

DUH!



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BEING
POOR





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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.

1
91 FM



DEAL OF THE WEEK:

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

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

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\$65 Float Special

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\$1 off double scoop gelato.

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Taco Bell
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Nando's Octagon
20% off food and drink.

La Porchetta
10% discount on all items and beverages.

ReBurger
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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.

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

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

Larnach Castle & Gardens
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ADJØ
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FRIDAY 28 APRIL

Vera Ellen - Ideal Home Noise Tour
DIVE
8PM
Tickets from ticketfairy.com

Melanie w/ The CrustaceanZ and Bear Trap
UBAR
9PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

RIOT GULL - 'SCABBING' Album Release w/ E-Kare and Wet Specimen
THE CROWN HOTEL
8:30PM
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz

SATURDAY 29 APRIL

Carb On Carb w/ Riot Gull and Dale Kerrigan
YOURS
8PM / ALL AGES

Anthonie Tonnon and the Leave Love Out Of This Band
MOSGIEL CORONATION HALL
8PM
Tickets from tickettailor.com

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

ousa

LETTER OF THE WEEK

hi. anyone u know with scabies i have one bottle of lotion unopened here. also with the students u may want to let them know u can just either hot water wash or just put into a plastic bag (like a black rubbish bag.. dont throw it out) for a week and they should be dead by then. and if their doctor cant get them creams/lotions try ask their doctors ivermectin its a pill and u take the lot and it killed the wee f**kers. and u still have to do all bedding clothes etc. *never share towels. *try not wear each others clothes *help eachother out covering each other in cream.. u could make it a fun thing ? (right?) i cant find the face palm emoji

M

Good morning Critic crew,
I just want to know why I am sitting in the library at 9 am on Monday 17th of April when all my friends who go to different universities are tucked up cozy in their beds at home with their mums probably making them a nice breakfast. I genuinely don't understand how we have one week when all my friends have upwards of a fortnight. It's the same with all of our breaks and I hate it. I will be trying to squeeze work, catch up with friends and sleep all within a 2 week period during semester break while my friend from Auckland uni gets 5 comfy weeks (albeit she doesn't have exams but still that only adds 2 weeks, meaning they still get a week longer than Otago uni). I genuinely don't understand. If my maths is correct we have timetabled classes for a month longer than most other unis. Plz, explain to me why this is!!!!

kindest regards
M

NEWSFLASH!!
Being the partner of a student can cause you to lose eligibility for work grants.!!

I finished my degree in Feb, so have been out of work for over 6 weeks now. I now have a job starting next week that I had to move towns for so I applied for 5k to work grant.

My partner is in his final year of professional course study, he is ineligible for Student Loan due to being over his EFTS and it is not med or dent so cant get EFTS extension, so we organised a payment plan with the uni so

that we could pay for his year. He was eligible for Student Allowance so has been receiving this.
We also have a toddler who is in daycare full time.

When I applied for Jobseeker Benefit as soon as I finished my study, they said that it was all covered under my partner's Student Allowance so cancelled my application, and so I became a dependent under his payments (i.e. he receives all the money for the three of us - I only receive \$99/wk for supplementary assistance). They never advised that this would make me ineligible for further grants at this time.

Today they tell me I am not eligible for 5k to Work grant because my partner receives Student Allowance and this is not counted, I need to be on the Jobseeker Benefit instead to be considered. On the website for 5k to Work grant there is no mention that you must be on Jobseeker, simply says you must be eligible for a main grant - I assumed Student Allowance to be included in this as you are required to meet all the same criteria. I asked if he could cancel the Student Allowance for me to become eligible and they said no as there is a clause stating if you put yourself in a worse financial state to try receive the grant then this nullifies the agreement. I explained this would not be a worse financial state because there will be no further payments for Student Allowance from now on as my income when I begin work is over the threshold for eligibility for Student Allowance, and thus he becomes ineligible for the payment anyway. They simply said - it doesn't make sense but thats the rule s.

So now we will have no income for the next two weeks because I will not be paid yet from my job, but my partner cannot receive Student Allowance due to being over income threshold. I have limited options from WINZ re:grants simply because my partner is studying and studylink is considered separate from MSD, and I have no ability to gain access to payments on my behalf as I am counted as a dependant. Even my child is listed under my partners account instead of mine and all their payments go to my partners account. We have had to pay for the three of us to move towns and there was a period of double rent to cover as well.

This way of payment seems unsafe from a financial abuse situation (luckily this is not the case for me) - previously I have had my partner as a dependent under my benefit but he was still paid his share into his account. Also in general, this ruling seems extremely unfair that if I had continued application for Jobseeker 6 weeks ago I would have been eligible for this. I don't think I should be hindered from working simply because my partner is studying. Plus our situation is even more poor than someone who is on the jobseeker benefit as we are also paying tuition out of pocket.

EDITORIAL:
WHY
CAPITALISM
IS ACTUALLY
GREAT FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT

BY FOX MEYER

put sesame in everything

Thanks to Margret Thatcher (#girlboss) and a few other legends, we all get to live in the wonderful world of industrial capitalism. They also call it neoliberalism, which is like Neopets but for money. It's very slay and cute.

We get to use this thing called “the market” that works like a crystal ball. It guides humans through our existence and is sort of the financial equivalent of letting Jesus take the wheel, and it has never, ever been wrong. Ever. Even with that sesame thing. Didn't hear about it? Basically, the U.S. listed sesame as an official allergen, and if food companies couldn't promise that it wasn't present, they'd have to list a warning label. Food companies figured that since those seeds are so darn tiny, it's impossible to guarantee that they wouldn't cross-contaminate. The solution? Just put sesame in everything! Now it's an ingredient, not a warning label. Problem solved! This isn't environmental but it's a great example of how fool proof the market is, and how it always has everyone's best interests in mind. Back to how capitalism saves trees.

Recently, this system has been getting criticised by poor people, which presents two problems: firstly, that someone taught poor people to read, probably through something stupid like public education. Second, that their concerns are often about the environment, which means we have to address those problems or risk looking like we're ignoring them. But here's the thing: neoliberalism is actually great for the environment.

See, under neoliberalism, we can finally get rid of the myth that humans are responsible for climate change. It's not our fault; it's the market's fault. So let's just clear that up right away. The market has steered us towards extracting natural resources, and we must trust the market! Did the market tell you to go into massive debt to research something as pointless as climate

science? No. You did that. And this is why we can't trust poor peoples' decision making to run the world.

Also, even though things are getting a little dicey in the old ecosphere, there's never been a better time to start a new business. Look on the bright side: “smogless air” and “microplastic-free food” are about to become hot commodities, so bottling these up to sell is guaranteed to lift millions of people out of poverty. Put a price tag on the things that really matter, like clean water. Make the system work for you.

And while poor people whinge about “sustainability”, they neglect to acknowledge that neoliberalism is actually the only way we can achieve 100% sustainability. If we just let the market take control, corporations will be forced to set competitive environmental targets and report their progress. When it comes to global health, there's nobody we can trust more than big business. And we know we can trust them because they're already paying the world's politicians, so if they can trust them, we can too.

And hey, even if the poors think that it's big business' fault for polluting a few oceans here and there, this argument still holds! If it's their fault that a few forests burned down, shouldn't we also make it their responsibility to plant them back? While we're at it, shouldn't it be their responsibility to fix all of this? Uh, duh! Neoliberalism is all about being accountable for your actions, so let the market encourage these companies to do the right thing. Get rid of those pesky governmental regulations and just have faith. It has literally never gone wrong before.

Neoliberalism has gotten us this far. You'd be a coward to back out of it now.

ISSUE 08
24 APRIL 2023

critic te
ārohi

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Critic Te Ārohi Issue 13, 2009

FRONT COVER
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ADVERTISING SALES
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Aotearoa Student Press Association
(ASPA).

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Death by a Hundred Cuts

New round of redundancies hits cash-strapped Clocktower

Last Thursday (4/20, nice), the University of Otago sent out a shock press release announcing that several hundred academic and staff positions were going to be slashed. This came a day after the Uni also announced that the Bachelor of Applied Science programme was going to be discontinued, and weeks after Languages and Cultures had been whittled down as well.

Almost immediately, attention was brought to the \$700,000 price tag on their new logo. But let's make one thing clear: this is a lot of money, but it is just 1.16 per cent of the total deficit they need to make up. It's literally pennies in comparison.

The University made it clear that no staff would be lost due to the BAppSci cuts. That relief period didn't last long, as their all-staff email detailed that they didn't expect voluntary redundancies to make up the total \$60 million deficit. Their financial situation boils down to a few shortcomings, notably lower enrolment rates and rising inflation. They noted that the oncoming recession might not be all bad, though, because: "In some scenarios, a recession helps us. If unemployment grows, people turn to higher education." But they reckon that this recession wouldn't see too much unemployment.

Enrolment rates were one shortfall. At a staff announcement on Thursday, acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Helen Nicholson explained that student enrolments are down 0.9% this year compared to what the Uni had budgeted for: "Compared to final 2022 results, international students are up by about 495, but domestic students are down by about 670."

But inflation was a problem, too. We understand that government funding has not kept up with inflation, meaning that this situation is not entirely due to University management. Government funding used to be the primary source of University cash, until the 1984 Labour Government introduced a fees-based model. You can read all about that in Annabelle's feature this week, but basically it means that the University is sort of forced to operate like a business, meaning it expands and contracts

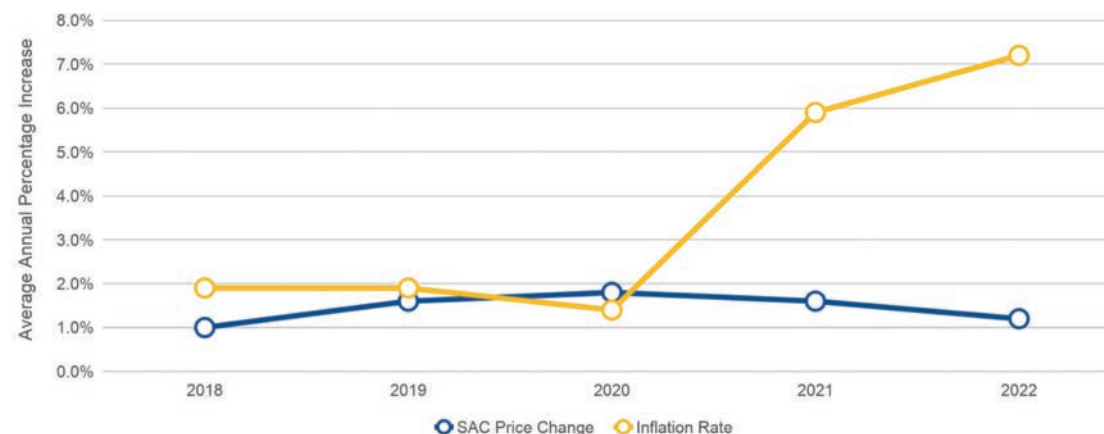
They don't expect voluntary redundancies to make up the total \$60 million deficit.

By Fox Meyer & Nina Brown
Editor // News Editor



SAC vs Inflation

Annual SAC Price Increase vs RBNZ Reported Inflation



Government funding has not kept up with inflation, meaning that this situation is not entirely due to University management.

based on how it performs. This is opposed to a funded model, in which the Government shores up any unexpected financial losses due to, say, a pandemic.

The University is opening applications for voluntary redundancies on Monday, April 24. However, they do not anticipate that the workforce will reduce enough through the voluntary process and therefore several hundred staff will be cut over the next 18 months. And this isn't the first time - in 2021 the Uni offered just over 100 staff voluntary redundancy. A University spokesperson said that this time, however, "we face a different and worse financial issue" meaning "more job losses are needed."

Professor Nicholson said, "We need to reduce our annual operating budget by about \$60 million and salary savings will need to be a significant component of this." Upon hearing the news, one postgrad wondered how many staff members could be hired with the Vice Chancellors salary, "because we know [the Clocktower's] not taking any cuts." This might not be true, though, as the announcement said that staff cuts will be both academic and professional, even if the recent Support Services Review showed that, in the words of one alumnus, "there is little fat in the professional services."

"If we do nothing," Nicholson said, "and even if our enrolments recover more quickly than we expect at our current rate, we will still have a budget in the red for several years. That is not tenable for us as a university." Professor Nicholson was empathetic to those who would be affected by the news: "This is not a decision taken lightly. We know that this affects staff, their families and our community."

Students were reassured again, however, that they needn't worry about these changes affecting the qualifications they are currently enrolled in. One of our reporters collected students' thoughts on which degrees they thought would be most impacted by the changes. While students agreed that "all are important", most were pretty confident that the health sciences and data sciences would be safe and agreed that "it would probably be something in the humanities, but who knows?"

A media release sent by the Uni said that a strategic plan is in the works laying out the steps they will have to take over the next seven years to "put it firmly on the path to 2040." Another all-staff forum is set to be held in about six week's time to outline the plan, decisions, and next steps. In the meantime, who volunteers as tribute?



Salt in the Wound

Dunedin shooting victim named against his wishes

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

Over the weekend, a local man survived a gunshot to the liver. We do not know if the attack on the young Green-affiliated figure has anything to do with politics, but what we do know is that Jack Brazil - with a bullet wound in his abdomen - asked media to respect his privacy by holding off on publishing his name.

The first outlet to name Jack was the ODT, with Stuff, RNZ, the NZ Herald following suit once the cat was out of the bag. In the opening line of their piece, the ODT wrote that “A prominent Dunedin activist and former Green Party candidate seriously injured in a shooting incident has been named. He is Jack Brazil...”

