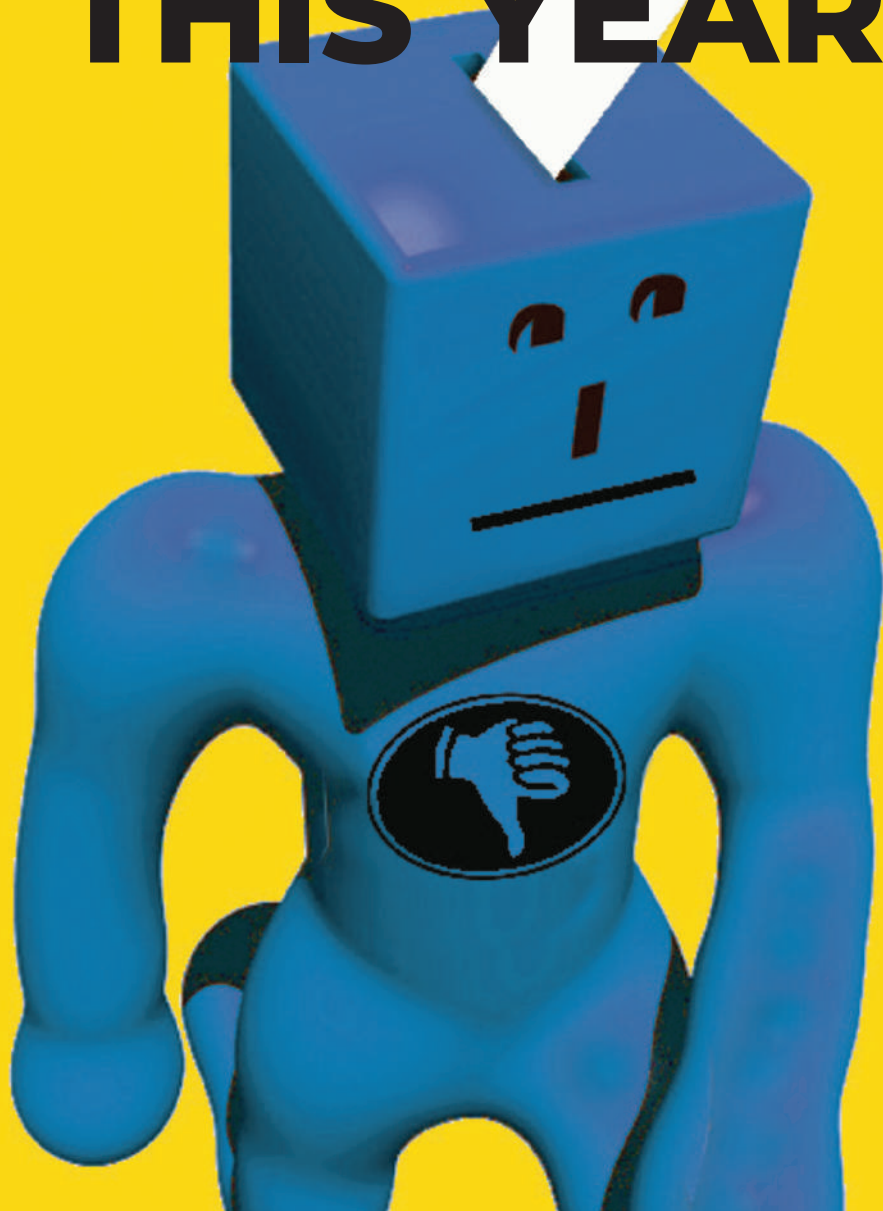
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OPINION:

CRITIC TE ĀROHI WILL BE COVERING THE ELECTION THIS YEAR



BY ANNABELLE
PARATA VAUGHAN

For those of you too young to remember, or those who need a memory jog, Critic Te Ārohi made the decision to not cover the 2020 general election on the basis that party politicians had **“nothing more to offer students than a shrivelled pea.”** The decision received an extensive amount of criticism because Critic has a long history of being politically engaged, especially during elections. But the reasons were a bit more nuanced than they seemed.

Last time, Critic decided that we wouldn't provide free advertising to candidates (in the form of an interview) unless they were capable of actually engaging with students and talking about what we want and need. The editor at the time felt like the candidates weren't able to do that, so she decided not to report on the election at all. We are happy to cover candidates in our mag, but only if they have given a shit about the student body before election season rolls around. No fair-weather fans.

Mainstream media often doesn't focus on the student voice, and at times we can often feel like we've been kicked to the curb and left out of the conversation.

It's pretty easy for a politician to wow the editor of a student magazine into giving

them what is essentially free ad space. It's hard to say no in those situations. But, like last election, if you come in here utterly unprepared to say anything substantial about students, you will not be getting published in student media. It's literally not worth our time. If you can't name the current OUSA President, for example, that's a bit of a red flag (this did happen).

As your student magazine, Critic has a duty to represent you. And part of representing you is providing you with the information necessary to make informed decisions about what is happening in Aotearoa, and how it will impact your future. Mainstream media often doesn't focus on the student voice, and at times we can often feel like we've been kicked to the curb and left out of the conversation. But that's where Critic comes in, to be your voice, and tell you what's going on.

Over the past three years, we've dealt with a global pandemic, multiple lockdowns, natural disasters, a healthcare system in distress, and immense cost of living pressures. Civil and political unrest has been at an all-time high, all while we stare down the barrel of a worsening housing crisis and the impending doom of climate change. Not to mention it seems like every day we come an inch closer to a new world war, and a lettuce costs six bucks. I mean, we're living through one of the most tumultuous periods in modern human history. It seems like we are surrounded by chaos everywhere we turn, even though most of us are just trying to pass our studies and get on with life.

But don't worry – I'm not saying Critic is going to be bogged down with political doom and gloom every week, furthering your existential crisis. We're still here for a good time. We just want to make sure that the politicians that get their content on these pages actually deserve to be here instead of, say, another full-page illustration of Minion Daddy.

