

**WELCOME BACK
SUCKERS.**

Bharhi

**100
years**



FREE PARTY GAME

PIN THE SHORT-SHORTS ON STICKMAN



PAK'nSAVE

OUR POLICY: NZ'S LOWEST FOOD PRICES

HOW TO PLAY

- Cut across the dotted lines to remove the page
- Cut out the shorts and place some blu-tack on the back
- Close your eyes, spin around and try place the shorts on Stickman!



Share how you did by tagging us on Instagram @Instickman



EDITORIAL: THE CITY OF SPOKES

Welcome back, suckers! Welcome back to a new year of living it large at the cosiest wee campus-based university that Aotearoa has to offer. Now that I once again have you all by the balls of editorial control, here's my pitch: let's make North Dunedin a City of Spokes.

In a move almost as nostalgic as that one student's dad who revisited Castle Street during Flo Week (read about it on page 7), I got a bike this summer. My bike is gorgeous. She's sexy. She's sustainable. She takes me places no other ride has before. She's also very vulnerable to broken glass, you pricks.

My love story with bikes began when I was ten. As a kid, I would join my best friend and her family on their annual summer camping trips to the small Taranaki beach town called Urenui. They were part of a larger collective who would set up a commune of tents beside the river.

The Urenui campsite was the first proper taste of being a Community Citizen for us kids. All the essentials of a village were simplified and condensed into a kid-friendly playground where we tried being a Real Person on for size. Like Mums and Dads, but we were given actual responsibilities rather than drinking pretend cups of tea and repeating gripes to each other we had no understanding of: "Did you throw a red sock in with the whites again?"

The connective glue that held it all together were the bikes we rode. With baskets strapped to the front and only mildly pot-holed dirt roads, we were unstoppable. We boomeranged between the Tent City, dairy, and communal kitchens – collecting dinner ingredients, carting dishes, and spending our chore-earned pennies on carefully curated lolly mixes. I don't think I've been happier than when we pooled our money for a \$10 whopper mix.

I learned the key ingredients for a happy community and how to play my part at that campsite. And I see all those ingredients in North Dunedin, the heart of student culture at Otago Uni. Like Urenui, North D is a condensed playground for fledgling adults. Instead of tents, there are the open-door flats (many with the

insulation of a gore-tex). Rather than learning the rules of chess from a mate's great uncle in his beat-up campervan, there are lessons on moral theory or organic chemistry offered in similarly beat-up lecture theatres. Though I've not tried, I imagine the fishing prospects in the Leith would yield similar results: a stray chip packet or limp sock at best.

My vision is for North Dunedin to become the new Urenui. Otago University is the closest knit student community you'll find in Aotearoa. Most students live within about a 2km square radius of one another and the street parties make the student quarter borderline pedestrianised anyway. Why not bite the bullet? Imagine how much happier and communal North Dunedin would be if breathas were zooming around on bikes, full of community spirit and whimsy, and getting some fresh air in their lungs rather than bong smoke.

Other perks would include: less student drink driving (but maybe drink biking), healthier for your rave-ruined knees, better for the environment (and your climate anxiety), cost-effective (free after the initial koha donation for a Te Oraka bike grab), and handy-fucking-dandy basket attachments to carry your piss, midnight Maccas meal, or your laptop if you're too cool for backpacks and discover the awkward lean that comes with biking with a heavy tote bag.

This totally isn't to justify keeping my new baby safe from broken glass (once a cyclist, you become rather passionate about ridding the streets of it) or validate a yearning to feel young again (if Greg the Castle Dad can do it, so can I). Now get outside and have a bake sale or something, I don't know.

NINA BROWN



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LETTERS



LETTER OF THE WEEK

dear beautiful talented critic editor,

for the kings cup rules... who the heck still uses whores as four?? who was polled??? i am all about reclaiming the word whore, but that feels like a pretty loaded word compared to dicks for six. ESPECIALLY when we have a perfectly good replacement: five is guys, six is chicks... not to mention, that means that four is not floor which tbh is a fun rule and not derogatory to women xxx

not very top of the cone behaviour x

lots of love, a concerned kings cup connoisseur

Editor's response: *FINALLY someone said it! Oh and good point on the whore thing*

Send letters to the editor to critic@critic.co.nz to be in to win a \$25 UBS voucher.

To Critic

Imaooooooooo castle sucks tonight (most of this week honestly Imao) it's so dead rn and it's been so dead all night pls put this in the critic it's so funny

a fellow castle street renter who expected more from smackdown

Editor's response: *Your definition of funny must be different from mine*

Hi Critic,

After a summer desert of my weekly student loan, I look forward to nothing more than the free items on offer at Tent City. As I wandered down the again bustling streets of North Dunedin I get giddy thinking of all the free items I am about to rax. I think of the vitamin C sachets, electrolytes and snacks to sustain me through the harsh winter months, knowing my leaky windows will leave me a sickly young woman.

To my shock, I leave with 2 key chains, a packet of those ugly ass croc accessories (like I lack the dignity to wear crocs), an energy drinks, and a sachet of shampoo/conditioner. What the hell. Back in my day, the stalls were falling over themselves dishing out my yearly supply of snacks and pharmaceuticals. Is this a result of our shit government? Come on Tent City. I expect more from you next year. Pull through for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Someone whose parents don't give them anything and wants free stuff.

Editor's response: *Genuinely heartbroken for you, should've gotten there sooner*

Dear Critic,

I've been a long time lover of the Critic, which I note before I go on my rant about students. I love the wacky content and the occasional accuracy.

But Jesus Christ the rubbish in Studentville? How do y'all live like that? I've spent close to

30 hours cleaning up rubbish in Studentville (I get bored easily, also I'm really easy to spot as I walk around with a whole rubbish bin myself). Please either don't have that much rubbish, or clean up after yourselves.

I've considered bringing my megaphone down every Sunday morning bright and early with a bunch of wheelie bins ready to meet all you students to bond while we clean together.

Please give a fuck about something more than a good time for once

Sincerely,

A young Boomer, Charlie.

Also, I agree with the other email, Castle Street's been shit so far this year

Editor's response: *The broken glass hurts my bike :(*

Dear Student Community

I have been at Otago for a while now, and in my time here, it dismays me how much student participation in civic discourse has dropped, both on Campus and in wider society. While there are a dedicated few who still protest, petition or strike, the overwhelming majority of you are lazy, ignorant, and don't give a shit about the wider community you live in or current events? Don't believe me? Well, consider this then, how many of you have gone to a student union event, a protest, or stuck your neck out and stood up for what you believe in? And no, Instagram, Change.Org and other such online only slacktivist bullshit doesn't count, that's for white girls seeking clout. Want to prove me wrong? Engage with platforms for civic engagement. Write a letter, go on a protest march, go to a town hall, or heck even just respond to this letter. I know some of you will not like this, but I don't care.

Breather hater

Editor's response: *Someone's been drinking that hateorade*

YOUR WEEKLY BULLSHIT ROUNDUP

One student was shocked by alleged "pintflation" at U-Bar during O-Week after being charged \$9 for a pint of Speight's

OUSA's Planet Media team shifted roughly \$98k worth of Arnott's Treatles during O-Week after being gifted 2,750 boxes of the soon-to-be-expired chocolate snack

Prez Liam was on TV last Thursday!

Q-Town burger joint Fergburger issued an apology last week for giving a tourist a receipt with a racial slur, resulting in the dismissal of an employee

Lydia Ko was named this year's Supreme Halberg winner

The ODT misreported on Tent City, claiming it's an Otago Uni run event rather than OUSA. Tut-tut

An Auckland school that exposed concerns that the school lunch program wasn't halal-certified was last week delivered 450 mac and cheese meals containing ham

The Dental School was evacuated last week following a suspected gas leak. The University confirms that "suspected leak did not originate from a University of Otago building"

An estimated 101kg of cocaine recently seized at Auckland Airport is believed to be NZ's biggest ever coke haul, Stuff reports

Preens have sold 1,165 \$4 toga sheets as of 1:30 pm, 20th February. Sharee from Preens reckons the final number will be around the 1,500 mark

Another 30 roles are being eliminated from the NZ Herald newsroom in another wave of NZ media doom

New stats show that Kiwis moving overseas hit a record high in 2024, with 72,000 emigrating – 40% of which were under 30

To celebrate turning 25 this year, Dunedin Fringe is releasing a birthday beer with Emerson's

Russia and the US have agreed to work toward ending the war in Ukraine in a meeting that Ukraine wasn't present at

Look Sharp chain stores are facing a \$300k fine for "widespread pricing errors" with some products costing about a third more than advertised

Pams' frozen chicken nuggies are being recalled as they could contain small pieces of blue rubber – beware

Trump has proposed "taking over" Palestine and relocating its residents to neighbouring countries with Isreali Prime Minister's support

Free brekky and \$4 lunch is back up and running at the OUSA Clubs and Socs building! Don't be fooled by the construction - you can still go in



BDS-Banned Domino's Gate Crashes Tent City

"Pizza, not Politics"

By Hanna Varrs
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Domino's were relegated to the outskirts of Tent City last week as a consequence of OUSA's internal pro-Palestine Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) commitment. Denied a tent site, the pizza joint handed out free keychains on the Cumberland Street sidewalk instead.

Behind the scenes, OUSA President Liam White confirmed to Critic Te Ārohi that the Executive has decided to follow a BDS list for internal commercial dealings. The global economic and political movement "aims to end international support for Israeli violations of international law by forcing companies, institutions and governments to change their policies," according to BDSmovement.net.

In practice, the BDS movement places pressure on Israeli forces by boycotting (withdrawing commercial or social relations), divesting (ridding oneself of investment) and sanctioning (punishing, often at a global level) Israeli or Israeli-connected organisations in support of Palestine. OUSA doesn't have any investments, but they do collaborate with companies for events like last week's Tent City.

Former President Keegan Wells told Critic last year about the Exec's intentions to follow the movement. "OUSA has endorsed [BDS] for our in-house staff. We obviously know it's the right thing to do," she said, explaining that the biggest implications would be for events like Tent City that invite vendors who could be on the list. "We won't take advertising from them," said Keegan.

