

CD TITIC



THE
DICTATOR

KEEGAN
WELLS

YOUR OUSA PRESIDENT
FOR 2024



ousa

SAVE CASH!

WIN STUFF!

r1.co.nz/onecard

Burger King
BK Chicken Small Value Meal for \$10
BBQ Bacon Double Cheeseburger Small Value Meal for \$10

University Book Shop (UBS)
10% off full-priced items.

Boss Pizza • Burger
Free upsizе any burger from single to double OR medium pizza to large. Burger + fries + drink OR snack pizza + fries + drink for only \$14.90. Waffle Wednesday \$7 ALL DAY!

Cornerstone Ink Tattoo Studio
10% student discount on any tattoo, not in conjunction with any other special.

Headquarters Hairdressing
20% off all services for students with 2023 OneCard or Student ID.

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

Only Ur's Beauty Parlour
\$35 Brazilian Maintenance, \$15 Eyebrow Wax, \$45 Eyelash Lift, \$18 Male Eyebrow Wax, \$55 Eyelash + Tint Deal, or \$22 Spray Tan.

Tūhura Otago Museum
2-for-1 student entry to Tūhura Science Centre to see the butterflies, Monday to Friday only. 10% off for all students at the Tūhura Otago Museum shop.

RA Hair and Beauty
\$21 Spray Tan
Buy TWO Image products, get a FREE facial or cleanser. \$169 - 1/2 head foils including toner, plex and hydration treatment (surcharges may apply for length and thickness). All deals valid weekdays before 5pm.

Stirling Sports
10% student discount on all full-priced items.

1
91 FM



DEAL OF THE WEEK:



Taste Nature
10% off storewide. In-store only.

SUBWAY
Buy any 6inch 'Sub Box' (1x 6inch, 1x cookie, 1x drink) and receive a FREE upgrade of your Six Inch sub to a Footlong sub.

Sal's Authentic New York Pizza
Charging Bull Combo (Red Bull, Slice, and a Garlic Knot) for \$11.

Float Fix
\$65 Float Special

Gelato Junkie
\$1 off double scoop gelato.

Amigos Dunedin
15% off your bill. Dine-in only. Not to be used with other discounts, and excludes Tuesdays.

Taco Bell
Buy any regular combo and get upsized for free.

Nando's Octagon
20% off food and drink.

La Porchetta
10% discount on all items and beverages.

ReBurger
Upgrade to a combo for \$3.

Mr Noodles
1 Free Cold Dish with any order from N1 to N3.

Takeichi
15% off food.

Reload Fast Nutrition
15% off your total order.

Reading Cinemas
Buy a medium popcorn and upgrade to a large for free.

Larnach Castle & Gardens
'Big Kids go Free' - one free entry with one paying adult and 'Ride Share' - Two or more in your car? Get a 50% discount on each entry.

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

Strictly Coffee Company Coffee Roastery & Café
10% off coffee beans and brew gear including Frank Green products. Excludes cafe food and drink.

Sax Hair Design
20% off all services - excluding hair extensions.

Beauty Mirror
Eyebrow Wax or Thread from \$15 and Full Set Eyelash Extension from \$75.

Beauteholic Beauty Studio
Brow shape and Brazilian wax combo (Braz and Brows Combo) for \$50.

Girls Get Off
20% off storewide using discount code OTAGASM at girlsgetoff.com

TM Automotive
\$60 warrant of fitness fee.

Noel Leeming
Preferential pricing storewide. In-store only. Some of our nationally advertised specials may be at a lower price. You will receive the best price on the day for the item(s) you choose. Exclusions apply. Ask in-store for full details.

JBL
ORI '23 SPECIAL - 25% off site wide until 19th March. Rest of year, 20% off site wide (excluding sale items) with code RADIOONE on jbl.co.nz



ousa

LETTERS

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

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dear Critic,
As a top-knot wearing, Kai Moana gathering, kingfish wrestling bush Māori: I am done with Māori dating. Expectations have just gone way through the roof. Gonna assume you mean TĀ MOKO, when you say inked up. For all my pineapple lumps out there - love you all. Don't go get tā moko done just cuz u think you will look sexy for some gurl. Get it done properly through whānau.

And to all the wāhine mā the ones who do probs have better things to do than spend their time on a colonial dating app. Like sitting on the paepae looking sexy - That's what I like to do Also don't judge me if all I want to do is eat pies and talk smack. That's all I ever want to do. Can't be your white knight and brown bitch at the same time.

Also third cousin is fine

Gonna get my Pūhoro soon

Hmu
Iwi: Te-whānau-a-Āpanui
Phone: 0210371241

Dear Critic
WHOM'S decision was it to put the ping pong table in link, where several study spots are exposed to this awful noise. I'm trying to study and all I hear is smack smack smack, and non-stop laughing as if they have megaphones attached to them. They have been playing for an hour and show no sign of stopping!!! Surely just put that shit outside. Such a braindead activity.

Zikmund Quirino

Editor's Response: Well, well, well... if it isn't the worst take of the year!

Greetings Citizens

The benefits of legal cannabis are rather obvious and the tax revenue generated will fund adequate government investment across the board. Conservation, defence, education, health, housing, infrastructure, justice, etc... all of which urgently need a massive fiscal stimulus.

Cannabis is an economic panacea and its continued unjust prohibition is absolute economic sabotage and high treason. New Zealand used to be number three in the OECD. Now due to systematic economic erosion, the result of successive incompetent governments, we are now in the red and not the black.

Only effective leadership can reverse this sad trend. Until New Zealand is blessed with sensible sustainable government policy, expect the worst. You can't polish a turd.

So fight for your rights and freedom of choice for a greener, prosperous future, and sustainable monetary policy. On polling day exercise your power and vote out all corrupt prohibition tyrants and grow a better world, one you helped create, a vibrant, cannabis-based economy that you engineered.

The higher aim of the state must always be the welfare of the people, from the cradle to the grave.

Paul Anthony Galligan

Kia ora :)
Looking for a place to stash that \$10k you just inherited? I'm just sending around our fundraiser to a bunch of people. Sorry if this message seems pre-written on Google Docs; it definitely was. We're fundraising to cover the legal fees and the costs of 'damages' we're expecting the police will want from us that were arrested earlier this month at the University of Otago.



Unfortunately, the powers that be really like money, so they're probably not going to let us get away without emptying out our pockets first. The problem is, like most students, we haven't got much in our pockets to begin with! So I've become like one of those polite Greenpeace campaigners. Any donation would be fucking incredible. But even just passing this link on to friends and whānau would mean a lot. Happy to talk more, but that's the basics. Here's the link to our Givealittle page. kā mihi nui.

givealittle.co.nz/cause/legal-funds-for-the-everything-room-university

Dear Critic

I would like to state, on strongest possible terms, how proud I am of OUSA President Quintin Jane and his handling of a potentially controversial incident that emerged at the Dunedin Candidate Forum this week.

For those not in attendance, an audience question was asked "what is a woman", and an audible hush descended. In attendance was Dunedin TERF in residence Jennifer Scott, and the question was clearly an attempt to troll the candidates and bring Trans and Gender-nonconforming folk's existence into question.

Quintin did not let this happen. He very quickly decided to not let it proceed and took the mic away, saying that this was not a political issue and he would not abide making students in attendance uncomfortable.

I cannot speak for all queer people, but I for one was very proud by this response. By refusing to give TERF-leaning perspectives airtime, he not only kept LGBTQ+ students in attendance safe from having their identity up for debate, but he publicly made it clear that is something OUSA will not abide by. In doing so, he put actual meaning and weight to the rhetoric of being a Rainbow-supportive campus. Words are nice, actions like this are even better. This is what actual, meaningful allyship looks like.

Good job mate.

ISSUE 25
02 OCTOBER 2023



EDITOR
Fox Meyer

SUB-EDITOR
Nina Brown

NEWS EDITOR
Nina Brown

FEATURES EDITOR
Elliot Weir

CULTURE EDITOR
Annabelle Parata Vaughan

KAITUHI MĀORI
Skyla, Ngāti Hine

STAFF WRITERS
Lotto Ramsay, Jamiema Lorimer, Zak Rudin, Iris Hehir

CONTRIBUTORS: Harriette Boucher

COLUMNISTS
FOOD: Charley Burnett
@chagrills

BOOZE REVIEWS: Dan Muir

DESIGNER
Molly Willis

SUB-DESIGNER
Evie Noad

ILLUSTRATION
Mikey Clayton @itsspikeymikey
Daniel Van Lith @art_by_deeov
Justina King @coccinelleart

PHOTOGRAPHER
Connor Simpson
@simpson.photography

VIDEO TEAM LEAD
Connor Simpson

VIDEO EDITOR
Sophie Douglas

VIDEOGRAPHY
Hugh Askerud, Isaac Chadwick

CENTREFOLD
Mikey Clayton

FRONT COVER
Connor Simpson, Molly Willis

ONLINE
Arlo Hill

DISTRIBUTION
Vincent Withers
Pedals Dunedin

ADVERTISING SALES
Michael Phillipps
Nicholas Hanover
Anna Casey
sales@planetmedia.co.nz
03 479 5361

READ ONLINE
critic.co.nz
Issuu.com/critic_te_arohi

GET IN TOUCH
critic@critic.co.nz
Facebook/CriticTeArohi
03 479 5335
P.O.Box 1436, Dunedin
Critic Te Arohi is a member of the Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA).

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

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

Complaints should be addressed to the Secretary: info@mediacouncil.org.nz.



LIBRARY STUDY SPACES

otago.ac.nz/library/locations



EDITORIAL: **THE DICTATOR: HOW WE GOT HERE**

BY FOX MEYER



There is no student body.

It doesn't exist. There is no cohesive group of students. Everyone has retreated so far into individualism, into digital and physical isolation, that an overall sense of community has been lost. This is why you are lonely. This is why you feel powerless. You are chasing something that you cannot even picture, because it ceased to exist before you even stepped foot on campus.

"Individualism" is bullshit. It champions the ideals of self-sufficiency and stoicism but, when you think about it, true independence is misery. It's the deepest pits of loneliness, peddled as the route to success in a market-based world where you must sell yourself at every turn. It will drive you insane. Quietly.

And this is why, now that a university degree is just a product to be bought and paid for, you have no real reason to be here. You certainly don't have a reason to care about uni politics, and even less reason to care about student government, because you are an individual. And this is why "divide and conquer" works so well: if you can reduce an organised community to a mere group of individuals who happen to be in the same place, they lose all power. They cease to function as a unit, and they cede power to other individuals who know that with the bare minimum effort, they can take up the responsibility relinquished by the masses.

Voter and nominee turnout for student politics is at an all-time low, to the point where this year nobody even wanted to run for OUSA president. Keegan Wells decided to throw her name in the hat pretty

much the day of, figuring that she was better than literally nothing. And she won. A race that has in the past been the source of genuine screaming matches has now been reduced to a five-minute yarn on stage in front of a dozen people and an easy coast to presidency. Nobody cares, because it doesn't affect them. Them personally. "Why should I care?" Me, personally.

This is what happens when people grow apathetic to democracy: you get people in positions of power who will take advantage of you and milk that position for all its worth. You get charlatans, crooks and all their ilk, people who will rely on your disinterest to pursue their own interests, people who will use your student fee dollars to pay for their pet projects. You get Keegan. You get what you bloody well deserve.

Fortunately for you, Keegan is not what you deserve. You deserve so much worse. She's crook, to be sure, but she is not *a* crook. She actually does care about you, the student body, and she's pretty well-prepared to lead the charge. You could have ended up with anyone in this role. You could have ended up with Evil Keegan, the one on the cover, the one interviewed in this issue. Think about it: Keegan could have been someone who actually gave so few fucks about the role that she blew the whole budget on pimping out the ski club, and you still wouldn't have had a choice.

Guess you dodged a bullet on that one. In the meantime, if you've ever wanted to be a power-hungry student government dictator, there has literally never been a better opportunity. Do with that what you will.

THE TL:DR

YOUR WEEKLY ~~BULLETIN~~ ROUNDUP

AI-generated images of naked girls aged 11 to 20 have been circulating in the Spanish town Almendralejo. Over twenty girls' photos have been taken from social media and put through an app rendering new images of them nude.

The Writers Guild of America might be ending their five month strike after reaching a "tentative deal with studio bosses".

Students are getting sick of being sent a barrage of "mandatory" cyber security training emails from the Uni. Multiple students reported being sent four in the space of just two hours last Tuesday.

Former Critic editor Joel MacManus was at the Freedoms NZ protest at Parliament on Thursday, where he reported for The Spinoff that it didn't look like it would erupt into anything

beyond a campaign rally.

Dan Harmon did an interview recently where he spilled a lot of the tea about what went on during the Rick and Morty meltdown. You can find it online.

A new pastry truck opened on campus. ChuChu Bakehouse is just outside the library. Vegan options available!

Nando's Dunedin is closed :(

OUSA's SGM on Thursday met quorum by dragging in lunchers from Auahi Ora. UniQ was confirmed as an ex-officio member of the OUSA Exec.

Another confidential US military aircraft had its plans released on the online Warhammer game. This is the third time it's happened this month.



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

Animal Abuse at Leith Street Initiation

Second-years force freshers to torture eel

Last Wednesday a flat on Leith Street held an initiation for several freshers who allegedly endured various hazing rituals, including the gross norm of physical abuse, chugging milk, and funnelling vomit. And, as seen by several witnesses, abusing a live eel.

A video shown to Critic Te Ārohi depicts four boys in their underwear standing in a drum filled with off-coloured water, hands clasped around a live, panicking eel. They hoist it above their heads as if it were a trophy as the eel tries to escape. Crowds of onlookers cheer.

But not everyone was cheering, according to bystander Taylor*, who says she and several others became emotional as they saw the eel being lifted out of the water. "There were lots of us standing on the bridge to see what was going on. I was like, 'What the fuck is this?' Then I saw the eel. I saw people gagging, and there were a few girls on the balcony crying. It was the most traumatic initiation I've ever witnessed."