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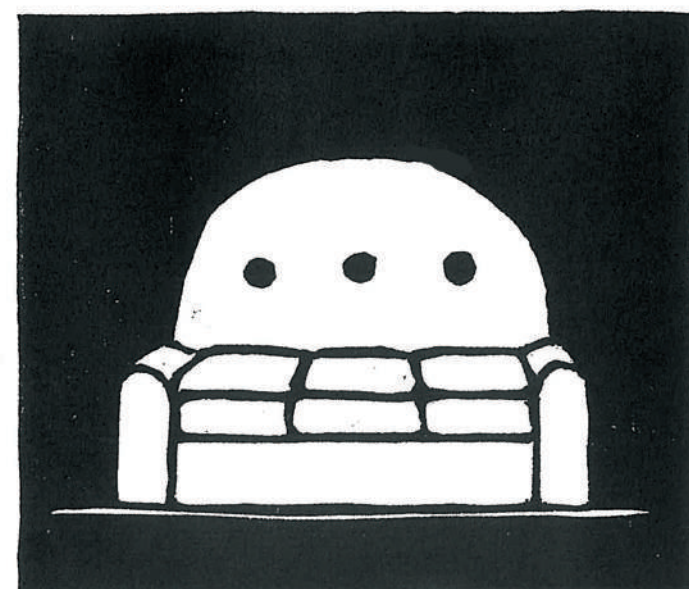
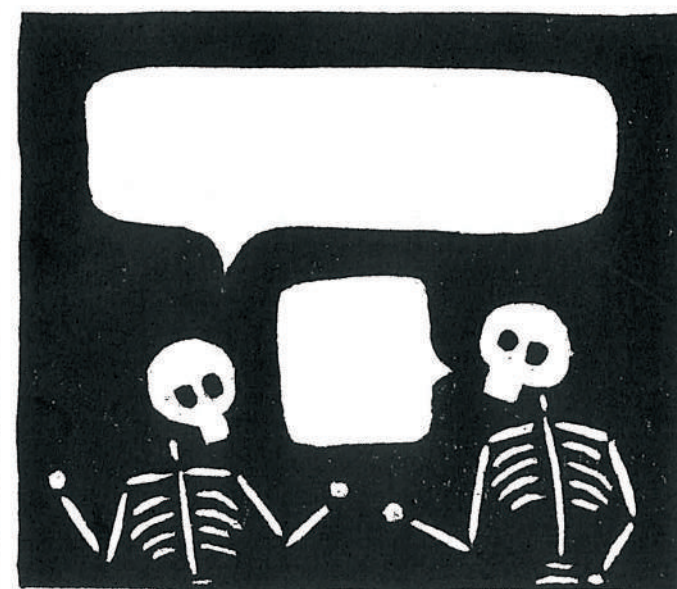
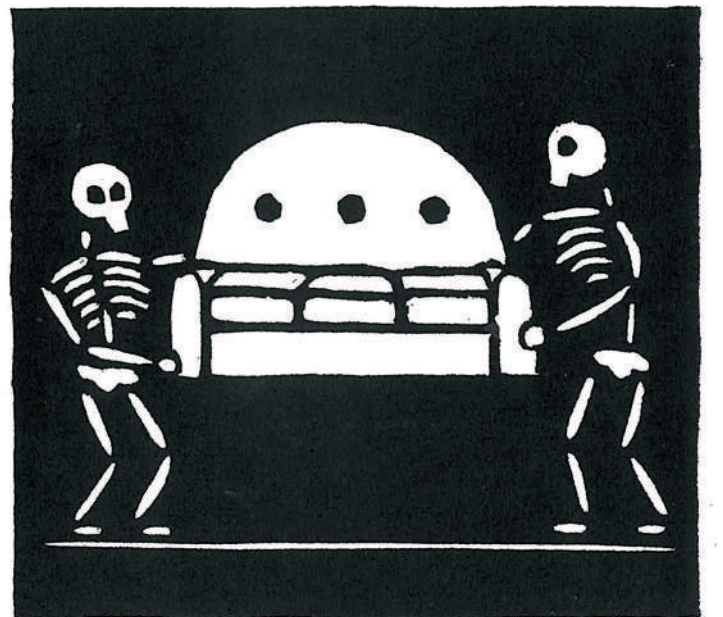
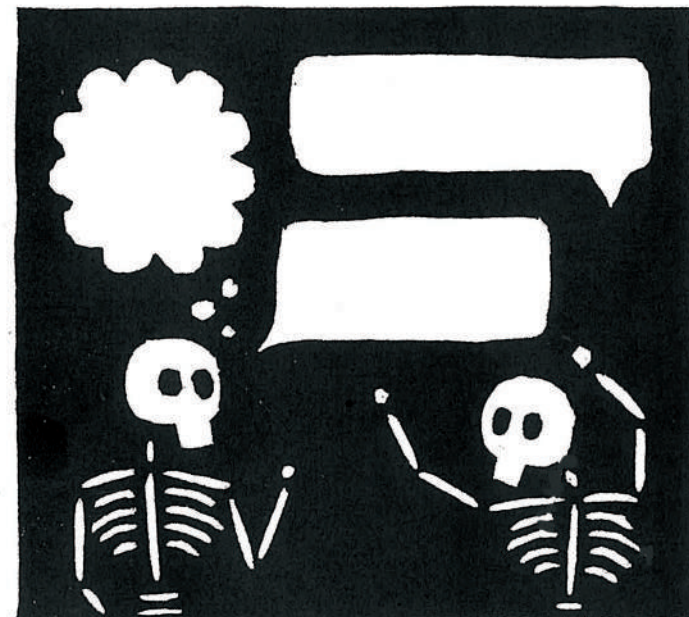
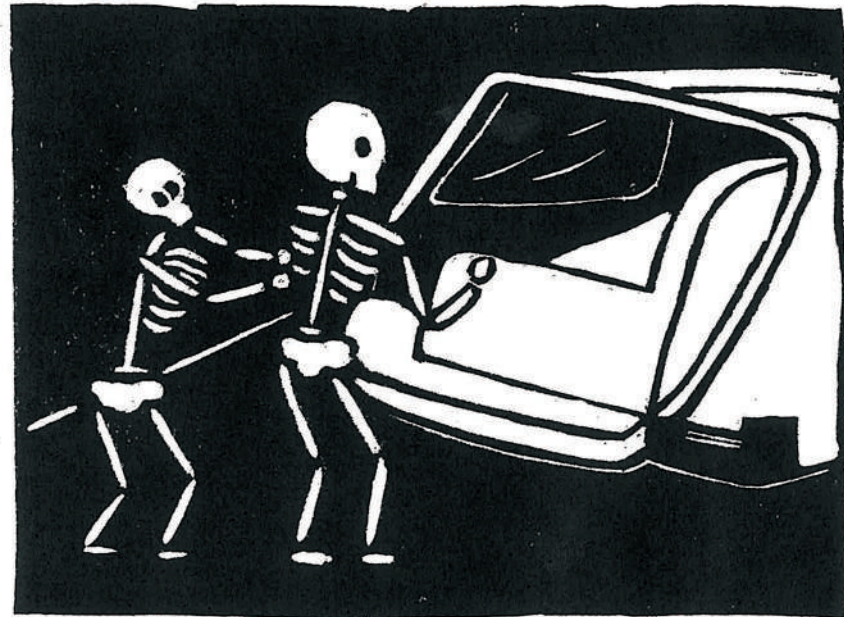
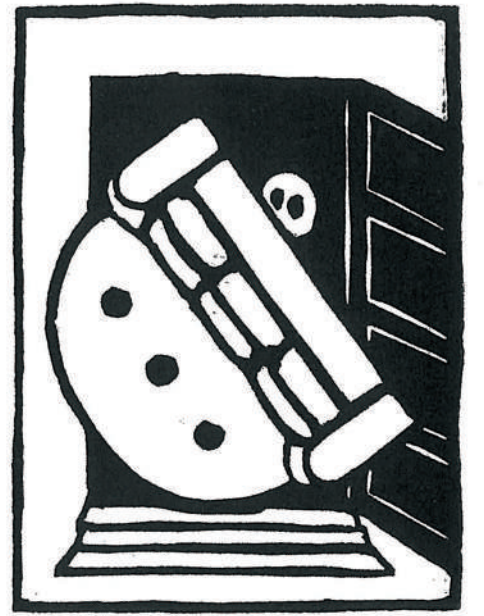
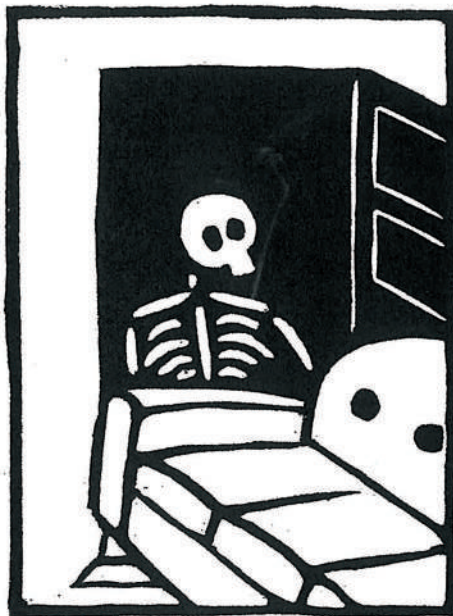
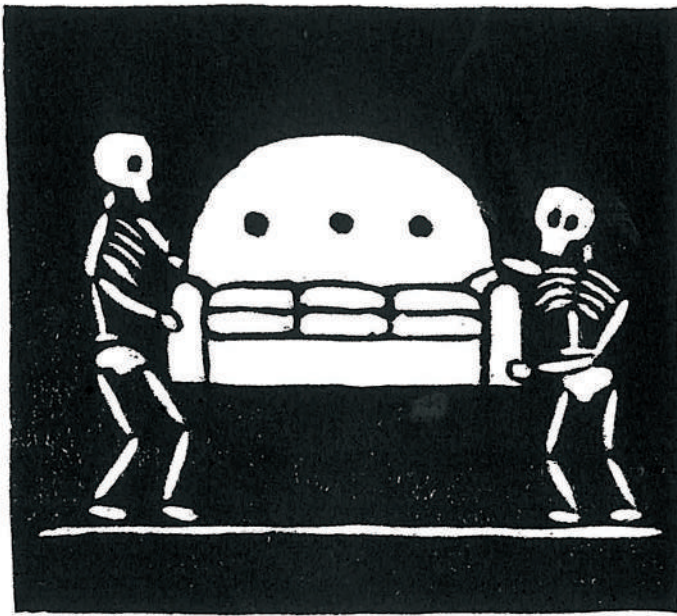
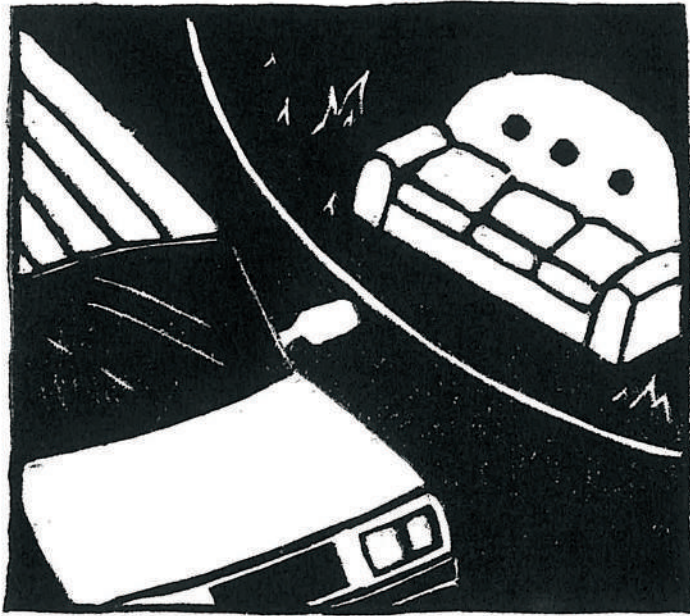
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DUNEDIN'S BEST & WORST

BY FOX MEYER

Flat Awards

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Last year, Critic invited students to submit their pads or paddocks to win a free feed from DeliverEasy. We went 'round and toured the best and the worst of the lot, risking both our lungs and our livers to set things straight. Based exclusively on the flats that chose to enter, here are Dunedin's 2022 Best and Worst Flat Awards.