Given brands pay for their sites, the Exec's position meant that turning away the likes of Domino's meant potentially hefty financial consequences. While Liam refrained from telling Critic Te Ārohi the true cost of the decision, he said that there were some within the student association who were "pissed off" at him when they found out the number. "Because it was a lot of money."

BDS lists can differ depending on the criteria. The list that the Exec are following is a graphic created by BDSmovement.net – notably one that doesn't list Domino's as BDS-endorsed. However, an article posted elsewhere on the site does describe Domino's as "complicit" by remaining silent when their branch in Israel supported the genocide, hence their exclusion from Tent City.

The decision didn't come without disappointment from the Fatty Lane pizza joint. A Domino's spokesperson told Critic Te Ārohi

they'd been at Tent City for the last three years and have "always enjoyed being part of this vibrant community gathering." But for "reasons unknown" they were ghosted from the invite list this year. They showed up anyway – carefully skirting the edges of the official event site.

Liam admitted to Critic Te Ārohi that OUSA had a suspicion that Domino's would show up. "They had been really enthusiastic about trying to get a site, it was really good last year apparently," said Liam. After some confusion around the rules of 'touting' (selling shit in public) and whether Domino's were allowed to be there, DCC became involved and confirmed that yes, with the appropriate permit it was all by the book. "Domino's will need to secure the appropriate permit in order to tout in the area in the future," said the DCC.

There is a remaining question as to whether it is fair to 'punish' one New Zealand-based franchise owner, who is potentially entirely unsupportive of the genocide, for wanting to give out free food and possibly employment opportunities to our students. Students Thalia, Bella, and Sharee discussed with Critic that "we have to be conscious that [the North D franchise owner] may not be directly associated with what's happening in Palestine [...] I see the intention from OUSA, but also, if they really want to support Tent City, and they really want to do this for everyone, then there should be some kind of compromise."

When asked about this argument, Prez Liam told Critic Te Ārohi that "it's just important now to keep the pressure up on businesses that are supporting Israel. Do I think the owner of Domino's Dunedin is complicit in the genocide? I actually don't. Do I think Domino's the corporation might be? Yeah. I really can't think of any other way to send a direct message to Domino's than a boycott."

From Domino's perspective, they said, "Our local franchise partner is in the business of pizza, not politics. He intends to continue to support the students of Otago University, if not at this event, by supplying them with pizza vouchers, student discounts, and employment applications. Domino's Dunedin North remains dedicated to supporting local initiatives and will continue to serve the community."



Breaking: Someone's Dad Spotted at 'Haunted' Host

Resurrecting the good ol' days

By Stella Weston
Staff Writer // news@critic.co.nz

A dad was on Castle Street, and his name is Greg. He tagged along with his son Logan to the Gothic-themed 'Haunted' night on the Thursday of Flo Week. Critic Te Ārohi got the scoop from the nostalgic construction supervisor in his fifties, reflecting on how the student scene has changed since he last paraded these streets in the '90s.

Greg didn't mean to stay as long as he did. He told Critic that he initially planned to just "wander through and carry on." But he ended up staying there for an hour or so (a more solid effort than Critic Te Ārohi's Flo Week reviewer on some nights). He was chuffed with the energy, describing how it was "impressive" and "heartwarming" to see students having a great time. "I had a great time [in Dunedin]. Just a good bunch of kids and the vibe was really cool," said Greg.

His son Logan found it "pretty crack up" seeing the old man on Castle Street – especially when he apparently got on the Haunted host's stage at one point. "[It's] not something we usually do together but we convinced him to come along," Logan told Critic. A whole different level of bonding. Your daddy issues could never.

The only thing missing was the burning couches, according to Greg. But now he thinks the whole affair is "probably a bit more organised" than in his heyday. "Which is a good thing," he added, admitting that "sometimes some of the stuff could get a bit out of control." Greg expressed his admiration for Campus Watch, calling the Aunts and Uncles of North D "pretty cool" and "primo". Their presence "would make people feel much more comfortable if they did end up walking somewhere on their own – not just the girls, guys too."

The old-timer reckoned the changes could be traced back to the negative media coverage the Castle scene has had over the years. "Even from two years ago, things have tamed down a bit," said Greg. "And to be fair, it's probably changed for the better. There

was some pretty out-of-control drinking and stuff going on at times. Castle is just not as bad as the mainstream media portray it all to be. Student pubs were still very much active then, and that kinda took everyone off the streets drinking – much more contained."

But there were some changes he didn't rate as highly. Greg expressed disgust (literally saying "ew") at the idea of invite-only hosts, explaining, "That's not Dunedin. Holy fuck no, all in." Hear ye, Castle dwellers. Drugs were another curly subject for Greg, reckoning it had shifted in a negative way – from weed and LSD, to the current ket, MDMA, and even cocaine. "I mean, cocaine is so fucking lame, a waste of money. They all just seem to not be able to go out without it all, which I don't think is a good thing. But up to them, I suppose," said Greg.

Other musings on the comparisons between modern Castle to ye olden days included shock at how little the flats have changed. "I don't think they've even been done up since we were down there. Like holy shitballs, I mean, what some of those kids are paying for flats is criminal," said Greg. "Just seems like the landlords don't give a shit. And to be fair, some of those kids don't look after the flats. You can see why they don't want to fix them up."

Greg, now removed from the thrall of Castle Street, is a proud advocate for student life which gave him memories like carrying crates of beer and couches to the infamous Carisbrook Stadium Terraces (the OG Zoo). "People up here say 'Oh, you didn't go to Castle did you?!' I'm like, 'Yuh, dude, it's perfectly fine'. It's not an issue, no different to going to a big music festival."

Despite the unchanged state of the flats, the changes to people's drugs of choice, and the 'disgusting' culture of invite-only hosts, Greg stands by it "just being a cool vibe" in North D, a vibe found nowhere else.

Con-Tree-Versy on Union Lawn

Cherry blossom gets the chop to make way for Ori' 25

The con-tree-versial decision to cut down a Japanese cherry blossom tree on Union Lawn to clear the way for Ori' 2025 was made in December by OUSA management. But it wasn't without a fight.

OUSA Secretary Donna Jones ran a tree-saving quest in the lead up to its ultimate demise on Thursday, December 5. "In my personal opinion, I think it's sad that trees are taken down when it takes 70-80 years to grow," Donna told Critic Te Ārohi.

Donna's noble crusade against the slaying of the tree saw numerous passive aggressive emails in OUSA's staff morning notices; good-natured (but direct) jabs at the Events team during Orientation meetings, enthusiastically pointing out students who would park up beneath its shade ("I hang out under the trees sometime and now there's less shade," one student Julianna worried); and a photoshoot hugging its trunk. All to no avail.

Donna watched from the balcony of the OUSA main offices as Property Services cut down the tree. The following day, OUSA staff received an email from Donna titled 'May We Remember'. Attached was a poem by Joyce Kilmer titled 'Trees' – containing the opening line: "I think that I shall never see / A poem lovely as a tree" – and a picture of a metre tall (DIY) cross she'd placed in its honour.

"I put my artistic flair to work [...] making, painting, and signwriting the cross," Donna told Critic Te Ārohi on the day. "I have to say that the people of the University grounds have been exceptionally kind by looking after the area for me." This was proven as Critic watched workers carefully raking dirt around the cross (cuties).

Judging by the rings on the branch kept in her office, Critic guesstimates the tree would've been about 65-70 years old, meaning it may have been entitled to a Gold Card had it been alive today. Donna cheekily gifted branches of the deceased cherry blossom to OUSA's CEO Debbie and Events Manager Jason who were behind its assassination.

Debbie explained to Critic that the tree had ultimately needed to go to make way for bigger acts on campus. This was in order to reach the Ori' numbers they'd had when events were held at the Forsyth Barr Stadium, rather than Union Lawn. "But because of the space that we've got to use, a tree needed to be removed to be able to fit a big stage in," she said, noting its continued value for future big acts such as the "one in three weeks" (Six60).

OUSA intends on planting a replacement tree, or three, sometime in the near future to compensate for the scourge of the debacle – a promise Donna will be sure to hold them to.

By Jordan Irvine & Nina Brown
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Ōtepoti Band 'IVY' and Dunedin Youth Orchestra Collab for Epic Gig

Classical music is cool again!

By Hanna Varrs
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz



Pint Night regulars IVY and the Dunedin Youth Orchestra (DYO) are set to hit the stage at Errick's venue on Friday, March 28 in a first-of-its-kind collab for the groups. Ticket prices are specifically catered to the student budget – a crisp \$10 bucks to peep the classically boosted IVY originals.

Like apple slices and marmite, IVY are known for their unique ability to combine two things that normally don't go together (prog rock and orchestra) to make something truly incredible. Aptly named "Beautiful Is The Listening Ear", the Dunedin Arts Festival promises that the collaboration "highlights the incredible talent of young musicians from the Ōtepoti area, merging vibrant melodies with the rich textures of orchestral arrangements."

IVY's lead singer Jesse Hanan told Critic Te Ārohi that the gig was born out of both his and band violinist Louis' long and happy history with classical music. Louis himself used to be a DYO member. "It's kind of a good idea for advertising for both parties," Jesse explained. "I think classical music done well and played with certain genres is incredible. People don't really get the chance to see that. It's showing what classical music is capable of." Did classical music just get cool again?

Senior University lecturer, ex-youth orchestra member, and composer Dr Maddy Parkins-Craig spoke to Critic about the

composition side of this gig. Maddy was tasked with receiving IVY's recordings and transcribing them for the orchestra to play. "It's super fun. You hear a song, and you're like: 'How am I gonna highlight things, or supplement things?' There's a whole bunch of different colours that maybe the band can't play live."

Around 22 DYO players will accompany IVY for the gig, a smaller group than usual if you can believe it. Critic was assured that this arrangement will still include full string (minus double bass), woodwind, brass, and percussion sections. Trumpetist and DYO player rep Mei told us that the orchestra is made up of heaps of uni students. "So come along, support your friends, and see something new. It won't just be DnB like you see on Castle," she said. Perhaps DYO should play Baddadan next.