This is the second animal-related initiation this season, as reports have circulated of first-years being told to bring a live duck to another initiation. We're not sure what happened at that one. In the past, pre-Covid, a source told us the ducks used to be killed. Another initiation this year tasked first-years with stealing items from flats, a few of which came away with Xboxes. And we understand that this is far, far from the worst initiation Dunedin has seen this year. It's just the one that happened to end up on our desks.

Despite the freshers celebrating their capture of the eel, Taylor insists the coercive nature of initiations means the onus should fall on the second-years who organised it, and not the boys being hazed. "It was clearly an initiation for a flat. They are clearly

"The only way this shit continues is because of the social pressure and fear of retaliation for speaking against it or refusing to participate. I only hope they killed the eel afterwards to put it out of its suffering."

being put to the test. I heard they were getting beaten pretty badly, people even tried to intervene. The freshers don't have any power, really. They're forced to do these things."

Critic understands that the eel part of the initiation was not part of the original plan, and that the flat in question did not sanction its inclusion. We can't tell if it's a longfin or shortfin eel, but it's probably a shortfin, which are "not threatened" according to DOC and are relatively pollutant-tolerant. We also understand that outsiders were apparently responsible for pushing the event over the line, including involving the eel.

Rosa, who saw the video being circulated, says she felt "physically ill" as she watched the eel pulled from the water. "This behaviour is cruel and sadistic, frankly. Subjecting that poor animal to entirely unnecessary suffering. Those boys aren't children, they know these animals can feel pain and stress. They have no excuse. I know that flat wouldn't want people outside of Leith and Castle Street knowing about it, because they know how wrong it is. The only way this shit

By Iris Hehir
Staff Writer // iris@critic.co.nz

continues is because of the social pressure and fear of retaliation for speaking against it or refusing to participate. I only hope they killed the eel afterwards to put it out of its suffering."

According to onlookers, the eel was returned to the river, apparently alive and therefore, somehow, forgiven. However, Phoebe* fears the stress of the incident may have killed the eel after its release: "It definitely won't [be alive] after living in piss and vomit for hours, poor thing. I feel like it's definitely going to [die]." That being said, it was released into the Leith, which isn't exactly the cleanest, either.

While hazing remains a tradition of studentville's party streets, Rosa insists it's "entirely possible" to carry out initiations without hurting people or animals, and offered to help grow the boys' empathy: "I volunteer to piss and vomit on them to help them understand." But if we know anything about initiations, they've probably beaten her to it.

*Names changed.

An open letter to anyone that just got initiated

By Fox Meyer
Editor

To the first years that just got initiated, I'm glad you're all alive. I know it wasn't "the worst thing ever", and I bet you've got a weird feeling in the pit of your stomach that what you just did really wasn't all that glorious. I know that it ended in celebration, I know that it's an important bonding moment, and I know that you're all mates. I get it. I've gone through it myself.

Next year, it's going to be your turn. You're gonna get to show the boys above you that you're just as serious as they are, that you're just as wild and just as tough. The weight of all this tradition falls on your shoulders, and you are not going to be the one to fuck it up. Except - it's not actually tradition. It hasn't actually been around that long. It's just that everyone sort of assumes that's true, and it isn't, and you're the ones who are going to get in trouble for it. Every year, they get more intense in an attempt to outdo the years prior. Every year, someone goes too far. And while there's "nooo wayyyy" it could be your flat that finally does it, I say this with absolute certainty: with all the booze involved, it's just a matter of time before somebody dies.

You know this is fucked up. Every single one of you is a good person, even if you don't want to admit it, and I know you were afraid when the initiation began. I know I was. I wasn't initiated here; I was initiated into a fraternity in the States which was - incredibly - far tamer and far safer than the ones here. The frat knew it couldn't afford to get in trouble, with initiated freshmen dying of alcohol poisoning around the country every year. So our initiation was strictly dry, and a week long. We were one of "the good ones".

Instead of forcing us to binge drink, they just forced us to stay awake for the entire week. I think I slept a total of eleven hours. Another pledge was so sleep-deprived that he fell down a stairwell and was hospitalised. They'd have us complete all manner of impossible tasks and then berate us for failing, because we were delirious. We had to memorise 60 pages of names. They'd gotten rid of the vomit-chugging the year before, but I think I was still waterboarded at one point (though I can't remember if that was for the frat or just "for fun" at another party). Oh, and they'd have us pledge that we'd sooner go to prison than fess up to the hazing. It was awful, but it was "tradition". And I wanted that sweet, sweet approval.

When I look back on that time, I cringe. I'm not mad at the older boys, because I know they didn't really want to hurt anyone. It was all an act, and I'm mostly just embarrassed that I let myself get suckered into taking it all so seriously. It's incredibly cringe, to be honest, and I'm willing to bet you're going to look back on your initiations the same way. There's a reason you don't want anyone seeing those videos, right? Right.

It's too late to undo what you've done, or what's been done to you. But it's not too late to cut it out before you subject another year to the same rituals. There is nothing embarrassing about calling out how incredibly dangerous and gross these initiations have become, and if what you're chasing is maturity and true masculinity, then man up and call this out for what it is. Stand up for yourself and your friends. I dare you to do something that you'll be proud of. I wish I had.

Before I left the States, I'd signed up to be in charge of hazing the next cohort. I think I wanted the job because I really wanted to be in a position of power, maybe one where I could get some catharsis by doing unto others what had been done unto me, etc, etc. But I didn't. On a whim, I moved here instead. I wasn't mature enough to recognise why I was leaving the States; I only knew that there was something repulsive about my university experience that I couldn't name. Only in the last few years, seeing initiations in Dunedin far outweigh what I saw in the States, have I really been able to reconcile with the fact that what pushed me away was an intense feeling of shame about what I let myself be subjected to, and how fervently I defended every moment of it despite knowing it was incredibly fucked up. For the record, I'm okay - but only because I was able to make peace with that, and only because there was no alcohol involved. I shudder to think what I would've done.

Point being: if you've just tortured yourself in the name of group bonding and tradition, to become part of a niche group and to gain some well-earned clout, you have two options. You can either lean into this and convince yourself that it was worth it, that it was all in good fun and that it's tradition. Or, like me, you can begin to resent every moment of what you've just done, spoiling the very friendships that made this worth it in the first place. Neither option is good. The only good option here is to make sure that the buck stops right here, with you, because Dunedin's initiations are a ticking time bomb. If we don't get a handle on this, we are going to lose a student.

And when that happens, you're gonna have a lot more to worry about than vomit and shame.

A Summary of Thoughts from the OUSA Referendum

The OUSA Election happened and some people voted. Some also had feedback, so we took a handful of the hottest (and strangest) takes. Many comments were supportive, many were scathing, with people complaining about things that OUSA is either already doing or may not have the ability to do – but almost all highlighted the apathetic vibe that surrounded voting in the exec nominations.

It's worth noting that the results are not binding.

Should the proposed Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) budget for 2024 be recommended in its entirety to the student body?

Yes: 1192, 66.9%

Abstain: 455, 25.5%

No: 134 7.5%

Most people said yes but were confused about how to read the budget, and raised a lot of concerns that were very much already being addressed.

Starters bar? why is it not operational

This is meaningless. Lack of engagement gives no mandate for this at all. If the election gets less than 50% of students voting OUSA should do it again to seek an actual mandate

UTSNZ Sports events are becoming unaffordable for students due to the universities sudden refusal to support such events in recent years as they used to. Would love to see some support in this area from OUSA.

ababasbbsb bololololo beebabee

Editor's response: I've been saying this for years!

I don't think was very clear. I would have preferred a video explanation that summarises this information

The Douglas B-18 Bolo is an American heavy bomber which served with the United States Army Air Corps and the Royal Canadian Air Force (as the Digby) during the late 1930s and early 1940s. The Bolo was developed by the Douglas Aircraft Company from their DC-2, to replace the Martin B-10. By 1940 standards, it was slow, had an inadequate defensive armament, and carried too small a bomb load. A B-18 was one of the first USAAF aircraft to sink a German U-boat, U-654 on 22 August 1942 in the Caribbean.[2] By 1942, surviving B-18s were relegated to antisubmarine, training and transport duties.

Should Audit Professionals be appointed the 2024 auditors for OUSA?

Yes: 1256, 70.5%

Abstain: 408, 22.9%

No: 117, 6.6%

Most people just didn't know what this meant and said, "Yeah cool." Honestly, all these responses were valid points.

hmmm. another fantastic question

i do not understand this im a science student. in future I thing you should explain these questions better in your referendum

I don't really understand this ngl

Should OUSA introduce a Cultural Representative to advocate for and support students from diverse cultural backgrounds?

Yes: 929, 52.2%

Abstain: 286, 16.1%

No: 566, 31.8%

This was a spicy one, with a lot of people calling for a Māori and Pasifika rep, even though those positions literally exist already.

There should be a Māori and Pasifika rep, especially considering how Pakeha the executive has been my entire 6 years here at Otago.

Yes, perhaps more importantly a Māori and Pasifika representative. Introducing diversity is important, especially if you want to represent the entire student body. This many ensure that te Tiriti o Waitangi is upheld in all OUSA decisions.

Think there should be a Māori rep instead

I don't see how one person can represent all the different cultures if the Tumuaki of te Rōpū Māori, President of the Pacific Island Students Association, the Clubs & Socs rep and the International Student Rep are not currently able to do so between them. I would want to know what the defined roles and responsibilities of this role would be.

Alternatively, we could have a designated Maori rep. While this would potentially "narrow" the proposed role...

This role could be easily filled by the International Rep/Pasifika Rep.

No **Up da wahs** **It is inequitable to suggest otherwise.**

Should OUSA lobby the government for legislative change to include a Māori and Pasifika student seat on the University of Otago Council?

Yes: 1245, 69.9%

Abstain: 258, 14.5%

No: 278, 15.6%

I'm not Maori, and I honestly don't understand much about this topic. But I haven't seen much Maori activism on campus to require such a big move yet.

Editor's response: Coulda stopped right at the start my friend.

Maori yes, Pasifika no **on god no cap** **sounds gay**

fuck yeah te tiriti o waitangi hello

I'm not in favour of a Pasifika seat as I believe that inherently we should embrace Te Tiriti principles. Including Pasifika as part of this would be counterproductive towards embracing Te Ao Maori

Great idea but you could say the same logic should apply for Asian students and African students and MELAA as well, Otago has more Asian students than students from the Pacific islands.

Should OUSA lobby the University of Otago to employ at least one Rainbow Advocate to provide support to queer/ rainbow students within the University of Otago?

Yes: 891, 50%

Abstain: 322, 18.1%

No: 568, 31.9%

An exact 50% split, fascinating.

Make everything more gay

Shouldn't positions just be entirely merit based or democratically chosen? Why do you have to shoehorn minority groups into positions when they could very well get there of their own accord. This argument sounds bad, I know

im a rainbow student as well and maybe (considering the issue with university budget) rather than having an official representative, would be better if there's an organisation/club for it instead. less formal to make it more welcomed and more chill

Should OUSA include a Queer/Rainbow Representative on the OUSA Executive Committee?

Yes: 831, 46.7%

Abstain: 322, 18.1%

No: 628, 35.3%

Lots of comments in here from people saying they're queer and that they don't support this. Note: This motion passed at an SGM on 28 September.

no i dont want insensitive homophobic Chads to take up the role and fuck shit up

I am LGBT and I think our issues are already adequately covered by OUSA. It should just be something like having being red headed, we don't need someone to be designated to represent our interests in a setting where we already have an Equity rep and OUSA Queer support.

Should the OUSA Presidential position be renamed to the OUSA Big Chungus?

Yes: 589, 33.1%

Abstain: 171, 9.6%

No: 1021, 57.3%

Lots of hate for Big Chungus which, like, fair enough. The biggest criticism was that it was a dead meme. Also people seemed to think that unopposed Pres candidate Keegan suggested this change – which isn't true. Absolutely brutal responses from people who didn't know what they were talking about.

This is the only serious change that needs to be made, to support the student voice.

This is ridiculous and why no one takes the exec seriously

Yeah I reckon fuck it

do it if you want OUSA to look like clowns...

This is crude and quite off putting for the future of OUSA.

This is such a pathetic and irresponsible idea, and that is why I voted no confidence in Keegan, she seems immature, she is taking the role for granted and proposing such ideas because she is running uncontested.

looks unprofessional and it's not actually that funny. i feel like this would undo all the hard work that previous exec teams have put in and you would def not have anyone take you seriously

As much as I respect Keegan, this proposal nearly earned a no-confidence vote for President :)

I beseech those who have proposed this grievous breach of decorum to reconsider their stance and uphold the values that have been the bedrock of our association for generations.

What about Rangatira Nui Chungus to further the use of Te Reo Maori at our fine university?

Should OUSA lobby the University of Otago to include more Māori and Pasifika awards in the Blues and Golds awards?

Yes: 1053, 59.1%

Abstain: 379, 21.3%

No: 349, 19.6%

HELLLL TO THE YESSSSSSSS!!!! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY OUSA DID NOT THINK OF THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Awards should be given to those who deserve them and who have worked hard for them rather than those rather than meeting diversity criteria. Why should some miss out on opportunities because for their race?

In the name of diversity, applying this logic should then apply for Asian students as well.

Should OUSA advertise Orientation Week with stylised posters such as those displayed around the link and in Poppa's Pizza?

Yes: 1276, 71.6%

Abstain: 249, 14%

No: 256, 14.4%

Pretty overwhelming support for this one, but OUSA Exec need to prove support before they can make things happen.

wtf this is not a referendum question just fucking do it if you want.

This is literally the most important issue to me now

Biggest yes possible

Why is this even a question? Seems like quite a minor and frivolous thing to ask along side much more pressure issues.

Yes. People collect those, which could create revenue for your already struggling government. Isn't that what you want?

Should OUSA lobby the government to repeal the Voluntary Student Membership Bill (VSM)?

Yes: 852, 47.8%

Abstain: 512, 28.7%

No: 417, 23.4%

Always surprising how little people know about this and care about it, seems to really have brought out the libertarians in the comment section (p.s. OUSA is not a university government).

Seriously, you guys aren't doing this already? It's election year!

This seems very biased, you are leaving out the fact in arguments against about the fee being automatically deducted. Of course OUSA wants this back, for more money. For the large majority of students, is this deduction not immoral

You whine about not having funding and then you want to retract University funding because you want to be independent. Guess what. You are a university government. Get a grip.