Other outlets reported Jack's name, citing the ODT as the source, but the ODT's source wasn't specified. While they have every right to protect their sources, Jowan, a third year, said that “anyone in the activist community knew... that keeping it low profile was what was wished by the victim.” Someone's right to privacy can be waived if they are a public figure, but the decision to do so still falls on the publication itself. Critic wanted to understand how that decision was made.

When asked for the ODT's editorial rationale, their Editor gave us a one-line answer: “I have been asked to provide you with the following statement in response to your questions: The Otago Daily Times stands by our editorial decision making

over the coverage regarding the shooting on the weekend.” It's not clear who made the call to name Jack in the article. It's also not clear who asked the Editor to give us this answer.

The ODT didn't disclose whether they'd had any direct contact with Jack (for example, to ask his permission for naming) and also chose not to explain their engagement with police. But a police spokesperson told Critic on April 18 that “we have not released the victim's identity and in fact requested that stories naming him be removed yesterday, however media did not comply with our request.” We've named Jack as well, but this is after a public fundraiser for his recovery was set up by the co-op Yours, with his name and face on it (Jack is involved with Yours), and after checking with a person close to Jack. It was from this co-op that Jack initially sought refuge from the shooting and soon after made a trip to the hospital, and the co-op's Moray Place address was later searched by armed police.

The ODT opened a later article with the statement, “Police say the shooting... was an isolated incident, despite it being the fourth Dunedin firearms incident in two months.” Critic asked why the word “despite” was included, but received no answer. The other incidents in question included an alleged firing of a shotgun, a standoff with a man with a fake gun (he had a real one in the car), and the arrest

of an armed man whose accomplice, they note, “is still at large.” None of these events are necessarily connected to Jack's shooting.

“The way they wrote that piece definitely made me feel like it was politically motivated,” said a reader who popped by our office. And it could very well have been political, but at this stage, nothing is confirmed. A source close to Jack told us that “the article's framing of it being politically motivated is unsubstantiated... [it was] completely unprofessional and showed no respect for his privacy.” Linea, another third year in the activist community, told us that “if it's politically motivated, naming him just draws more attention and makes it into a huge deal... I'm sure it was already scary and traumatising as is.”

Jack is making a recovery and Yours reopened on Wednesday night, which had Jowan “feeling great about some of the community responses [and] the manaakitanga towards the victim and each other.”

Jack's recovery fund details are as follows for anyone interested in donating:

OTEPOTI POSSIBILITIES COOPERATIVE LIMITED
38-9023-0708539-00
Ref: Jack



Arana Students in Limbo after Hall Delays

Project costs, deadlines continue to extend for University project

By Hugh Askerud
Staff Writer // hugh@critic.co.nz

Students of Arana College are facing uncertainty this year as proposed renovations have come to an inconclusive end. Weeks ago, the University advised Arana students that residents “will no longer be moving to Te Rangihīroa College this year as previously planned,” despite previous assurance that the move would take place. With the University's plans remaining vague, students at Arana are now uncertain as to how their stay in Otago will be affected. Will it be tinged with the inconvenience of having to constantly navigate a construction site, or will it be blessed with the peace that is taken for granted by residents? Guess you'll have to read the rest of the article to find out ;^)

On December 21st, 2021, the University approved renovation plans focused on building system upgrades and emergency strengthening Arana and Studholme Colleges. Though these may seem minor tasks, the University approved a total budget of just under \$26 million for the renovations which were scheduled to be completed in February 2024.

Initially, the University had planned renovations at Arana to take place mid-way through 2023. Arana residents would be unable to stay there during this period, so the University had planned to relocate them to the brand-spanking-new Te Rangihīroa College which was due to be completed in April 2023. As in, this month. One Arana student, Sophie*, said, “When they told us we were moving at the start of the year, I thought... is it going to be ready? They said, ‘Yep,’ but a few weeks ago we found out that just wasn't the case.”

The Uni confirmed to Critic Te Ārohi that students would no longer be migrating colleges “due to a change in the Te Rangihīroa completion date to later this year.” They added: “We are working towards having Te Rangihīroa College completed this year and being open for students from Semester 1, 2024.”

Though students had been made aware that moving wasn't going to be an option, a degree of uncertainty was rife amongst students. Sophie said, “No one's really sure what's happening.” Staking out the entrance to Arana, Critic Te Ārohi had a chat with a group of boys whose conversation proved symbolic of the confusion around renovations. One lad, Jamie*, commented, “I don't know what's happening there,” before one of his mates promptly piped up: “I think they're happening next year.”

Still, only 40 percent of the people Critic Te Ārohi interviewed actually knew what was going on. Seems an astounding figure regarding a topic which could change your day-to-day experience at Otago. Providing clarity on the matter, the University stated that “the previously planned work on Arana is now anticipated to go ahead next year.”

While Arana students' troubles may have subsided, the University's certainly haven't. The construction of Te Rangihīroa is proving a constant thorn in the side of a University administration grappling with financial instability and construction set-backs. At the start of construction in 2020, the hall was set to be completed at the end of 2022, meaning it would be ready for incoming students in 2023. Due to setbacks at the hands of Covid and problems associated with drainage on Albany St, the University was forced to push back the completion of the new hall to April 2023.

And now the change for Arana students signals a further delay in completion of the \$90 million behemoth, likely a saddening prospect for University administrators already under the financial pump. The ODT reported that the 450-bed hall was no longer an affordable venture after it failed to secure substantial funding from the Government post-pandemic. Alas, the project seems a never-ending tale of woe for the University, who will hopefully manage to have the hall up and running for the beginning of Semester 1, 2024.



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Otago Campus Vegans Support the “Vegan Treaty”

They’ve told a pouting Mayor to eat his vegetables

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

The Otago Campus Vegans (OCV) unveiled their plans for a ‘Vegan Treaty’ to a crowd of around 20 people last Tuesday at OUSA. Claire, Vegan Society of Aotearoa spokesperson, told attendees via Zoom that the treaty has 38 proposals to be taken to local councils. They range from declaring a climate emergency to stopping animal agriculture. Despite the ambitious aims, if signed, the treaty is technically non-binding and has no legal effect.

According to Claire, the treaty aims to create “bottom-up change to hold the people at the top accountable... [as] the government isn’t doing anything.” If the DCC were to sign it, it would make Dunedin the first Australasian city to do so.

In 2019, the Dunedin City Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to go Carbon Zero by 2030. However, it is not clear what tangible impacts, if any, that has had. Boris said the focus should be on having conversations with students. “Councilors got into power by maintaining the status quo,” he said. “We have to change the system through garnering widespread public support, not appealing to systems of power.” Duke, President of Dunedin/Ōtepoti Vegan Society, said he hopes to use the treaty to lobby the Uni to go plant-based.

Contrary to the name, Jowan said that OCV is “not explicitly about veganism.” It’s more broadly about the environmental goal of maintaining a “viable liveable

planet.” Duke added, “[OCV] is not about punching veganism down students’ throats.” Instead, the focus is on people and sharing kai and ideas, with plans in the works to form an “interclub coalition”, said Jowan.

They did, however, challenge Mayor Jules Radich to go vegan in March, which he apparently said would be “too hard”. President of OCV Jowan joked that they might make a “deluxe 5-course vegan banquet for Jules Radich... to show just how easy it is.” But, jokes aside, third-year Boris said it’s actually pretty easy to be vegan when you consider the fact that tofu is cheaper than most meats (plus OUSA \$4 lunches are vegan).



Images: DCC

Retail Revamp Aims to Benefit Students

South Island’s newest Great Walk

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

If you’ve been through George Street recently, you’ll have probably noticed that something big is going down. You probably wondered to yourself why, as a driver, you have to strategise like you’re on fucking Mission Impossible to get from point A to B, or noting the bounty of road cones to come back for on the piss. This is the DCC’s ‘Totally Georgeous’ retail quarter revamp. Critic Te Ārohi had a yarn with project director Glen about what students can expect to gain from the upgrades, and how they’re tracking so far.

At its core, the retail quarter upgrades are a replacement of all our underground infrastructure for drinking water, storm water, and sewage (ahem, three waters) which has been there since the 1880s. Infrastructure upgrades may sound like a snoozefest, but that’s where your water comes from and where your shit goes. Pretty important. Glen said that, when making the plans to upgrade the infrastructure, the council at the time thought, “Well, if we’re gonna dig the whole thing up, we might as well not put it back exactly the same.”

Consultation for the project found passionate views on either side of the spectrum of what the new and improved street would look like: keep it exactly the same, or fully pedestrianise it. Glen said that, in his mind, the one-way system with broader pedestrian areas is “kind of a compromise position between two opposing views.” It was designed in partnership with local iwi and includes many elements representing ties between Māori and Pākehā, such as stencils of barracuda that were one of the first things traded between the two groups. The completed block just before the Octagon “seems to be working pretty well,” he said.

Student groups from the Uni, Polytech, OUSA, Polytech Students Association, and Generation Zero were consulted. Predictably, boomers didn’t want anything to change and thought that students shouldn’t get a say since most of us don’t hang around that long anyway. “I think that’s a silly argument,” said Glen, “because there’s always going to be students. So while those students might move on, there’s always going to be more students to replace them.” Like shark teeth. Or road cones.

He said he’d like to look at it in a different way: “If we provide a really amazing place to live in with lots of street vibrancy and it’s a place that people feel comfortable and safe to be, they might decide not to leave... That’s ultimately what we want.”

As one of the most prominent university cities in the country (not that that’s a long list), Glen also said that they wanted to make the city a place young people wanted to come to. “We had a lot of feedback from students who had come here from other places saying, ‘We see pedestrianisation, we see shared

spaces elsewhere. Why don’t we have them here?’ And it’s a good question.”

One cool thing about the street upgrades is that they have retractable bollards at the end of each block, which will essentially enable the DCC to block off areas of the street on an as-needed basis. Glen said that the possibilities with this could be endless, with opportunities for things like small festivals or graduation ceremonies.

As a past Otago Uni student himself, Glen said he had a good idea of what the street needed in terms of “student-proofing” – namely, a “robust” built environment “that can be cleaned.” When they were planning an “interactive space” (a playground) outside Meridian Mall, he responded to concerns about students fucking with it with: “We don’t see that as a reason not to do something... We would rather just put something that’s robust that we recognize students are probably gonna use when they’re drunk on a Saturday night, and that’s okay because why should we not have fun?”

Construction for the project is currently on the block between Rob Roy and Knox Church, unfortunately for the residents of flats along this stretch. Many noise complaints? “Oh, yes,” laughed Glen. It’s been a constant challenge, he said, where “the businesses don’t want us to work during the day and would ideally like us to just work at night, and the people who live there obviously would rather us do it during the day.” They understand and apologise to those residents who are disrupted by the construction, saying they do their best to “avoid busy periods like exam time.” He encouraged anyone having issues to “reach out and chat to us because we can normally work around things.” You can get in contact through this email: gcasey@isaac.co.nz.

Other public frustration has come from construction on Great King Street, which “has been a real challenge for us,” said Glen, “but that is coming to an end at the end of April, beginning of May.” With the multi-level parking building, New World, and the fact that it is right next to the bus hub, they have been unable to completely block Great King St off to do the work that needs to be done. “It’s like the perfect storm of things to go wrong,” said Glen. “We, again, understand that it’s causing some horrible delays to the buses and we apologise for that, but that should all hopefully come to any end at the end of this month.” And it sounds like we will all breathe a collective sigh of relief when it does (Glen in particular).

Overall, the project is currently tracking six months ahead of schedule, expecting to be done by April next year rather than the originally projected October 2024 finish. How’s the University’s hall work tracking?



Need an MP?

Dr David Clark

MP for Dunedin

03 474 1973
dunedin@parliament.govt.nz
544 Great King St, Dunedin 9016

Authorised by David Clark MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



ODT WATCH

A deal to approach with extreme caution

When your friend packs you a cone after being on the piss all night

Witnesses watched rhino enclosure swimmer

Beware of alligators . .

A horror story in two parts

"This is not a normal harvest. I would call this a salvage job."

Freezing your grinder for the last remnants of kief

Tokyo Garden is no longer licensed to sell alcohol after its owner pointed an imitation firearm at a member of the public.

Eleven bar is still open though

"Who the heck would be out at four in the morning biffing rocks at cars going past?"

Who the heck indeed

No more alcohol . .

:(

Whales indulge in 'me time' treatment

Mum in the bath

Candidate resigns over poem

How bad could it be?

second time in a week, after it was revealed he reposted a poem on social media comparing Jacinda Ardern to Adolf Hitler.

Oh

The primary question for jurors was to be whether Fox knowingly spread false information or recklessly disregarded the truth, the standard of 'reckless disregard'.