"There hasn't been a gig like this in a long time," said Maddy with excitement. "The collaboration between classical and contemporary music [...] it's gonna have this depth that you just can't get live from a band." Maddy essentially promises a bridge between rock and classic music – a collision of strikingly different yet similar worlds. "It's all just music," she laughed.

Tickets are available through the Dunedin Arts Festival site under the 'Beautiful Is The Listening Ear' page. Too easy.

Cozzie Livs on the Brain, Says Exec Poll

And yet people are still buying coke?

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



The cost of living crisis is at the forefront of the student brain if the OUSA Exec's Tent City poll is anything to go by. The informal poll asked students what issues were highest on their priority list, with options including housing, a student bar, fresher life, drinking culture, lecture recordings, and the cost of living.

Yelling over the cacophony of Tent City (cries of joy over freebies and Radio One house music included), Welfare and Equity Rep Amy and Politics Rep Jett took a break from their BBQ duties at midday on Wednesday to give Critic Te Ārohi the lowdown.

"Overwhelmingly people have said cost of living and lecture recordings," said Amy, gesturing to the board. Cost of living ('cozzie livs' if you're cool like that) refers to all the things that you have to pay for to survive as an adult like groceries, rent, power, and Wi-Fi. "I feel like the costs sort of just keep adding up," said Emily, a third-year law student.

Currently, the maximum living costs students are afforded with a StudyLink student loan is \$316.39 a week. Critic's informal Instagram poll showed 74% of the 460 respondents rely on the weekly living costs for the bulk of their expenses, of which rent arguably takes the biggest piece of the pie. The typical rent price of a student flat in Dunedin sits between \$160-\$210, according to Critic's 2024 census of over a thousand students. "You'd be hard-pressed to find something nice for under \$200 a week," said Emily.

When all the bills are paid, there isn't much left in the coffers. Asked whether she thought it was realistic for students to be able to afford not to work alongside studies and rely solely on the

student loan, Emily replied, "Possibly, but you're not going to have a very fun time. You're going to be living frugally!"

Her friend Nassima, manager of Rob Roy, was worried about the impact it would have on people's ability to actually enjoy their lives after worrying about "all the normal stuff" such as going out on the weekends. "Obviously that's a luxury, but I don't think it should be," she said. "Like you spend all your money and then what do you have?"

Current Exec ideas for tackling the cost of living crisis among students include how to make jobs in Dunedin more accessible to students. "Although that's not directly dealing with cost of living, that is giving students more of an opportunity to personally deal with that," said Amy.

Amy also spoke of plans for \$6 dinners to be made available as an "extension" of the \$4 lunches that are already offered at OUSA Clubs and Socs. The dinner would be similar to the Bowling Club's community-focused offering in Caversham but in a more convenient spot for students – close to their North D flat or just across the road from the library during a night-time study session. Critic's new friend Emily reckoned the suggestions of more part-time jobs for students and cheap dinners would be "steps in the right direction."

The Exec plan to have a big old yarn about the findings of the Tent City poll at their next weekly meeting to decide where to focus their time and energy and to reap the best rewards for the student body in 2025.



Freshers Say Sport was the Real Winner On the Day

Blue Powerade sales surge in mass attempt to de-dust

The Inter-College Sports Competition kicked off last Tuesday, February 18th, with thousands (we think) of freshers flocking to Logan Park in what might be the University's only wholesome O-Week event.

With word that Vice Chancellor Grant Robertson (more affectionately known as Daddy Grant) was making an appearance, Critic Te Ārohi's sportiest reporter was sent to check it out. Shockingly, Critic was met with a shit-tonne of freshers playing sport in the first, and probably only, time that they will wear their hall t-shirts (Studholme's *House of the Dragon* and Cumby's Coca Cola themed shirts are pretty sick though).

Like any other time you'll see first-years on campus this week, the inter-college competition kicked off with packs of freshers showing their new-found patriotism in a dick-measuring contest of who could chant the loudest. This was tastefully accompanied by countless people blasting Fetty Wap on shitty Bluetooth speakers and 'Not Like Us' being played a record number of times.

The sport itself started with what can only be described as a "tomfoolery relay", including hopping, leap-frogging, and sack racing. The latter must've been run in preparation for the coveted

Inflaty 180 at half-time of the Highlanders game on Saturday. Besides this, tug-of-war was the only other event Critic really watched – or rather, that we could keep track of. Studholme allegedly won, but similar to the friends you make plans to flat with in O-Week, this reporting is subpar and maybe a bit confusing.

Carrington resident Chad told Critic that tug-of-war was the best event of the day, in his humble opinion. He said it was "very lively" with "lots of testosterone in the air for that one." Chad was open-minded about other events on the O-Week agenda, saying he's not fond of any event in particular but instead just wants to get out there and meet people. Critic reckons this is a yarn and Chad has been perfecting a design for an egg-proof toga all summer.

In the end, the freshers we spoke to concluded that sport was the real winner on the day. Daddy Grant and Uni senior management showed up to put on a hall-fees-funded sausage sizzle, in what might be an attempt to get the ODT to write a positive article about O-Week. The sausages were pretty good! Allegedly. Hopefully we don't get accused of subterfuge for stealing hall food this time.

By Adam Stitely
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Chlœ Hosts Community-Building Panel to "Save Dunedin"

"Where is our goddamn fun, guys?"

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

Kicking off the year of local body elections, on the evening of Monday 17th the Greens hit the quarter-full St Dave's lecture theatre with a motivational community-building hammer for their hui to "Save Dunedin". The event included a panel of four local leaders and emphatic evidence-based monologues from Green Party Co-Leader Chlœ Swarbrick ("we'll solve all of the world's problems in approximately an hour"), who buttered up the crowd by promising that Dunedin is her "second favourite" city.

Critic Te Ārohi caught wind of the event after Chlœ visited the office earlier in the day to indulge in some (regrettably off the record) hot political takes. Always one to walk the "evidence-based" talk, Chlœ had spent the better part of the day at the Greens' Tent City site to connect with students about the issues affecting them. The verdict: the cost of living crisis, shit flats, and – in Chlœ's opinion – a general lack of gumption.

Speaking candidly from the very same office couch where Critic's Sam Soppet lived for a week – during which she herself voted on Critic's Instagram that he should be allowed soap – Chlœ was passionate in her frustration with the "negative feedback loop" that's led to the political malaise of the country. As a student she said she found it confusing to hear about those who chose to complain about things without doing anything, and in extreme cases just plain leave the country, like the 44,000 who moved to Australia in 2023 according to StatsNZ (Melbourne does seem lovely).

With the energy of Dame Whina Cooper as portrayed in the 2022 film *Whina*, Chlœ urged to Critic the need to "fight" and "get organised" against the issues facing New Zealanders, and students specifically. At the panel event later on, she said, "We need to congregate around the things that we believe in, because right now we are stuck in a really negative feedback loop whereby so many people are so disengaged and disillusioned and so pissed off at the way things work and the stuff that they see represented in our politics that they don't engage in that politics. You know what happens then? With fewer engagements, it ends up that there's less representation on things that we care about."

Kaia, Marine Studies and Film student and Audio Visual DropKicks band member, reckoned Chlœ was "bang on" with the negative feedback comment: "I think everyone, students included, are just so exhausted." The Exec have noticed that political advocacy is not high on students' priority list when they're worried about getting a job and paying their rent. Welfare and Equity Rep Amy concluded, "Students are nothing if not time-poor." Politics Rep Jett added, "Yeah, you're focusing on the bare essentials to survive more than where you can put your time elsewhere."

Chlœ told Critic she was a firm believer in the power of the student body as a vehicle for change, hence the event they held on campus to encourage just that. At St Dave's, Green MP and

former OUSA President Francisco Hernandez warmed up the crowd of around 150 (half of which Critic estimates sported greying hair) by saying, "It's really important that we stand together as a community, because when I look here at the faces of people, I see the solutions to the challenges that we're facing today." Aw, stop it.

Amy and Jett agreed with Chlœ's faith in the power of the student body. "As students, we might just be one person, but on campus there's actually 20,000 of us, and if we all decide that there's something we care about enough to fight for, that's really, really hard for places like the University and the DCC to ignore us," said Amy. "The sheer number that Otago University students have can absolutely influence things," agreed Jett.

"At a time when Government cuts to the hospital, our tertiary and science sector and climate projections are putting our community at risk – join us along with community champions to discuss how we can come together and fix these issues," read the event announcement on the Dunedin Greens' Instagram. Champs included a multidisciplinary spread of Anne Daniels (NZ Nurses Organisation), Dan Benson-Guiu (Tertiary Education Union), Jonathan Rowe (South Dunedin Future), and Caroline Orchiston (Director of the Centre for Sustainability) and the Campus Greens' Co-Convenor Harry who announced he was "quite hyped up" after attending OUSA's Tent City during the day.

Given the diversity of panellists' areas of expertise and the enormity of "saving Dunedin", questions from the crowd greatly varied – all laced with that same tone of defeat and disillusionment that Chlœ had identified to Critic earlier that day. Topics on the minds of the audience were trans and disability inclusivity, lack of Otago University staff morale following successive course and job cuts, whether Grant Robertson can be considered an "ally" to students given his salary could pay off a student loan in a month, and anger about the Dunedin Hospital.

Taking back the mic, Chlœ announced her solution ("I'm a nerd and I've thought a lot about this"). Taking a beat to survey the speckled crowd, she shouted: "Where is our goddamn fun, guys?!" She empathised with the reality of people's lives, saying, "We're worn down and everything's hard," which isn't exactly a "passionate place to work from" – but at the same time expressed frustration at the lack of solution-backed complaints in her email inbox. To her, the problem lies in merely complaining, without pausing to think of a solution. "We seek to outsource those complaints, but what if we as a community realise no one is coming to save us and we have to do that ourselves and that's the point of democracy?"

And with that, she announced: "I will stop rambling!" Applause. Scene.