Should OUSA advocate for drug and alcohol harm reduction for the student population; including but not limited to initiatives for colleges?

Yes: 1266, 71.1%

Abstain: 219, 12.3%

No: 296, 16.6%

Looks like the question/description for this one and the trains one got mixed up which led to some hilarious results.

The question does not match the description? What do trains have to do with drug and alcohol harm reduction? (Although, I like trains). But yes to alcohol and drug harm reduction!!!

What has the argument in favour got to do with drug and alcohol harm???? In response to the train idea----> high risk low return, how many students will actually use this? - thinking about luggage and items that people travel with

NO. SSDP is completely out of touch with the student body. OUSA are not schoolteachers or parents. We are adults.

Could you link in with the Know Your Stuff happenings?

Editor's response: Yep, OUSA has been working with them since 2018.

Should OUSA provide a student bar for students in the North Dunedin area?

Yes: 1400, 78.6%

Abstain: 170, 9.5%

No: 211, 11.8%

Obviously there is still support for this but people still don't seem to know the backstory here. Critic has written about it (kind of extensively) if you want to know more.

Starters should've never closed down, that was ridiculous. I believe the exec and ceo were hiding behind the earthquake prone building issue because they didn't wanna invest in making Starters better. Get a student bar back ASAP

yes ofc rip starters but ubar is not disability accessible so you could also work on that, or making a new student bar might fix this issue if you do it right. Not my place to say, methinks Very nuanced issue

subsidise the drinks too please

na thats what liqor stores and unlocked flats on castle street r for

Should OUSA lobby the University of Otago to consult with students of the relevant department prior to the announcement of papers and programme cuts in that department?

Yes: 1339, 75.2%

Abstain: 255, 14.3%

No:187, 10.5%

maybe this could have saved geology :(

yea u should but also like just do it and stop asking me. these are basic fucking things that you should already be doing. twats.

I am a first year international student whose degree is half languages + cultures, one of the departments that has had cuts. I love Otago and I don't regret coming here but it would have been helpful to know that my program of choice was facing cuts before I moved across the planet to study it.

Should OUSA lobby the University of Otago that teaching staff should be required to have an explicit statement on course outlines stating that all students have the option of submitting assignments in Te Reo Māori?

Yes: 876, 49.2%

Abstain: 369, 20.7%

No: 536, 30.1%

The big call here was "okay well who pays to staff this", but the question is actually just asking if it should be in the course outline - it's already an option.

Who's going to pay to make sure staff are able to mark assignments in Te Reo Maori? Seems expensive

I think this should be a goal of the university to reach within a timeframe that is reasonable to be able to ensure this is done properly - I think assignments should be able to be submitted in Te reo but it should be ensured that people aren't negatively affected by this - be it with their marks themselves by poor translation or marking, or by others having to then wait ages for their results

A policy already exists in regards to allowing all assignments to submit their work in te reo Māori. I am one of those students submitting my work in te reo, outside of Te Tumu. The University of Otago is seriously under-resourced to facilitate this... Therefore, I argue that this should not be the focus of lobbying but rather I encourage you to interview students who are submitting their work in te reo Māori to identify the areas require advocating.

we already do... in real departments like history department

Should OUSA lobby the University of Otago to provide sustainable food waste bins alongside recycling/landfill bins on campus?

Yes: 1292, 72.5%

Abstain: 203, 11.4%

No: 286, 16.1%

Love how many people were concerned about the smell.

The uni should invest in pig farming - lots of money (#nomorebudgetcuts), and they eat everything so no food waste. We should also look into reducing food waste in residential colleges.

I am afraid of mould. But like the Earth is a cutie and deserves to be looked after

Stinky A good idea in theory but it would have to be done In a way to minimize smells.

already stinks of greggs on campus, no more smelly shit please

Compost bins on campus would be very smelly and attract rats.

Should OUSA introduce an engagement executive member to run the OUSA Executive Instagram account and promote engagement with OUSA Executive Initiatives?

Yes: 721, 40.5%

Abstain: 323, 18.1%

No: 737, 41.4%

The big complaints here were along the lines of "why are you making a new position for this when it's already your job" but point is mores that the OUSA Exec only has access to the exec channels, not actual OUSA channels. At the moment there are no paid positions for it. To clarify, Critic staff aren't responsible for this specifically - but we do have a responsibility to cover OUSA and their channels for you, and appreciate feedback on what you think we should be covering more.

is this not a social media manager? isn't that what critic and planet media are for?

Da fuck you already have so many comms and marketing staff, why are they not doing their job, you're a students association and staff should be on board with that

I mean, who runs it now? How are they paid? You aren't giving enough information.

Should OUSA support the University of Otago Sustainability Office to source sustainable transport options (such as a train) running between Dunedin and Christchurch at key times of the year?

Yes: 1344, 75.5%

Abstain: 200, 11.2%

No: 237, 13.3%

Choo choo!

eco-friendly version of the undie 500 TraAAaaAaain!!!!

What about invercargill? We seem to get left out every year at the Invercargill campus

yeahh — maybe before investing into it. could do a poll or smth to estimate the number of students who might use the service

Editor's response: What exactly are you doing rn?

PLEASE I AM BEGGING YOU train cool TRAIN GOOD

*Train: Choo Choo Deer: O_O Train: Chooooooooooooo! Deer: *pink mist**

Bestie you are so right about this.... If we cant bring back the Undie Five Hundie, give us a train.

PLEASE GIVE ME BACK TRAINS We want trains. trains rule motherfuckers.

Not many people live in Christchurch compared to everywhere else in the country. People would still fly a lot so not worth the cost

DCC Passes Ambitious Zero Carbon Plan

350 Aotearoa claims the dub

By Zak Rudin
Chief Reporter // zak@critic.co.nz

The DCC voted last Monday to pass the Zero Carbon Plan 2030, with a 10 to 5 split between councillors. Not only did they pass the plan, they also opted to take the highest investment option of a cool \$137 million for climate action. 350 Aotearoa, a climate crisis action group who pushed strongly for the plan, took the dub, calling it "a big win for the climate."

On the morning of the vote, a group of 350 Aotearoa campaigners and Green MP Francisco Hernandez stood outside the DCC chambers to encourage councillors to vote in the climate's interests. OUSA President Quintin Jane and Postgraduate Rep (and recently elected 2024 President) Keegan Wells were at the DCC to submit on the plan. Keegan told Critic Te Ārohi that "it felt a bit silly being in a room explaining why we need to save the environment."

The plan includes hefty investment in public transport to cut emissions and create more accessibility across Ōtepoti; creating a solar farm on Green Island landfill; transitioning Moana pool and other public buildings from gas to electricity; and supporting households to transition

to clean energy. What's more, it's a "great bragging point" for Ōtepoti, being ahead of national government climate standards and most city councils, said Keegan.

"It felt a bit silly being in a room explaining why we need to save the environment."

"Today's decision is a people-powered victory for the air we breathe, the places we call home, and the climate which sustains us," said Adam, a spokesperson for 350 Aotearoa. With the Zero Carbon Plan passed, now comes the actual mahi of implementing it. Adam told Critic that they're committed to holding each and every councillor that voted for the plan to account: "Now it's time for other councils across Aotearoa – as well as the central government – to follow Dunedin's leadership." Only time will tell if the plan comes to fruition.

ODT WATCH

But his female flatmate, Danielle Theron, needed someone to huddle up against to keep warm on the frosty morning, so he dragged himself out of bed and showed a bit of gallantry.

...And they were FLATmates

Most councils treat for crypto

Have you or a loved one been affected by the downfall of Dogecoin? You could be entitled to psychological compensation.

"There's many things that could be done, such as a warning that if you're walking while texting.

A warning that WHAT? THAT WHAT???

IF plants could talk, what would they say?

"Jet fuel can't melt steel beams"

East Gore had a membrane system, while Maitai had a sand filter and UV.

Wtf I only got a Mirena

Woman charged after crepe attack

Serial crepeist on the loose

SKELETAL remains of Chinese gold miners buried in Otago cemeteries have surprised scientists

We've been trying to reach you about your car's extended warranty

Striking writers reach deal

Critic writers asking for better wages than second-hand vape and Redbulls

"There are reasons for it and even though it was short, it enabled us to clean up a lot quicker.

Happens to the best of us

"I can understand the concern [about reputational damage], but we dealt with the task at hand and now we're pretty much back to normality — once we get the water sorted."

Something was turning the fucking frogs gay... Conservatives in the deep South do a mass cull of homosexual amphibians in an attempt to attract a new generation.

Mid last year,

So true

"Molly is in Dunedin msg me to catch up".

Molly is a slang term for MDMA, a class B drug.

Molly is actually our designer and I'd consider her class A xx

BURGERFUEL
FUEL FOR THE HUMAN ENGINE

\$PUDS 4 STUDENTS
Fuelling your studies

HEY UOO STUDENTS!
HEAD TO OUR DUNEDIN NORTH STORE AT 695 GREAT KING STREET, SHOW BURGERFUEL YOUR STUDENT ID & SCORE FREE SPUD FRIES WHEN YOU GRAB ANY LARGE BURGER.

PURCHASE ANY LARGE GOURMET BURGER, SHOW YOUR STUDENT ID AND SCORE FREE SPUD FRIES WITH AIOLI. NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE, IN STORE ONLY. BURGERFUEL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO END THIS OFFER AT ANY TIME. CHAT TO THE CREW FOR FULL T&CS

with aoli

NO BAD BURGERS

DEATH BEFORE BAD BURGERS

NORTH DUNEDIN CLEAN UP

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER

12PM - 2PM

Meet at Marsh Study Centre for welcome and briefing

North Dunedin Clean Up



A Sophia Charter initiative in loving memory of Sophia Crestani



SENDING YOUR STUFF HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS? OUSA HAVE YOU SORTED!

\$20 Nationwide*

Collect your box from Clubs & Socs and Clearly write your name. Only the University branded box can be used.

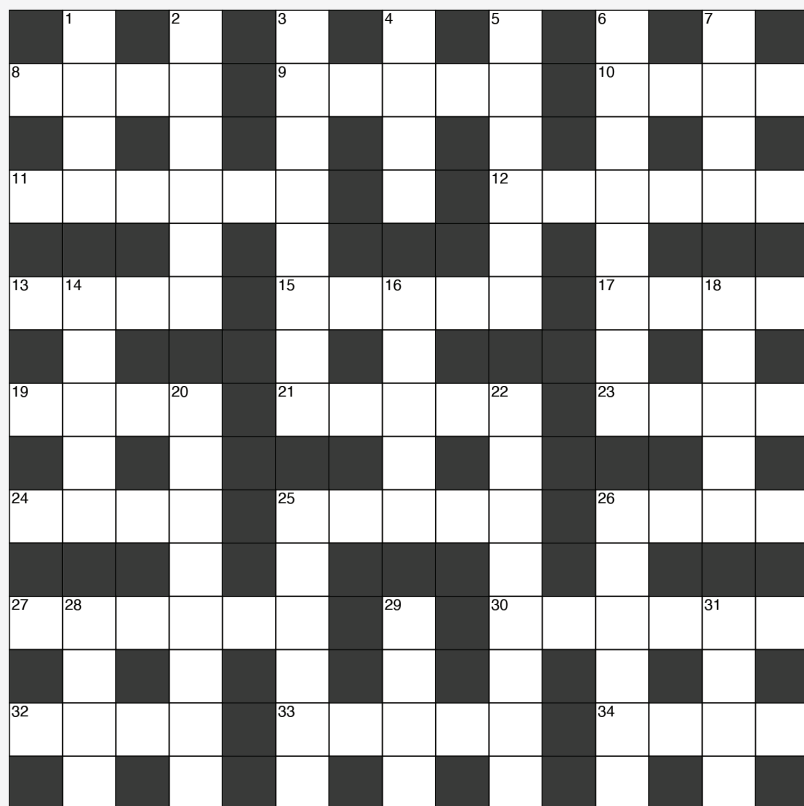
*Price Includes Box and package slip only. No Liquids, perishables, or valuables. PO Box or DX Bos delivery is not available. Head to ousa.org.nz for T's & C's



PUZZLES

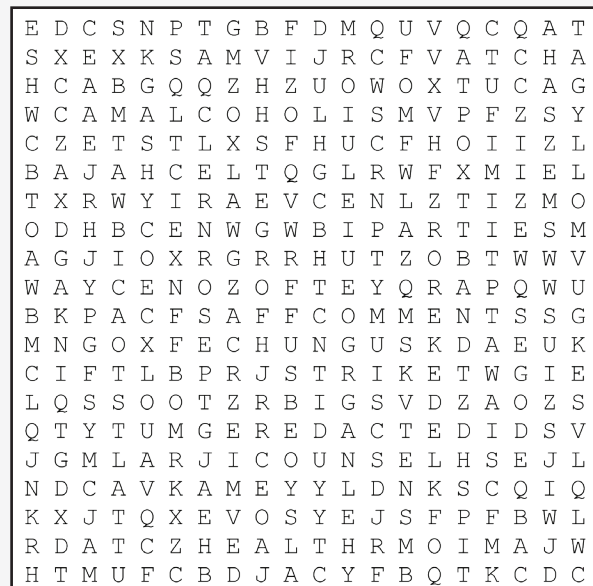
Mazagran BROUGHT TO YOU BY MAZAGRAN
ESPRESSO BAR KEEPING CRITIC CAFFEINATED
 36 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

CROSSWORD



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

- ACROSS:**
- 8. Bob's eldest daughter
 - 9. Nun's garment
 - 10. Cheese variety
 - 11. Common foul in pong
 - 12. Movie genre
 - 13. World's most populous island
 - 15. Drew, of detective fame
 - 17. Immense
 - 19. Place for a roast
 - 21. Bronze
 - 23. Pocket-filler
 - 24. Tribe
 - 25. In _____, Nirvana album
 - 26. Old MacDonald's place
 - 27. Tourist's tote
 - 30. Tatooine's Old Ben
 - 32. Locate
 - 33. Outback dog
 - 34. "Eight", in 7D
- DOWN:**
- 1. Pickle flavouring
 - 2. Japanese temple
 - 3. Found in pornos or groves? (2 or 1)
 - 4. Evolves into Kadabra
 - 5. Unwavering
 - 6. Bay Dreams or RnV, for example
 - 7. El _____, city in Texas
 - 14. Blacksmith's kit
 - 16. Innocent
 - 18. Sub system?
 - 20. Switch maker
 - 22. It plays a part in some openings (2)
 - 25. Lake Victoria land
 - 26. Admirers, collectively
 - 28. Graph line
 - 29. Bell sound
 - 31. Thai currency