My Editor's pretty shit ngl

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The OUSA ANZAC DAY SERVICE

Honouring those who fought, valuing peace

Tuesday 25th April 2023

1:00PM

Outside the University Staff Club
(Union Hall /Main Common Room if wet)

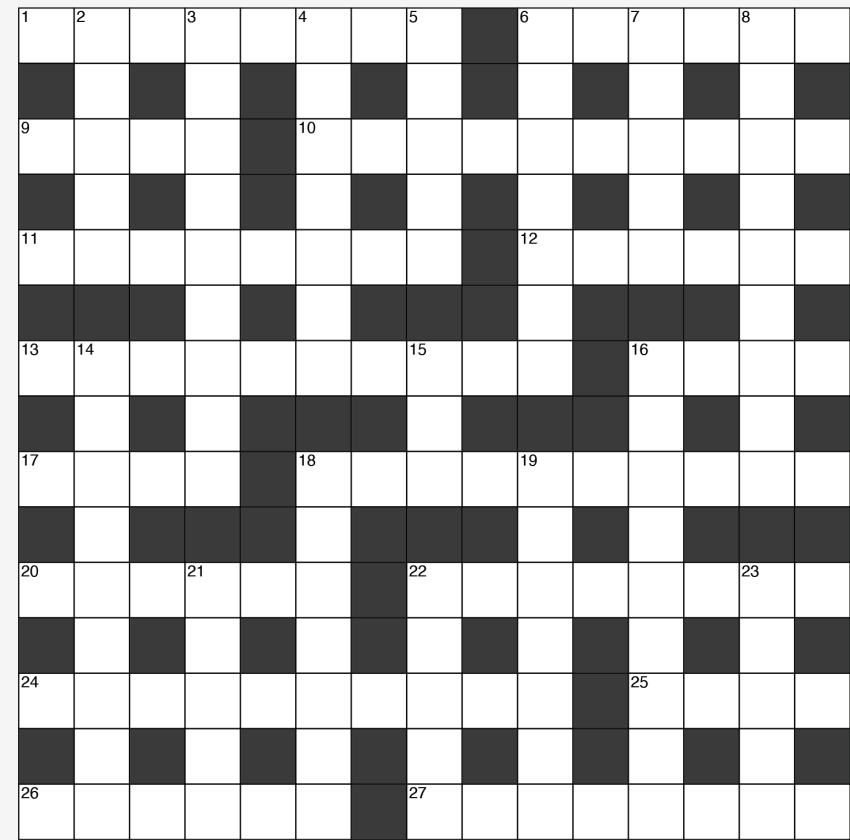
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ousa

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD



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



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
MAZAGRAN
KEEPING CRITIC
CAFFEINATED

- ACROSS:
1. Ship sinkers
6. Famous Marlon
9. American Uni out west (abrv)
10. Straightforward person's trait
11. ___ for Harambe, OR, which five letters were removed from all the highlighted answers (2)
12. Ran aground
13. Cheap enough to purchase
16. Environmental hazard from Indiana Jones
17. Scornfully laughed
18. Term that means "treatment of the soul"
20. Banned from a whole organisation
22. Water sports
24. Swam above the reef
25. Chicken part
26. Ball-stripping move in football (2)
27. Kid's wheels from The Shining

- DOWN:
2. Prickly plants
3. Astronaut's fear (2)
4. Bigass tree
5. Walk with style
6. Commercial digger
7. Dunedin street that used to host an annual party
8. Broken condition
14. Self-employed
15. Purchase
16. Four times per year
18. Come before
19. Sonata maker
21. Insect stage
22. Murder weapon option from Cluedo
23. Ciggie brand

WORD BLOCKS

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

I	T	I
L	O	C
A	L	P

E	C	E
T	L	O
S	N	I

T	E	E
V	J	B
O	C	I

ISSUE 07 PUZZLE ANSWERS
ACROSS: 9. COTTAGE 10. HOTYOGA 11. IMMEDIATELY 12. AZTEC 13. GOUDA 15. REELECTED 17. AXOLOTL 19. EARBUDS 21. EASTEREGG 24. SWISS 26. IDRIS 28. RELATABLE 30. AMNESIA 31. NEPTUNE

WORD BLOCK WORDS: TORTOISES, SMOKEABLE, ROADWORKS
DOWN: 1. ACTING 2. STEM 3. SANDRA 4. BENADRYL 5. CHEESE 6. ATUA 7. POSTIT 8. CASCADES 14. UFO 16. EAR 17. AMERICAN 18. ORE 19. EGGPLANT 20. UTI 22. STRING 23. EARWAX 24. SITUPS 25. SEEKER 27. SASS 29. BLUE

SUDOKU

sudokuoftheday.com

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

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

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

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

WORDFIND

- NEOLIBERAL
COMMUNISM
POLITICS
VOTE
VOICE
CHOICE
CAPITALISM
EXPOLITATION
- MONEY
MACHINE
BURNOUT
SYSTEM
CLASS
BOURGEOISIE
FUCKED
PROTEST

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between these images.





BURNOUT

BY ANNA
ROBERTSHAWE

ART BY
MIKEY CLAYTON

It's everywhere, it's worse than it was in the '80s, and it's not just you.

"Work hard, play hard" works, until it doesn't. Most of us drink anywhere between 1-4 nights a week, work one or two jobs, and belong to one or two clubs or volunteer groups - all on top of uni. It's a lifestyle, and we make it work. But students are burning the candle at both ends and burning out en masse. What's changed since the '80s? Why do we all feel like we're about to lose it?

Burnout has risen alongside "hustle culture", a phenomenon that "is kind of glamorised on social media," said Niamh, a student we spoke to while she took her fourth mental health walk of the day. For example: the TikTok trend of "that girl" getting up at 5am and doing a million-and-one things before going to school or work. "Social media plays a huge role in setting up some of these behaviours that people are trying to follow, and maintains it by the popularity that these kinds of videos and content creators are making... [The trend] is insane and unattainable for a lot of uni students. It's so tied up in privilege."

Another student said that they "feel like it's so easy to feel burnt out because there's so much pressure in productivity culture, like to get up at 4am and do a million things." These trends really picked up post-pandemic. Perhaps people felt like they had been on pause for two years and needed to catch up. It's also a phenomenon unique to our generation. When asked whether burnout was a thing in the "old days", one student from the '80s said they "wouldn't have known what burnout even meant." The rise of social media, along with the cost of living and competitive nature of university, seems to have birthed a new concept of burnout just for us, telling us this is what our lives "should" look like. According to Niamh, social media provides an "aesthetic mask for unhealthy behaviours."

“OFTEN WHEN STUDENTS PRESENT TO US THEY WILL DESCRIBE ANXIETY, WORRY, STRESS, AND FEELING OVER-WHELMED.”

THIS IS BURNOUT TO A T.

Sometimes burnout is hard to recognise until you're out of it, because burnout comes before you realise you're burnt out. It can result in a loss of motivation or passion for what you're studying and, once you've experienced burnout, it can be hard to find that passion again. One student felt that it's really a pressure we put on ourselves: "People have high expectations." This can be a good thing, but too much pressure can be detrimental to our mental health. And while burnout is not a medical diagnosis, Student Health said that the phenomenon can have a "significant impact on people's quality of life and functioning." Student Health's Clinical Group Leader Richard Mooney said that "often when students present to us they will describe anxiety, worry, stress, and feeling overwhelmed." This is burnout to a T.

Students suggested that as more and more people are getting burnt out, it diminishes our ability to sympathise with one another, as we are all struggling. "Burnout means we have less time for each other" said Niamh. Students felt that burnout has negatively affected their personal relationships. "It shortens your fuse", said Amber*, who we found under a desk in the library. "Internal stress can manifest in outbursts toward others or just generally forgetting how to act like a normal human being".

When the term "burnout" is mentioned, most students know exactly what that means. It comes in many different forms: mental, physical, or emotional, appearing in both the academic and social spheres of our lives. "It can be really subtle and quiet," said Niamh. "It can present itself in physical forms, but is also a huge mental load." It tends to manifest itself in "anxiety, lack of sleep, and decreased productivity, said Neve, another burnt-out student we found on the side of the road. "It's like feeling you're in a constant state of stress and high pressure. It's an unattainable and unmanageable state to be in. It's a perpetual cycle." In her first year, Neve experienced burnout from "trying to juggle a social life with studying 24/7. It involved not much sleep, a lot of tears, and a lot of caffeine." Another student described it as a form of "self-sabotaging" and a result of "not knowing my parameters of how much I could do."

It also makes students prone to comparing themselves to one another. "You might be happy with how you are tracking in your own life, but then you look at someone else's Instagram and see their achievements and think, 'Oh, I could be doing more,'" said Neve. "It's easy to burn out just by watching others who are doing more than you, but aren't burning out themselves." Comparison is especially prominent in Dunedin, as we all live, study, sleep and party together. "This is the only campus in NZ where 90 percent of the people are away from home and all live together. It's so insular," said Amber.

Of course, there's also the academic pressures and the looming inevitability of future employment for those coming to the end of their degrees. "The pressure of the future is a huge contributor to anxiety. I feel like if I don't grind now, it's gonna lead to doom later. It feels like you're securing your future and happiness for later on, but sacrificing your current happiness and health in the process," said Niamh.

This is especially true for competitive courses such as Medicine where the points system causes students to try and cram in as many papers as possible.

"Postgraduate entry for professional medical pathways use a point-based system where the more papers you take, the better your GPA. It ends up forcing you to take summer school papers and cram up to five papers a semester [which] triggers burnout so easily," said Finn, as he watched his fifth "satisfying animation compilation" video of the day. Students who overdo it in summer school are also more prone to experiencing burnout. "People do a bunch of summer school papers then get burnt out one week in," said Joel, as he huddled under his duvet. Despite its reputation for being a party uni, Otago tends to demand a level of academic rigour which, when coupled with pressures of the future and the insular nature of the student community, can amount to students facing high levels of stress and burnout.

However, no matter the intensity of their workload or internal stress levels, Dunedin students never sacrifice their fun. In Dunedin, we are lucky to have such a tight-knit student community. In our little city run by students, we can essentially play by our own rules and live in a bubble somewhat removed from the real world. For most students, it's also their first time moving out of home and navigating this new way of living. "It's pretty intense. Like a whole new lifestyle to get used to," said Jordan. It's certainly a unique uni experience.

While it's attractive to a lot of students, this "work hard, play hard" mantra can also lead to students burning the candle at both ends. There's a universal agreement among Dunedin students that, generally, "Sunday is a write off. So Monday to Friday needs to be completely grinding," said Niamh. "The social pressure of always being busy, always having something on the go, making sure you're doing social events at the same time as your academics - it can be exhausting," Neve agreed. "People live for the drinking, so they burn the candle at both ends, grinding throughout the day," said another student. "There's not as much balance down here in terms of taking life slow."

“SUNDAY IS A WRITE OFF. SO MONDAY TO FRIDAY NEEDS TO BE COMPLETELY GRINDING.”

Dunedin students will always seize any opportunity to celebrate their successes, whether it be handing in an assignment, or making it to the library for more than two hours, or going three days sober. As soon as you get a win, "you wanna go straight out," said Neve. "There's no downtime. It keeps us in a continuing state of stress and high pressure." Sleep, however, is a huge part of preserving mental health, and drinking can detrimentally affect the quality of our sleep. "If you're drinking 2-3 times a week, you're missing out on that good sleep. It puts your body in a state of stress, alongside the energy expenditure of partying," she said. Otago graduates aren't just coming away with a highly rated degree from a prestigious institution. They also get to take home "three years of liver damage and exhaustion" in a doggy bag.

Despite its pervasive nature, burnout is not inescapable and can be pretty easily fixed. "The key is knowing yourself, and knowing your limits," said Amber. She said that she thought it's important to listen to our bodies when they tell us we need a break, regardless of what everyone else around us is doing. In other words, it's "learning when to pick your battles," said Charlotte*. Students also found that removing themselves from stressful situations – whether it be taking opportunities to go home during breaks – or even just getting out of North Dunedin, could help.

Amber said that it's good to remember that "there's life outside of uni." Niamh added that doing little things like going out to the beach or getting a coffee with friends helped, "or trying to focus on stuff that's still productive, but in a restful way, like sleep, catching up with friends, or going to the gym... We have such a narrow perception of productivity". The consensus seemed to be that expanding the idea of the "best" way to spend our time is important since there's so much more to life than just studying and partying. Taking a break from social media is also a good way to limit the effects of burnout, according to Niamh. "I religiously delete social media," she said. "I'm amazed at how much that helps." Alternatively, there's also the option of altering one's physical appearance in order to relieve one's inner turmoil. "I had a mental breakdown from uni and got my nipple pierced to make me happy," said Sacha. Equally as effective, and a great short-term solution.

Most importantly, rely on the close social networks that we are so blessed to have here in Dunedin. We are constantly surrounded by our friends, and it's important to reach out if you're struggling. Burnout is something so many of us experience, and it's not talked about enough. Keeping the conversation open can go a long way in countering the effects of stress, anxiety, and burnout. So remember to lean on each other, support each other, and check on your mates.

*Names changed



BY ANNABELLE FARATA
VAUGHAN
ART BY EVIE NODD

A clean, green, egalitarian nation. One that cares deeply for its people and wildlife, all of whom exist within a beautiful, isolated bubble of freedom, safety, and prosperity. At least, that's what New Zealand likes to go around bragging about. But when you take a deeper, harder look at this country, it is apparent that we have some pretty big problems on our hands: a struggling healthcare system, atrocious mental health statistics, a housing crisis, and widening wealth inequality. And if you ask me, it can all be traced back to one thing: neoliberalism.

Neoliberalism is a big word, so let's break it down right away. I guarantee that even if you don't know what it means, you know exactly what it feels like; neoliberalism is essentially industrialised capitalism. It's "the system". It's trusting "the market" to sort out any and all problems that might arise. It

focuses on eliminating regulation, lowering trade barriers, increasing privatisation, and moving away from a "state controlled" approach. It's the system of governance that's allowed the 1% to balloon and keep us all under their thumb, and it's harming this country. Couple this with our tall poppy syndrome and attitude towards inequality, and we have ourselves a bit of a situation.