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PUZZLES PUZZLES PUZZLES PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

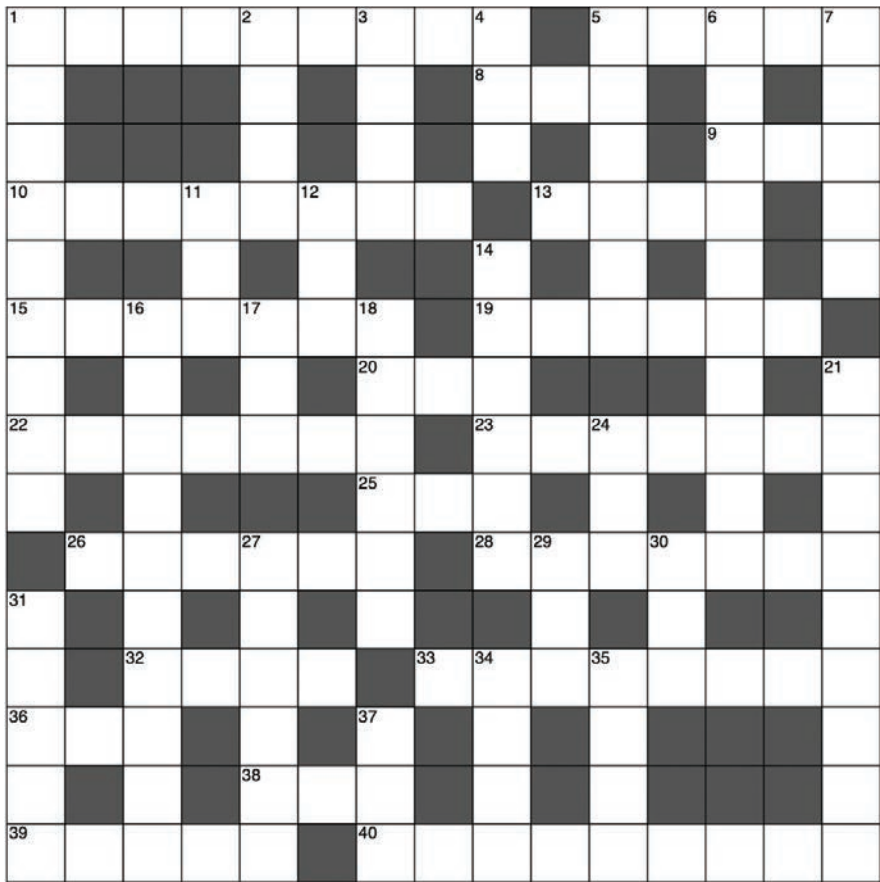
ACROSS

- 1 Ticket into Unipol (2)
5 Arrogant
8 Run (te reo)
9 Tyrion Lannister
10 White-lined rugby shield
13 Undercover cop
15 Dunedin (te reo)
19 Can tool
20 Otis, for example
22 Party register (2)
23 Apple data transfer
25 Sea (español)
26 Beer served with lime

DOWN

- 1 Gut-healthy bread
2 "____, Brute?" (2)
3 Pin it on a donkey
4 Kiwi ranger department (acr.)
5 Wine container
6 Movie feat. Mrs Tweedy's pies (2)
7 Like many lap dogs
11 Wank
12 Roddy, for example
14 Pussy
16 Clean Green NZ industry
17 Eye (español)

- 28 "Mona Lisa" painter (2)
32 Coral formation
33 Treated with Head & Shoulders
36 Pee-burner (acr.)
38 French "yes"
39 Reality TV judge Cowell
40 Transmitting Dunedin hill (2)
18 Top Gun antagonist
21 1/04 prank-faller (2)
24 Biggest kiwi criminal gathering (acr.)
27 US Beaver State
29 Beard on barley
30 Text agreement (acr.)
31 KnowYourStuff tests these
34 Know it all, smart ____
35 Mundane portal
37 Computer person



ISSUE 0 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. ALBATROSS 5. HOIHO 9. KISSES 11. RUSSIA 12. SANTA 14. BA 15. ALCOHOL 18. SCARFIE 20. OUSA 22. DICKS 23. UBAR 27. UNIFORM 30. LAYERED 32. ND 33. BLOAT 35. PURPLE 36. TE RITO 38. LAGER 39. ESPLANADE

DOWN: 1. ASK OTAGO 2. BUS 3. ROSS 4. SAUNA 6. OYSTER 7. ORANGE 8. FRANC 10. SOBO 13. ABLEISM 16. COS 17. HE 18. ST KILDA 19. IKA 21. URN 24. BAR 25. RADIO ONE 26. MY 27. UNIPOL 28. FRAPPE 29. REBEL 31. EVER 32. NOODS 34. TTYL 37. IPA

SUDOKU

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WORDFIND

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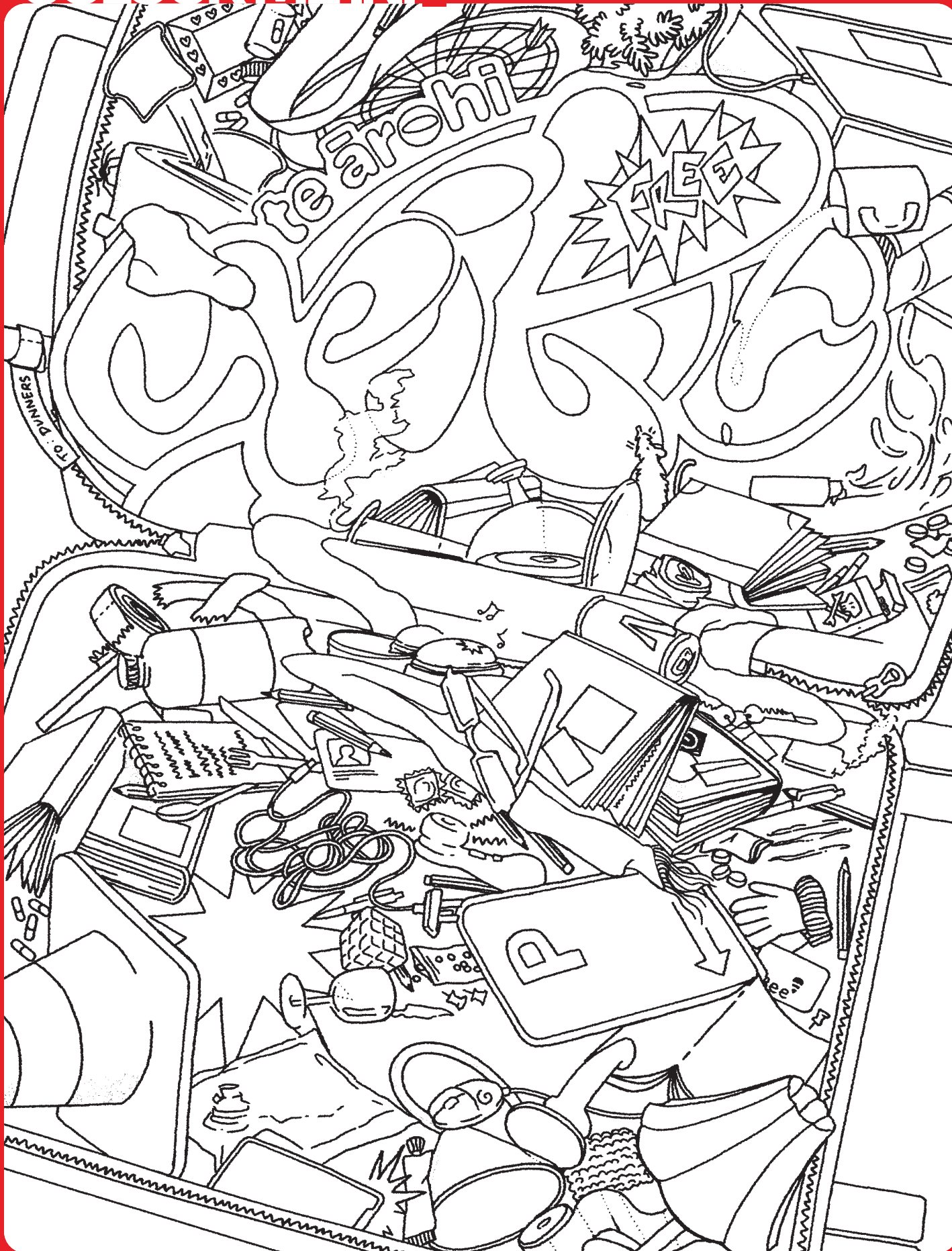
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COLOUR ME IN!

Illustrated by Evie Noad



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Illustrated by Carina Page



Illustrated by Connor Moffat

There are 10 differences between the two images



FLO-WEEK

REVIEW: IS THERE A NEW KING OF CASTLE?

By Jordan Irvine
Photos by Kevin Wang

Flo-Week is the time second- and third-years get pissed before the freshers start pissing them off. (I get it but, like, come on, give them a break). Each night a flat on Castle or Leith Street hosts with a totally original theme, in the hopes people are ready and willing to dress up to get down. Critic Te Ārohi got the scoop on Flo, in what was meant to be a team effort but wound up being a week-long Coke Zero fuelled bender for one (I'm so tired).

MONDAY: BACK2SCHOOL (COURTYARD)

"Guys does someone have a lolly? She's feeling unwell." Night one on Castle is already off to an interesting start. I'd soon learn the actual "start" was 9am – just in time for first period. Girls adorn their old high school uniforms (cropped, obvi – their hook-up from last sem is here), while the boys just wear blazers and jorts (NOT up to code). Signs read "principals office" and "no hat, no play". Courtyard has truly transformed from an ordinary pit to a pit of squashed second-years who, upon closer inspection, are just chatting with each other ("what are you drinking?") rather than dancing to the house music playing through blown-out speakers.

Critic's hopes are high: the theme is obvious (tick) and the host has evolved beyond DnB (bigger tick). But the optimism doesn't last for long. Ambulances come and go as the night progresses (my editor wanted a joke about the Doppler Effect but I'm an English major so idk what she's on about), and so too does the theme and good music. The girls' take on a "uniform" rapidly derails, as outfits evolve into wearing just white shirts and skirts. Boys barely even try, many just wearing their highschool rugby jerseys or a red tie over a hoodie (it isn't that cold, come on). There's no one telling them to pull their socks up or to tuck their shirts in.