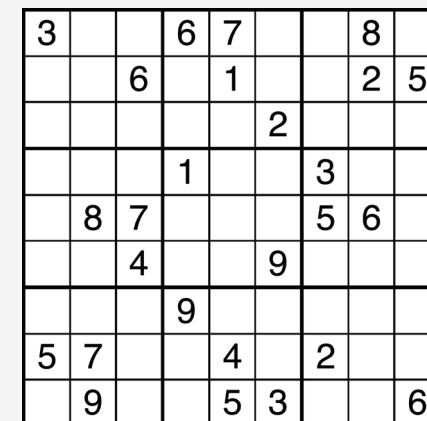
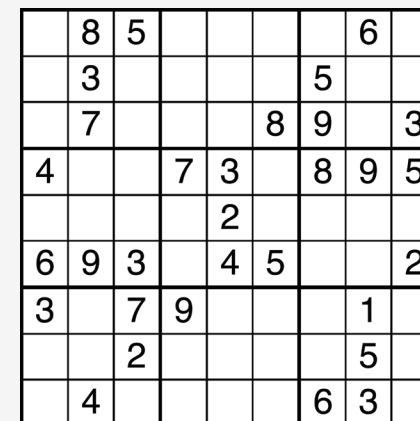
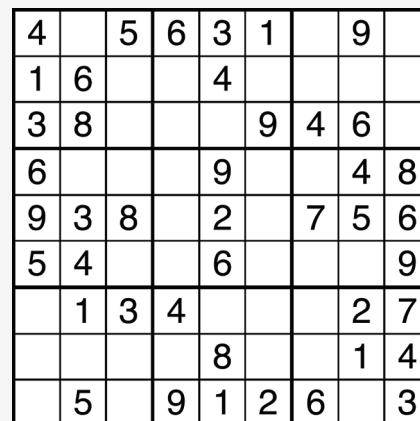


WORDFIND

- APOLOGIES
- CARBON
- COMMENTS
- DEBATE
- ALCOHOLISM
- HEALTH
- PARTIES
- REDACTED
- MOLLY
- COUNSEL
- EXAMS
- SCATHING
- BIG
- CHUNGUS
- STRIKE
- FORGET
- MISTAKE
- DOGE

SUDOKU

sudokuoftheday.com



ISSUE 24 PUZZLE ANSWERS **WORD BLOCK WORDS:** DELICATES, ERECTIONS, INHALANTS, ORGASMING, LAXATIVES, CONSENTED

ACROSS: 1. FINEST 5. SMOKER 9. ADDEDUP 12. CHAIR 13. LOGOS 14. FRISBEE 16. THATGUY 18. YOKOONO 20. HOPKINS 23. COMMAND 25. POPLARS 28. SPITE 29. CABIN 30. PIRAHNA 32. PICNIC 33. ISLAND

DOWN: 1. FANCY 2. NATASHA 3. SCARF 4. TEE 6. MAPLE 7. KINGBOO 8. RAGS 10. DAISY 11. DOBBY 15. FOOD 16. TAHR 17. GUI 19. KIM 21. PACIFIC 22. SUPER 23. CHAIN 24. ALABAMA 25. PEPSI 26. SCARS 27. KNEED 28. SIMP 31. ART

RHYTHM & ALPS 2023

MUSIC & CAMPING FESTIVAL . DECEMBER 29-31
WANAKA . SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND
WWW.RHYTHMANDALPS.CO.NZ

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

1 DROP NATION

33 BELOW

ALICE AGNES

AUNTY EL

AZIFM

AZURE

BECCIE B

BENEE

BICEP DJ.SET

BONTEMPO

BOOMBOX DJ'S

CALIBRE

CHANNEL TRES

COMMUNICATE

DJ SNAKELEGS DJ.SET

DISRUPTA

EMILIE

FAT FREDDYS DROP

FLEECED

HELLCAT SPEED RACER

HOME BREW

IMANU

KADYN WEBSTER

KAYLEE BELL

KRAVIS

LOEFAH

LUCY

MONO ERA

MY BABY

NICE GIRL

NO CIGAR

NO.R.F.O

NORWESTERS

NOTION DJ'S

OCEAN ALLEY

ORTEGA

PAIGE JULIA

PATELLA

PEKING DUK

ROSS FROM FRIENDS DJ.SET

SACHI

SAM WAVE

SCHEME

SÉARLAI DJ.SET

SIGMA


SUUNE

SYNTHONY








TIKKA B2B TRIVIAL

YAMS

YUNG SINGH



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Antisocial Media

Influencers and the online discussion of mental health

This article was written by students from MANT252, a paper designed to develop future leaders. As a part of this, they're tasked with leading a social action project with relevant stakeholders, and this group requested Critic Te Arohi. The following article is one of those projects.

We have set out to address mental health and crack down on why there's such a stigma around finding help when you are feeling shit. Despite listening to your fav motivational podcasts or sad Spotify playlist, drowning your sorrows or even having a cheeky cone as a relatively cheap coping mechanism, mental health chats need to be had. After all, nearly one in four young people aged from 15 - 24 years experience high levels of mental distress. We spoke to Ollie Mills and Kind of a Big Deal, social media creators who are trying to further this conversation online, as well as a representative of Silverline, an Otago-based initiative that recently shut down.

Ollie Mills

This conversation is happening everywhere on social media - perhaps ironic given that social media is itself a driver of anxiety. Oliver Mills has over 627.8K followers on TikTok and a podcast called 'An Attempt at Existence'. His journey into discussing his mental health on social media wasn't a calculated decision; he just started out online sharing videos of himself singing and occasionally crying in his car while listening to sad songs. For Ollie, it was merely a reflection of the human experience, something he believed everyone went through which, if we're honest, we all do.

But when Ollie's mum expressed concern about his videos, he realised the impact he was having. Thousands of comments from viewers flooded in worrying about his wellbeing, which prompted him to make a video addressing his mental health. He revealed to his followers in another video that he had been battling depression since the age of 16 and had been taking medication for eight years. To him, discussing his depression was a natural extension of his identity, something he couldn't hide if he wanted to be authentic online.

He compares his depression to a chronic illness, similar to diabetes, that he must manage daily. This desensitisation allows him to discuss his struggles openly, but he is aware of his responsibility to not exploit his mental health for views or engagement, emphasising that his goal is to be honest about his experiences rather than desensitise them.

Ollie believes that normalising mental health conversations is the first step in making a meaningful change. He says that comments like "seeing you singing and expressing emotion helps me express my own" reflects the influence he's had. This type of influencer reminds us that it's okay not to be okay, and that seeking help and sharing our experiences can make a world of difference in the lives of others.

Kind of a Big Deal

We also reached out to Bryn Fredheim and Ryan Forlong, known as 'Kind of a Big Deal'. Their journey into the world of mental health advocacy began in Dunedin with their involvement in the 'It's Not Awkward, Bro' initiative, run by a student-led programme called Silverline. This campaign was aimed at breaking down the barriers in discussing mental health among friends. The initiative provided conversation starter cards and created safe spaces for open dialogue. As Bryn recalls, "We talk heaps of nonsense all the time but never really about how we feel with each other. During one of these sessions, we discovered that some of our mates were struggling with mental health. It was an eye-opener."

With their humorous videos and laid-back style, Bryn and Ryan have garnered a substantial online following. However, like all influencers, they've encountered their fair share of negativity and trolls. When asked how they deal with online criticism, Ryan emphasises, "We don't take it too seriously. There are plenty of good comments out there, and the mean ones often make us laugh." Bryn adds, "Our style is all about humour and taking things lightly. If we find it funny and we're happy with it, that's what matters."

Balancing work and wellness in maintaining mental health while juggling the demands of social media can be challenging. For Bryn and Ryan, exercise plays a pivotal role. They've also learned the importance of setting boundaries between work and personal life. Ryan explains, "We've become more aware of the need to have time for ourselves, away from video content creation. Sometimes, it feels like making funny videos is all-consuming."

When asked about their role in addressing mental health, Bryn and Ryan believe that influencers can significantly encourage conversations. While they don't feel obligated to do so, they recognise the potential impact of their platform. Bryn says, "If we can make a funny video that also brings home a message, like encouraging people to talk to their mates, then that's a bonus."

Silverline

Silverline is a student-led initiative in Dunedin dedicated to building a community around mental health and wellbeing, tracing back to 2016 when the University of Otago commissioned a review of its mental health services to students. Recognizing the need for more student-led initiatives, the University's Student

Health Service approached Sze-En and her team at the Social Impact Studio to explore innovative ways to support students' mental health.

Sze-En believes that every student here wants to have a positive impact in the community, especially socially. Silverline takes a student-centred approach, leveraging the creativity, energy, and passion of students to create spaces for open conversations about mental health and wellbeing. The kaupapa behind Silverline was acknowledging that the mental health struggle is real, and then to "challenge the struggle". It's about challenging students and the University about how we engage in conversations about mental health and wellbeing.

Over the years students repeatedly showed up for Silverline events, big and small, proving their willingness to engage in conversations about mental health: "A testament to how much students give a shit." Sze-En believes that what underpinned Silverline's approach was taking a creative spin on how they were engaging with students: "Who wants to go to an academic conference about mental health and wellbeing unless you're studying psych?" This approach sparked events and initiatives such as the annual Silverline Festival, Fluro Fridays (inspired by the OneWave community in Aussie), and Silverline Flat Chats.

Despite the substantial interest Silverline received from students, it was not unusual for Silverline to apply for external funding to offer their initiatives, as continuous funding remained challenging. Silverline challenged the struggle for a good six years. Silverline's passion and devotion to student mental health was recognised by the Minister of Health as recipients of the Youth Volunteer Award in recent years, and they also hold a position in the Otago Hall of Fame.

Although Silverline has been discontinued, Sze-En pointed out that there are still many other communities and initiatives that support student mental health and overall wellbeing, including the new student team behind Hold On To Your Friends and long established organisations like Youthline. Sze-En encourages students to challenge themselves to get out of their bubble and meet new people, and gain some new experiences and perspectives. "A bit of life padding," says Sze-En. Inspired by some recent guest speakers, Sze-En also says not to underestimate the power of drinking water and choosing rest, two small but impactful steps you can take for yourself.

We suggest that the University could also give us a hand in this - perhaps through longer mid-semester breaks and not having assignments due the week after? The pandemic response proved that the University is able to pivot rapidly, so surely they can pivot in the mental health landscape to achieve the start of some better balance for students.

Overall, it doesn't matter whether you have a TikTok following or not. If you're feeling shit, talking openly to your mates like Ollie, Bryn and Ryan do can have powerful effects on your own mindset and your mates' perspectives. Simultaneously, reaching out to local support networks or "challenging the struggle" yourself by meeting new people to gain new experiences and perspectives are small steps you can take for your mental health.





TOP Leader Raf Manji: On Despondency, Political Potential, and Progressivism

By Annabelle Parata Vaughan

The Opportunities Party Leader Raf Manji is sort of like that international student who showed up in your Geology class one afternoon: you aren't too sure who he is or where he came from, but he seems pretty cool and is giving all the other popular kids a run for their money. While TOP has yet to enter Parliament, this election season, Raf Manji has the potential to stage Aotearoa's newest political upset.

Originally working for non-profits and volunteering with the Student Volunteer Army, Raf's main motivation for getting into politics was due to the Christchurch earthquakes and the devastation that had shaken the place he called home. Raf was elected to the Christchurch City Council in 2013 as an independent councillor, and continued his political journey by standing as an independent candidate for Ilam in the 2017 general election. Raf decided to leave politics in 2019 to focus on working for the March 15th Response after the Christchurch Mosque Attack, but was approached by The Opportunities Party in late 2021. "I did have conversations with people about other parties, but what I liked about TOP was that it had a more independent and partisan approach to politics which is where my space is," he explains. "With some of the other parties you feel like you have to give up a bit of your soul to join them, but with TOP, there's a focus on outcomes and policy that works and a more collaborative approach to politics. The world is complex and not binary, and we need parties that can look at things like that."

"I don't remember an election where people have been less politically engaged, but also more worried about the future."

In terms of election atmosphere, Raf thinks that the current state of political affairs have left people in a state of "despondency," and that major parties are lacking the vision required to improve things in Aotearoa. Relatable, Raf. "If you go back to 2017, it was potentially going to be a National Government, but Winston upset the apple cart and decided to pick Labour and go into confidence with the Greens," he says. "When it came to Covid in 2020, things had shifted. New Zealand First had fallen out of love with Labour, they weren't really talking, then the Jacinda wave came through and everyone thought she did really well. I think now we're at the other side of that conversation and everyone is pretty hacked off with the government, so the pendulum is swinging," says Raf. "I don't think there is any great vision from the future. I don't remember an election where people have been less politically engaged, but also more worried about the future."

With election campaigning in full swing, Raf says that while people are feeling uninspired by what the major parties are offering, getting people to see the power of minority parties has still been a challenge. "I am having conversations everyday with people saying, 'Oh, we did the vote compass and came up with TOP, but we didn't know much about you.' It shows people are open to other perspectives and ideas" he says. "People are saying, 'I'd vote for TOP if you were in Parliament,' and polling indicates we have the 8 to 10 percent party vote out there, but we can't get there without those votes." Raf also mentions that TOP's commitment to bi-partisanship makes them a compelling party as they're willing to be a progressive option that could work with National or Labour depending on the results that filter in.