Worst Flats

RUNNER UP: DEATHSTAR

Deathstar is infamous, and for good reason. The place absolutely fucking sucks. It's a cement shoebox with smashed windows and mould on most surfaces, joined in the middle with the aptly-named Methstar. This place is awful.

The first thing you see when you approach Deathstar is the cement facade, which looks less like a flat for human beings and more like a Soviet-era zoo enclosure (this might not be an accident). The second thing you notice is the smattering of broken glass which, when we visited, was lovingly spread across the local mudpit. The pit (out front, where all good mudpits should be) was surrounded by couches and rubbish, and we were shown a video of someone belly-flopping into it. The pit is filled with broken glass and, surely, some gnarly bacteria. At least, it was - we're pretty sure it was paved over this summer, entombed as it should've been years ago.

You then walk down the side of Deathstar to try to find the door, or what's left of it. It's a narrow squeeze down the alleyway, which the hosts told us they'd "actually just cleaned". It was not clean.



First up was the kitchen which, to be honest, could've been a lot worse. The bench looks out into the living room so you can watch The Boys spin decks while you cook, and it has a great view of next door's solid iron fence. The sink, of course, was filled with crook-ass dishes, including a nice colony of mould growing on spaghetti bolognese inside tupperware. Mycology students would've been impressed.

The hallway was as thin as the residents' attention spans. There was a screw driven into the wall for no apparent reason, but that's not too unheard of. The two toilets had a plaster wall between them, but that had long-since had a hole kicked through it to improve the feng-shui of the shitting situation "so the boys can talk to each other" while they do their business. Wholesome.

Behind the flat is The Second Mudpit, which is not as bad as the first, though it is a different colour. Something green has seeped into the ground here, perhaps from the mattress left to decay in the yard. It looks like a biohazard.

All in all, this place is an absolute fucking shambles. It is disgusting, and it is everything you think of when you think of shitty Dunedin flats. However! It raises a critical point of difference: that between a shitty flat, and shitty flatters. This flat is awful, yes. It is a cinderblock nightmare. It is not, however, entirely the flat's fault. This is Dunedin's Worst Flats, not Dunedin's Worst Flatmates. Which is why Deathstar only netted second place.

WINNER: 209 LEITH

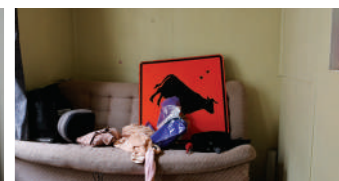
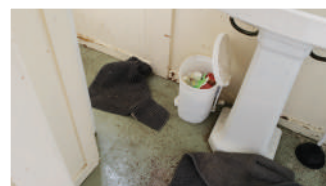
The first thing you need to know about 209 Leith is that it sat derelict for the last two years. It was literally so shit that nobody lived in it, even though Dunedin's rental market is as cutthroat as ever. We don't know if this is because it wasn't advertised or whatever, but we'd like to think it's because it's Dunedin's worst flat and even students stayed clear.

The second thing you need to know about 209 Leith is that it's not the tenant's fault. Not entirely, anyway. It's an all-girls flat, so good on them for breaking stereotypes and proving that the ladies can be just as filthy as the blokes. But despite their relatively mid efforts to keep the place in one piece, 209 Leith is still doing its best to kill everyone inside it and within a four-metre radius.

The entire house is leaning. This isn't particularly uncommon, unfortunately, but it is remarkable nonetheless. "Sometimes if I turn too much in the night I'll fall off", said one of our hostesses. A narrow, slanting hallway passes four bedrooms before dumping you unceremoniously into the kitchen, which shares a door with the flat's only bathroom. The door doesn't really work so it's more of an "open concept" kitchen/toilet combo. The bathroom's light also doesn't work, so the girls resorted to showering in the dark or with a flashlight, and said that sometimes you'll just have to sit on the toilet while someone else is washing. Oh, also, the ceiling in there was caked in black mould. "We cleaned it pretty recently though", the hosts said.

The very little space available in the hallway is occupied with a straw-laden dog cage, "in case anyone gets too pissed". Some of the door hinges in the flat are still attached to doors, many aren't. Water drips down from the roof into strategically-placed buckets, a couple of which fill up "every few months". The hallway wall sports at least one nice boot-kick hole, which the hosts suspect was home to a rat for a while. "We heard some rustling" they said. That hole backs into a room called The Shoebox - which is, unsurprisingly, fucking tiny.

Back in the kitchen, things were looking better. "You've actually caught us on a pretty good day today", they said, but didn't know how long a tray of pasta on the bench had been there, and "I don't wanna know". Two "compost bins" filled up with eggs and avos overflow onto the microwave, but a bin out back is filling up with a genuinely decent compost pile.



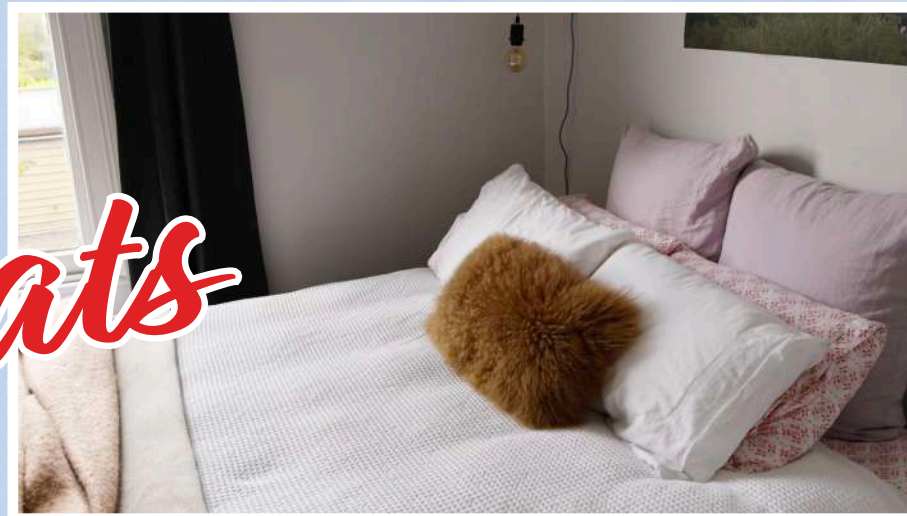
The backyard is filled with broken glass, thrown over the fence by their neighbours who they described as "fucking pains in the ass". Literally at that moment, we could hear glass bottles being hurled into the backyard. Aside from glass, it's also host to the North D classics: the carcass of a wooden palette, and a rotting wood picnic table that looks like it can support about as much pressure as your average Master's student.

The backyard is also host to "the water feature", which started spurting water after the washing machine fucked out. When the toilet clogged, it spat out shit and toilet paper into the yard. "Literal human faeces" they said.

But then, in the kitchen, worst-flat kryptonite: a chore roster! Written in pink and yellow, with smiley faces and everything. Their claim to fame was in peril, until the host pointed out that the chores list was still on Week 1, and that "nobody has ever looked at it". So it's more of a decorative piece, like how you might keep a guitar around in case you ever want to learn to play. Someday, right?

All in all, this place was a genuine shithole. There aren't many more words needed to describe it, just that it was so shit that it somehow sat empty for the last two years.

Best Flats



RUNNER UP: SILVER FOX

The girls living at the Silver Fox (38 Howe) have it pretty good. But, I'll be honest, not a lot of people applied for "Best Flat in Dunedin", which is quite telling.