If students are the – well – students, police are the teachers. They're telling people to come off roofs, inspecting one girl's head for glass shards (if she had her hat on it would be fine), and breaking up two fights – when they aren't distracted by drunk girls taking selfies with them, that is. Too busy looking at their phones (they should be turned off in their bag), the police seem to miss the fact that one guy is attempting to crowd surf, nearly diving head-first into a pole in the process. It's a solid ten or so seconds before one officer rushes over to break it up. Other non-influencer cops are busy telling [read: yelling at] students to go home, then following for a block to make sure they do. Could just be me, but five cops against one jort-wearing drunk seems a little unfair.

The general setup is fine. Bright strobe lights and a smoke machine surround the decks. Many people tell Critic they feel weird being back in uniform, worrying that their mean vice principal will tell them off for wearing bracelets and nose piercings before remembering it's 11:30pm on a street on the opposite side of the country. Police break it up at 12am sharp, telling Critic there weren't any arrests. In reply to us saying we saw a breatha in handcuffs put in the back of a paddywagon, they say: "Doesn't mean he was arrested." Whatever you say, officer.

Turnout: 7/10. Cleared out quickly

Adherence to theme: 5.5/10. They started off so well

Music: 6/10. They started off so well!

Setup cost: \$2.7K

TUESDAY: DAY @ RACES (TUNNEL + RACECOURSE)

"Skibidi! Skibidi!" the high-pitched voice of a breatha yells, running past. Expectations are high – and drop back down soon after. It's hard to know which flat is hosting. The cops are here but seem bored more than anything. Honestly, so does the crowd, and I assume it's because of the theme that barely anyone's adhered to. There's a guy dressed as Santa (maybe he thought it was 'Sleigh@Races'). As it turns out, Mr. Claus is one of the only people who has actually been to the races, and while high on coke – a crucial ingredient of the day, he informs me. "Then you haven't been to the races," is his response to my cokeless experience. Fair play.

Once in the mosh, it's an all out assault on the senses. Bright flashing strobes make it hard to see who you're talking to. The hosts almost exclusively use their mic to scream: "WHEN I SAY K-HOLE, YOU SAY FUCK OFF." Don't need to tell me twice. Back on the street, an overstimulated Billie Eilish meow stim is rewarded with a passing breatha's response. "There's pockets of wholesomeness," says a friend, pointing out a group of guys dancing in their flat lounge, showing off their moves to each other. "Pres and kick-ons are better than the actual thing," agrees one bystander.

The drunkenness is tame. A guy offers to pay three times the retail price for our non-existent drinks, because apparently his empty bottle of vodka wasn't enough to quench his thirst. He turns down our chocolate (Treatles, anyone?) because of the calories, seeming to forget alcohol isn't exactly slimming. While fireworks fire at a concerning angle in the background, he explains his weight-loss lore: he used to be really skinny but then gained a lot of weight and apparently became ugly. Our reassurances that he's a decent-looking bloke fall on deaf ears, as do the reassurances that, as a straight guy (he hesitates a little before confirming), he should know that girls love having ugly boyfriends. They're proud of it, even. After a long rant about his Irish ancestry and how upset he is that he lost his accent within six months of moving to New Zealand, he continues his search for more alcohol. Critic goes home.

- Turnout:** 4/10. The club was not going up on a Tuesday
- Adherence to theme:** 3/10. Y'all didn't try at all
- Music:** 5/10. "It's more just background noise"
- Setup cost:** \$2.9K-\$3.6K

WEDNESDAY: BRIDE AND GROOMS (FRIDGE & FRIDGETTE)

Finally, a theme people stick to. So many white dresses, veils, and smart-looking men in suits and

ties. There seems to be some confusion around the date given Valentine's isn't until Friday, but maybe they're saving the international day of romance for their honeymoon. A horde of newly-weds cosy up in the alley in between Big Red and Fridgette, spilling out onto the road. A police car and van block off this part of the street so no one can come in and object to this union. "I genuinely believe it's a safety hazard," says one groom surveying the mosh. While definitely true, it's hard to deny Bride and Grooms popped the fuck off.

To avoid the masses, many people try their luck going backstage by climbing over fences, not knowing you can simply walk down the aisle (AKA go around the back). Critic's own trip is fruitful. We ask about the setup for the hosts (all run by the people who run Southern Sounds). Starting off in Invercargill, the lads realised there was a market for putting on hosts that go one step better than a JBL speaker. They decided to rent out their equipment to those willing to pay up, and their good relationship with the cops makes the process a whole lot easier. They're also pretty fortunate that the students are all good with the midnight curfew (they spend the next day looking for the Cinderella who fits the Birk left on the stairs). We're told there's an even split between boys and girls who hire their equipment, but the girls often pay a week in advance, while boys do it the day before or just cancel. Figures.

Plenty of grooms are looking for brides, but with little luck since they're too busy swinging on trees (your best man encouraging you did not help). Behind all the chaos, it's easier to talk to people about the goings on, but they often get sidetracked about the fact that Critic is there at all. One guy tries to trade his 'Bride to Be' sash for the iconic Critic cap (denied, it cost \$20). "Fuck, you payed for your uniform, that's cooked bro," he says, before ranting about Sexy Garfield. "I know he hates Mondays, but that can't be what he's into." Eventually, he's distracted by his mates (who all love martial arts and boxing). "I do Health Sci so shit like this is essential," says a student who struggles to dap Critic up due to the box in hand. "Most people who have locked themselves in their rooms and not blown off steam often burn out or drop it, so you need to say, 'fuck it' and have a bender. You need to meet some people and have a good time."

- Turnout:** 8/10. The tight space may be deceiving, though
- Adherence to theme:** 9/10. Felt inspired, went home and watched MAFS
- Music:** 8/10. It's a lot better when you're behind the speakers
- Setup Cost:** \$2K

THURSDAY: GOTHIC (HAUNTED)

If gothic means wear something black, everyone hit the nail on the head. Fuck, who cares if it's an All

Blacks jersey or a different Man United kit. It's black. Goths wear black. Goths also love DnB and 'FE!N' by Travis Scott and Playboi Carti. Goths have tattoos on their faces that say '666' or 'xoxo' and even get teardrop tattoos. While Critic listens to the defining chant of the week – "K-hole, Fuck off" – we notice a group of girls with lipstick on their forehead with words like 'horny', 'slut' and 'bitch'. One of them, Libby, has bitch on her forehead because: "I am one." After talking to some of Libby's friends, she is too hard on herself.

Amongst a sea of dancing (finally) girls wearing fishnets for the first and last time, stands Devon. Devon is sweet, toned, charming, and looks eerily similar to Jake Paul. He proudly tells Critic he's kissed two guys and one girl so far: "When you lose your friends you start kissing guys." Speaking through the Red Frog pancake in his mouth, Devon's keen to kiss one of Critic's finest. Sadly, Critic reporters aim to be very professional on the job and already had pancakes for breakfast.

The crowd is weirdly full of unexpected characters. It seems that Castle is for everyone, not just people studying at Otago – a frustrating fact on our end since they're useless for a quote (apart from Santa). There was a surprising amount of old people that probably wouldn't even recognise a DnB remix of 'FE!N' by Travis Scott and Playboi Carti. When the night once again ends at midnight, Devon once more appears from amid the crowd avoiding bottles being thrown. Standing in a huddle, Devon admits he only kissed two more girls and no more because "they're scary." Things are not all bad though. He expresses confidence he'll find another man to kiss, but isn't in any rush: "It's not about the destination – it's about the journey." I may regret not taking that kiss.

- Turnout:** 7/10. Four points for actual Uni students and three for random fuckers from Christchurch
- Adherence to theme:** 5/10. Robert Smith does not have a teardrop tattoo but maybe his fans do
- Music:** 5/10. Cannot stress enough how often they played 'FE!N'
- Setup cost:** \$1.6K

FRIDAY: COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS (COMPLEX)

"I'm not really feeling it eh?" says a breatha pissing against a fence. To be honest, neither am I. Complex has the largest setup, meaning the largest crowd. People are trapped like sardines in there and struggling to get in and out of the pit, let alone dance to the DnB. Or whatever it is you're meant to do to DnB. Finger guns and gurn? Cowboy hats and picnic shirts are the attire of the night, except for the one guy with the MAGA hat in true Southern Republican fashion.

As fate would have it, we stumble upon some Americans having their own separate party. Kai is from Colorado on a semester abroad and can't stop praising New Zealand's beauty and Dunedin's party culture: "In America with fraternities it's very exclusive, but here everyone is involved and it's really nice." More international students make an appearance. Calvin from Germany is in NZ for "the parties and the baddies," and he was sure to attract them with his pink hi-vis and light-up heart shaped sunglasses. After walking past a girl pissing on a lawn saying to her friend, "I don't care, I've embarrassed myself enough," Critic spots a familiar face. A man wearing a black tank top, paired with a pink ascot and matching pink cowboy hat on top of his curly-blond hair: Devon.



Devon's just as excited to see Critic as we are to see Devon. Zero kisses so far, he reports, but the night is young. After informing him that he would make an appearance in the article, he says, "Okay but make the title, 'Devon: The King of Castle St.'" Devon then introduces his friends Chloe and Evie who reinforce that he does look a little bit like Jake Paul, doesn't he? And that Devon is definitely not straight, even as he protests, "I am straight though." We review the receipts (my notes app), revealing an anecdote about what he was going to get up to last night that was said in confidence.

Delving into the Devon lore, I learn from Evie that Devon was recently in a relationship that lasted four years and is now having some fun; that "his girlfriend thought he was a twink when they first met"; and that Devon takes issue with this (he was not a twink... while dressed like Mojo Dojo Casa House Ken). Curious cat Evie wants to know more about what Devon has said to Critic; before even finishing the quote, Devon interrupts: "It's about the destination! That's my thing!" After a shoot off at dawn (Critic wins) and some discussion about the film About Time (it broke both our hearts) it's time to say goodbye. Until tomorrow.