So, with all this talk of despondency and dismissal, what exactly is TOP offering young people that other major parties aren't? "We need to start to invest in our young people, and get an understanding of what it means to be a citizen when we're going to face big complex challenges," he says. One of TOP's core policies is the Teal Card: similar to the Gold Card for retirees, but for young people. The card would assist with getting access and discounts towards health care, mental health support and public transport. Raf also mentions that TOP wants to create more financial equity for young people, as we're often shut out when it comes to talk around home ownership and renting. "I want to push financial literacy, and make sure that every child gets an IRD number, a national health number, a bank account, a Kiwisaver account set up. I think if you get the first five years right, you're on the road to success, and investing upfront saves money downstream," he explains. In terms of his advice for young voters or those undecided this election, Raf kept it simple: "This election, don't worry how it's going to work out. It's going to be pretty messy, look at the parties, and just vote."

Local Candidates Debate: A Summary



Aside from this question, the crowd mostly sought to ascertain policies on wealth and climate, bluntly voicing the rage of an indentured student community. James Christmas also blushed when asked to fess up about the whereabouts of his Dunedin paramore.

The result was largely underwhelming, as candidates showed the utmost respect for one another in attempts to save face for their parties. Boo, get the claws out next time.

In general questioning, each party was given plenty of breathing room to speak about policy on tax, climate, and housing. The person with the most breathing room was independent Jim O'Malley, who was free to wax lyrically about the evils of neoliberalism without having to stick to party policy. Ben Peters also shared a similar advantage, taking the time to inform the audience that "Dunedin is a flat city, other than the hills themselves." The people who got the least speaking room were representatives of the Electoral Commission and Generation Vote who sat idly beside the main stage, pleading silently to audiences that they should probably enrol at some point.

As such, the audience generally took to the minor parties, though the Greens got the greatest hoots of support. It's hard to say who won. Was the real winner at the end of the day then perhaps debating itself? Probably not. See below to have your take on the matter.

On the matter of housing, Labour's Rachel Brooking said "we plan to build 27,000 for 2027." Ah, isn't it great that dreams are free? Greens' Fran Hernandez said that "we side with renters" and that the party "supports a landlord register." Independent O'Malley said that "housing is a right" and that us nomadic students are "living a transient

life." James Christmas, whose name would suggest ample knowledge about the intricacies of indoor heating, took a page out of the National Party handbook and said that "it's a supply issue." We did not ask him anything about chimneys, or if it would be possible to stave off the winter cold by supplying students with their annual coal allowances in July, rather than the Northern Hemisphere-centric December, when coal is pretty useless. To finish the housing part off, Peters touted the benefits of a land value tax.

Then, the topic on everybody's mind: taxes. Labour has ruled out a capital gains and wealth tax, so everyone is wondering how the fuck we're meant to be funding public services. Brooking contended that there is "bipartisan support in our tax system," while Hernandez fired back by saying that we need to "redistribute wealth so we can properly fund the services we need to." O'Malley echoed a similar sentiment, saying that "wealth is accumulating at the top of our society, and we need to bring it back." Christmas didn't offer up much apart from "Muldoon was basically a socialist," which is... certainly a take. Langeveld mentioned "the books are in bad shape", and Peters refined his earlier statement, saying that he's all about "a tax on land, specifically."

Now, for the most highly anticipated and existential question of our generation: climate change. Brooking started off by saying that "the ocean is a wonderful place," and she's so real for that. She also mentioned the importance of "fishing controls and marine reserves." Hernandez wasted no time to spark anxiety, saying "we're living in a climate emergency" and that we "needed to save 30 percent of our ocean for reserves by 2030." O'Malley kept it simple, saying "get us some help," with Christmas saying we needed to "rapidly increase the production of renewable energy" which is ironic coming from a party who wants to repeal the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration. Langeveld mentioned something about "farm-level reporting emissions." Peters said we needed to "increase public transport and city density" and that it was important to "cap total emissions."

And that was about that.

With all major parties (bar ACT, surprisingly enough) wanting a slice of the student voting pie, OUSA in conjunction with POLSA hosted a high-octane debate in the union hall at 1pm last Wednesday. The result was largely underwhelming, as candidates showed the utmost respect for one another in attempts to save face for their parties. Boo, get the claws out next time.

Still, there were a few golden moments in the one-and-a-half hours of unceasing yarns, moments which Critic Te Arohi will feed back to you in a cryptic fashion leaving you more confused than you were before the article started.

The dogs in the fight were Labour's Rachel Brooking, Green's Francisco Hernandez, the independent Jim O'Malley, National's James Christmas, NZ First's Keegan Langeveld, and TOP's Ben Peters. One curious omission from the debate was National's Dunedin candidate

Michael Woodhouse, who has been a bit AWOL since he removed himself from the party list earlier this year. Also sorely missed was New Conservative's Paul Deacon, who at a OUSDA (debating club) debate the Friday prior got the whole squad laughing when he bluntly announced climate change was an ideological ploy designed by the government. Good chat bro.

Keeping the candidates honest was OUSA President Quintin Jane alongside POLSA's (politics club) Lily Stock, who were tasked with the all-important job of heartily tapping the bell when the candidates spent too much time speaking. Quintin also intervened when a member of the crowd asked candidates, "What is a woman?" stopping Peters from speaking in efforts to preserve the sanctity of all members of the crowd. Slay Quintin.



**READING
CINEMAS**

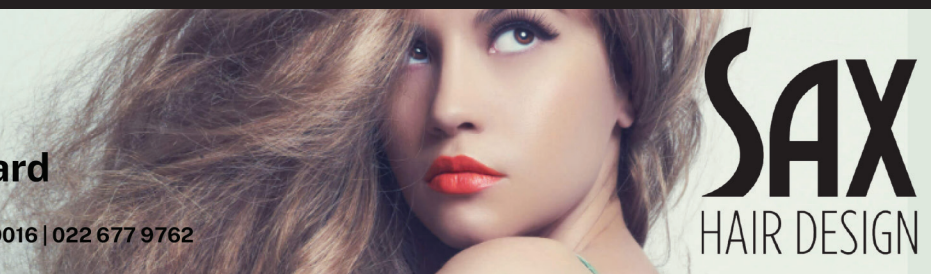
**DOWNLOAD OUR
APP TODAY!**
READINGCINEMAS.CO.NZ

20% OFF

when you present your Onecard

*excludes hair extensions

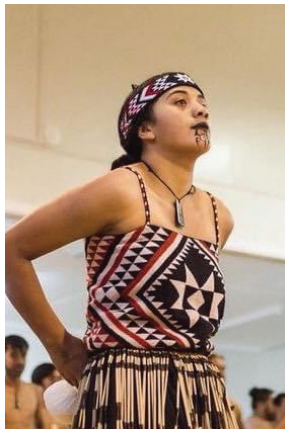
www.saxhairdesign.co.nz | 112 Stuart Street, Dunedin 9016 | 022 677 9762



SAX
HAIR DESIGN



TE ROOPŪ MĀORI 2024 EXECUTIVE ELECTION NOMINEES



ĀPIHA
HAUORA

ISOBEL
EDWARDS-
JULL

Mai nga Kuri a Whare i Tihirau. E i te tapu o Muriwai e! Ko Isobel Edwards-Jull tōku ingoa. He uri au nō Te Whaktōhea, Ngāti Porou, Whanau-ā-apanui, Ngai Tai me Ngāpuhi anō hoki.

Mauri ora koutou mā! My name is Isobel and I am currently studying a BA in Sports Development & management, and minoring in Māori Studies. I am applying for the position of Āpihā Hauora for 2024. Due to my participation in many different sports throughout the years, I believe my strengths lie within this sector and through my love and knowledge of physical activity, (plus my pretty cool sense of humour) I hope to teach our Taura to embody Te Ao Māori in all recreational activities. A personal goal I aspire to achieve in this position is to create and maintain an environment that will help students embrace themselves and step out of their comfort zone, without fear of judgement.

Nau mai, Haere mai e ngā rangatahi ki Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka!



KAIPĀPĀHO
MATUA

DAVONTAE
BRISTOWE

Mauri ora e te iwi,

Ko Davontae Bristowe tōku ingoa, he uri tēnei nō Ngāpuhi me Te Arawa. I am currently studying towards a Bachelor of Performing Arts minoring in Māori Studies. In my short time at Te Whare Wānanga o Otago, I have come to appreciate Te Rōpū Māori as its status as a kainga rua for many taura at this university, especially as someone who had come from the very top of Te Ika A Maui I can relate to the whakamā that many taura hou may feel. Through Te Rito, I hope to foster close knit relationships with our taura hou and allow them to feel the same sense of kainga rua from Te Rōpū Māori that I did and still do. I also hope to further strengthen our connections with our Pasifika whānau at OPISA.

Mauri ora anō e te iwi!



CO-
KAIWHAKAHAERE
KAUPAPA

DISTANCE
TAKAMORI



CO-
KAIWHAKAHAERE
KAUPAPA

PANIA AROHA
TE KIRI-
TUWAIURUA

E nga maunga whakahī, e ngā puke kōrero, E nga awa whakaterē taniwha. Tenei te tuku aku mihi ki a koutou o nga taura māori. Ānei a Distance raua ko Pania-Aroha. Nō Taranaki, Kai Tahu, Hāmoa a Distance. Nō Tuhoē a Pania-Aroha.

This year we have had the privilege of serving on Te Rito 2023 as Kaipāpāho Matua and Āpiha hauora. From these roles we have seen the ins and outs of what it truly means to be on Te Rito. The skills that have been our biggest takings from this year are organisation, preparation and seeing an event through, which is what we intend to do next year as co social and events officers. One of our goals is creating events that will build relationships, create lifelong memories and ensuring our taura are having a good time.

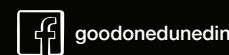
Mauri ora!



GET YOUR PARTY THE THUMBS UP!

We help you to have a good time
without things going south
Easy as!

MAKE SURE IT'S A GOOD ONE, REGISTER YOUR PARTY:
WWW.GOODONE.ORG.NZ



LOST
PROPERTY

LOST SOMETHING?
HAVE A LOOK, WE MIGHT HAVE IT!



OUSA Main Office
640 Cumberland Street, Dunedin
Open 9am - 4:30pm, Mon - Fri
bit.ly/ousalostproperty



CRITIC TE AROHI TIME



AN INTERVIEW WITH YOUR NEW STUDENT PRESIDENT, KEEGAN WELLS



Keegan Wells successfully won the presidency in a close race against Mr. No Confidence. We were able to sit down with the local figure while she wasn't busy chasing snowfalls or ranting about atmospheric rivers and over-tourism. As you'll see, the conversation immediately became quite dicey, and we had to run it through OUSA's official censure, resulting in the following:

Critic: Kia ora, Keegan! Congratulations, again, on your election.

Keegan: Thank you! Yeah, thanks. It was a close one. I really thought Mr. No Confidence might have had a chance there because people didn't think I was taking this seriously. But [REDACTED] those people because I don't think they understand how [REDACTED] it is when [REDACTED] don't participate, you know?

Critic: Yeah, absolutely. That's got to be frustrating. I mean, how were you supposed to know [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

Keegan: Well, the writing was on the wall, really. As soon as I heard OUSA mention [REDACTED] and how they didn't plan to [REDACTED] I knew that it was pretty much over. Like, you don't have to be a Commerce major to figure that one out, not that those people [REDACTED], haha.

Critic: Wow, I had no idea how much that cost. Crazy. Is there anywhere you'd like to reappropriate those funds?

Keegan: Oh, for sure, I've got some ideas. First off I think that we should invest in a student bar in the [REDACTED] building, which they're looking at. I have so many good memories about student bars and so many good things to say, like one time I actually ate [REDACTED] off of [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], which is [REDACTED], when you think about it. Oh, and another time I actually saw [REDACTED] from the Uni Council there. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] everywhere. Crazy. Anyway, I think it's important to bring that back.

Critic: I'm pretty sure that's extremely illegal.

Keegan: Oh, well so is [REDACTED], not that I have any experience with that.

Critic: What?

Keegan: [REDACTED]

Critic: Holy shit. How does that work?

Keegan: [REDACTED]. Then you just light it and [REDACTED].

Critic: Wow. Anyway.

Keegan: Anyway. Yeah, so another thing I care about are postgrad and international students, identifying as both myself. To be honest, I think that the attitude towards international students is a bit like [REDACTED]'s attitude towards [REDACTED].

Critic: That's incredibly fucked up.

Keegan: Yeah, that's my point!

Critic: That really happens?

Keegan: Yeah, they can, like, unhinge their jaw. It's wild. Have you seen it?

Critic: No.

Keegan: Here, look at this one.

Critic: Wow. I didn't need to see that.

Keegan: Had to be there.

Critic: So what do you say to people that have accused you of not taking this seriously?

Keegan: I say they can [REDACTED]. Respectfully. They didn't run. And I'm tired of taking [REDACTED] from people who [REDACTED]. Literally fight me. I have two [REDACTED] that nobody knows about, it's why I can't go back to [REDACTED]. I don't think people understand who [REDACTED]. Try me. I literally watched [REDACTED] turn into [REDACTED] before my very eyes. After that, it's hard to be serious about anything else.

Critic: Holy shit, I'm so sorry to hear that, that sounds incredibly traumatic.

Keegan: Had it coming. [REDACTED]. And at the end of the day, that's just how [REDACTED].

Critic: Right. Fair enough, I guess. So do you think that you'll be able to increase engagement within the student body?

Keegan: Wait 'til they see how many [REDACTED] I can [REDACTED] in one [REDACTED]. That'll be hard to ignore.

Critic: Wait, how many?

Keegan: Six.

Critic: Christ, okay.

Keegan: Anything else you wanna know?

Critic: Which of the next exec members are you least excited to work with?

Keegan: [REDACTED], absolutely.

Critic: So true.

Critic: Here's a curly one: what do you think about [REDACTED]?

Keegan: Honestly, I think it completely oversteps its bounds. Like, good idea in theory, but ultimately it's both ineffective and disrespectful. Virtue signalling to achieve the bare minimum. I think it was a mistake.

Critic: I don't think that's going to be very well-received.

Keegan: Neither was [REDACTED].

Critic: Fair point. Do you think you'll have any luck [REDACTED]ing it?

Keegan: Not really. I think that [REDACTED] is scared to touch it.

Critic: Fascinating. What do you think about OUSA and Uni management?