Wealth inequality data from Statistics New Zealand shows that the average person in the 1% is worth \$6.2million. In contrast, the typical New Zealander is worth only \$92,000 – 68 times less. The wealthiest 10% have 59% of all the country's assets, and the middle class around 39%. The poorest half of the country has only 2% of its assets. Those in arguably the most important jobs, like teaching and nursing, tend to work longer hours for less pay than

NEOLIBERALISM IS WHY YOUR BOOMER UNCLE JIM TELLS YOU THAT THE REASON YOU CAN'T AFFORD A \$1 MILLION HOVEL IN AUCKLAND IS BECAUSE YOU BUY TOO MANY OAT MILK ICED LATTES, EVEN THOUGH HE WENT TO UNIVERSITY FOR FREE AND BOUGHT HIS FOUR-BED, TWO-BATH PONSONBY VILLA FOR \$10 AND A GOAT BACK IN THE DAY.

the people who sit on the boards that employ them. New Zealand has some of the worst wealth inequality in the OECD, and if that doesn't ring alarm bells, I'm not sure what will. Something is clearly not working, and something is clearly allowing this division to grow. That thing is the neoliberal agenda.

Every single government we've had since 1984 has upheld the neoliberal agenda. They pretend like they're different options, but both Labour and National offer exclusively neoliberal solutions to fundamentally existential problems. If you ask the National Party, they'll probably tell you that everything sucks because you "aren't good at having fiscal responsibility", or that the Red Team "spent too much taxpayer money". If you ask the Labour Party, they'll tell you that the Blue Team has "underfunded public services" and that's why you can't see a doctor. But it's all good, because at least their cabinet is more diverse than those old white guys. Neither of these explanations actually do anything to address the root problem, which is that our entire system of living is based on the assumption that following the market is the only way forward. Like it's some sort of crystal fucking ball that can never be wrong.

And whenever there has been a sheepish proposal to perhaps shift a few inches away from the neoliberal agenda, everyone loses their shit. We saw it with Jacinda's proposal for a capital gains tax; all the landlords acted like she was going to personally come and rip their rentals up from the ground when, in reality, they were simply going to pay a tiny fraction of tax on their assets - ones that have already given them a bountiful amount of privilege and wealth. We see it whenever there's a minimum wage increase, or with first-year fees free, or a carbon tax, or increases to social welfare. It seems to be the moment someone suggests we level the playing field and maybe make things a little more equitable, we are immediately going to enter some kind of communist hellscape. It's like a bunch of kids in the schoolyard getting mad that you have a toy they don't. We've pulled the ladder up after ourselves and God help you if you didn't make it in time.

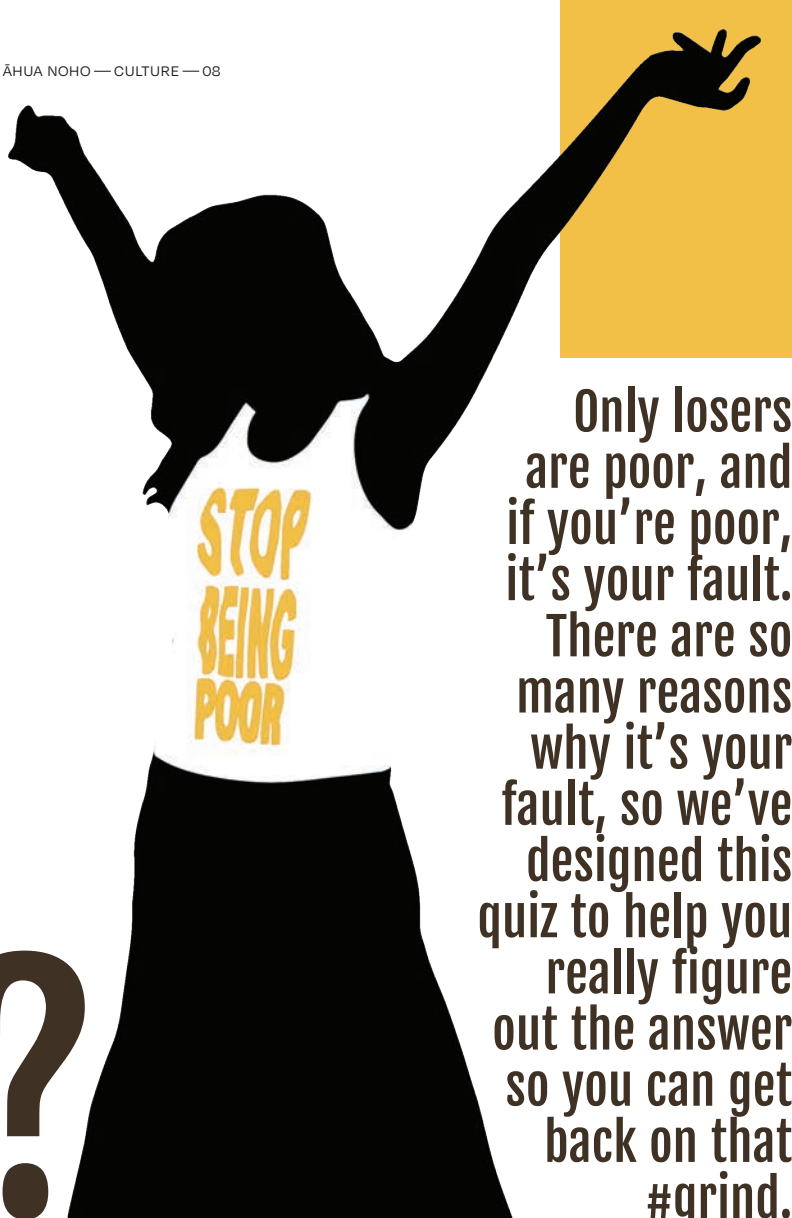
Neoliberalism is that "the free-er the market, the free-er the people" bullshit. Neoliberalism is why we abuse the land for dairy products that we don't even consume on our shores. It's the rise of individualism and having "personal responsibility", and that if you got dealt a bad hand, well, fuck you. Work harder. Neoliberalism is synonymous with capitalism, globalisation, and finance bros from rich families who call themselves "self-made". Neoliberalism is Instagram "hustle culture", not that there's much hustle in that. Neoliberalism is why your boomer uncle Jim tells you that the reason you can't afford a \$1 million hovel in Auckland is because you buy too many oat milk iced lattes, even though he went to university for free and bought his four-bed, two-bath Ponsonby villa for \$10 and a goat back in the day.

Neoliberalism, 'The Man', whatever label you wish to use, is part of the reason university is such a stressful place. Neoliberalism has commodified everything, even education. A vast majority of us come to university, take out staggering loans, and enrol in degrees we hope will get us a measly, entry-level grad job that pays just enough to cover life's necessities. Most of us are too busy studying, working, and worrying about the looming debt over our heads to think about if it's even possible to change that situation.

It's not your fault that your grad job salary is less than your loan. It's not your fault you can't buy a house. It's not your fault that you feel paralysed. It's because a bunch of old white dudes decided what was "best for you" 50 years ago and we've stuck with that plan. Because it's not best for you; it's best for them.

New Zealand is a far better place to live than most other countries on this burning planet, but it's time we come face to face with reality. We're all exhausted, our health and education systems are hanging on by a thread, our infrastructure is a disaster, our wealth inequality is one of the worst in the OECD, and we've actually done very little to protect the natural environment we are apparently so proud to have. And the root of all this, I think, can be traced down to one thing: neoliberalism. Fuck the system. If we don't change it, no one will.

WHY ARE YOU POOR?



Only losers are poor, and if you're poor, it's your fault. There are so many reasons why it's your fault, so we've designed this quiz to help you really figure out the answer so you can get back on that #grind.

What are you spending the most money on that you could do yourself?

1. Dentistry. It's honestly not that hard to pull a tooth. While you're at it, just pull all of them and get dentures. You'll save big time in the long run and now you also don't need to buy toothpaste.
2. Mechanics. If your engine light is on and you can't afford to just buy a whole new car, you've already lost the race.
3. Rent. Just buy a house, dumbass. I really shouldn't have to spell this out for you.
4. A university degree. You don't need to pay for this, you can learn it on YouTube. There's nothing in a university degree that you can't teach to yourself in the school of hard knocks.
5. Having a significant other. How would you even have time for this when you should be working three jobs already? Besides, you've got two hands. Why spend valuable time and money on the complicated ritual of dating when the answer is literally at your fingertips?

You're probably spending money on a bunch of unnecessary things. Pick one luxury to keep, but cut out the rest:

1. Fresh food. Why are you spending money on fresh food when you could just blend up a vita smoothie and use a direct IV injection? Or better yet, get into fasting. If it works for prisoners of war, it works for you. #battlemode.
2. Menstrual products. If you're buying these, you're only making 77 cents to the dollar anyway, so there's your answer. In fact, you can just stop the quiz right here.
3. Cleaning products/hot water. Cold showers sharpen the mind and put your body in fight or flight mode, which it should be in at all times. But even better, just stop cleaning. You're just going to get dirty again anyway so there's literally no point.
4. Gifts to others. This is literally giving away your wealth, and is an obvious sign of weakness. Nothing says "tax me daddy" like buying someone a present.
5. Socialising. Nope, cut it out. You don't have hobbies, you don't have time. Name a single animal that wastes time like this. None? I didn't think so.

Loved ones are important, but you need priorities. Commit to one event and pre-emptively cancel the rest:

1. Grandparent's funeral. What, you wanna pay to stand in a room for hours and pretend to be sad about someone who's left you out of the will? Get real. They won't know you weren't there, so nobody gets hurt. Although, free food.
2. Cousin's wedding. It doesn't matter how close you are, you don't actually need to be there on the big day. It's all about them and their spouse, and that'll happen either way, so don't feel guilty! You can always Zoom in.
3. Summer holidays. You know what's dumb? Flying all the way home to sit under a fake Christmas tree and pretend like you're enjoying yourself. The summer holiday period is the perfect time to diversify your investment portfolio, because while everyone's spending their cash on stupid little presents, you're spending your cash on what's really important: the stock market.
4. Younger sibling's graduation. Uh, hello? They didn't come to your graduation, so why should you have to pay to fly yourself to theirs? Kid's not even got a sigma grindset anyway.
5. To visit a terminally ill relative. Chances are they probably don't remember your face anyway, so what's the harm? Plus, Great Aunt Meredith will try to kiss you on the mouth and you can't afford to get sick right now.

What's your get-rich-quick scheme in Dunedin?

1. Extort physics students to build a time machine and go back to the early 1920's to invest in Coca-Cola and Ford while they are still cheap. Pop back to now and reap the rewards.
2. Invest in some rental properties around campus. Save money on not repairing them and make sure you raise your rent when student allowances go up.
3. Start a post-party clean-up service for studentville, but also start a pre-party supply service so you can sell them the supplies and then get paid to take them away.
4. Become a professional rugby player and start selling autographs. If you're not good at rugby, don't worry. Just change your name to Dan Carter and hope nobody notices.
5. Take ducks from the Botans and sell them to high-end restaurants. While we're at it, grab some gulls and albatross, too. It's basically free money.

Who's your hero?

1. Patrick Bateman. The fact that some people think this movie is satire when it's actually a documentary is insane.
2. Margaret Thatcher. She walked so that Judith Collins could run off a cliff. Maggie gets so much bad press but it's not hard to see why everyone is jealous. It's a woman in Parliament - what more could you want? Girlboss!
3. Ronald McDonald. Ron's rise to fame proves that the #sigmagrindset can work for anyone, no matter how many developing democracies you've helped topple. Nothing says equality like red white and yellow.
4. The Dutch East India Trading company. Legends from the past. These geniuses not only invented the stock market, but figured out how to weaponize it against foreign powers. #innovateordie
5. Ben Shapiro. Enough said.

How should New Zealand bolster its financial situation?