Turnout: 9/10. Got poked by so many cowboy hats

Adherence to theme: 6/10. Even Critic wore a Brokeback Mountain jacket and jeans

Music: 4/10. The Americans wanted to hear some Country

Setup cost: \$4.5K

SATURDAY: WHITEOUT (THIRSTY)

One of the first sights is someone's mum and dad hanging out and sinking brews trying to relive their glory days. They're not dressed in white. Gravity Events is the host tonight and the bright lights reflect off the braces of the freshers keen to scope out a night on Castle with pre-rehearsed fake flats ("I'm a second-year living on Dundas"). The groups of people are rather spread out and not directly in front of Thirsty. MAGA guy shows up again, this time with a girl bearing a massive flag reading 'Kanye 2020'. Cool.

The music is an absolute shitshow. Castle '25 has already seen complaints from people about the same songs being played over and over, but no one's mentioned yet that the DJs are shit at mixing and genre hop constantly. No wonder people are just standing around talking. Thankfully, I'm able to chat to my new best friend Devon, who's fashionably on-theme once again, dressed in all white: "You've got to commit to the theme." His pants and shoes are both from his flatmates, illustrating both his dedication to the week and a sexy resourcefulness. "I'm going 14 for 14."

Taking his main character role seriously, Devon drops some lore to Critic. He's from Bristol in the UK,

studying Geography at the University of the West of England where Bear Grylls is an alumnus. It's Devon's second semester in New Zealand and he went back home over the break, where unfortunately he and his girlfriend drifted apart. "Hey, that happens you know but now I'm single for the first time ever and just trying to enjoy myself" Devon needed to get out of Bristol and was hoping the party scene would be better in Dunedin. "There's a lot more flat parties which I love, there is nothing better." Inquiring about the scene in Bristol, Devon reveals they're also fond of DnB. "I was hoping to escape that but what can you do?" Now more aware that he's on record with Critic and not remembering what he had said the previous nights, Devon comments: "I wake up. Can I remember what I said to [Critic]? No? Must have been a good night." We then say goodnight to each other, hoping to meet again.

Turnout: 6/10. Mainly "covert" freshers, though

Adherence to theme: 4/10.

Music: 2/10. Jesus Christ

Setup cost: Blanked

SUNDAY: SMACKDOWN VS RAW (GENDER BENDER)

A last minute change of theme to draw interest did fuck all, as roughly 30 people show up and none of them are Devon (to be fair, Critic was only there for all of 10 minutes). It's lame. It's boring. It's a fitting end. There are broken eggs everywhere (and a can of beans).

Turnout: 1/10

Adherence to theme: 7/10. There were 30 people and still you couldn't throw on a dress

Music: 5/10. In one ear and out the other

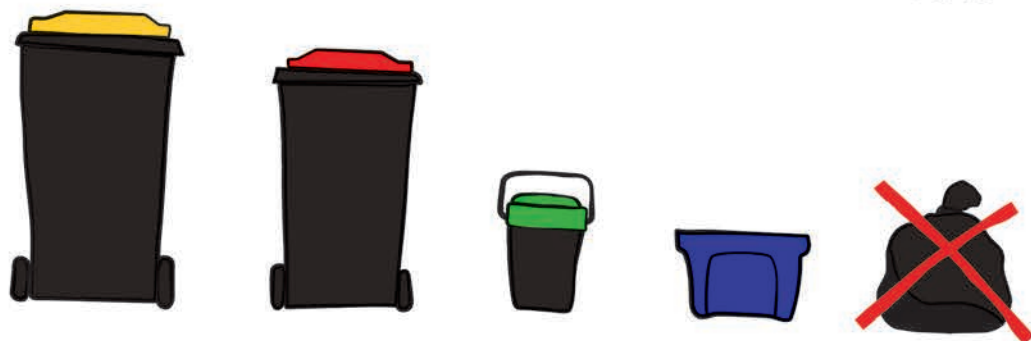
Setup cost: Surprised if it cost anything tbh

What have we learned? That Critic is not reviewing O-Week cos fuck this. We're watching MAFS (and definitely NOT pining after Devon).

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE DESTINATION – IT'S ABOUT THE JOURNEY

NEW FLAT THIS YEAR?

MAKE SURE YOUR FLAT HAS A FULL SET OF BINS:



YELLOW-LIDDED BIN

Rigid plastic containers and bottles
#1, 2, 5 only. Clean, no lids

Steel and aluminium tins and cans
Clean, no lids.

Paper and cardboard
Flattened and clean.

RED-LIDDED BIN

Household rubbish that cannot
be reused, repaired or recycled.
Check the app for more info.

GREEN-LIDDED BIN

Food scraps
Meat, bones and seafood
Small amounts of garden waste

BLUE BIN

Glass bottles and jars
Clean, unbroken, no lids.

NO RUBBISH BAGS

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT DAY MY BINS GO OUT?

Download the **DCC Kerbside Collection** app! You'll find
information on bin collections,
what can and can't go in the bin
and more!

Put them out by 7am on collection
day and remember to bring them
in after they've been emptied!



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CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera
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2-for-1 entry into the Tūhura Tropical Forest with your Green Card



TŪHURA

Otago Museum

Offer valid Monday to Friday only



By Stella Weston
Illustrated by
Gemma McKinney

FRESHER SURVIVAL LIST



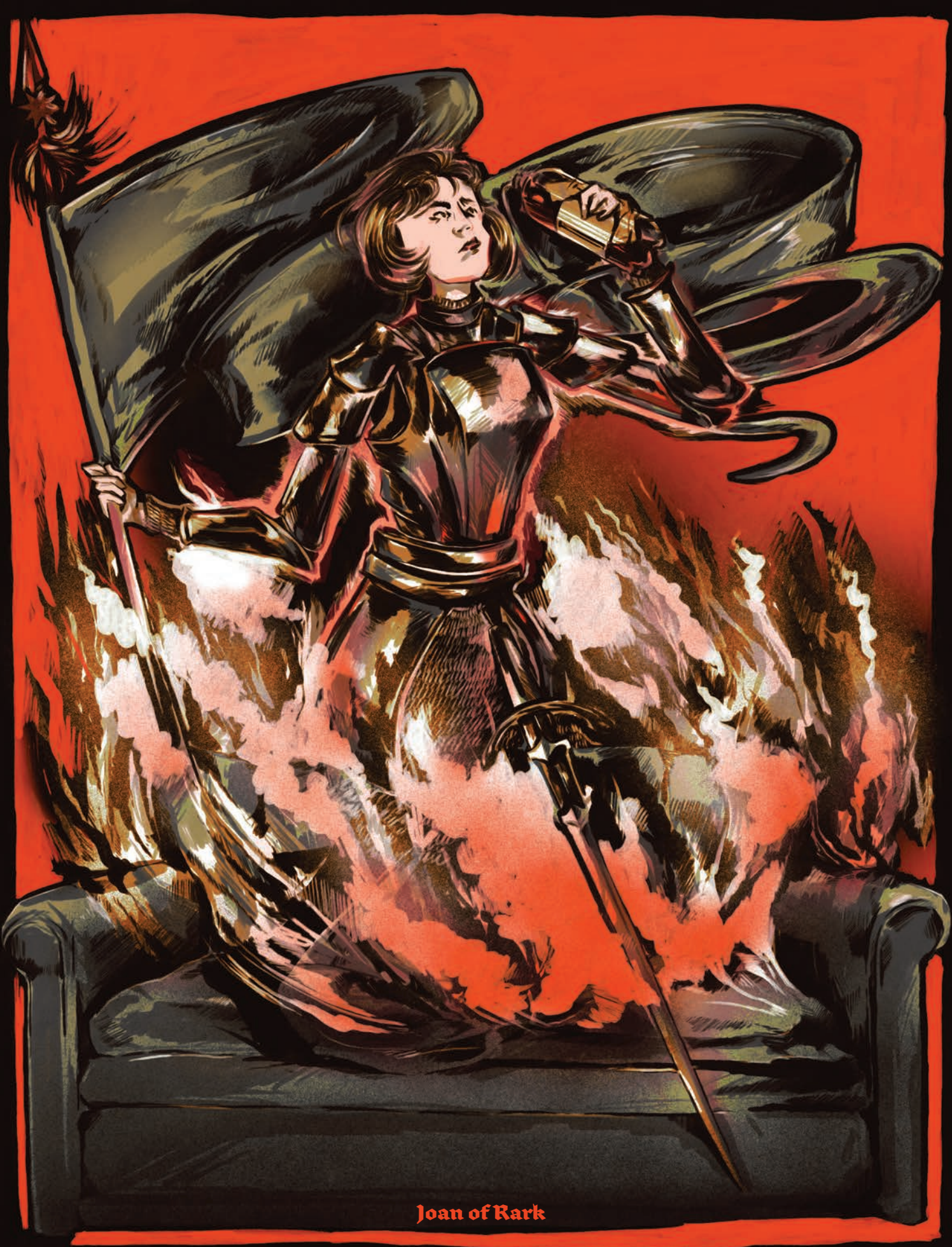
- ☐ Meet a minimum of nine aspiring DJs (they're actually the real deal – they played at Carousel)
- ☐ Trek to Night n' Day viciously hungover and wearing pajamas, purchase a steak and cheese pie and a purple Powerade, realise you can, in fact, be observed in this state
- ☐ Beg a begrudging med student to drive you up Signal Hill in the middle of the night to see the Aurora Australis, because you don't have a car, everyone else is asleep, you can study later, and "I'll buy you nuggets"
- ☐ Find 24 mentions of dropping out in your recently sent messages
- ☐ Throw up the nachos that your hall (for some cruel, sadistic reason) decided to serve on a Saturday night

- ☐ Take a break from eating mince
- ☐ Get egged during O-week in your toga
- ☐ Get egged during O-week knee deep in a river
- ☐ Get egged during O-week walking down the road