That being said, that flat is solid for what it is. It came partially furnished and equipped with good indoor heating, and for four uni students, the location is hard to beat. It's got a more-than-decent area out back with easy access to neighbours and a spacious-enough interior that could easily accommodate a party or six.

The landlord is a particular selling point here, whom the flatmates described as "amazing" (with four !'s) and "always handy with issues". They reported zero mould in the flat, which sounds impressive but realistically should be the norm. This is possibly due to the fact that the tenants are quite tidy, but as we've seen with some other flats in the area, even the tidiest tenants can succumb to the march of Dunedin's ever-encroaching mould. So the flat itself deserves some praise here.

The location is perfectly close to Uni, but this does come with some challenges. Before our visit, marauding students had stolen the Silver Fox sign and tagged the flat's door with red paint. But, surprisingly, none of the tenants heard any of this, which means that the flat's probably very well insulated with a solid door, so, another point earned there.

Inside you'll find wonderfully high ceilings with hole-free walls and decently-sized bedrooms. The lounge is a good size for a 4-person flat and houses the heat pump. The kitchen, which was described as "spacious", is actually a little bit cramped but still loads better than half the ones we've seen in Dunedin. It does have a handy little cubby area with plenty of storage, which the tenants have used to store an extra microwave supplied by the landlord. Score! The cooking hobs were a bit dinge, but we were reminded to not judge a book by its cover because "they actually cook really well". The extractor fan actually worked (nice), and the fridge was tidy.

Upstairs was a bit weird, as the staircase ends in this bizarre sort of choose-your-own-adventure T-shaped bit. This could either be really fun (woohoo, parkour!) or potentially tricky to navigate after a few too many drinks. We preferred to think it was fun. The bathroom is actually pretty huge, and although it doesn't have a shower dome, it's quite clean. It's got a washer-dryer combo in there, too, which is a bit weird but could be super convenient if you were to take a tumble into Deathstar's mudpit and need to wash you and your clothes at the same time before chucking them in the dryer. Anywhere else this combo would be out of place, but it actually fits pretty well in Dunedin.

The bedrooms on the other end of the upper floor are similarly standard, with tall ceilings and decent windows and light. The doors all open into the same area which creates a bit of a jumble but it's really not that bad. All in all, this is a very standard flat that meets anyone's basic needs. It has a responsible landlord and a great location. And yet, this being Dunedin, those bare minimums are enough to net it second place.



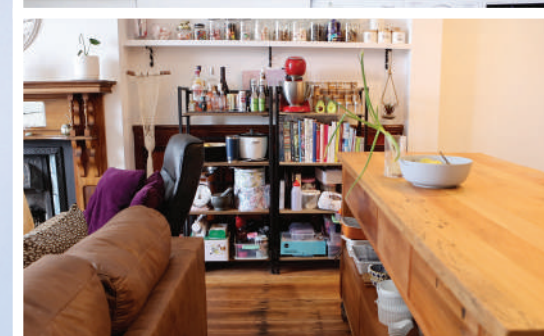
WINNER: MANSION ON MANOR



Now THIS is a flat. Better than that, it's a home. The place has recently been done-up by the landlord and her two sons, and they've created a genuinely incredible place to live. It's got heated floors in the bathroom, for Christ's sake. Spice racks. A leather couch that came with the flat. This place is insane.

We'll start by describing what's next door: a sort of *Tale of Two Cities* reminder of what could have been. It's another property with a similar layout to the Mansion on Manor (as we're calling it), but it's been left uninhabited for what looks like a long time. To be honest, it genuinely does not look that much different to the worst flat on this list, which is really saying something. You can see into the abandoned property from the rear of the Mansion, which gives a decent impression of the scale of the place: high, skeletal beams and open rooms. Plenty of room to move around and lots of natural light.

In the Mansion, though, these amenities come with unbroken windows and a working heat pump. It's a night and day difference. The kitchen itself was enough to net this place the top slot on the list, as it looks like something out of a cooking show. There are literally glass jars filled with lollies on the wall below a few bottles of gin, and ample cushioned seats to suit the day's mood. There's a bookcase full of decent reads and a circular dining table in a windowed rotunda, so you can really live out your dreams of escaping student poverty.



The (Sea) Lion's Share

New Zealand sea lions are the rarest sea lions on the planet today. But after being wiped out on the mainland, rāpoka are making a dramatic comeback to Aotearoa - and Ōtepoti Dunedin is one of the best places to enjoy their company.

Often known as rāpoka in te reo Māori (with varying words for the males and females individually) the New Zealand sea lion is one of our largest and most imposing native animals. Most older Otago alumni had affordable costs of living, thriving student pubs, and the ability to largely avoid the climate crisis. But one thing they didn't have was rare, playful, blubbery half-tonne marine mammals on their doorstep.

By Elliot Weir Photos by Sian Mair

**All photos featured were taken with a zoom lens at a safe distance away. The wildlife code advises keeping at least 20m away from sea lions.

Bruce Robertson teaches conservation genomics and wildlife management at the Department of Zoology. He is not a rāpoka. He is, however, a science advisor to the New Zealand Sea Lion Trust (NZSLT) and he says that according to genetic information, there were once around 60-100,000 sea lions roaming our shores. They bred all across the mainland, and there are even "reports of pups from skeletal remains in Cape Reinga." While, according to Robertson, no one is "quite sure who finished them off", the arrival of Polynesians to Aotearoa and later sealers in the late 1700s spelled the end for sea lions on the main islands. By the early 1800s, sea lions on our coastlines were completely wiped out, leaving only the hardy populations on our subantarctic Auckland and Campbell Islands to pass the genetic torch.

Life wasn't peachy even for those left in the isolated South. Commercial sealing focused on hunting fur seals for their luxurious pelts, which were sent back to Europe for 1800s Instagram influencers to wear in their 1800s Instagram stories. Sealers wouldn't pass up an opportunity to kill a sea lion (or "hair seal" as they were called then) to use for lamp oil, either. More recently, in the late 90s, sea lions were being caught in squid trawling nets at an alarming rate. While Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs) have since been introduced, populations have continued to decline.

Robertson, DOC ranger Jim Fyfe, and NZSLT co-chair Bryony all point to bycatch and resource competition from fisheries as still seriously

contributing to the decline of sea lions in our subantarctic islands. They are also being affected by disease and environmental conditions. The most recent annual count on the Auckland Islands, released a couple of weeks ago, showed a worrying 30% drop in pups born since just last summer. But while pup birth rates are down in the subantarctics, they're up on the mainland for the first time since the late 18th century.

A few decades ago, a few intrepid sea lion mothers took matters into their own hands - or flippers, or something. In 1993, a sea lion now known as Mum gave birth to a pup on the Dunedin coast. While the shores of the South Island had been visited by many wandering males before, this was the first time in over 150 years that pups had actually been born on the mainland.

While pup birth rates are down in the subantarctics, they're up on the mainland for the first time since the late 18th century.

Sea lions, like late-night students, have a strong habit of wandering back to where they started. For sea lions, this means their birthplace; since Mum gave birth in Dunedin, her pups should keep coming back here to give birth, too.

"We've now got probably five generations now of pups in that family line and around 25 breeding females...the story of Mum and her colonisation of the Otago peninsula is still a strong and steady one," as Jim Fyfe put it. "All pups born along the Dunedin coast today are believed to be descended directly from Mum and her offspring," said Bryony. There are now also breeding females in a number of locations further down the Otago and Southland coasts.

Fyfe and the local teams at DOC and NZSLT are constantly working to mitigate challenges posed by the "limitation of habitat availability around the city", a plight common to renters and sea lions alike.

Jim Fyfe reckons that "for the sea lions to be expanding their range is bloody good news — all their eggs aren't in one basket and they've got a better chance of surviving somewhere." He also says that it is an "amazing opportunity for people in Dunedin to see these impressive and very intelligent animals with a wide range of interesting behaviours" and hopes we can "start to enjoy them as sentient and intelligent neighbours."



Sea lions have not returned to Dunedin without challenges. They love the coast just as much as humans do, but in the time that they've been away "we've built roads and settlements right on the coastline," said Bryony. He added that the NZSLT "frequently see sea lions crossing coastal roads in search of a nice place to rest. Or, in the case of breeding females, a quiet place to pop away from the boisterous male sea lions." Fyfe and the local teams at DOC and NZSLT are constantly working to mitigate challenges posed by the "limitation of habitat availability around the city", a plight common to renters and sea lions alike. This means managing roads, educating dog owners, and trying to "keep tourists from wandering up and disturbing them." In 2003, the New Zealand Sea Lion Trust was founded "to provide protection to, education about, and support research on" the endangered taonga. Bryony says their role is to "advocate for sea lions, educate the community about sea lions, support scientific research, and assist the Department of Conservation in monitoring the local breeding population."