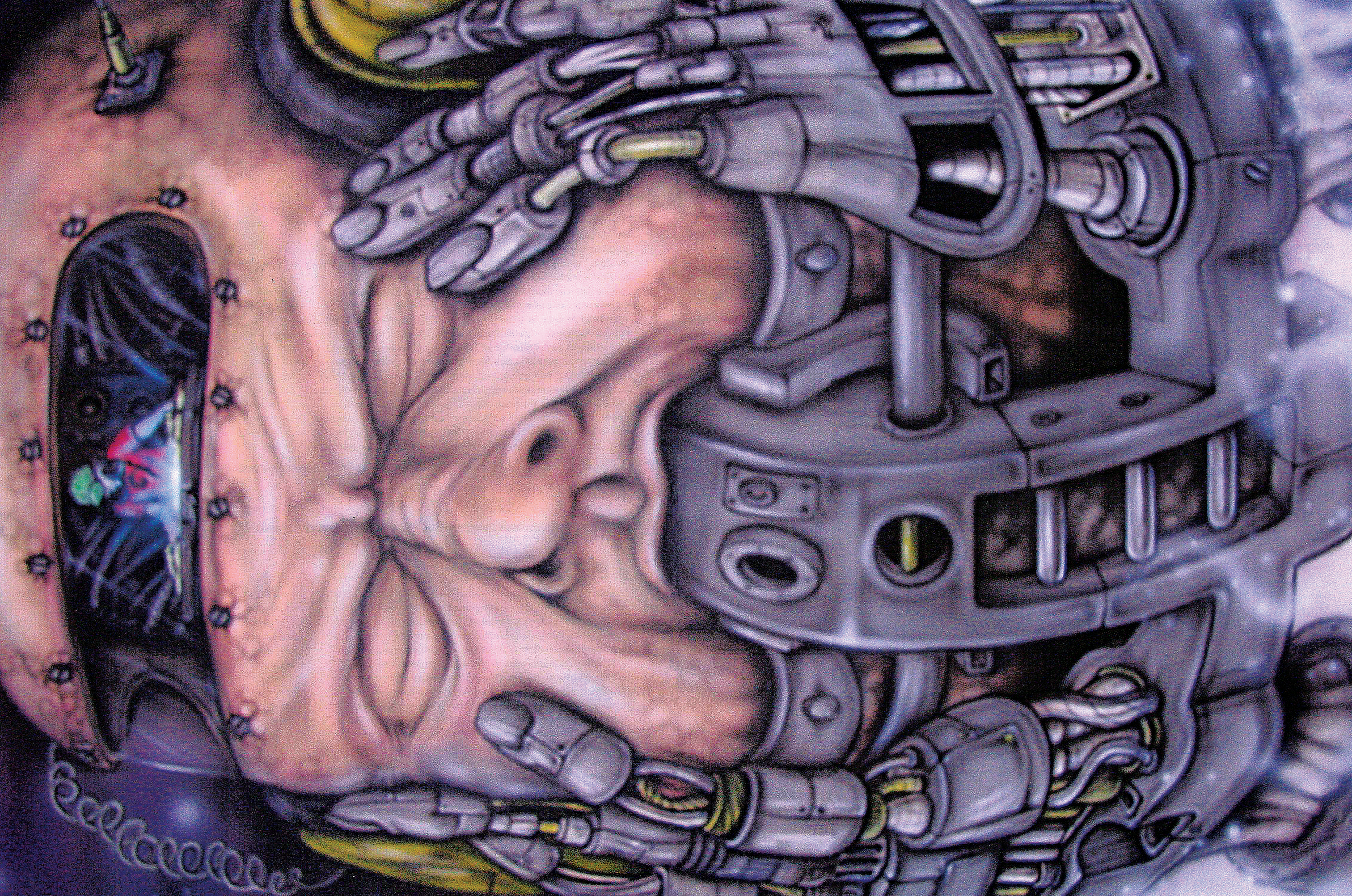
1. Hunt local bird species for their meat and eggs. They can't be found anywhere else so you control 100% of the market.
2. Start building telecom towers on the Southern Alps. Those mountain tops are perfect for covering the country in cell service, and their "aesthetic beauty" is literally worthless.
3. Stop funding anything to do with hospice care. If they can't make it on their own, they don't deserve to live.
4. Eliminate the democratic system and install a dictator. Elections are expensive.
5. Anticipate future demand. Use the obvious telltale signs of today's news and start manufacturing child-sized assault weapons to sell to American classrooms. You'll be the first to corner the market.

Now we're ready to answer the big question: WHY ARE YOU POOR?

- Mostly 1's:**
You don't have multigenerational wealth, loser. If you weren't born into a wealthy family, what the fuck is your problem? It's, like, the easiest way to get rich. Look at every wealthy person you know - this is probably how they made it big time, so why haven't you tried this yet? It's still okay to call it self-made. You did all the hard work of making withdrawals from those chequing accounts.
- Mostly 2's:**
You aren't saving 80% of your income. This either means that your income is too small, (in which case, why are you reading this when you could be making moves?) or you haven't thought to start saving. No matter which option it is, there's no excuse not to save 80%. Once you cut out the unnecessary parts of your budget, this should be as easy as defrauding the ACC.
- Mostly 3's:**
You haven't taken advantage of the charity system yet. If you start a charity with a good cause, like helping sick kids or researching cancer, people will donate. You can just keep this money, or, you can donate it en-masse and use it as a tax cut. If you aren't already doing this, you basically are a charity yourself. This shows a clear lack of understanding of the financial system, and also a lack of creativity. Yikes.

- Mostly 4's:**
You haven't leveraged the power of a multi-level marketing scheme. Sign Up Club proved two years ago just how easy it is to get students to join one of these, and if you aren't at the top of one already, you're at the bottom. You're probably too much of a coward and afraid to assert yourself.

- Mostly 5's:**
You don't have a cryptocurrency yet. If you founded your own, you can use your high-profile status to market it and artificially inflate demand. Once enough of your followers buy in, you can dump the value and reap the rewards, shifting the financial burden to others. If there's enough of them, the consequences are proportionally very small, so there's no need to feel bad about this. If you haven't done this yet it's because you haven't been following the plays made by big players, so you're probably a bit ignorant. Do you even have Twitter?



— FAUX — POVERTY

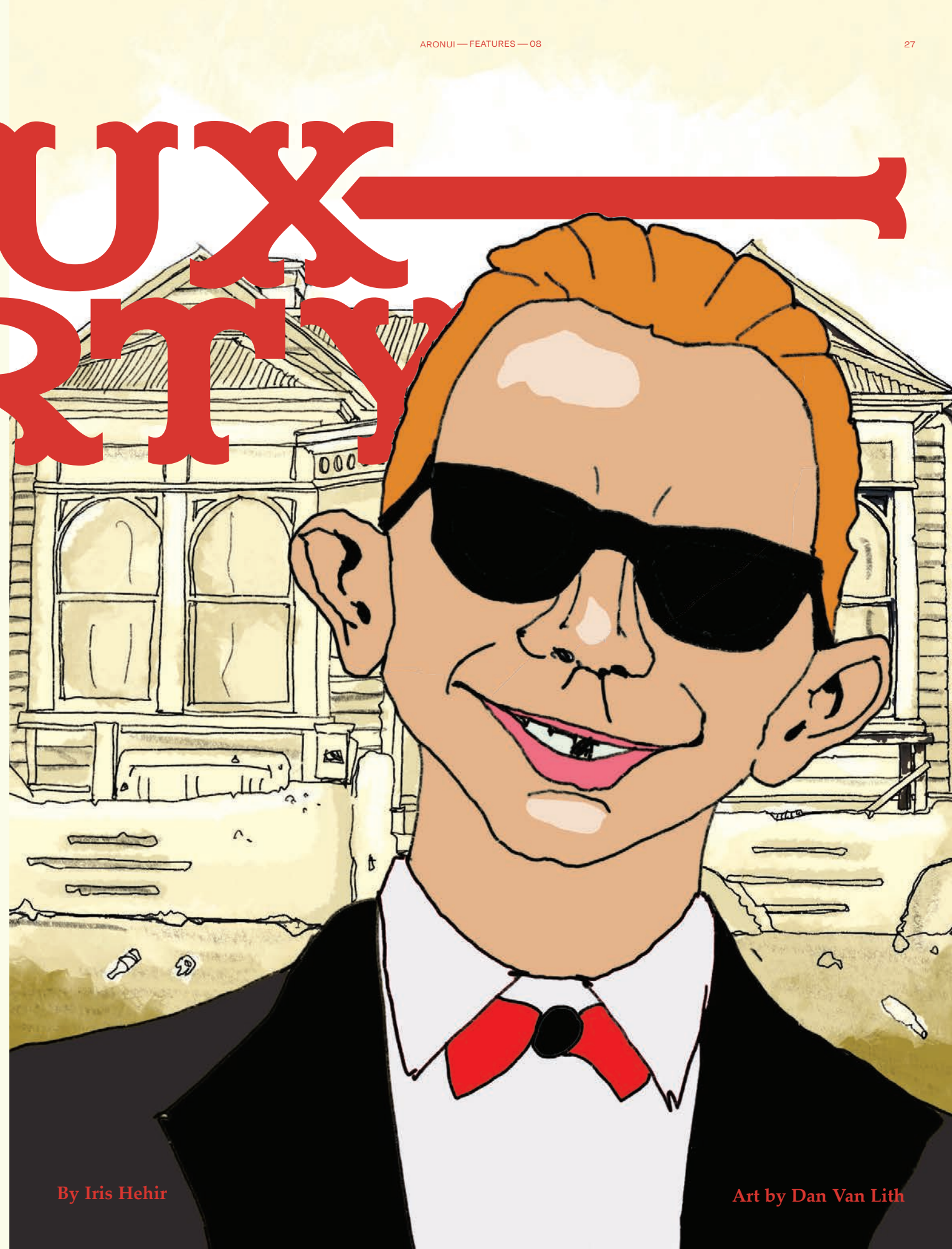
Life in the ‘student city’ is a point of debate, disgust, and drama across the country. From falling off roofs on St Patrick’s Day (which traditionally starts at 6am) to law camp scandals, endless Student Health AA referrals, flat initiations, the dying art of couch burning, and, of course, the infamous Castle Street riots... there’s a lot to unpack.

The media regularly describes student behaviour as “chaotic”, “out of control”, and “wild”. Last year’s documentary video by the Department of Information is a testament to this fascination. But even in its quieter, less sensationalist hours, North Dunedin holds down its reputation with ease. As the stereotype goes: the flats are cold, the students are bold, and the reputation is old, old, old.

As New Zealand’s oldest university, Otago has long had this particular image, even if it is only a minority of students contributing to headlines. In the 1890s, public graduations were cancelled after students kept showing up drunk and yelling abuse at guest speakers. This drunken, menacing vibe has extended to modern times. In 2004, National MP Sam Uffindell’s Dundas Street flat was declared a health hazard after competing in a contest for North Dunedin’s grossest flat, with his alleged behaviour being fuelled by “drug and alcohol abuse” according to an ex-flatmate. Uffindell “enjoyed” what he described as the “Otago lifestyle” after attending King’s College, a decile 10 private school. But his choice to live in faux poverty is far from unique. For many of us in studentville, it’s a sort of rite of passage. To subject oneself to warzone-like conditions is almost a badge of honour for tomorrow’s doctors and lawyers.

Sometimes, media coverage of this “tradition” can overshadow the gap between those who (very temporarily) choose to live like this, and those who were born into it.

New Zealand tertiary education has always been riven by class inequality. This was cemented in our system when the free education access that baby boomers enjoyed was reversed after the fourth Labour Government introduced university tuition fees in 1989. An internal report carried out last year by the University’s Strategy and Analytics Office found that 60% of first years come from decile 8 - 10 secondary schools (a decile 10 school has a catchment area in the wealthiest 10 percent of the country). While decile 10 schools contributed 24% of students, only 1% of students came from decile 1 schools. If Otago was a perfectly egalitarian institution, each decile would be represented by 10% of students. The reality, however, is that undergraduates are 24 times more likely to come from schools located in the 10% wealthiest areas of the country than from schools located in the poorest. The reasons behind this are a whole article in themselves; what matters here is why that class of silver-spooners are walking, talking, and acting like they’ve come from nothing. As if poverty was inevitable.



By Iris Hehir

Art by Dan Van Lith

When picturing the breatha lifestyle, Deathstar is one of the first examples that comes to mind. A complex of 26 boys joined by the aptly named 'Methstar', the flat's reputation as a feral party hotspot is deserved. The current tenants were very gracious, welcoming me into where they'd all gathered on the sofa. Outside, the flat looks like a Soviet-era bunker. Inside,

the boys were playing a golfing video game.

While the complex's reputation conjures up images of glass shards and a frigid atmosphere, the living room was in a much nicer state than expected. The boys answered my questions with genuine consideration in between bouts of piss-taking banter directed at one another as they passed the controls.

Monty, Seb, Adam, and Will were joined by their two friends and fellow Castle residents Xavier and

Tom. They took turns introducing themselves and discussing their backgrounds. Monty's mother helps out with a vineyard and works as a wellness instructor, while his father is the head of a company, though he doesn't know which ("you sound really close to them"). Seb's father is a pharmacist, his mother a barrister ("not 'barista' mate. 'Barrister', you fucking twat"). Adam's father manages a scaffolding company and his mother used to teach, but now doesn't work. Will's father runs online businesses and his mum doesn't work either.

All came from King's College and are in their second year of Commerce. The group are a near mirror-image of each other when it comes to their backgrounds, prompting Xavier to joke he experienced the "hood life" in comparison to his friends because he went to public school and is eligible for student allowance. None of the Deathstar tenants are eligible for an allowance, with Seb, Will, Monty, and Adam all maxing out their student loan and using savings to pay their bills. They said that the other two tenants, who weren't there at the time, are financially supported by their parents.

Generations of breathas have not-so-gently passed down Deathstar to one another, furnishing the flat with additional destruction every year. In 2020, one group of tenants racked up \$34k worth of damage, including boarded up windows and holes in 19 separate walls (that allegedly had been vomited into). It's also rumoured by another source that, in the same month, a group of tenants were left unable to shower due to the shower head being ripped off and received a near \$1k power bill primarily from stereo speaker use.

So why would anyone who has the means to live in far more comfortable conditions choose to live in the most infamously rank flat on Castle Street? This is something that baffles Zahoor, a second-year Neuroscience student and refugee: "Of all the people I've met in my life [from] different parts of the world, I don't think any would want to downgrade. To start living in a place where there's no shower, broken glass... It makes no sense to me. I guess they want to experience what poverty is like."

Zahoor is one of the few students at Otago who knows true poverty. Though he identifies as Afghan, Zahoor grew up in Pakistan until he was thirteen. "In Pakistan I had a wonderful life, I had everything," he said. "But then I lost it." As a Shia Muslim, Zahoor became the target

of extreme sectarian violence and was forced to escape to Indonesia before being selected to come to New Zealand as a refugee. "The fact I got a scholarship from the University of Otago, I consider myself very lucky. If I don't make good use of my time while I study, I can't call my parents." He said that couldn't ask them for a loan to do another course, for example, while others "have a safety net underneath them if something goes wrong, tons of opportunities. Whereas I don't have that many opportunities."