- ☐ Rescue a flat from scurvy by stealing them fruit and half a loaf of bread from your hall kitchen, then run away from the security guard who saw you doing a haul
- ☐ Buy a textbook that costs \$100 with an additional walk up Queen Street to the terrifying flat of a desperately broke second year
- ☐ Never open said textbook because literally everything is online now (how can you live out your dark academia dreams under these conditions?)
- ☐ Partake in a Rob Roy trip even though it's the first time you've got out of bed today (it's 6pm), you're wearing a jacket you found in your room that isn't yours (it's 9 degrees), you're pretty sure you're developing an intolerance to lactose (you're hungover), and you aren't actually sure you want an ice cream (you have 17 cents in your spending account but you'll transfer out of your savings because that sundae just looks so good)
- ☐ Get out of bed for a fire alarm at 5am
- ☐ Set off the fire alarm (but not at 5am so it's okay)
- ☐ Open photos on your iPhone to see a collection of the clocktower, your new friends, and lab notes
- ☐ See that your phone has titled this 'Home'
- ☐ View a collection of flats with varying types of light switches (from the ones matching your grandparents' old house, to a stick attached to a wire hanging from the ceiling)
- ☐ Advocate that you should absolutely apply to the flat with a stick attached to a wire hanging from the ceiling because it's whimsical
- ☐ Secure a flat far too early in the year, even though everyone is telling you to wait because things change (not your friend's opinions on sticks attached to wires hanging from ceilings)
- ☐ Wish Alley Cantina was still open
- ☐ Observe a freshly 21-year-old throw up on their knees into their yard long glass of beer, and then continue to drink it
- ☐ Contemplate if Otago was really the right move for you (it was, maybe)
- ☐ Amble down Castle in broad daylight on a rare sunny day in a cute outfit with a pretty tote bag on your way to New World to buy everything on sale
- ☐ Get water ballooned walking down Castle on a rare sunny day in a cute outfit with a pretty tote bag
- ☐ Hear a pop/EDM song that samples a song from your childhood twice in one night (both times at Trojan)
- ☐ Complete at least one wholesome activity sober. For example/inspo: devour Beam Me Up bagels in the botans
- ☐ Drink in the graveyard one (1) time and fall over the chain fence
- ☐ Pay the fee for overweight bags at the airport, because how can you ever pack your whole life into two 23kg bags?
- ☐ Lie on the floor of the gym listening to your sad playlist for at least twenty five minutes
- ☐ Leave the gym and buy dumplings from the Rising Sun truck instead

- ☐ Get bullied for your BA by your parents who didn't go to uni and your miserable Health Sci friends
- ☐ Say "at least I'm not doing a BCom"
- ☐ Catch a 4am airport shuttle that's actually 20 minutes early and calls you before your alarm goes off to say they're around the corner and please do make it snappy
- ☐ Wait an hour in the Pint Night line in the rain (you don't enjoy beer and have no intention of buying a pint)
- ☐ Drink three energy drinks in one day (it doesn't count – you're at the library)
- ☐ Eat three dinners in one night (it doesn't count – you're at the library)
- ☐ Get extremely excited over falling snow in public and have to admit to your North Island roots
- ☐ Ask your warden for a lime the night before St Patrick's day with a salt shaker in your pocket (he provides)
- ☐ St Patrick's day crash (it's 11am)
- ☐ Lose the respect of the boy who lives downstairs when he watches you drink two litres of orange Gatorade in an economics lecture without taking a single note
- ☐ Gain the respect of the boy who lives upstairs when he watches you drink two litres of orange Gatorade in an economics lecture without taking a single note
- ☐ Google the most efficient RTD on the walk to the liquor store
- ☐ Go to the beach on the hottest day of the year (the sea is still bordering on untouchable)
- ☐ Good old fashioned sob (bonus point if you're calling your mum)





Joan of Rark

By **Lotto Ramsay & Gin Swigmore**
Illustrated by **Evie Noad**

Girl Power, Girl ... Pilsner?

CRITIC'S REJECTED
BOOZE REVIEWERS

Critic Te Ārohi just found out about all this "feminism" stuff, and we think it's pretty neat. To show what great allies we are, for our hundredth year of publication Critic has our first ever female booze review moniker! Sometimes the reviewer behind the pseudonym is female, too. To help build women up, here are 23 other female monikers we almost used, and the reasons why we think they're bad. Go Girl Pilsner!

Martini Monroe

Glamorous and classic, but doesn't exactly roll off the tongue. Perhaps gentlemen prefer bongs?

4/10 standards

Speight Winslet

US export. Pairs well with a Leo Dicap Re-O. However, the latter sours in the presence of fully aged liquors. Could be better.

7/10 standards

Joan of Rark

Humbly knighted with a beer can sword, ready to take on any person or wall that gets in her way. Burns on the way down.

10/10 standards

Katy Beery

Oh my god I'm so fucking sick of her.

1/10 standards

Ble \$ha / Se \$ha

Tick tock, on the rocks... Bleshgo. Se\$ha also has some potential. Weed strain review, anyone?

7/10 standards

Mary Poppers

I fear for anuses everywhere. Also, this one's a stretch – no pun intended.

3/10 standards

Keggin' Thee Stallion

For all the girls who have one shot and decide that they can twerk.

8/10 standards

Yardi B

Did you know there's a classic cocktail called "wet pussy"? Anyway, I imagine like a solid yard of that.

9/10 standards

Beerbra Steinssand

This one's alright, but beer steins aren't very common these days. Neither is Barbara, but I saw a Tweet that says she's still alive, which is cool.

5/10 standards

Beerbie <3

Come on Barbie, let's go party. Life's fantastic, my gear has microplastics.

9/10 standards

Sabrina Barpunter

Tight wordsmithing but she's the absolute furthest thing from a bar punter I've ever seen. She looks like she calls pubs "public taphouses". Speight's would dissolve her. I could likely punt her quite a distance.

6/10 standards

Tipsy-Rose Blanchard

Two years ago, this would've been killer.

2/10 standards

Jug Judy

BALONEY!

10/10 standards

Judith "Crusher" Coffins

Must say "Talofa" as you hand over your ID.

9/10 standards

Ja'sinka Bardern

Eh, she's been through enough already. No need to put her through shite wordplay too.

3/10 standards

Lady Lager

Rah rah ruh a a. Foam, aroma-ma. Gaga, ooh lager. Want your bad... rhyme scheme?

7/10 standards

IPA Twigs

Was trendy, but quite quickly falling out of favour. IPAs: the beverage FKA "beer."

5/10 standards

Absynthia Erivo

Something Wicked this way comes. Cynthia wouldn't hold space for this.

5/10 standards

Swiggy

Like Twiggy, y'know? One for the lightweights.

4/10 standards

"Dark et Stormy" Daniels

A "Dark & Stormy" is a cocktail comprised of rum, ginger beer, and lime. To help you remember:

Dark and Stormy contains rum, while Stormy Daniels retains cu...

7/10 standards

Swillary Clinton

Lost to an orange screwdriver, unfortunately.

6/10 standards

Mo'liquor Brewinsky

I did NOT have sexual libations with that woman.

10/10 standards

Britney S'Beers

Leave her alone!!!

0/10 standards

You know what? Think I'll stick to the water tonight, thanks.

The Dunedin slander is something I've grown used to as one of the few Otago Uni students actually from here. I'm used to the complaints from outsiders and locals about this city and its apparent lack of interesting activities outside of getting pissed on Castle Street. With such a strong drinking and drug culture in this city, it pays to remember that there are plenty of things to do. As someone who takes pride in their ability to conjure up date ideas in a so-called 'hole' of a city, I'm taking the liberty of providing you, dear reader, with some certified 10/10 activities that'll lighten up that dark space in your mind reserved for Dunedin commentary.

For the sake of this article, each activity has been given a 'Green Solo Rating' measured by how much the activity will cost based on the price of a spearmint disposable solo vape (\$9.99). It's not a perfect rating system, but it's interesting to see what else your money can get you that's not a nicotine addiction.

DISCLAIMER: This list is also targeted more towards you youngsters who really need to get better at coming up with first-date ideas that aren't Netflix and Chill, dinner, or seeing a movie. Take that special-someone somewhere interesting for once. There are no excuses; there is always something to do. If you can afford a Green Solo, you can afford these.

THE GREEN SOLO ALTERNATIVE

By Zoe Eckhoff
Illustrated by
Jimmy Tannock



TŪHURA OTAGO MUSEUM

Starting off with the obvious: Tūhura Otago Museum. You can't go wrong. Big-ass Moa when you walk in, big-ass ocean sunfish, and big-ass collection of Aotearoa history. You can make a whole day out of this place if you really want to. It's free, and you might even learn something. Or, alternatively, you could spend that vape money on a ticket to get inside the infamous Science Centre. It's really for younger kids but even at the ripe age of 18 I still thoroughly enjoy the slippery slide.

Green Solo Rating: 0 – 2 Green Solos

DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY

If you don't like science or history, valid. Hence the existence of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. It's free entry and located right in the Octagon. The constant switching up of the exhibitions keeps it fresh. There are lots of beautiful pieces to admire from a distance if you're that kind of guy. Unfortunately for the midwest-emo fiends, there are no drinks allowed inside, so you can't look all sexy and mysterious with your headphones and iced latte. Sorry about that.

Green Solo Rating: 0 Green Solos

DUNEDIN BOTANIC GARDENS

Another classic, roughly a five minute walk from the University of Otago, and evidently beautiful. Doesn't matter the time of year, the Botans are a wonderful place to wander and exercise both body and mind. And it's completely free! If you look hard enough past the buried bongos and beer cans you may even find some lovely spots to sit for a while. Chill with the ducks for a bit, and let time pass.

Green Solo Rating: 0 Green Solos

IT'S INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT ELSE YOUR MONEY



INCH BAR

Located in North Dunedin right near the New World and Botanic Gardens, the Inch Bar lives up to its name as a cozy wee destination. It's a perfect Sunday evening filler with jazz nights from 4pm onwards each week (except for the first week of every month). So, if you want to feel like a sophisticated adult, chuck on some real-people clothes and tag along. They do the occasional comedy night on Wednesdays, as well as gigs by local artists throughout the year that you can track through their social media. Some events do require a door payment, so there is no guarantee it will be free, and it's also pretty likely you'll end up with a drink in your hand by the end of the night. Hence, the Green Solo rating.