Jim Fyfe affirmed that people should be wary of sea lions on any coastal road around Dunedin, "especially around breeding time, from January until around May." In June last year, a pup was killed in a hit-and-run on the Otago Peninsula, not for the first time. Dogs can also be a threat. Unlike other sea lions and seals, female New Zealand sea lions are not

restricted just to the beach; they can wander kilometres inland while they raise their pup, putting them at risk of mixing with canines where owners might not be expecting. Fyfe spoke of a very recent incident where "we had a dog the other day pick up a sea lion pup and throw it around." He said that dog owners "need to be aware of sea lions", and what their pets can do to them, even though "everyone thinks their dog wouldn't."

Surfers can also be surprised by a sea lion, who Fyfe warns to ignore them and not engage. "It's not because they're aggressive, it's just their way of play is very boisterous and energetic ... if you start interacting they'll want to play - which is not advisable." For beachgoers who come across sea lions, the advice is similar. "Take the time to enjoy them sharing our beaches," Bryony suggests, but keep your distance and don't harass them. If a sea lion approaches you, walk away slowly. Despite these challenges, Bryony describes the work of the NZSLT as "awesome", especially seeing "the way the Dunedin community has embraced the return of sea lions to mainland New Zealand and they have become a part of our beach culture."

Otago students have been involved in the research and conservation of our sea lions since at least the 1990s, and continue to play a role today. Bryony is a current PhD student, and there are a number of other students, recent graduates,

"...It's just their way of play is very boisterous and energetic ... if you start interacting they'll want to play - which is not advisable."

researchers, and professors from Otago Uni on the NZSLT committee. Local students also regularly assist with beach advocacy volunteering, like Sian Mair, who describes sea lions as "cheeky, playful, and placid". In the Department of Zoology, there are numerous ongoing projects aimed at finding out more about New Zealand sea lions, which will hopefully aid in their conservation. Professor Robertson is involved in research looking at the genetic basis of mortality, to "see if there is anything genetic that makes pups more susceptible to mortality from disease". Nia-joelle Weinzweig is a Master's student studying the parasites present in "faecal samples from sea lions around Dunedin and the Otago peninsula". Nia is "interested in the connections between human, domestic species, ecosystem, and wildlife health" and hopes that her research will highlight any parasites of concern as well as providing a baseline to monitor parasites in sea lions in the future.

Nia says she initially found sea lions "quite intimidating" but in time she learnt to understand their behaviour, including all of their little quirks. Her favourite finding is that "the large males really enjoy their comforts and will seek out big piles of kelp on the beach as a pillow for their long nap". Nia's research also means she can't escape working with lots of sea lion poo. "It smells about as bad as you'd imagine! It's a brave person who's willing to share lab space with me in the Department of Zoology!" Our local Dunedin sea lion population is "currently at around 21 pups a year" according to Jim Fyfe. An official breeding colony requires 35 pups to be born for

five years in a row and while Fyfe and Robertson both believe those numbers are at least a decade away, they are confident we are on track for an official Dunedin sea lion breeding colony.

With sea lions continuing to increase around the city and peninsula, what does the future look like for humans and sea lions on local beaches? "The world I see is one where people are educated to the point that they know what to do. I don't think there is scope with sea lions to say 'this is your area' and 'keep out of this area', reckons Jim Fyfe. "We have to have an element of understanding so that people do the right thing. That means

not being scared of them, [and] knowing enough to not be afraid of them".

Bryony is also hopeful for our local sea lions. "Although sea lions are an endangered species and their populations on some of the subantarctic islands are in decline, it's awesome to see the increasing population of our local animals" she says. "Having previously been involved in species that are in pretty bad shape, the natural recolonisation by sea lions to the mainland of New Zealand is pretty special and we can all be a part of the success story by sharing our coastal environments."

	NZ Sea Lion	NZ Fur Seal	Leopard Seal <small>(One of several 'true seals' that visit Dunedin shores)</small>
Found on NZ shores?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Breeding locations	Dunedin and further South, including Subantarctic islands	All over New Zealand and Southern Australia	Antarctica
Population	10,000 - 12,000	~200,000	220,000 - 440,000
Female size (max)	2m, 160kg	1.5m, 50kg	3.6m, 450kg
Male size (max)	3.5m, 450kg	2m, 160kg	3m, 300kg
Face	Short and flat face, external ears, short whiskers	Pointy nose, external ears, long whiskers	Long snout, massive jaws, whiskers not obvious
Where you might find one on land	Sand, sand dunes, bush, forests	Rocks	Sand

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FRESHER SIMULATOR: O-WEEK

By Lotto Ramsay

1. Welcome (Start here)
You're a fresher (our condolences) arriving at Dunedin airport for the first time ever. You marvel at all the butt-fuck-nowhere around you. Off to collect your luggage! Where did you fly in from, again?

- A: Auckland (Go to 11)
B: Somewhere else (Go to 2)

2. You're on the shuttle hurtling into the city, and you're so excited to see your new hall of residence! After a bit of a bumpy ride, you're dropped off straight outside the hall you so carefully selected, based on...

- A: Academics and activities (Go to 3)
B: Well, you didn't get your first choice actually, but this seems fine too (Go to 3)
C: LESHGO (Go to 4)

3. Settling in is going well, and you love your new home for the year. Your RA asks what your plans for the week are...

- A: Ori festivities! Toga, baby (Go to 7)
B: Getting comfortable in your hall and making friends (Go to 8)
C: Alcohol. Now. (Go to 9)

4. You're not here to fuck spiders, and you probably won't end up fucking people, either. You skip your hall's orientation and get straight to pre-ing up...

- A: Drink at your hall (Go to 14)
B: Drink at your mate's hall (Go to 5)
C: Drink under the bridge (Go to 17)

5. The box you just bought is heavy in your arms as you make your journey alone in the streets of North D. You quickly realise you have no idea where you actually are, but you think the botanic gardens may be nearby.

- A: Keep walking in the open (Go to 6)
B: Cut through the gardens to get your bearings (Go to 16)
C: Phone a friend (Go to 12)

6. The gardens are too intimidating at this stage - a good call, you think to yourself, just as you hear cackling and a whooshing noise behind you. Due to the chicken egg shortage, you're hit in the back of the head with a 2kg ostrich egg instead, killing you instantly.

GAME OVER

7. It's Toga Party, you have a bedsheet safety-pinned to yourself, and you're feeling your drunken Ancient Roman fantasy. This is what uni is all about, you think. In fact, you're so literally wrapped up in toga that you don't notice all of your closest confidantes sneaking up behind you. You're stabbed 23 times in the back. Et tu, Breatha?

GAME OVER

8. You're happy to stay in this evening and do some self care, and maybe socialise with your hallmates a little. A quick shower to unwind first, perhaps. You head into the common showers, strip off, and step in. You're in the middle of showering when it dawns on you: you forgot to bring your soap. Luckily, there's one in the corner already. It's kinda manky, but it can't be that bad, right? Wrong. You immediately catch athlete's foot, prion disease, and a long-extinct form of avian flu. Covid, too, for good measure.

GAME OVER

9. You've got a decent buzz on and you're ready to try and infiltrate Castle Street without getting clocked as a fresher. Tonight's theme is 'CEOs and Office Hoes', so office wear is the go. Maybe the right outfit will do the trick?

- A: Dress up for the theme (Go to 10)
B: Don't dress up (Go to 5)

10. You and your mates are dressed to oppress in your white collar outfits, ready to live out a Wolf of Wall Street-esque bender. If you pace yourself, you're certain you can make it to Castle every night this week. Your dreams are stopped short, unfortunately, as sirens blare and your hands are cuffed behind your back. Your CEO costume was too convincing, and now you're being arrested for money laundering in a tragic case of mistaken identity.

GAME OVER

11. No.

GAME OVER

12. You wind up at a party, and you're not entirely sure how you got there, but you're having a time and a half. You're pretty wasted, and in your drunken stupor you're set on one thing only...

- A: Hooking up with a stranger (Go to 14)
B: Going back to halls to sober up before bed (Go to 8)
C: MORE (Go to 13)

13. The room melts as the uppers and downers duke it out in your nervous system, and you think you can hear the hum of the universe, expanding, dying, proliferating the same cosmos that runs through you and which you run through in return. In an instant you have single-handedly created a tear in the space-time continuum, forced to relive O-Week for all eternity.

GO BACK TO 1

14. Drinking in your hall's common area with strangers was fun at first, but as 10pm approaches, the vibes are getting stale. You're only halfway through your drinks and people are starting to leave, so you...