Zahoor explained that when he was a refugee in Indonesia, there was no education. "I lived in a limbo, I did nothing for five years. It was a very harsh life. I don't fear anything in life, but [the one thing] I do fear is ending up where I started. This is all I have. I have to make the most of it."

"I DON'T FEAR ANYTHING IN LIFE, BUT [THE ONE THING] I DO FEAR IS ENDING UP WHERE I STARTED. THIS IS ALL I HAVE. I HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT."

Though he doesn't drink and party, Zahoor said that even if he wanted to, he wouldn't be able to afford it. Though he doesn't see the appeal of Castle Street anyway. "Here's the thing: Castle Street is the only street in the whole of New Zealand I've been to that reminds me of a third world country," he said. "That's the only street, every time I walk in I'm like, okay, am I in Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Indonesia?"

Back in Deathstar, Seb admitted that the flat was the boys' last choice on Castle: "In all honesty, we were late signing compared to most flats here, but they made us a pretty good pitch." The property manager's pitch included multiple renovations including fixing the floors, walls, and the front yard's 'mudpit' - an infamous collection of moulding couches, trash bags, litter, and glass shards that was paved over last summer. "The boys before us, they absolutely fucked up the place. We were mates with them and saw what they posted on their stories, destroying walls and shit. There was so much damage, we were hoping it would get renovated and it did. Not fully, but it did." It's an improvement, said Will, even if the bedrooms are "still pretty shit."

Still, for this life of pseudo-squalor, the boys pay \$185 a week. They also forked out over \$4.6k for a bond with a high risk of not being seen again, though they're committed to doing their best to keep it. Seb explained that it's not that they wanted to live in a disgusting flat; it's for the experience. "Our mates in Christchurch, they have the nicest houses but not the proper experience, you know? That's not what we're [in Dunedin] for."

Part of this experience is the annual tradition of last year's tenants returning to Castle in O-Week on the night of the Deathstar host, which had the theme of 'pimps



and hoes’ this year. “They were pretty respectful to our flat, because they knew us,” said Monty. “But the others... they broke windows, doors, punched holes in the wall. It’s because they’d already been through it themselves and so, in a way, it was our turn.” His tone hinted at a passive acceptance of this ‘old boys’ mentality and the hazing behaviour that comes with it.

When I asked what their parents thought of their decision to sign Deathstar, Seb said his understood perfectly well: “They came from Otago themselves, lived in Dunedin. They’ve been through it. They understand. I didn’t really have a choice [to come here], it was kind of like this is the place to be.”

“It’s a stereotype that you’d come from a nice place, a private school, and want to keep experiencing that lifestyle,” Monty said. “The fact we’re from there means we want to experience different aspects of life.” Xavier agreed that it’s a rite of passage, saying he couldn’t care less about the quality of a flat as long as there’s a bed, kitchen, toilet, and shower (“shower’s pretty fucked, though”). “For a couple of years you live like shit, it’s good fun.”

“You come down here, obviously in your halls, you see everyone else doing it, hear everyone else doing it,” Seb added. “If you’re in Dunedin, if you like partying, this is the place to be.” Another one of them chirped that someone in the circle dropped \$300 last week on a night out. I asked what they spent it on and was met with some wry chuckles.

But not everyone else is doing it. Zahoor sure isn’t. Does his abstinence from partying and drinking ever make him feel isolated from this “university experience” the Deathstar boys speak so lovingly of? “As far as student culture: am I excluded? Am I included? I don’t give a damn about it, with all due respect,” Zahoor said. “I think people are different, that’s all. It’s not like I feel bad about myself, I’m actually proud of it. It’s a different thing when you accomplish

everything on your own.”

Self-sufficiency is something Zahoor regards as ideal at this age. “I don’t call my parents and ask them for financial support at all. I try to be independent. That’s what university life is all about, right? That’s the thing, a lot of you guys came to Dunedin from different parts of New Zealand so you can be independent. If you’re calling your parents for support to fund your lifestyle, you’re not really independent, are you? When you come from a background like me, you tend to work a little bit harder,” he said with pride.

“I don’t think if [my circumstances] were any different it would have been helpful for me.”



Though he’s no stranger to it, party culture wasn’t at the forefront of Nikau’s* decision when he picked Otago; scholarships were. The son of an ex-kindergarten teacher, and a war veteran on a medical benefit (who helps at-risk youth), Nikau is one of the first in his family to attend university. Having not been offered any scholarships to Lincoln University, his next choice was Otago. Here, his passion for rugby led him to pursue a degree in Sports Development and Management. Coming from a decile 4 scholarship-based boarding school, Nikau didn’t consider anywhere in the North Island, wanting to get “as far away from there as possible.” He described the home lives of many on the East Coast, where he grew up, as “real rough”. The young people his father comes into contact with are often being impacted by domestic violence and substance abuse.

His fresh start at Otago, however, came with unexpected challenges. Nikau, who is of Ngāpuhi and Te Whānau-ā-Apanui descent, describes the culture here as “pretty white-washed” where he felt harshly judged by the mostly Pākehā upper-class peers he was surrounded by.

“I haven’t found much of my culture down here, so I felt out of sorts a bit. Down here no one speaks the way I do, no one acts the way I do. ‘Cos, for me, I casually walked around in singlet and gumboots and whatever. I saw no one else wear gumboots around town. I speak like a stereotypical Māori, and people judge on that because they think it’s hori. Just things I do that would be a normality back at home,” he said. “They have their own sort of world.” This world, of course, is filled with binge drinking, a culture he described as “black out until you tap out... Pretty much half of my hall would be drinking from Tuesday to Sunday.”

On one fateful night, coming back drunk from the rugby club, Nikau went to a function at a nearby flat that was hosted by returning students from out of town. At the party, Nikau bore witness to a tradition that centred around a sort of hazing ritual. “It was really weird,” said Nikau. “I guess you can expect it from Dunedin culture and how it goes way back... all the traditions and stuff. They’ll be giving you shit, yelling slurs in your ears, pouring drinks on you, stealing.”

The trigger point for Nikau was the continual pilfering of his drinks. It began with one girl stealing out of his crate: “I was like, ‘Nah, that’s not on’ and got it back while I walked through the line.” Shortly after, a group of boys stole two more, resulting in an argument. He told them, “Give me back my drinks, I didn’t take yours. I know what it’s like, but treat people with respect although we’re freshers and stuff.” After getting his drinks back, they were stolen a third time — this time the entire crate. “I was like, ‘Can I have that back?’ trying to talk with him nicely, he was being really aggressive.” Then an argument broke out.

The events of that night resulted in Nikau receiving an alcohol ban, which he was then caught breaking when he dropped a bottle in front of a security guard. A third strike

resulted in him getting kicked out of his hall - though it’s not quite as simple as it seems. Halls at Otago don’t exactly jump at the chance to kick out students and, in this case, the hall in question tried to help set up a chain of support for Nikau.

“I wasn’t just pissed off one night and wanted to hit someone. It was all the things that were going on prior that influenced and led to my behaviour, and the behaviours of others as well.” Nikau explained that those were the conversations he had with the Heads of College. His frustrations weren’t with the hall, but with wider Dunedin drinking culture. “I don’t have any beef with them at all, legit, cos they looked out for me. But it’s the environment I was put into in the first place, I guess,” said Nikau. “Like alcohol for first years, [it’s] mad.”

After getting kicked out, Nikau’s hall arranged for him a motel for two nights. Struggling to afford food, he asked the motel to charge the college, becoming further in debt to them. After this accommodation lapsed, Nikau found himself homeless at nineteen, sleeping in the backseat of his car at the top of Signal Hill and stealing food from supermarkets while trying to hold down a hospo job. He could’ve stayed at his girlfriend’s place, but he didn’t want to burden their power bills or take advantage of rent. He could have called his family for help, but he didn’t want to burden them, either: “I had too much pride to even ask for help.” So he said he resorted to staying at a mate’s house. This lasted a month and a half.

“ALL MY FAMILY IS BACK AT HOME, ALL THE PEOPLE I COULD TALK TO WERE MY MATES, BUT THEY WERE ON THE SAME PARTY VIBE AS ME. YOU CAN’T REALLY TALK TO A DRUNK PERSON [ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS].”

“It brought [my grades] down so much. There were times when I didn’t even want to go to class because I was too tired from the night before.”

Isolation didn’t help. “All my family is back at home, all the people I could talk to were my mates, but they were on the same party vibe as me. You can’t really talk to a drunk person [about your problems]. There was nobody to give me any of that wisdom, that guidance down here when I was struggling.” He also attributes it to his pride getting in the way: “I didn’t want anyone to know.” So he didn’t tell anyone.

Wanting to make a change in his life, Nikau - in a sort of full circle moment - reached out to the Māori Centre who he said “helped out a lot”, offering him accommodation as well as counselling. There he reconnected with an old rugby coach and found a club where other Māori and Pasifika students go, which “feels like home.”

Despite having been at high risk of dropping out with all the “hardships and crap” he went through, Nikau said it’s never something he considered: “If I dropped out, I’d just be giving up. Waste of money, waste of time.” He currently works two jobs to pay his bills and tuition, planning to take five papers in semester two and three in summer school to complete his degree. “If had [their] lifestyle, if I was in his shoes,

fuck, life would have been so much easier. Money can get rid of all your problems.” He admitted that “there’s a lot of that feeling of jealousy, not why are they here, but what are they actually trying to pursue?... I have to push more, work hard, get my head straight in the game so I don’t fuck up like, you know, getting kicked out.”

Getting kicked out would have meant that all of Nikau’s hard work would have been for nothing. It would’ve been the end of the line. A non-option.

But that’s not the case for everyone.

There’s an urban legend at Otago about a guy who wanted to get kicked out of his prestigious hall. They say he did all sorts of shit in the hopes of getting dropped. People usually joke about him, call him a legend, that sort of thing. From what we can tell, the story’s real. Only in real life, he ended up getting bailed out by his parents.

Faux poverty is all the rage. It’s a time of suffering, to look back on and say: “See? I did it. I did it, too.” But to be in the in-group, not only do you have to be able to withstand and enjoy the decrepit conditions, you have to be able to afford them. Faux poverty is a choice. An expensive one. And for all its presentation, it’s as much a mark of class as a fur coat.

*Names changed.





BY ANNABELLE PARATA VAUGHAN
ART BY EVIE NOAD

HOW NEOLIBERALISM AND INADEQUATE FUNDING IS HARMING HIGHER EDUCATION

On Thursday last week, the University announced that several hundred staff would be made redundant to help shore up their financial situation: a deficit of \$60 million. They've increased student fees by the maximum allowable amount every year for several years now, and borrowed \$30 million in December 2022 from bank loan facilities. They just spent \$700k on a proposed new logo and \$90 million on a delayed new hall. Last year, their target return on income was 3 per cent. They hit 1.9 per cent. This was caused by the "volatility" of "global investment markets", made worse by the fact that the Government doesn't fund the university like it used to.

Their committee group hearings are focused on numbers like these, mixed in between chatter about new scholarships, entrance pathways, and international reputation. They're held in a boardroom in the Clocktower, and the pre-meeting is catered with snacks like little salmon sushi pieces. Some of their council members also sit on the boards of Mitre 10, Cumberland Property Group, and Forsyth Barr.

They say a university needs to run like a business. Does it, though? Government has pushed universities towards a fees-based model, making them dependent on attracting more and more students. When students suddenly stop coming, like we're seeing right now, the University has to make major cuts. Fees free solves this problem, but fees free was phased out in 1984.

But there is one tertiary institution in this country that is still fees free. It's SIT, the Southern Institute of Technology, in balmy ol' Invercargill. The 1990's brainchild of Sir Tim Shadbolt, it was designed to attract more young people to Invercargill and provide a "debt-free" education funded by the community. It was so successful that it eventually expanded to some international students, too. Last year, Te Pūkenga announced that it would be absorbing all of the nation's polytechs under one centralised banner. As it swallowed up SIT, New Zealand lost its last fees-free tertiary institution. This will be the last year students can attend without a price tag.

"NEOLIBERALISM IS OUR NEW GOD"

SIT was not always an island in a sea of neoliberal academia. Oxford University was founded in 1096; 300 years before the Black Death, 400 years before the rise of the Aztecs, and 600 years before the Dutch came up with the stock market and the resulting rise of industrial capitalism. And while the university of yore was undeniably white, male and stale, it was most certainly not a business.

How did we get here?

Much like a Year 13 English class, we'll start with 1984. Tertiary education, as a whole, saw substantial reform with the election of the fourth Labour Government, who shifted New Zealand from a social democratic state to a free market focused neoliberal state. The university system, until this point, had withstood the withering effects of plague, the introduction of Renaissance for-profit money lending, and the rise of big business. But it was about to meet a new boogeyman: neoliberalism. Basically, the idea that "the market" should guide us, free from the constraints of government regulation.

Pre-1984, the New Zealand university system depended on government grants - not revenue. Students largely studied part-time or in specialised colleges, and there was no overarching culture of "everyone needs a degree". When neoliberalism hit the scene, this funding model changed. Associate Professor Brian Roper has spent much of his career studying these effects, and explained that "public education was viewed as one of the key features of the social democratic welfare state" which was built by the first Labour Government in 1935. "We had

barrier-free tertiary education which was funded by progressive taxation, as there was this fundamental idea that universities had a role to play being the critical consciousness of society."