Keegan: [REDACTED]

Critic: [REDACTED].

Keegan: [REDACTED]ing kidding me? Like, [REDACTED].

Critic: [REDACTED].

Keegan: [REDACTED], and that's the last I'll say on the matter.

Critic: Well, Keegan, thanks a lot for your time. And good luck next year.

Keegan: Thanks, I'll need it. [REDACTED]you.

Critic: [REDACTED] you too.

WHEN THE PARTY'S OVER

BY IRIS HEHIR
ART BY EVIE NOAD

CW: THIS PIECE CONTAINS DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE, SUICIDE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT.

Chances are the worst thing you've ever done was on the piss, and the worst you've ever felt about life was on a dusty Sunday morning.

"We always talk about 'we have a drinking culture,' 'there's a drinking culture,'" says Dr Liz Gordon of Communities Against Alcohol Harm. "No one speaks about what it actually means in the lives of those who engage with it."

Not everyone takes part. But for many that do, this is what that looks like. Below, through a series of personal stories, Critic Te Ārohi explores the underbelly of Dunedin's drinking culture.

It started out a better Saturday than most for Riley*. She slept in, the sun was out and the whole city was looking forward to a big concert in the stadium that afternoon. She'd planned on staying home but, as luck would have it, a free ticket for this "once in a lifetime" bucket list event wound up in her hands just an hour before it started.

The gig was exciting for the city, but also a concern to local police, who urged fans to eat, drink responsibly, and use public transport. An alcohol ban was imposed on nearby streets, but the threat of a \$250 fine didn't stop Riley's plans for the night ahead. After the event, she skipped dinner in order to make it to her friend's party. "I was in such a good mood," Riley says. "When I showed up at the party, I thought I was going to have so much fun." The party was fun — from what Riley remembers. "I blacked out," she says, and a great day became "one of the worst nights" of her life.

The party was a bit of a blur. She remembers crying on the phone to her brother, though she has no idea what triggered it. Someone later showed her photos of her sprawled on the floor vomiting. At one point, she curled up underneath a desk, wailing hysterically and calling 111.



"The dispatcher picked up, 'Police, fire or ambulance?' And I'm just crying," Riley remembers. "They transferred me to the psych service." A 45-minute phone call ensued. Finally, a guy she knew from the party came in to look after her. Riley remembers opening up about a story from her past, one in which an older man had been forceful with her while under the influence. It was a moment of vulnerability. Then, she says, after she was done with the story, the boy pinned her down and started kissing her. "I was freaking out. It was making me panic. But I didn't say anything, I was just bawling." Desperate and not thinking straight, Riley wanted to escape. So she drunk drove to her friend's house on the other side of town. "Half the drive I don't remember," she admits. "It [was] selfish and dangerous. But in my head it was life or death. I was going to hurt myself or do something stupid."

Though she made it safely to her friend's house and soon fell asleep, "you can only imagine" the hangxiety and shame she felt the next morning, she says, cringing. "It was so scary. I lost total control over my mind and body." None of this would have happened, says Riley, without alcohol. "I've been used and abused. I've lost all motivation [for study]. I do health science and destroy my health. I know internally what goes on and I still fucking do it," she says. This weekend Riley's flatmate has pulled her red card, and per the rules, Riley 'has' to go. "I don't want to drink. I don't want to be associated with it anymore," she sighs. "But it's such a big part of my social life [in Dunedin]."

What constitutes an alcoholic is a confusing question for Dunedin students, fraught with misinformation. It's a phenomenon to laugh off text messages from Student Health suggesting a drinking problem, but after a hospital visit earlier this year, fifth-year dentistry student Kim* realised it was no longer a laughing matter.

Kim lied when the doctor asked her how much she drank a week. Two bottles of wine over a couple of nights out was the usual. Embarrassed, she told the doctor she only drank one bottle (7.5 standards), albeit in one sitting. That's when she learned even half of what she consumed on a weekly basis was, by definition, disordered drinking. "The doctor said, 'Look, I know a lot of people who are alcoholics. They're high-functioning, so they think they're able to cope. But they're doing the same physical damage as someone who's ruining their life, and sometimes they come close [to ruining theirs] too.'" Kim knows all about coming close. Weeks after her visit, she began experiencing pain in her upper right abdomen, only to realise that's where her liver is. "I thought I had irreversible liver damage from my five years of living here."

Physical health isn't the only close call Kim's had, claiming Dunedin's culture of alcohol abuse has negatively harmed every facet of her life. Kim says she's

not handed in "entire assignments", prioritised going out over what she pays "thousands of dollars to be here for" and says that "90% of the stuff" she's embarrassed about "never would have happened if I wasn't so pissed."

"I've done horrible things drunk that I would never do sober. I've slept with people I shouldn't have; pissed myself in the front seat of a guy's car. I've gotten ragingly drunk and gone off at flatmates and friends, just been totally inappropriate," she admits. "I irreversibly damaged my knee because I fucked it when I was drunk, and I'll never have a stable knee again. I try to brush that off..." she says, tearing up, "but it's actually terrifying to me to think I'll have to have surgery on my knee one day just 'cause I was so fucking drunk I couldn't walk." In her lowest moments Kim would find herself going out and "doing crazy stuff... Because I had such low self-esteem, I didn't care what happened to me." But Kim always found herself caring in the morning, rattled with hangxiety. "I'd feel so much worse about myself. Poring over what I said, how I acted, what people thought of me, over analysing everything, ashamed for taking it too far again." Although hangxiety induces irrational thoughts, she acknowledges she's suffered real reputational damage as a result of drunk behaviour. "You're free to do what you want, but you're not free from the consequences of your actions. Sometimes I wonder: is that who I am? Is that what I'm really like? It's said drunk actions are sober thoughts, but I don't think that's true. I think for some people alcohol brings out the worst."

North Face-wearing, house gig-loving, and five years into a prestigious degree, on the surface Kim appears like any other student you'd see studying at the library, and she wants you to know: she is. "It's not just a 'me' problem, because there's so many 'me's' out there. I think a culture of behaviour has been normalised within this city that I haven't been able to shake yet." Antisocial behaviour is rampant across Dunedin, Kim claims. At the Hyde Street party, she saw one girl (eyes "soulless" from intoxication) pull off her skirt and squat in broad daylight, while crowds of people walked past "like it was nothing," their shoes sloshing into her urine. The other day, Kim overheard two breathas in an elevator discussing a friend who pushed another friend through a window during a fight (resulting in a \$400 bond loss), only to laugh it off as he did it "on the piss." "I hear that phrase all the time," Kim says. "'He's such a menace on the piss', 'She's so dusty on the piss.' That's somehow become so normalised, that kind of straight violence. Dunedin could be a social experiment, it's so bizarre."

In the heart of studentville, it's normal to wake to screams and yelling, cars revving, and bottles being smashed. Though the state of our streets may be untenable to the average person, some students pay upwards of \$200 a week for "the experience". Though there'll be brawlers, bottlers, pissers, and litterers in every population, the worst side of people isn't forced out of everyone like it is here, claims Kim.

“ I HEAR THAT PHRASE ALL THE TIME, ” KIM SAYS. “ “ HE’S SUCH A MENACE ON THE PISS, ‘ SHE’S SO DUSTY ON THE PISS. ’ THAT’S SOMEHOW BECOME SO NORMALISED, THAT KIND OF STRAIGHT VIOLENCE. ” ”



I'VE GROWN UP HAVING TO SEE PEOPLE EAT OUT OF RUBBISH BINS. THE SAME AMOUNT I SPEND ON ON A BOX WOULD FEED A FAMILY FOR A MONTH WHERE I COME FROM.

"If you test every single person and their limits, you're gonna have a very high percentage of people with alcohol problems", says Kim. "I think there's a misconception here that to stop drinking you have to hit rock bottom. But that's not true. There's always a rock below the bottom rock. The definition of a drinking problem is if your drinking is causing you problems. By that definition, 80% of people in Dunedin have a drinking problem. But we're not willing to admit that because then we'd have to stop. It's social suicide." If she quit, "I would feel healthier. I would be less depressed. I would just generally be a better person. But for some reason I just can't stop doing it."

Sometimes in the depths of rumination, Kim wishes she never came to Otago, and fantasises how her university experience could have been different if she studied somewhere else. "I guess some can get away with it and be well functioning after coming here, and some can't. You just have to hope you're one of those people who can."

Lucas* never intended to come to Otago, or even New Zealand for that matter. Although he's a Kiwi, Lucas grew up overseas due to his parents' careers in foreign aid. In early 2020, he flew to Dunedin to visit his extended family for two weeks. But the day before he was scheduled to fly back, his home went into an emergency lockdown. "I never got to say goodbye to anyone or anything. Covid sprang out of nowhere." Unbeknownst to him, the cancellation of his flight that day would go on to change the course of his life.

Stuck in New Zealand, the logical choice was to enrol at the University of Otago. "I was basically an alien. I didn't know anything about my country's culture," says Lucas. But he'd soon learn how heavily drinking featured in it. "I did drink [overseas]. It was good fun, but we drank responsibly." Lucas' introduction to Dunedin's binge drinking culture didn't come in his first year through the halls, as he flatted in a complex with international students. "One of them reported me for being an alcoholic," Lucas laughs.

"The university called me in for a chat and asked how much I drank. It was a bottle of wine [over] a fortnight. I told the man, 'I'm experimenting with my reds, very into my fantastic Malbec Merlot.'" He goes, 'Oh, great! I drink more than you!'"

In his second year, however, Lucas moved to the heart of North Dunedin, with BCom bros "who drink like fish" for flatmates. It was then Lucas got thrown into the deep end of Dunedin's "insane" binge drinking culture: "It's drink until you drop." The two extremes around alcohol he experienced during his time at Otago created a crisis of identity. "I don't know who I am. A New Zealander is someone who's chill as fuck, drinks a lot; the breatha personality. I'm not like the international students I knew, but I'm not like that either." This feeling of alienation, Lucas says, bled into his struggles with friendships. "Socialising feels artificial here. Drinking feels good chemically, but drinking as an activity... It feels like I'm doing it because everyone else is doing it. It's difficult to make friendships [of substance] here."

In order to fit in, Lucas began partying like those around him, eating porridge every meal for two weeks straight so he could buy enough booze to keep up with his flatmates. His study suffered, he says, when he found himself sitting at the library "delirious," in too much physical pain to finish an assignment due the next day. Like clockwork, the dopamine deficit would hit him hard the next morning. "I felt like a failure. I'm such a privileged person. I've grown up having to see people eat out of rubbish bins. The same amount I spend on a box would feed a family for a month where I come from. I was like, 'Look at you, here you are wasting your life.'" Lucas experienced a scare during a Re-O host. He remembers entering through the front door, sun overhead. Next thing he knew, "like the flicker of a light switch," it was suddenly dark. He was standing, on his own, in the middle of the street. "I was... like, 'Where did everyone go?' It's deserted. There's rubbish everywhere. I was alone." Lucas has attempted suicide twice as a result of "post-drinking thoughts of delusion," and fears he will hurt himself when he blacks out. This suicidal ideation "never" would have occurred, he says, had it not been for binge drinking.

Boys face an unspoken pressure to adhere to the stoic, "get on with it" ideal of Kiwi masculinity, Lucas claims, causing many to turn to alcohol abuse instead of addressing their problems. He reckons this issue is hidden in Dunedin, where 'breathatism,' our model of masculinity, revolves around drinking. After all, no one knew about Lucas' period of struggle. Although his relationship with alcohol would have been a glaring red flag to people back home, here his people couldn't tell the difference between a suicidal substance abuser and the average student. Sometimes they're the same person.

Although drinking's harm is often shrouded in shame, for many students, the secrecy is lifted on the couches of Student Health, where clinicians Richard Mooney and David Jaggard see firsthand the impact alcohol has on the lives of the students who sit across from them. Whatever your story, Richard and David have likely heard a version of it before.

"Most of the harm for students is binge drinking and the problems that unfold with that," says David. "[Especially] lower-level harms around loss of relationships, because people are in high emotional states and say and do things they normally wouldn't." Richard adds, "I think people can become a bit of a liability, or that's how their friends see them... You always go too far, you always take it too far! They end up becoming [socially] disconnected." According to the two, Student Health "hardly ever" sees instances of sexual harm or serious injuries where alcohol was not involved. Suicidal thinking and behaviours, too, can be exacerbated by alcohol intoxication.

"Our frontal lobe suppresses the urge to do stupid things. When we drink, the frontal lobe becomes disconnected," David explains. "We go, 'Oh, I feel so free! I feel so happy!' But you no longer have [the front lobe] suppressing you, which includes not making a dick of yourself, assaulting someone, jumping off the roof. All things that are quite good to be suppressed."

Richard says Dunedin's binge drinking culture also impacts international and sober students who counsellors "often" see struggle to fare socially. "It can be quite hard [for them] to make connections because the culture here is so revolved around alcohol use."



While they emphasise Student Health isn't here to tell people they "mustn't do stuff" ("we want to be helpful, we don't want to lecture students"), they feel it's important to highlight that 'mandatory' traditions, such as red card parties and hazing initiations, are "in a way, sort of abusive." "We like to think that we have free will, we can make our own choices about our bodies, what we put into it, and then there's other people saying, 'It's not your choice.' That's quite manipulative," says David. "For us it's frustrating, it's hard to battle against that," Richard adds. "We do see quite a few people traumatised from those types of events. It's that feeling you can't say no."

Not everyone wants to say no, however. Sean ('DJ Skips' on SoundCloud) is one of these students who "wouldn't change a thing." His most streamed DnB mix 'Breatha on a Benda' is art true to life, with Sean being somewhat of a legacy breatha himself. Born in Dunedin to two Otago students, Sean moved to the North Island as a child, but says he always knew it was in his future to return when he turned eighteen.

"Mum flatted on Castle Street and said it was probably the best year of her life because of the culture... late teens, early twenties, that's the time, if any, to go a bit crazy. Dunedin encourages that... It sounds like an absolute alcoholic perspective, but there's no stigma. If you're hanging with your mates, you should be getting on the piss with them as well. Everyone's [of] the same mindset. It's heaps and heaps of fun." Like most students, Sean's first year was "nuts... [I] lost all my money to alcohol, gained like 10kg, my liver probably halved its life span," he laughs. Though he's since toned it down, Sean still goes through a box and a nitro every time he's out, consuming around 30 to 40 standards a week. The recommended maximum for men is 15. "Oh sure, by definition I'm an alcoholic," he acknowledges. But for Sean and his circle, the sacrifices of the Dunedin party lifestyle are worth the memories.

“WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES. THEY DON'T DEFINE US,” RICHARD SAYS. “WE TEND TO BE QUITE HARSH ON OURSELVES. OUR INNER NARRATIVE TENDS TO BE A LOT MEANER THAN WHAT OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT THINK. YOU CAN JUST LEARN FROM THAT [MISTAKE] AND MOVE FORWARDS.”

Apart from a few "mud" nights out (which mostly revolved around long lines in town) and minor drunk regrets ("everyone has them, it's inevitable at some point") Sean hasn't noticed the harms of binge drinking that Riley, Kim, and Lucas have experienced, acknowledging their stories as "deep stuff." "I totally understand how some people can lose themselves in this place. I feel very privileged."

Sean reckons he's "lucked out." While his interests and lifestyle overlap perfectly with the ethos of the culture, he also has the "self-confidence" to pull back when he needs to in spite of peer pressure, traits that make him "on the dot" for what it takes to thrive (or in some student's eyes, survive) the infamous Otago student experience. But Otago University is far more than its student's reputation for partying, he insists. "It's an incredible academic institution." The sciences are what attracted Sean here the most, insisting that the extremities of our drinking culture shouldn't deter those seeking world-class education. The only education that needs improving at Otago, Sean reckons, is around drinking itself. "I wouldn't change anything about [the culture], but I'd want people to know what they're coming into. Obviously the uni doesn't wanna say, 'You might not want to come here, because everyone's a pisshead!' That's not in their interest, but if they truly want their students to feel comfortable, then they should educate their students about the kind of things they might encounter down here and prepare them for it."

Binge drinking is beloved by students like Sean, whose positive experiences dominate the outside perception many incoming freshers aspire to. David from Student Health, who used to run a substance abuse support group in a separate practice, says one of the few rules they had was "no war stories": no selectively glamorising something that is "potentially not glamorous... You can always select the best bits, [even] literally about a war! 'Oh I got to travel, I flew a plane. I had a really amazing time.' He goes on to say that, "it's not helpful when authorities like student media and senior students share half-truths [about the realities of binge-drinking]." "There is real power in storytelling," agrees Richard. "For those students who are willing to be vulnerable, I think people can really identify with [their experiences]."

Richard and David encourage those who are concerned about their drinking to book a same-day appointment with Student Health, where support is free (with the exception of \$10 counselling sessions) and there's no diagnostic criteria required to seek help. "Just chat to us about your concerns. We're not going to say you have to stop or cut back on drinking," says David. "We're not here to tell you off. It's a collaboration, really." And for those suffering in the immediate aftermath of a bad night out, or haunted by past drinking, "basic self-care" such as eating nutritious food, drinking water, sleeping and reaching out to mates and family "if you feel like shit" is important.

"We all make mistakes. They don't define us," Richard says. "We tend to be quite harsh on ourselves. Our inner narrative tends to be a lot meaner than what other people might think. You can just learn from that [mistake] and move forwards." "[Our self-hood] is really big," adds David, gesturing a space between his hands. "When sometimes we think we're smaller [than we are]: 'I'm a failure at university, I'm a dickhead who gets drunk and alienates his or her friends.'" In his therapeutic work, David helps students recover their sense of self-worth after alcohol harm. "[I ask them] what else do you do? What other relationships do you have? Who were you before you came to university?"

"It's about finding: 'This isn't all there is to me.'"

*Names and some identifying features have been changed.

WHERE TO GET HELP

Student Health – 0800 479 821

Call to book a free same-day appointment with Student Health Mental Health and Well-Being Services.

Alcohol and Drug Helpline – 0800 787 797

Lifeline Aotearoa – 0800 543 354 or text 4357

Suicide Crisis Helpline – 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO)

National Sexual Harm Helpline – 0800 044 334 or text 4334

Mental Health Crisis Services – 0800 467 846 and press 2 for Otago (emergencies only)

In a life-threatening situation, call 111.



weekly specials

SOMETHING TO LISTEN TO



The original Shrek dub

The original pick for Shrek's voice was Chris Farley, who completed nearly all of the dialogue before he died in 1997. Mike Myers was then tipped to fill his place, which is the entire reason Shrek sounds Scottish (though Mike is Canadian). Recently some audio from Chris' takes got released and it's a completely different vibe - give it a listen for some niche Shrek trivia.

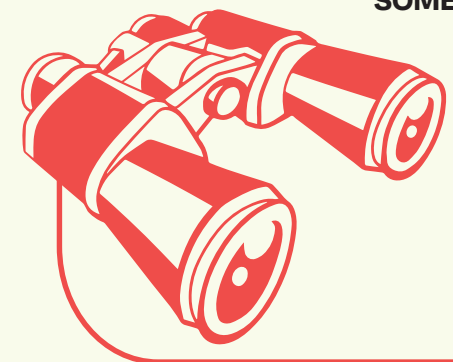
SOMETHING TO GO TO



The HUNT food truck on Wednesdays

Dare I say it's the best lunch on campus? I do, I do dare. Only open on Wednesdays, the HUNT truck Taraka Kai always has a new menu and a selection of about four items, each for around \$8-\$10. The serving size to price ratio is unbeatable and the food is delicious. There's usually a line, and rightfully so, but if you swing by between the rushes it's not too bad.

SOMETHING TO WATCH



Lady Gaga's 2009 VMA performance

Lady Gaga pretty much debuted to the world with this performance of *Paparazzi*, which, if you can find it, is like a piece of pop music history. The only good recording I know of is still pretty shit quality, and it looks like it's been scrubbed from the internet and replaced with little 5-second clips. The only other version is shot from a balcony and is pretty poor. That being said, if you can find the full recording, this is one of the most iconic performances of all time, period. Everything you think about when you think about modern pop music performance started - and ended - right here.

SOMETHING TO SUPPORT



The Maharaja's Charity Night

BABE WAKE UP, Maharaja's is doing another charity night! Last time, they were able to raise \$1,100 for the Cancer Society, fuelled by your butter chickens and garlic naans. Next week, Thursday the 5th, Dave and co are back at it again. Yes, you read that right: an ethical, proud-of-yourself reason to have a BYO. This is arm-twisting at its finest and no, you are NOT immune. Book in now to show the legends you mean business.

SOMETHING TO READ



All the old screenshots on your phone

Scroll way back in that camera roll 'til you start seeing walls of text. Stop for a moment. Ponder these texts. Why had you screenshotted them? Was it a fight? Proof of something? A meme? It's like a museum of forgotten passions, dedicated to and curated by you (and everything's better when it's about you). Viewers beware: there will inevitably be some incredibly cringe material in here, but it's probably best to do a bit of a spring clean to get rid of the old cobwebs. Not everything ages well, but hey: your museum! Enjoy.

SOMETHING TO CANCEL



Male circumcision

For the rare battler who had his willy chopped, this one goes out to you. You poor, poor soul. There is something fundamentally fucked up about snipping the hood off of a baby's penis and it's high time we put this practise to bed once and for all. Lads, if you're frustrated about not being able to complain about any "men's issues", this is your new go-to. NZ and Aus are sitting at about a 10-20% circumcision rate, compared to up to 80% in America. What are they doing with all the hoods? Is this what's propping up the vital calamari industry? There can't be a good answer. We're close to 0%, so let's bring this one home.

EXHUMING OUR HISTORY:

Goldfields Skeletons Tell the Story of Colonial New Zealand



By Nina Brown

The Southern Cemeteries Archaeology Project is a colonial bioarchaeology research project. It's run by a multidisciplinary team of researchers led by the Department of Anatomy at the University of Otago.

In the first research-driven work done into colonial New Zealand, their goal is to shed light on the day-to-day lives of early settlers to New Zealand. It was sparked in 2016 by the Tokomairiro Project 60 (TP60) group, a genealogy group based in Milton – a small town half an hour's drive south of Dunedin that grew during the goldrush of the 1860s – who were interested in learning more about their ancestors in the local cemetery.

Professor Haillie Buckley, co-director of the project, tells Critic Te Ārohi that their goals were to “help characterise the lifestyles of these early settlers and goldminers by examining the biological tissues left behind and in particular to give a voice back to those who were lost in history – usually the marginalised, including women and children.” Dr Charlotte King, one of the researchers on the team, says, “The project ultimately is looking to discover lost and unmarked graves from the colonial period in New Zealand – especially the gold rush in Otago – to identify the people who lie within them, or at the very least to tell their stories to their descendant communities.”

One of the biggest things about their findings is the diversity in the goldfields. Like most, Charlotte's initial impression of Otago

was of Scottish heritage. However, she excitedly tells us how analysis of chemical isotopes from settlers' remains shows that “people are from all over the place”. Chinese settlers, for instance, often go unacknowledged in our picture of Otago past despite being “a really important part of the gold fields,” says Charlotte. “There are people from really far afield, actually... We have one person who comes from somewhere tropical.”

This picture of diversity in the colonial period of Aotearoa New Zealand to Charlotte is “a really important thing for New Zealanders to know about,” especially in the context of the supposedly “modern” multicultural melting pot. “That's not actually new, you know?” she says. “And people worry about the dilution of New Zealand culture and immigration. But it was always like that from the colonial period onwards. There have been people coming here from all over the place.” The diversity of our ancestry in Aotearoa is something the researchers are able to explicitly show with their data. “Ships records are really good for understanding broad trends,” says Charlotte, however they are still woefully incomplete.

Charlotte describes the buried individuals as cold cases: “Like, really cold cases.” The process of identifying them, then, is like detective work for the researchers. Through the analysis of remains like bones, hair, teeth, nails, and artefacts found in the graves, the team can figure out where settlers came from, what their diet was like, and different stressors they endured. In a lot

of cases, Charlotte says that this is the limit to what they can understand from the remains. However, in certain cases, they are able to use the scientific data in conjunction with historical records to give individuals back their names.

“So, for one individual, we found that he had massive trauma [on his bones],” says Charlotte. “He'd been in a really serious accident around time of death, and we were able to match that back to death records and find accounts of the death of one person, Joe Hogan, who died in a rockfall while mining.” From the coroner's report, they were able to match the injuries seen in his skeleton to the injuries that were recorded at time of death to identify him. “And so, for him, he would never have been identified without that kind of forensic analysis [...] Now we're able to mark his grave.”

For Charlotte, it's stories like Joe's that make the research worthwhile. Current records “don't actually talk much about the everyday people,” she says. There's a huge range of experience in the people they've seen: some people had tumultuous childhoods they moved to New Zealand to escape from, while the biochemistry of others have revealed the day-to-day stresses that were experienced on the goldfields. “To me that's the theory of what we do – it adds flesh to those stories and talks about the people who most of us are descended from,” says Charlotte. “We're not descended from the fancy people who wrote the records. We are descended from the everyday grassroots people

who had tough lives in most cases and just made out a living in New Zealand. I find that really valuable because I can relate to those people a lot more.”

The idea of digging up graves hasn't been received well among all, however. Their initial proposal to dig up unmarked graves in 2015 was denied by the Central Otago District Council (CODC) who expressed concerns that the exhumations would be disrespectful. Charlotte says that any opposition to their research has always been respected since everything they do is in consultation with the community: “And so there might be portions of the community that would really like the project to work in their area, but if there are people who say ‘no’, we don't work there.” She wants to be clear about one thing, though: “It's not grave robbing... We are not doing it without a reason for it.”

In fact, the process of exhumation to reburial aims to give more respect to the people buried there. “If you know that there's a person in a grave and don't know who that person is, then how do you give that person respect and mark them appropriately?” poses Charlotte. For the communities involved, it's about trying to identify those people and reconstruct who they are so that, when they are eventually reburied with the proper funeral rites according to the identity of the person, their graves can be marked and honoured. “We achieved what we set out to do and located the graves of nearly 70 people whose burial places were lost,” says Haillie.

Present your Radio Onecard to receive:

2-for-1 entry into the
Tūhura Tropical Forest

Offer valid Monday to Friday only



TŪHURA
Otago Museum



@otagomuseum

Present your Radio Onecard to receive:

2-for-1 entry into the
Tūhura Science Centre

Offer valid Monday to Friday only



TŪHURA
Otago Museum



@otagomuseum



FLOURLESS PANCAKES

Yeah, let's have breakfast for a change. Only thing you do need is a blender or a Nutribullet. If you don't, use the eggs to make scrambled eggs and eat the banana lol.

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 eggs
- 1 banana
- ¼ cup cocoa powder
- Dash of cinnamon
- Butter to cook with
- Scoop of protein powder (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Blend all ingredients except the butter in Nutribullet- the mixture should be pretty runny.
- Butter a small pan. Pour some mixture in and cook on low-medium heat. The key is to put a lid on the pan to make them fluff up. Flip.
- Repeat.
- Top with any fruit you have on hand, yoghurt, maple, sugar, lemon, chocolate.
- Life's batter with pancakes. Enjoy.



FIND ME ON INSTAGRAM

BOOZE REVIEW



BY ALBERT EINSTEINLAGER

Diesel Bourbon & Cola, unlike other foul concoctions, makes you acutely aware of your own existence. It is not an elixir that conjures rationale or peace, rather it attempts to humble the drinker by bringing you a stone's throw from death. A true battle of body, mind, and spirit. Any breath that delves into a bourbon-propelled orgy should not be looked upon as degenerate scum, but rather a boding warrior embarking on a hero's journey.

There's a reason why Diesels are limited to six-packs. A 330ml, 7% can of high-octane sludge contains ten-fold the opportunity (sugar) a vodka seltzer does. In the days of yore when you could get a slab of Dirty D's for \$13.99, they were an unrivalled option for a night of "light" drinking. Show up to a Tuesday night drinks with a slab and proceed to score a solid 68% on your Wednesday morning mineralogy exam. A damned fine trade-off. Nowadays a slab runs around \$22, which is a little rich for what you're getting.