- A: Head out and keep drinking (Go to 5)
B: Go home with the desired gender (Go to 15)

15. Your drunken conquest was a success - or so you thought. You can't really remember, anyway. Days later, as you flick through Critic, you find an eerily familiar Moaningful Confession: a hookup horror story about a drunk breatha who shit their one night stand's bed and blamed it on the cat. Realisation dawns: you were that drunk breatha. You survived, but at what cost?

GAME OVER (meow)

16. You walk through the gardens. And walk. And walk. It's gotta end somewhere, right? The trees all look the same. You decide to set up shelter for the night. Days pass. You improve your campsite and learn to forage for food: endangered birds and half-drunk RTDs mostly. It's not too bad, you think to yourself, you could get used to it - and you do.

GAME OVER

17. Wait, which bridge? You find yourself stumbling up the Leith, waiting to hear the siren song of your new best friends. But you have been deceived. There is no bridge. There never has been. You're all alone.

GAME OVER



By Jamiema Lorimer

[Allophones]

The Allophones are Barney, Ben, and Tane. Barney and Ben are also siblings. "Allophones" are also a group of sounds that a certain combination of letters can make (linguistics students, please don't come for me). You could also say an "allophone" is a singular member of the band, the [Allophones], stylised the way they are denoted in the practice of linguistics, as the band's name reflects the many variations to the Ōtepoti-based band's structure.

No one member is set to a designated instrument and everyone gets to pitch their original songs. During their live performances, the trio moves between roles as lead vocalist, guitars, bass, keys, and even accordion. "It's useful in terms of our relationships with each other," says Barney. "It stops an intensive ego-ification...It's all democratic." It's as if their work comes together in thirds, shares Tane: "It's not one singular songwriter coming in with a full song then the others are just backing. It's pieces that we bring together and all contribute to." Barney adds, "We've got three sounds because there's three of us writing songs." They are also joined by a fourth band member on stage, Mr. Bones, a skeleton and repurposed Halloween decoration. "He's the real frontman, the real face of the band," says Barney, who used his biological anthropology background to describe him as the skeleton of a male between 30 to 50 years of age.

As siblings, Barney and Ben have been playing music together throughout their lives. The three came to play together at the Waitati Music Festival, where the siblings

enlisted Tane to play drums, who they knew from all attending Logan Park High. They have been playing together for over a year, with influences ranging through shoegaze, psychedelic, and classic alt-rock. Tane: "We're just lucky that they all work together. They mesh together well but also have enough difference when we're playing live, doing our different songs, it still brings enough variety to keep it fresh."

The Allophones are currently on tour - a whopping eighteen gigs in just three weeks - promoting their new single 'Human'. Mr. Bones has joined them throughout, but with a car full of gear, Mr. Bones has been travelling via roof rack. So, if you've seen a car with a skeleton strapped to the roof, the Allophones promise it's not sus. Their new track combines the gritty and psychedelic, with lyrics sung as though they are from a non-human perspective - like an android or alien, according to Barney, and invoking a sense of unity despite our differences: "We're human, regardless of age, gender or whatever." The song was released alongside a music video featuring their friends and some fellow local musicians. It's set in a fancy record label office with the Allophones pitching their song 'Human' to the label's CEO, played by Mr. Bones.

The Allophones will be wrapping up their 'Human' tour in Ōtepoti. Be sure to catch them on Friday, 24 February at The Crown. Their music is available on all the good streaming platforms, and you can keep up with Allophones news on socials (@allophonesnz).

Moaningful Confessions

a t m s

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Tap and Gap, ASAP

It was the Saturday of Re-O and, after a week of pouring rain and a lack of alcohol consumed, I knew tonight was the night I needed to send it. So, obviously the only way to do this was to down as many vodka shots as physically possible. I'm not going to lie, I truly did this to the best of my ability. After some shots and drinks were consumed, we all stumbled out the door to the crowded street of Castle. DnB was pounding and the yarns were spinning.

After a while, a tall brunette made his way over. At this stage, faces and my speech were both blurred, but I was determined to go home with someone. We chatted for a bit and then he asked if I wanted to see his flat. Of course I did, so I ran away from my friends and followed him. After getting to his room, and giving my personal opinion on each and every piece of clothing, one thing led to another... During this, his flatmates all came home, but he told me "not to worry about them" and "be as loud as I like".

Right before he was about to put it in he moaned (in actual pain, might I add) and told me something was wrong with his dick. At this point, I was beginning to sober up and simply wanted to tap and gap ASAP. He whipped out his phone torch and inspected his limp dick to reveal a smear of blood on it. Immediately I was sure to say it had nothing to do with me!

He then proceeded to mumble that he had whiskey dick and needed to go make noodles, but quickly reassured me he would be back for more.

Before I knew what was happening, he was gone and I was suddenly very aware of my surroundings, especially the fact that I was busting to pee. I rushed to put my clothes back on and then sent a desperate voice message to all my friends. No one replied. I decide to make a quick exit through the bedroom door. Locked. What the fuck. My second option is the window. But it was bolted, so I couldn't jump out. Fuck my life. The urge to pee was getting pretty serious so I started to glance around for maybe even a cup.

Not my ideal Saturday night. I started ringing everyone on my contacts and, finally, two of my friends were close and said they would save me. I waved them down out the half-open window and soon enough the bedroom door opened and the Castle guy was standing there. I looked to the floor, and walked out of there as fast as I could. I then peed on his lawn to mark my territory and ended my night.

Moral of the story: Don't expect a good root from a boy on Castle.

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

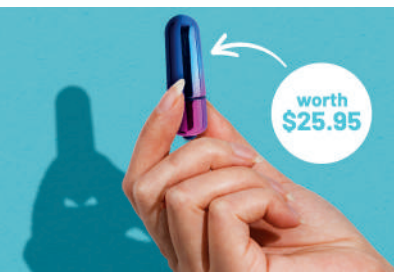
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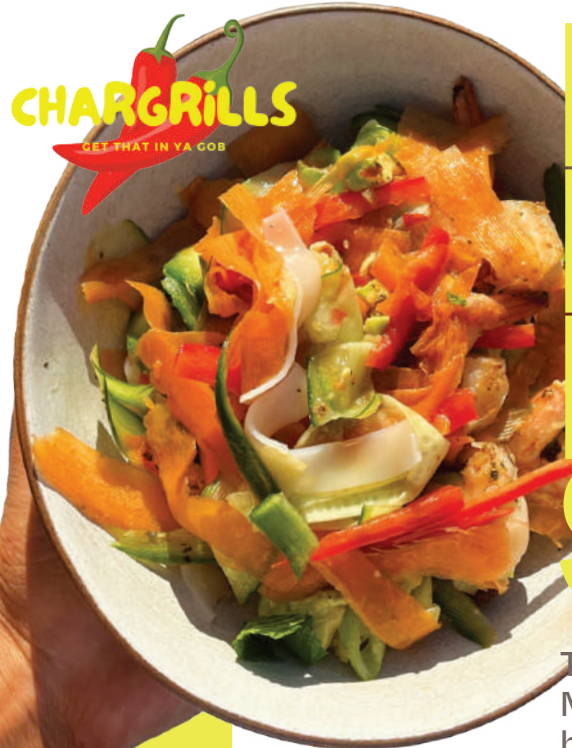


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PRAWN RICE NOODLE SALAD

This salad is out the gate and super shrimple. Mean option for a hot Duffers day and isn't heavy on the tummy. Crack in!

SALAD:

300g prawns (\$8.80 at Pakkies)	A telegraph cuc
Dried basil	2 XL carrots
Mixed herbs	One capsicum
Oil	An avocado
A packet of rice noodles	Spring onions
	Mint
	Coriander

Defrost the prawns. Chuck them in a bowl and coat them with salt, pepper, dried basil and mixed herbs. Fry them in oil over high heat—they'll end up crispy.

Cook the noodles in boiling water until they're soft but not falling apart. While the noodles are cooking, ribbon the cucumber and carrots (Google "ribboning technique cucumber"). Chop the avo, capsicum and spring onion finely. Strain the noodles and put on the base of the serving dish. Add the veggies and prawns, then garnish with fresh spring onions, mint and coriander.

THAI SAUCE:

1/3 cup sweet chilli	Garlic clove, chopped
Juice of a lemon	OR 1 tsp garlic powder
1/4 cup water	Splash of white vinegar
Knob of ginger, grated OR tsp ginger powder	Mint
1 tsp brown sugar	Coriander

Add all the ingredients into a bowl and give them a good mix.

That's literally it.

Pour over the salad and mix well.