He said that a public service like a university meant that the nation saw public benefits - a sort of return on their investment, to put it in neoliberal terms. "There were public benefits to education, it was good for democracy because you had a more informed citizenry, it was also a fair and efficient way to fund education as it didn't require bureaucracy or the collection of student debt and fees." Brian also said that the publicly-funded model of tertiary education also made the conditions of study better, as students did not need to rely on precarious contract work or part-time employment in order to get by. We also just gave students money: "The combination of effectively free education and the universal allowance meant that most students tended to not do part time work, but rather work over the summer, so there wasn't the same pressure as there is today."

And when summer jobs won't cut it, in comes Studylink, an organisation apparently stretched so thin that the only hold music was recorded by holding a cell phone held up to a car radio. "During the period of the Key-English government," explained Brian, "from 2011 to 2016, government spending was cut by 27.8 per cent. The student loan repayments went from 10 to 12 per cent of income, and statistical trends show that during 2008 to 2016, when these cuts were made, university fees rose substantially."

The 2022 Green Party inquiry into student poverty demonstrated the need for student incomes to be lifted, with thousands of students living in poverty and struggling to pay rent. A 2023 study into Labour's 2018 First Year Free policy (which was originally promised to eventually become three free years) demonstrated that students from high income families benefit the most from the policy, failing to address deeper social inequalities.

Progressive taxation is the idea that the rich pay progressively more taxes than the poor. But heavily leveraging this method - as New Zealand has done in the past - is not seen as the best way forward in Government. Brian disagrees. "The idea that we couldn't fund barrier free education with progressive taxation is nonsense... Our per capita GDP is larger, the size of the economy is larger than it was back in the 60s and 70s, if the New

Zealand government can fund education then, they can sure as hell do it now," he said. "We need to have progressive taxation, we need a capital gains tax, we need to increase the top marginal rate of income tax, an increase in company tax, we need to close the loopholes, and there is no excuse on fiscal grounds that you couldn't reintroduce fees free education." Brian says it is also unconvincing to argue that enrolments have increased, saying that those cuts made during the Key-English era show just how much the tertiary sector has already lost.

Brian suggested that reduced support and hikes in student fees led to a decline of a hundred thousand tertiary students in New Zealand, and that if we moved toward fees-free education, this trend could be reversed. "It is appalling from a general experience. We have failed to invest in young people who are the future, and it fails to recognise that education improves democracy, citizenry and the economy."

"The Labour Government was the first to implement large fees for tertiary education," said Brian. "In the 1990s, the National Government proceeded to underfund universities, meaning [universities] had to impose their own fees to remain financially solvent," he explained. And at the same time, the student allowance system was subjected to "means testing". During this experiment, the threshold of parental income "was set so low that... only a third of university students were eligible for a living allowance." He described the reforms as targeted, and said that the neoliberal model is regressive. "It doesn't adjust for income. When education was funded by progressive taxation, the rich paid more. But now, whether you are rich, middling or poor, you have to pay off your student loan and it doesn't adjust to the rate of payment for education relative to income, or the benefits you received from tertiary education."

"WE HAVE BEEN SO DISCIPLINED TO ACCEPT THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE"



Otago University's Director of Strategy, Analytics and Reporting David Thomson says that, while "the expectation of Government is that universities make a surplus annually" for capital investment, the Uni is not a business in the sense that it has to make a financial return to shareholders. "However, in common not only with businesses, but also all other not-for-profit organisations, they do not have access to infinite funding, and so have to operate in a business-like manner. In general terms, that means they need to live within their means (i.e. they cannot spend more than they earn for extended periods of time). For a range of reasons... Otago is currently in a situation where it is not proving easy to do that." Thomson highlighted that government funding remains the largest income source for the Uni and outlined for us where most of the funding goes. He said that "Government funding increases have failed by a wide margin to compensate us for the rising costs that are part of a high inflation environment" but that "Government right now is facing its own major financial challenges".

While neoliberal reforms have affected the tertiary sector on a whole, the social sciences have been impacted in particular. Over the past few years, subjects in technology and the sciences have been financially supported in generally stronger terms than the humanities. In Australia, the Morrison government attempted to double the cost of humanities degrees in order to incentivise STEM subjects. In 2020, the University of Otago axed the Art History department, and there continues to be ongoing discussion surrounding proposed cuts to the Languages and Cultures Department. But the new Dentistry and Chemistry buildings sure look nice. That being said, they just proved that STEM isn't safe with the axing of the BAppSci programme.

"The social sciences have been targeted by the socio-political forces on the right, and it's not hard to work out why this might be so," said Brian. "The adoption of the neoliberal consensus with the IMF, and the OECD's promotion of liberal democracies, is a way of defeating the forces of resistance against it," he explained. "The political forces on the right are defeating the forces of resistance which include trade unions, students, workers, ethnic minorities, and social movements such as the women's movement

and the indigenous rights movement. Universities remained a bastion of resistance, where there is opposition and criticism of neoliberalism, and this was not appreciated by those forces on the right." But the targeting of the humanities is subtle and indirect: "It's not people explicitly saying, 'We don't like universities acting as the critical conscience or academics being public intellectuals.' It was framed along the lines of 'universities do a better job at serving the interest of business, and that research should be tailored towards these needs'... Universities became much more focused on the need for skilled labour, and there is no longer anything about educating citizens and contributing to democracy."

Dr Olivier Jutel, who is a lecturer in Communication Studies, echoed Brian's sentiment. He said that the entrenchment of neoliberalism into the social sciences has created a plethora of problems, and also reflects other concerning social and cultural issues, such as our attitudes towards inequality and the dangers of technology. "Neoliberalism is our new God," he said. "This idea that we have to justify ourselves in economic terms is part of this problem; we don't know how to think any other way, and this has impacted the arts."

He suggested that universities aren't asking the big questions any more, the ones about what kind of future we want. "We are instead governed by tech oligarchs, so when they create this big spectacle like ChatGPT the first thing they do is take aim at the college arts essay and the types of thinking we do. There is a hostility in the culture towards universities as the critic and conscience of society," he said.

Joshua James, who is currently completing his PhD in Politics and Gender Studies, provided an interesting insight into the issue. He experienced both the reality of a student loan scheme based system, and what it is like actually working under these conditions in academia. "The premise of a student loan is that you can earn more once you have a degree, however most professions, especially the social sciences, require a masters. So this idea of the three-year bachelors and carrying the debt is starting to become a myth," he said. Josh also remarked that neoliberalism has also resulted in the "uberfication" of academia due

to the lack of full-time work. "You can make profiles and universities will post listings to teach a single week, or a whole course of lectures, and I think that is neoliberalism encapsulated," he says. "Long term job security is gone, especially in the social sciences because neoliberalism doesn't acknowledge what we as social scientists provide, and academics have become quantified."

Joshua said that, while there have been some positive changes introduced such as Labour's fee's free policy, there is still a long way to go in terms of reaching a more equitable tertiary sector. "First year free is such a good policy because it enables students to fuck up. They can do all these papers and figure out who they are and what they wish to study without the debt," he said. Joshua's outlook on the future remains critical, because "if the first Labor majority government in 40 years couldn't get rid of the student debt crisis then it is unlikely anyone can. However, when it comes to the politics of fees free education, Joshua thinks that taking an economic over moral approach is the best way for arguing a debt free case. "We must have free education because it would stimulate the economy. Every week, we pay thousands of dollars in debt to the government but, if we wiped student loans, that would stimulate the economy as we know when people have access to a little more money, we know they spend it."

Joshua also explained that the climate crisis further highlights the need for imminent change in education. "With a recession incoming in the climate change post-pandemic environment, if we want a high tech, low carbon sector, we need free education," he said. Echoing Olivier's sentiment, Joshua thinks that "we can't let the Elon Musks of the world run rampant. We need the humanities. People who are able to think critically and creatively to work in groups. I mean, it's like Jurassic Park. What if they were to invent dinosaurs without social scientists questioning what we want society to look like?"

Olivier agreed. "It's hard for me to understand how we have been so disciplined to accept that there is no alternative, maybe it's because in the Anglo-Western world we associate our notion of independence with the free market, but there are plenty of other capitalist countries who still provide free education," he explained, citing France as a place where tertiary education is low cost. Olivier also thinks that reform will be challenging given how politically entrenched

**"WE HAVE FAILED
TO INVEST IN YOUNG
PEOPLE WHO ARE THE
FUTURE"**

neoliberalism is in New Zealand politics. "We have the problem that because our Labour Party were the ones that implemented Rogernomics, we don't have any people who are from the traditional left wing of the Labour Party, and it has cleared the decks of social democratic tradition... There is a profound failure of leadership by the Labour Party to represent a core constituency, student unions have been hollowed out, Voluntary Student Membership has been imposed, and we have lost a generation of activism and radical legacy," he said.

Olivier reflected on his time as student, saying, "20 years ago it was easier, housing was decent, rooms were 50 bucks, and that gave me an enriched on-campus experience, because it isn't about achieving degrees and grades, it's an enriching personal, social and cultural thing." Olivier thinks that now the pressures of student debt, the cost of living and poor housing has made it difficult for students to actually make the most of their experience. "If you're stressed and fried in poor housing, how are you supposed to do all that? There is real economic stuff standing in the way of this generation, and students should be able to be here and make decisions about what kind of person they want to be in the world." Olivier thinks that it is crucial to "defend a humane and enlightened society with ambition", and that protecting the social sciences is crucial to this. "Student issues reflect the bread and butter issues of our society. How are we going to address housing, healthcare, poverty? It's all these interconnected questions."

While it may seem daunting and impossible to think about if the tertiary system can be reformed, or that we may be losing our futures to the tech overlords while the world burns to the ground, Brian remains optimistic in the power that young people have to generate change. "The powers that be, the higher ups, the haves, successive governments, Treasury, the Reserve Bank... they want people to think that neoliberalism is here to stay, that it is permanent and untouchable, [that] we are stuck with high fees and debt from here to eternity," he says. "But the truth is we are many, they are few, and they are only able to keep getting away with this as long as we let them. Workers are not powerless, students are not powerless, we are many, and they are few. And when people realise this and rise up, we can topple neoliberalism and fund tertiary education, and do many other progressive things."



Saurian make music that matches their name: hard rock. Critic Te Ārohi managed to catch up with the band in the midst of their current tour.

Saurian is Karl (guitar/vocals), Cameron (guitar), Logan (bass), and Hamish (drums). Saurian have been a band since 2015, starting with Karl and Hamish who have been playing music together since high school. They've had some lineup changes since, with Cameron joining about five years ago and Logan within the last year. The whole group contributes to the songwriting process, which often arises from their jam seshes, whether that be in rehearsals or during their live gigs. Karl usually provides the lyrics.

The guys draw inspiration from different heavy-hitting rock musicians and genres from the last forty years. From the '80s, Queen and Alice Cooper; to '90s punk, Rancid and Pennywise; to legendary turn-of-the-millennium bands, such as Green Day, Nirvana, and the Foo Fighters. Karl explained that "for me, it's a lot of the darkness and 80s rock a lot of the time."

Saurian are the only local band with a song dedicated to the legendary Blue Boy ice cream truck. Titled 'Ice Cream Man', the track is a head-banger and a guaranteed yell-along in their live gigs, featuring an image of Blue Boy as its single art. The image actually followed the inception of the song with the bassist at the time, Sol, snapping an opportune pic after hearing the ice cream's rallying call. The song came about after being encored multiple times, with the band running out of songs to play. "I decided that I'd play something that I thought sounded absolutely horrific," said Karl. "I just wanted to go home and I told Sol to scream some nonsense that he came up with at band practice and that was 'Ice Cream Man'. Now we play it at every show."

The natural next question was, what ice cream would you go for if you were at Blue Boy at this moment? Hamish gave the correct answer of a frosty freeze with sherbet, saying it's "always a classic." Cameron said, "Anything choc-dipped," also citing orange choc chip as a favorite in opposition to Karl's answer of mint choc chip. Logan's response was chocolate or cookies and cream.

Saurian are currently in the midst of their 'Small Scale Tour', playing four shows across the South Island throughout April and May. Though they played their Dunedin date at The Crown two weekends ago, there are still shows to come in Christchurch and Queenstown. The band are looking forward to sharing their music in some new locations as well as using the shows to get fans ready for new material they'll be releasing later this year. It's also a bit of a launchpad for a larger scale tour with Logan sharing that, if this tour is successful, "we are hoping to consider a more extended New Zealand tour going up the North Island a bit [and] working our way back down."

You can keep up with Saurian by following them on their socials, including their website saurianband.com. Their music is available to stream on all major music platforms and they have merch available on at their live shows and online.



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In the Eye of the Beholders

By Peyton Black

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

This week: *The Robert Burns Writers' Walk*

Peyton: This piece is almost like a friend to the city. It's big, stoic, and out where everyone can see it.

Timothée: It's the Cathedral Church obviously. Its design is so beautiful; the big window reminds me of a fireplace.

The answer: Nope, silly, it's the Robert Burns statue over in the centre of the Octagon.