The Body

Rather than appreciate the shade cast by your garden on a bright summer's day, you instead uproot the tree that dares sequester the sunlight that would fall upon your pile of dirt. These spurs of incredible angst are followed by very real and very troubling heart palpitations. Until this point, you were never truly aware of your body, and now your heart is rupturing. This may very well be your last rark. Until tomorrow.

The Mind

You are out of both your mind and Diesels. You must get more. Somehow, you must convince the body-building Super Liquor cashier to sell you another slab. Through sheer concentration,

you string together a three-word sentence without a hint of slurring: "Just this, thanks." Success! Another six-pack of Diesel. The longevity of your night was hinged on this interaction. You demonstrated considerable mental fortitude despite your failing body.

The Spirit

You have lost consciousness and are operating on impulse alone. In a blackout state there is little room for anything other than pure ego. Drink Diesel, eat sausage, drink Diesel, eat sausage. You are a machine of instinct, fueled by Diesel. This vulnerable state of unbridled ego is only reigned in by spirit. Are your morals steadfast in conscious day-to-days so that you may operate on autopilot and escape unscathed? Or are you susceptible to corruption due to your compromised foundations? It is not up to you to decide.

Ah, you fucked it. You're actually a piece of shit that knocks over people's rubbish bins and kicks off wing mirrors. Don't blame it on the Diesel, it just exposed who you truly are. No wonder we can't get an 18-pack of Diesel anymore, we were never ready.

Tasting notes: Hear me out: steak finished with a Diesel pan-sauce.

Chugability: 9/10. Fill her up.

Hangover depression level: 5/10. Considerably better than a Mavs hangover.

Overall: 6/10. They serve a purpose, and that's good enough.



LEAVE A BETTER TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH.





Hi Orb,

I am having friendship woes. Over these past few months, the girl who I thought was my bestie has completely changed her entire personality. Everyone in our social circle has noticed it, and we have tried to talk to her, but she doesn't want to hear anything from anyone. She has been acting super entitled and unfriendly, and doesn't put any effort into hanging out with us. What should I do? Is it time to end the friendship, or work through it?

Birth Date: 18/06/2000, 11:31am Location: Christchurch

SUN: GEMINI

Sun determines your ego and identity.

You're a fun loving social butterfly and are always down for an adventure. You value friendship and those in your inner circle, but at times you have a tendency to gossip or be flakey.

MOON: CAPRICORN

Moon determines your inner emotions and subconscious.

You're productive, analytical and keep your emotions in check. You value security and consistency, as well as boundaries in relationships. At times, you can be a little cold or stand-offish.

RISING: LEO

Your rising sign is your outward persona and how you express yourself to the world.

You come across as being friendly, fun, loud, and are always the centre of attention. You love to party, and are the friend who never says no. At times you can be obnoxious or self-absorbed.

Oh no,

There is nothing worse than a fair-weather friend, especially when they're meant to be someone who is closest to you. Given your Gemini sun and Leo rising, it's no shock you've been taking this one to heart. As a social butterfly who just wants to have fun, you need your pals surrounding you at all times. Pair this with an analytical Capricorn moon that needs consistency, you've clearly been thrown off kilter with this conundrum as you crave boundaries and routine, and struggle with erratic or unhinged behaviour. It seems pretty clear that you've already tried to intervene, but she's not willing to budge. If you continue to pester and ask questions which will likely be left unanswered, you're only going to get more upset and frustrated - and no Gemini ever wants to feel those things. If it seems like she's in a funk or bitchy phase, it seems you'll have to let her ride this one out - perhaps it will be a learning experience. Also, take this time to think about the role you play in friendships: is she maybe a little exhausted, and can't keep up the same pace as you? Even though that could be solved with a simple conversation, it never hurts to put yourself in someone else's shoes. If it's starting to take a toll on your emotional wellbeing, I'd say it's perhaps best to give her space and hope her hater era ends soon. If not, maybe it's time to reevaluate.

Best of luck bestie. XOXO, Orbtago

Want answers to the burning questions and troubles in your life? Send your query, birth date, time, and location of birth to orb@critic.co.nz

The Orb takes no responsibility for the consequences of your actions based on its advice. The Orb cannot be legally held accountable for any damage to property, people or thing including but not limited to arson, adultery, betrayal or defamation which may occur as a result of our advice.

HOROSCOPES

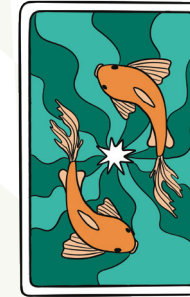
AQUARIUS Jan 20 - Feb 18



Time to sit back, relax, and think about the Roman Empire.

Area to self-improve on: Being rational and deploying logic.

PISCES Feb 19 - Mar 20



Say goodbye to your people pleaser era, Pisces. You have been far too kind and tolerant of other people's shit. It's time to set radical boundaries. Spread hate, not love.

Area to self-improve on: Being more of a douchebag.

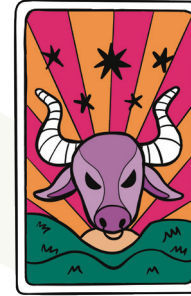
ARIES Mar 21 - Apr 19



It's kinda weird that you feel the need to change your entire personality depending on who you hang out with. External validation is cringe, embrace your own insanity.

Area to self-improve on: Your bank account.

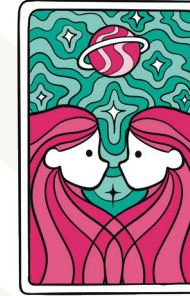
TAURUS Apr 20 - May 20



When communicating with others, remember to talk TO people, rather than AT people. You kinda come across as a dick, no offence. Other people's feelings matter. Shocking, right?

Area to self-improve on: Having less audacity.

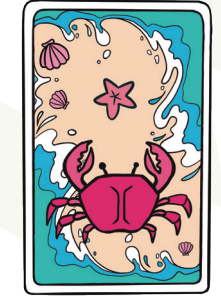
GEMINI May 21 - Jun 20



All the best bitches are Gemini's. Keep being your gorgeous, flamboyant selves. Treat yourself to some bagels this week.

Area to self-improve on: Having stronger opinions.

CANCER Jun 21 - Jul 22



Your inability to realise your own goals and dreams means you're getting stuck in the past. It's time to embrace new cycles of life and take the road less travelled.

Area to self-improve on: Embracing chaos.

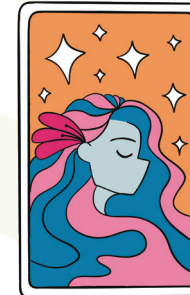
LEO Jul 23 - Aug 22



You really do give zero fucks, keep up the good work.

Area to self-improve on: Being more in touch with your emotions.

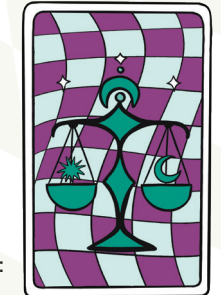
VIRGO Aug 23 - Sep 22



Watch out, because you've got trouble in paradise. Your unattainable standards and perfectionist tendencies are causing tension and feelings of resentment in your personal life.

Area to self-improve on: Cooking more at home.

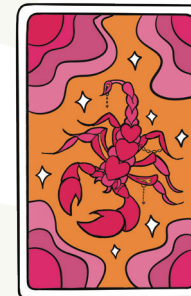
LIBRA Sep 23 - Oct 22



IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE DAYS.

Area of self-improve on: Ignoring the haters.

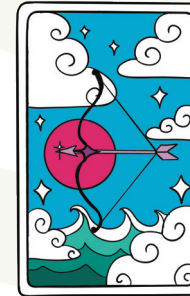
SCORPIO Oct 23 - Nov 21



Stop taking yourself so seriously. Life is for having fun and enjoying the micro-joys, stop stressing the small stuff.

Area to self-improve on: Accepting normality.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22 - Dec 21



With the Spring equinox here, it's time to engage in some Sagittarian activities. Watch the sunrise at the beach, eat a nice peach, smoke some cigarettes, and fuck your ex!

Area to self-improve on: Stop running away from your problems.

CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 19



Jeff Bezos is a Capricorn. Do with that information what you will.

Area to self-improve on: Constant power-tripping.

Moaningful Confessions

a t m s

ADULTTOYMEGASTORE

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

Kia ora Critic Te Ārohi and its readers.

Last week, you published a survey and fell back on the old trope that Computer Science students don't get laid enough.

Think about that one for a moment. Who made Tinder? Who tweaks the algorithms that set you up with your matches? Who out there knows your browser history? Have you ever internut?

I barely passed the artificial intelligence paper because I didn't go to the morning lectures and didn't understand the math, but that's all I needed to know to understand the hazards.

It was late last year, and I had been put under a dry spell by my wet wizard. It was time for a wank, but a wank worthy for a wan-king.

It only took a small script and some R18 content to invent and discover wankervana. Those "TRY NOT TO CUM" ads? Not even close to what I got one of my hands on.

This is the fork in the road, for once you've stared into the butthole abyss, the buttholes stare back. I know exactly where the masturbatrix goes. Add more sexy content, tidy up the user interface, and hey oops you're just describing Tinder where every image is pornographic and there's nobody to message you back. I deleted it all after one of the photos looked too much like a colleague.

You know how TikTok can algorithmically tune your content to exactly what keeps you on their platform? You know how ChatGPT can imitate a human conversation but there's a robotic feel to it? Who the fuck out there was paying for OnlyFans content? Tinder just announced a US\$500 a month plan for your romantic life.

Yes, it's not the geeks who are to blame, but the bean counters trying to put a number on your bean.

So remember your member this upcoming No Nut November, stop punching down there and you may discover your very own commando line.



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

a t m s
ADULTTOYMEGASTORE



worth \$25.95

Free Vibe!

Use code **CRITICVIBE** to get your free bullet vibrator - just pay shipping!

www.adulttoymegastore.co.nz

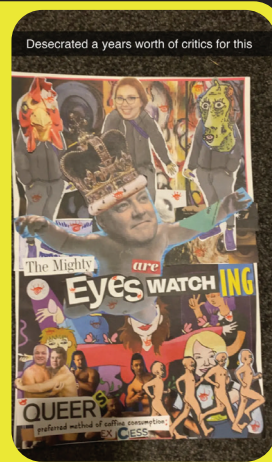


SNAP OF THE WEEK

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

SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT CRITIC ON FACEBOOK TO CLAIM YOUR REDBULL



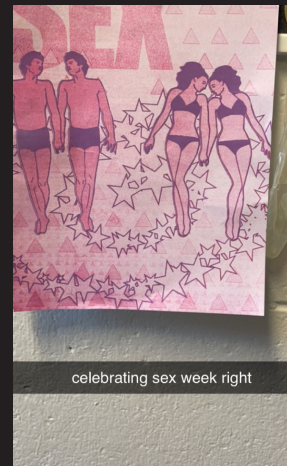
Desecrated a years worth of critics for this



Would you rather piss in the sink?
Or sink in the piss?



Fella better start paying rent



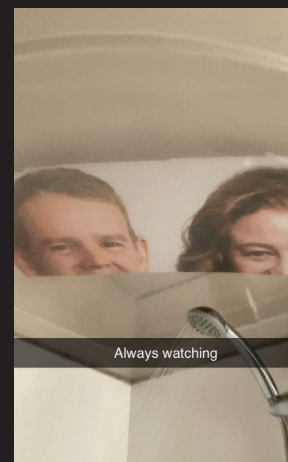
celebrating sex week right



@landlord please fix the stove



Boys crib sorted



Always watching



man vs wild



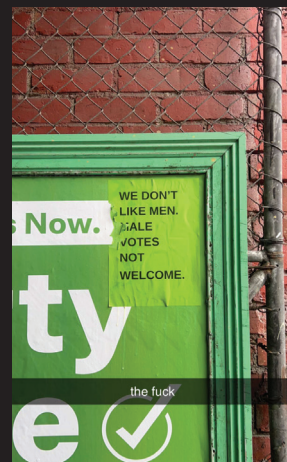
Pro tip for the freshers: try not to flat with someone who hoards all your dishes in their room until you completely run out, and then proceeds to dump them all in the kitchen and not clean them



Sauron has returned, the eye atop the tower sees all



Thaaaaaaats a hazard



Now. WE DON'T LIKE MEN. MALE VOTES NOT WELCOME. ty e the fuck

This is meaningless. Lack of engagement gives no mandate for this at all. If the election gets less than 50% of students voting OUSA should do it again to seek an actual mandate

Concerned about anything on the referenda? COME HAVE A YARN!

Wednesday 11-1 in the Link

ousa
EXECUTIVE



THURSDAY
05 OCT

Jo Little
INCH BAR
7PM

FRIDAY
06 OCT

Miss June - 'MLE' Single Release Tour
w/ Hot Sauce Club and [Allophones]
YOURS
8PM / ALL AGES
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Heka and The Honey Robots
THE CROWN HOTEL
8:30PM / \$10

Don McGlashan w/ Motte
HANOVER HALL
8PM / \$10
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

BLOOMTOWN feat. BKAY, Ella Mental,
Jasper Cali B2B Barnaby, KTB & Thirza
DIVE
9PM
Tickets from humanitix.com

SATURDAY
07 OCT

K M T P - Album Release Tour
YOURS
8PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

Ötepoti Blues Sessions feat. King Leo
REWIND BAR AND CAFE
7PM
Tickets from humanitix.com

SUNDAY
08 OCT

Big Jazz Apple
INCH BAR
4PM

Bare Essentials
DUNEDIN FOLK CLUB
7:30PM / \$15 / ALL AGES

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

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT STUDY BUDDY?



RED BULL GIVES YOU WIINGS. 

The Green Party

Pledge to Students



Our pledges:

- Support students with a universal payment of \$385/week.
- Make your housing livable and stop rent getting too high.
- Deliver free dental and mental health services.
- Take real, bold climate action.
- Protect and expand the rights of our rainbow whānau.
- Work towards fees-free education for all tertiary courses.
- Provide free public transport for students.
- Strengthen student voice in tertiary governance and return to default student union membership.
- Overhaul funding for the tertiary sector to ensure comprehensive student services, and decent pay and working conditions for administrative and academic staff.

**Party Vote
Green**