ENJOY.

FIND ME ON
INSTAGRAM



BOOZE REVIEW:

BRB HAZY

THE CLOSEST THING NORTH DUNEDIN HAS TO A PALM TREE

BY ALBERT EINSTEINLAGER

The rumble of student shitboxes returning to Otago; freshers and breathers sinking piss hand over fist; littered streets strewn with eggshells. Nature is healing.

These scenes are nothing uncommon for the students of North D as they gear up for their Flo and O Weeks. Fourteen days of debaucherous filth, powered solely by brown liquor and capsules of mystery powder. A bender of this magnitude will turn your bowel movements into a crude oil refinery, prompting one to wonder: how can I avoid this fate?

The answer: Boundary Road Brewery's 'Haze of Our Lives' Hazy Pale Ale, a beer so fruity that it practically counts as your 5-a-day. It's essentially drinking a fruit salad. Unfortunately, like all other healthy things these days, Haze of our Lives does not meet the golden standard (\$1 per standard, duh!) that we all strive toward. That being said, this beer is considerably cheap while on special.

Now, not only does the beer taste like innocence, but it'll have all the Castle Street boys saying, "Oh, he cute" as you sip away can after can. Garner respect from your peers as they see you're trying new things, and looking good doing it. Escape the fat, clammy grip of craft beer know-it-all-ism spewing from fedora-wearing flatmates and embrace being the fun, cute, BRB-drinking twink you always were.

BRB Hazy is perfect for those bogans looking to graduate from Speights. It ticks all the necessary boxes: an inoffensive flavour, the ability to drink twelve cans without budging, and the ability to substitute it for a personality of your own. Your average teenage idiot will feel at home with this brew. Whether you plan to binge, sip, or send it down a funnel in a stranger's living room, Haze of Our Lives is a versatile beer that begs your attention. This ale is a cousin to water, and will grace you without severe hangovers, allowing the festivities to wage on. While the rest of the bourbon boyos in your flat battle over dry toast, you will gleefully load up the beer bong, declaring "we awn".

But to drink a beer of substance is to leave yourself vulnerable to weight gain. You're going to get fat at uni regardless of how many Summit Ultra's you drink, so get fat by drinking something worthwhile. The bloat is inevitable; enjoy the Haze as you fill out your baggiest Hawaiian shirt, and deal with the consequences later.

Tasting notes: Tropical fruit, like alcoholic raro served from an 11-year-old's cupped hands.

Chugability: Extremely easy, no more than two chugs of a pint glass.

Hangover depression level: Light on the head, heavier on the tummy. Walk it off, champ.

Overall: 9/10. Conquer this aesthetic brew.

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HOROSCOPES

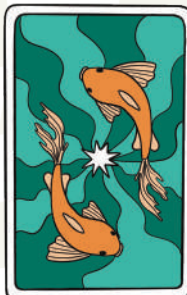
AQUARIUS Jan 20 – Feb 18



The stars are aligning for you! This year the universe is moving into Aquarius, you lucky ducks. Be prepared for some freaky shit to happen from March till June xx

New Year's Resolution: Make the most out of every moment.

PISCES Feb 19 – Mar 20



Not to alarm you, but this year is going to be rough. Chances are you feel like an emotional sack of garbage right now. But keep on keeping on, you got this. Slay on.

New Year's Resolution: Be honest with your feelings.

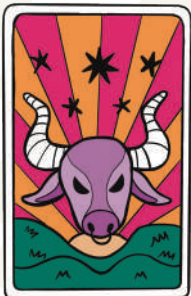
ARIES Mar 21 – Apr 19



Happy 2023 Aries! I will try to be a little less mean to you this year, but no promises since you always manage to fuck up somehow.

New Year's Resolution: Join a sports team.

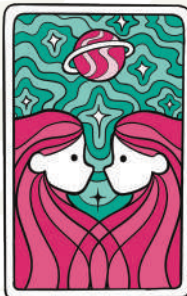
TAURUS Apr 20 – May 20



Rest assured there is nothing too overwhelming on the horizon for you. Just keep reading your books and drinking your stale coffee. I'm sure you will eventually feel something soon.

New Year's Resolution: Get more rizz.

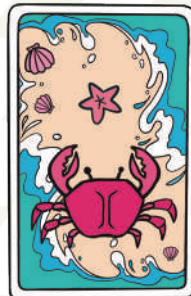
GEMINI May 21 – Jun 20



I fucking love Geminis. You are unhinged, feral, and tumultuous in all the best ways. Keep Gemini-ing, Geminis.

New Year's Resolution: Focus on self luv <3

CANCER Jun 21 – Jul 22



You are exhausting. Go touch some grass and stop crying.

New Year's Resolution: Emotional stability.

LEO Jul 23 – Aug 22



You're always the first to check everyone else but the last to check yourself. Sometimes you can be problematic as fuck. Learn to hold yourself accountable, and don't be so quick to come for others.

New Year's Resolution: Gain self-awareness.

VIRGO Aug 23 – Sep 22



Sometimes you gotta gaslight to get what you want. Don't be afraid to stir the pot a little this year. You have been too diplomatic for too long.

New Year's Resolution: Speak your truth.

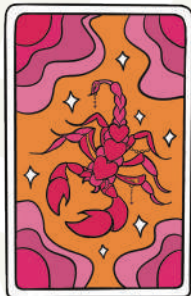
LIBRA Sep 23 – Oct 22



Your world must be bliss. Shamelessly flirting, with impeccable style. Libras, you guys have so much rizz. Keep it up.

New Year's Resolution: Expand your wardrobe.

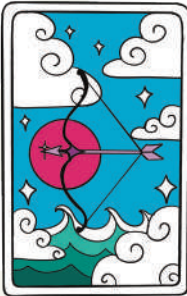
SCORPIO Oct 23 – Nov 21



Everyone needs some Scorpio in their life. Never let anyone tell you you're too intense, emotional, or needy. You are perfect just the way you are.

New Year's Resolution: Only spend time with people who deserve you.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22 – Dec 21



Sagittarians, as intelligent as you may think you are, it's time to stop explaining everything to everyone around you. People don't need to hear your opinions on every minor event that happens. It's good to shut up sometimes.

New Year's Resolution: Be more organised.

CAPRICORN Dec 22 – Jan 19



Capricorns, you guys are a little too secretive. No one knows anything about you, and it's kinda weird. Learn to open up a little and have faith in your pals. Not everyone is out to get you. Except that possum that lives in your walls.

New Year's Resolution: Restore faith in humanity.

ART BY JUSTINA KING

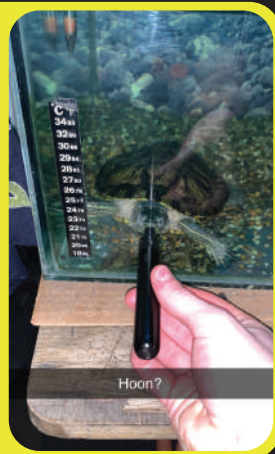
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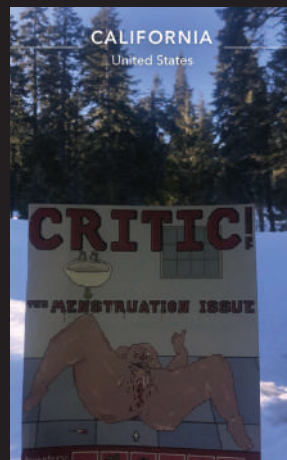
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Hoon?