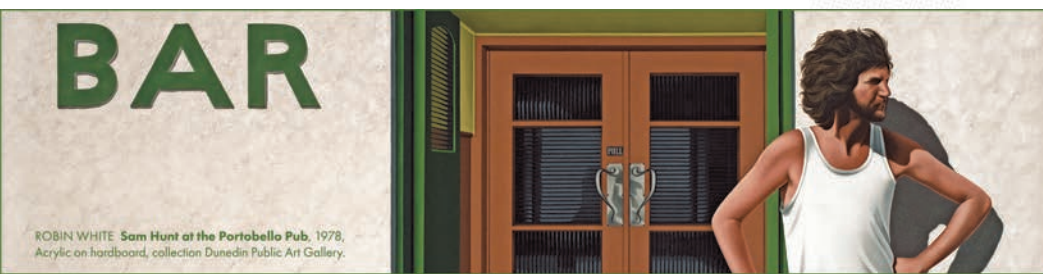
The Robert Burns Writers' Walk is a landmark of Dunedin. It's a beautiful stamp of New Zealand history with a big ten-foot-tall bronze statue of the man himself. Its concrete is implanted with titles of some of the most prolific poets and writers of the 20th century. It's a captivating piece that brings writers from all around the world to none other than sunny Dunedin. It stands out even in a city full of art and culture. But what it represents is something deeper than expression; it's like a spark of hope to those who share the passion for the arts.

In a sense, this statue and the writer's walk that joins it act as Dunedin's compass towards its past, present, and future. It's home to not just writers but all with a passion for creating something. It's the poster child for what Dunedin stands for, and for what many starry-eyed Uni students strive for. See, the Robert Burns statue could also be seen as a symbol of success, or the pearly gates of heaven, perhaps? The thing that's so powerful about it is that in truth it has come to mean many different things to many different people.

Some may only have noticed the writers' tiles because they're slippery in the rain. Some may not have noticed Mr. Burns at all, only visiting the Octagon on a night out. Some may look at it and see hope, some may see it as history, and some will just see an old man. But everyone who comes to visit this great city will see the Robert Burns Writers' Walk, just like they'll see the legacy of the artists that call this place home.

It makes me think: for a city founded on the arts, what's being done to uphold them? How have we cast an artist in bronze, perched him at the heart of our city, and then let arts funding slip through our fingers? The statue is solid, stoic and stalwart. Can we say the same about our commitment to what inspired the piece in the first place? Or is the weathering of his smelted skin the true symbolism here?

Recommended song for your visit: *Burn* by Usher.





4-INGREDIENT POTATO BAKE

This shit is simple and dope. Feeds 8, so there definitely will be leftovers. Pair with a bit of cheap rump steak and steamed broccoli or whatever else you feel like running.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1kg potatoes, peeled
- 150g cheese, grated
- 1.5 cups of cream and/or milk
- 2 cloves fresh garlic, crushed

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 180.

Slice the potatoes thinly. The thinner they are cut the quicker they'll cook. In a bowl, mix the cream and/or milk with the garlic and heaps of salt and pepper. Any other green herbs would also go well if you have any.

Place a thin layer of potatoes on the bottom of an oven proof dish. Sprinkle cheese over top and dollop the creamy mix over the layer. Repeat this until you've used up all of the potatoes. Top with cheese and cook in the oven for a good 30 minutes. It may take longer depending on your oven so stick a knife through and if the potatoes are soft you're good to go.

Get that in ya gobbbbbbbbbbbbbb!



BOOZE REVIEW: SOJU

BY ALBERT EINSTEINLAGER

Soju sounds like a slur Walt Disney would use.

It's not, though. It's booze. It seems that these days I have exhausted my excitement for alcohol. Bored of beer, sick of RTD's, and left with broken spirit(s). The novelty is gone and I wonder what is the point of destroying my body for something that I no longer enjoy.

Then I am reminded that Soju exists, and I gladly fall off the back of that wagon.

Soju is joy in a bottle, and it comes in every flavour imaginable. Tell your friends to come around with a bottle of Soju, and it's likely they will come with a range of flavours suited to their individual palates. Spend the night taking shots of each flavour, arguing your case for why cherry is better than apple, and ripping out whoever brought yoghurt over peach.

The three elements of a successful night in go as follows: three servings of Korean fried chicken, eight bottles of Soju, and Family Guy funny moments #7.

Soju is best enjoyed over a meal with friends, served chilled and straight into a shot glass. The alcohol content

is low enough to enjoy shot after shot, but high enough to get you decently plastered. You won't realise how tipsy you are until you're down to the last bottle and wishing there was more, trying to read the funny font on the labels with squinted eyes before realising that they're in Korean. The concept of having shots with friends over dinner is terrific, and I highly recommend it as a break from the norm. Drop a shot of Soju into a light beer and chug the thing, it's great. I will forever be indebted to South Korea for inventing a way to get my parents to drink shots during dinner.

For less than \$10 a bottle and around 3.5 standard drinks, Soju is a great option for a night of light drinking. Even the self-professed non-drinkers I know have been turned onto Soju. It's the alcoholic equivalent of a dildo in a straight guy's ass while he gives you the thumbs up.

Tasting notes: More flavours than being assaulted with a bag of Skittles.

Chugability: 10/10. Shots! Shots! Shots!

Hangover depression level: 7/10. Surprisingly high, attributed to the amount of sugar.

Overall: 9.5/10. Thanks Korea!

delivereasy

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Too hungover to get up just yet.”

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Moaningful Confessions

a t m s

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Can't Beetle this Juice

I know there have been some less-positive confessions lately, so here's something slightly more wholesome. Slightly.

It's around 2am and most of our flat's in bed, save for two (let's call them Nikki and Molly, not using real names). The door of the flat opens, and Nikki and Molly come stumbling in, giggling and whispering to each other. I'm lying in my bed, silently praying to whoever's out there in hopes they'll shut up before 3am. I was dead wrong.

There was a brief moment of silence as they disappeared into Molly's bedroom, the calm before the storm that was the opening music of the 1988 Beetlejuice movie blaring through our once quiet flat. At this point I can hear the flatmate in the room next to mine (let's call him Josh) wake up too.

Something had changed during the movie. Nikki and Molly were no longer squealing and giggling. I don't know if it was the allure of Micheal Keaton's green wig and grey makeup, or maybe they'd looked into each other's eyes in the soft glow of

the TV and something finally clicked. But whatever it was, they were REALLY going at it. I did not want or need to know that Nikki is a power bottom, but the universe had other plans.

I'm desperately searching around for my crappy warehouse headphones to try to drown this all out when I hear some weird grunts from the room next to mine. Josh had apparently been awake for the entire thing too, but did not share my annoyance of hearing the other two banging. In fact, not even the sounds of the Beetlejuice movie were enough to distract Josh from the five-knuckle shuffle. To my further horror, I had left my headphones in the living room. I was stuck there. Molly and Nikki going at it like animals in the room across from me, Josh manhandling his ham candle in the room next to mine, and the banana boat song blaring all along.

Josh was viciously mocked by yours truly the morning after, and Molly and Nikki started officially dating a few days later. I'd say "everyone lived happily ever after", but Josh is still pissed off at me.

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

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HOROSCOPES

AQUARIUS Jan 20 – Feb 18



It's time to celebrate yourself, Aquarians! Give yourself a sweet treat and a pat on the back for all your efforts. You deserve it.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Anarchism.

PISCES Feb 19 – Mar 20



Pisces, it goes without saying you have been in a rut. It's time to tune into your emotions and think about what you really want without the opinions of others.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Girlboss capitalism.

ARIES Mar 21 – Apr 19



Aries, your season is almost over (thank god). This means soon your bad behaviour and erratic tendencies will no longer be excused.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Libertarianism.

TAURUS Apr 20 – May 20



It's always the same for you. Wake up, drink coffee, make money, suffer. Keep on keepin' on, baby.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Marxist-Leninism.

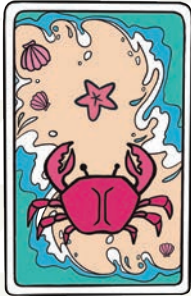
GEMINI May 21 – Jun 20



Gemini, it's time to take up a hobby that isn't seeking validation from others. At the moment, you're collecting clowns like a one-man circus.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Liberal Feminism.

CANCER Jun 21 – Jul 22



Cancer, it's time to actually go outside and do something. You can't hibernate forever. Remember, the world is more scared of you than you are of it.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Communism.

LEO Jul 23 – Aug 22



Leo! New beginnings are ahead for you. Go at them with full force and embrace the abundance. Period, slay pussy queen!

Political ideology to subscribe to: Crypto Capitalism.

VIRGO Aug 23 – Sep 22



Beep beep, in comes the hate train! You have permission to be an absolute obnoxious pain in the ass this week.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Conservatism.

LIBRA Sep 23 – Oct 22



Be cringe and be free in the pursuit of what you want. Nothing is impossible, the world says I'M possible!

Political ideology to subscribe to: Wobblyism.

SCORPIO Oct 23 – Nov 21



While it's great to have strong opinions, it's important to remember that others around you also have a right to their thoughts and feelings. Try listening more than talking this week, and see the other side.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Socialism.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22 – Dec 21



Sag, it's time to start taking your shit seriously. While it's great to fuck around and have fun, sometimes it's important to remember there are repercussions.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Environmentalism.

CAPRICORN Dec 22 – Jan 19



Capricorns are good at many things, and being condescending is one of them. This week, try respecting other people's feelings by not talking down to them.

Political ideology to subscribe to: Neo-reactionsim.

ART BY JUSTINA KING

SNAP OF THE WEEK



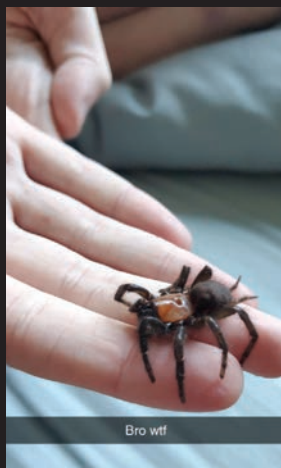
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SNAP OF THE WEEK

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Bro wtf



Unhinged behaviour on Albany street



Tour de critic



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Campus wonderful is not stoked



Uni really out here catering to fairies



Sorry man you can't park there

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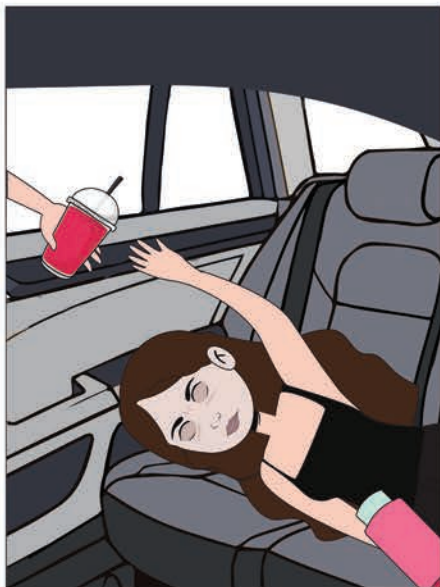
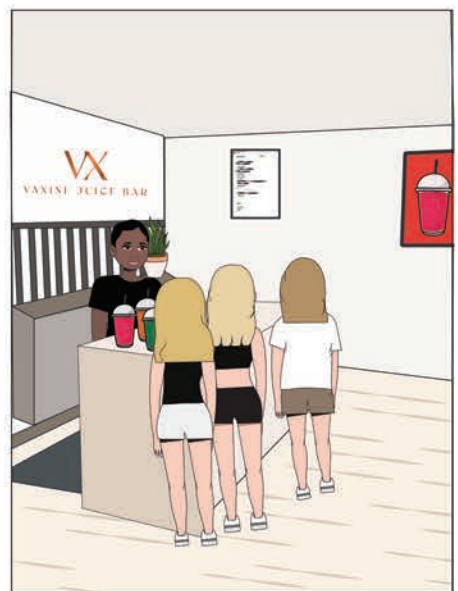
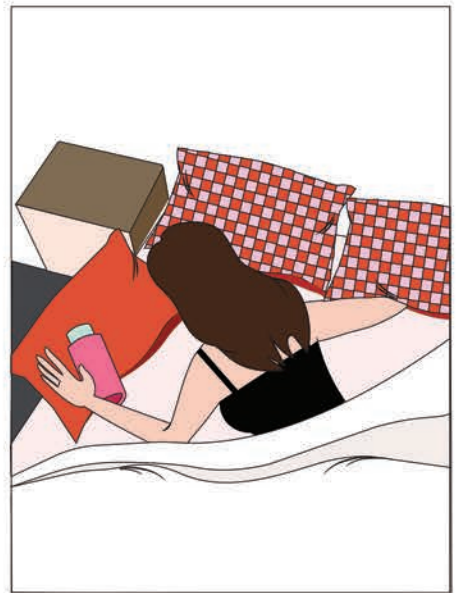
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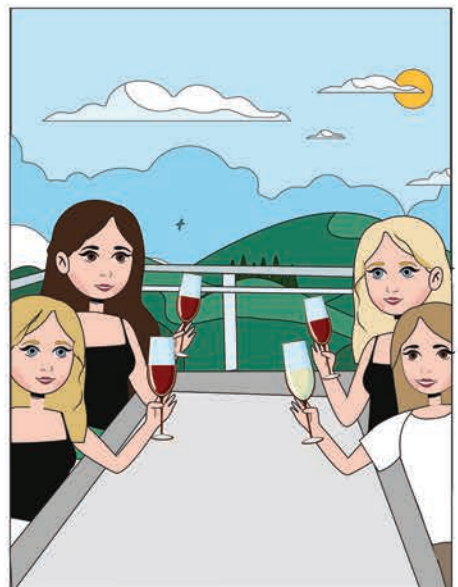
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