Eggs in this economy? Trust fund breathas smh



CALIFORNIA United States

CRITIC! MENSTRUATION ISSUE



Call this one the student swimming pool



Big night on the bears



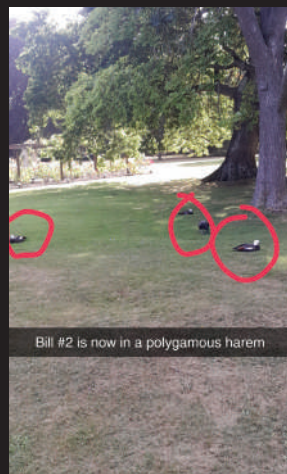
new flat

same guy staring at you whilst you pee

"What choice have I? I cannot be without you but I will not desire you"



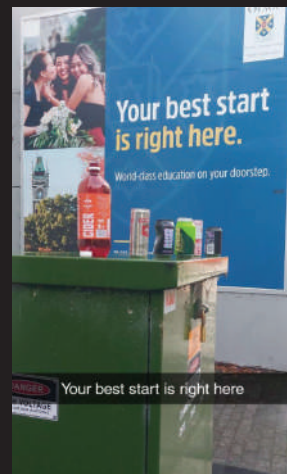
pissing in the presence of a relic



Bill #2 is now in a polygamous harem



you actually can't convince me this is a real degree like what are they all filming on the tripods

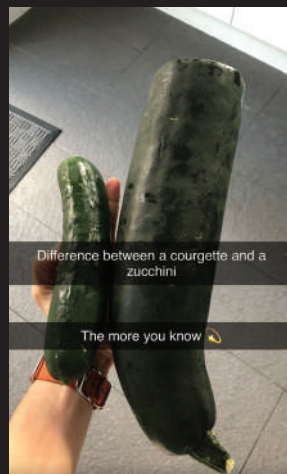


Your best start is right here



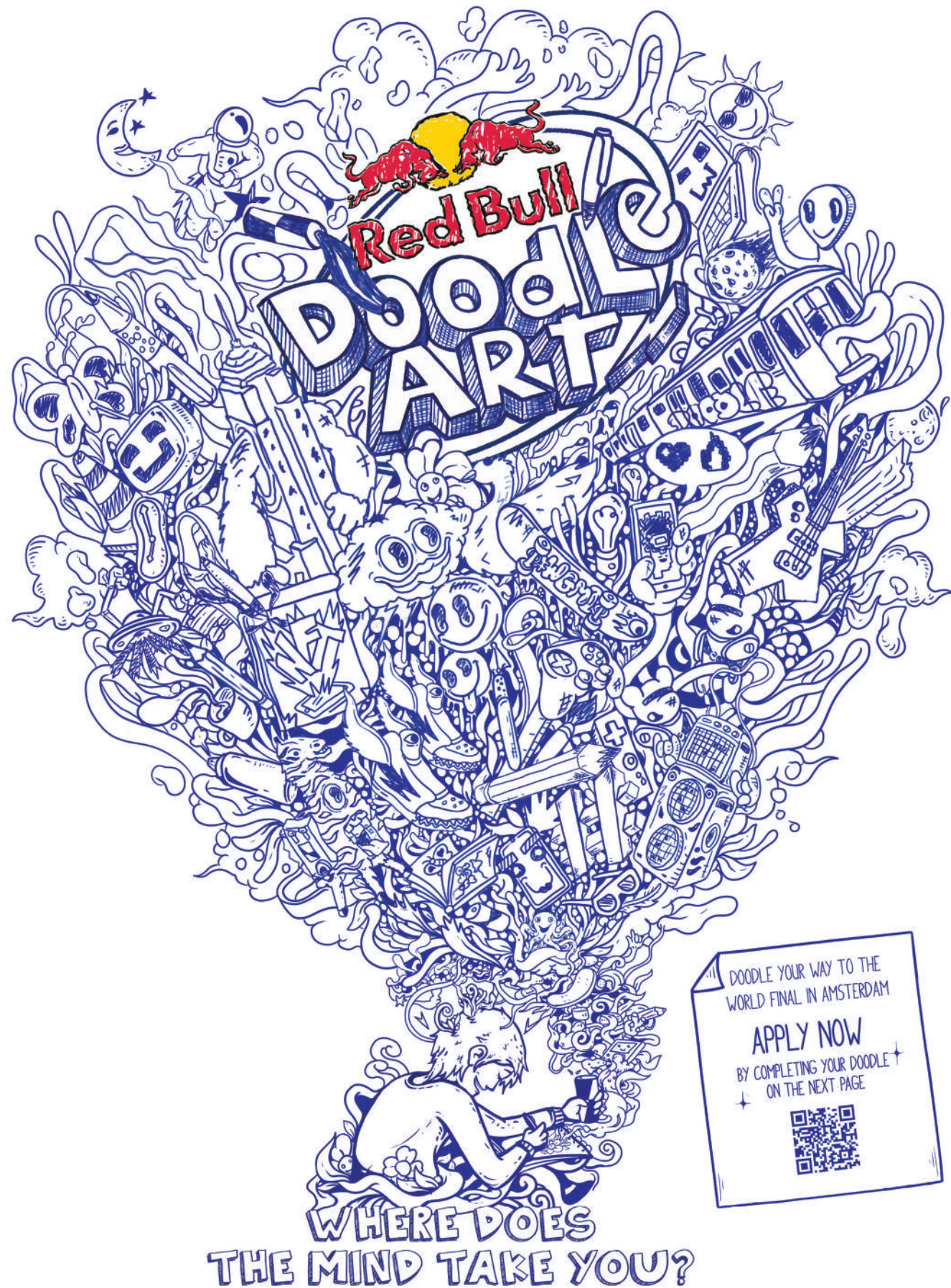
Tbt three years ago

Come to Otago clubs and socs day where Arise Church is preaching to the crowd that the Big Bang theory isn't real and that god created mountains

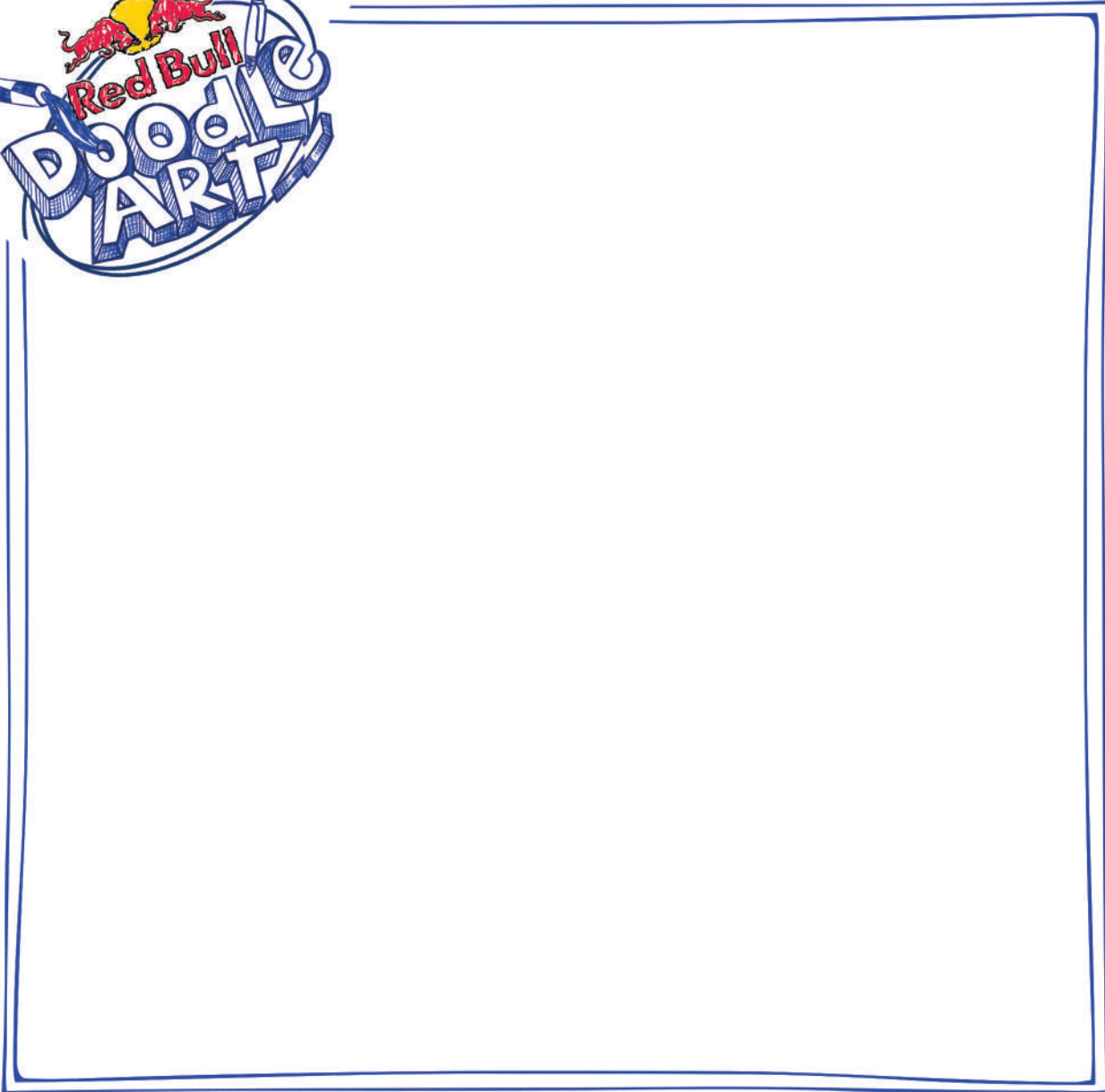


Difference between a courgette and a zucchini

The more you know



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