Green Solo Rating: 0 – 1 Green Solos



YOURS

Feeling that anti-establishment kill-a-CEO vibe? Try 'Yours'! Yours is a cafe/venue for all you rascallions and radical activists that ache for the true punk lifestyle. This space reimagines our current methods of goods and service exchange by accepting a variety of payment forms outside of money. You could do some dishes, bring in some home-baked goods, or tell a really good joke. They offer gigs, drag shows, quiz nights, dance, poetry, and so much more underground bits and bobs from Dunedin's finest. It's raw, it's real, and it's an absolute delight.

Green Solo Rating: 0 - 2 Green Solos

THE GLOBE THEATRE DUNEDIN

If you think the Capping Show is shit, you could save up some pennies and head to the real thee-ay-ter (theatre) for some banger entertainment, courtesy of 'The Globe Theatre Dunedin'. They've always got something in the works, and it should make you feel good to get those poor theatre kids their week's rent money. Contrary to popular belief, you don't need to be a theatre-nerd to enjoy a good performance. The in-house immersion will always beat a movie screen, and this one is far too underrated. With masterful set-design and talented actors involved, you're guaranteed to get your Green Solo's worth with this one.

Green Solo Rating: 1 - 2 Green Solos

MINI GOLF

Now, I know the choice may be overwhelming, but you've got two whole options here for mini golf. 'Megazone Entertainment Centre' does offer mini golf along with arcade games and laser tag. However, 'Fros-Tee's Mini Golf' has a lovely outdoor course that I personally prefer, and the pricing is far cheaper. Besides, with St Kilda beach only a few minutes walking distance and a wonderful churro truck that sits outside, it's a must-do if you feel like letting it out on some tiny balls-in-holes.

Green Solo Rating: 0.9 - 1.2 Green Solos

ICE SKATING

Not far from the aforementioned Fros-Tee's Mini Golf is the 'Dunedin Ice Stadium'. People love to dog on ice skating like it's a Communications degree, but all the same I think both are pretty worth it. With a \$15 student entry, if you want the drunken experience without the alcohol, Friday evening ice skating is the perfect starting point for all you uncoordinated folk out there. You get all the fun white-girl music, disco lights, and the feeling like you can't move in a straight line, without a hangover the morning after. All the better if you're decent or even good at the sport (assholes), but for those who aren't, they do give out large, plastic supporting polar bears you can hold onto if tripping around ain't your style.

Green Solo Rating: 1.5 Green Solos

ICE CREAM TACOS

No, that's not a sexual euphemism. Not enough people are aware of the ice cream tacos at Patties and Cream. Yes they are \$9, yes that is insane, but holy shit they are phenomenal. With a soft, curling, seasoned waffle cone encasing velvety, smooth ice cream topped with decadent, crackling chocolate, these dessert tacos are revolutionary. They switch up the flavours every week or so and none have been a let down so far. These luxurious delights sit politely in a tall freezer situated near the back of the establishment. Everyone should try this at least once. Trust me, they're worth it. If you don't think so, you're welcome to address me personally and we can have a constructive conversation about why you're wrong.

Green Solo Rating: 0.9 Green Solos

Moral of the story, there's a lot you can do with Green Solo money. Or, a lot you can do for free if the high rent prices have got you down about not being able to afford said Green Solo. Dunedin isn't so bad anyhow. There's far more things to do beyond this list. All it takes is a bit of hard thinking or for you to tear this list out and stick it somewhere memorable.



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During Semesters 1 & 2
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Clubs & Socs OUSA

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Clubs & Socs OUSA



Staying safe and well

otago.ac.nz/code-of-conduct

While having fun and trying new experiences will be the cornerstone of your time as a student, it is important to keep yourself and others safe. The University's Code of Student Conduct aims to promote safety and wellbeing and contains a set of common-sense rules that prohibit disruptive, threatening, violent, deceptive, discriminatory and otherwise unlawful behaviour.

The Code is part of the University Student Conduct Statute which gives the University the power to fine and impose community service penalties for offences committed on or off campus and for serious misconduct to suspend or exclude students from the University. Here are some of the behaviours that put you at serious risk of facing exclusion from the University for a semester or more:

1. Any form of physical or sexual assault, sexual misconduct, harassment, or racism

All members of the University community have the absolute right to be safe and free from harm or intimidation in their interactions with others. This right includes interactions that take place in person or via electronic media. The University will not tolerate harassment or racism of any kind. All sexual interactions must have freely-given consent. Please keep in mind that a person who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs or other substances cannot provide consent. Situations where members of Campus Watch are obstructed or assaulted will be viewed very seriously.

2. Organising or participating in any initiation event or ceremony that jeopardises your fellow students' wellbeing, personal, physical or emotional safety, or encourages breaking the law

Organising or participating in initiations requiring the consumption of alcohol or the use of any drug are strictly forbidden. The statement by any student that they willingly participated will not excuse the organisers of responsibility.

3. Any offence relating to fires and 'couch burning'

If you are caught lighting or trying to light a fire illegally, or adding rubbish to a fire, this will be treated as a serious breach of the Code.

4. Throwing or breaking bottles

If you throw bottles at anyone, or deliberately break bottles or glass, expect to be in serious trouble.

5. Forging documents and signatures

Do not be tempted to alter official forms illegally or to forge signatures. This amounts to fraud and can have serious consequences.

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2025 HIGHLANDERS

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IMMACULATE VIBES
THE BEST PARTY SINCE TONY BROWN'S
(ASK YOUR MUM)



sbs

DEFINITELY NOT A BEER LAND

pulse

University of Otago

in house

CLASSIC



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GIG GUIDE

**BAD LLAMAS, JULIAN TEMPLE,
AND SINGLE MALT**
THE CROWN HOTEL
Tickets from
undertheradar.co.nz. 8pm.

91 FM

By Jonathan McCabe

Following a big weekend of serving drunken festival goers in Christchurch for Electric Ave, you will find The Dumpling Lady back on campus. And on sunny days you'll see Union Lawn flooded with satisfied customers chowing down on a pack of delectable dumplings.

ODT WATCH

Experience, youth combine in St Clair win

golden year capped with supreme award
buying a bag after being accepted into med

Condiments that win compliments

cum

Launching her own label

dealers with the patterned baggies

Who on earth thought
that was a good idea?

Critic budget slashed

Summing up the
Government's
bootcamp programme...

**new record in
licks per boot**

Two-week deadline for diversity removal

The lead-up to Valentines has seen a culling of many side pieces

Cotton wool snow flop

**what Know Your
Stuff tells you is
actually in your bag**

“I’ve always admired the beauty of New Zealand and I love playing golf

**your dad before
I fuck him**

Student bragging rights

**most funnels
and oodles
per capita**

Merger, acquisition activity up

that Castle St drama

When is it too cool for school?

**under 17 ° I stop
going to lectures**

AGAINST:

AGAINST: Yeah, you're a first-year student. A fresher. But isn't the whole 'egg the fresher' trope overdone? Come up with something funnier, @therestofthestudentbody. Pick on someone your own size instead of a bunch of vulnerable 17 and 18-year-olds (weird when you put it that way, isn't it?). They're nervous enough. Hurling verbal insults toward them does enough damage without an egg on top.

Aside from this prank being more overplayed than Twilight, I heard that my friend of a friend had to bring an Epipen with them on the way to their own Toga Party since they were allergic to eggs. Consider it: you could seriously harm my friend's friend who is just as fragile as the vessels launched at them. Not to mention that throwing an egg at someone counts as common assault, so that's quite bad generally.

Wide-eyed, don't know the difference between Clyde and Hyde Street, these are young people who will be scared to leave their hall lest they get yolked. We don't want that. Think about their contribution to student culture – while they're all out at Toga, the streets are clear to have fun without tripping over them passed out on the street. They also provide excellent alcohol poisoning training for our local ED (just kidding, please don't wind up there if you can avoid it).

They pump shit-tonnes of money into our micro-economy (Nitro and Cruiser stock boom) and make the OUSA executive feel important for three days (Tent City was awesome!). The pros of a good group of wild freshers are endless, so why egg them into a fearful, hermit existence? Don't even make me bring up the food waste element, you prick. That also applies to any flour-bombing you were planning as an egg/alternative. Go make a tray of brownies or something, you clearly have all the ingredients.

FOR:

Like it or not, we have to face hardship in life. There's no point in denying it. But what truly counts is the way in which we are shaped by such adversity. Sure, getting egged sucks for the target fresher in the moment, but one day, in decades to come, it'll make a classic story at the family function. Everyone needs their student degen lore.

Regardless of your feelings on this subject, the fact remains that as a fresher, you're unfortunately at the bottom of the food chain. Would you blame a lion for hunting an injured gazelle? No. Because it's nature, isn't it? Same principle. My point is, the question of whether we should 'egg' freshers or not is futile. We don't get a say in what is the natural order of the world.

With that said, it isn't always wraps for the targeted fresher, but rather, they have the opportunity to defy the odds and evade such attempts on them. You know how in nature documentaries, sometimes the galloping lion is actually out-played by their prey? Doesn't happen often, but it does happen. In egging a fresher, you're not only contributing to their character development; you're offering them a chance at evasion and infamy. You chuck an egg at a fresher and miss? Well, now that student is back at their hall being hailed as the 'Neo' of the Freshers. You've done them a favour!

Now, I recognize the reality of allergies and such, and can absolutely understand the concerns for those who are vulnerable to such foods splattering on them. Not too sure what the solution is there? Epi-pen? Idk? Maybe Freshers with egg allergies should have big signs they carry around saying so, so the egg brigade can spare them accordingly? At the end of the day, focus on the silver lining: at least the eggs aren't frozen.

SHOULD WE THROW EGGS AT FRESHERS?



MI GORENG
GRADUATE
By Ruby Hudson

Serves: 4
Time: 45 mins

Hello and welcome to another year of Critic Te Ārohi recipes! We are kicking off the year with something fresh, tasty and customisable that the whole flat will love. This is a take on a classic burger, just with the fun twist of deconstruction and bowl-ifying to make it feel fancy. Feel free to switch things up and include whatever you are a fan of, and whatever is on sale at the supu. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS: Choose a mix of what you like!

6 Potatoes (medium size)
Oil
Salt
Pepper
Fresh vegetables of your choosing to serve (e.g. lettuce, tomatoes, red onion, avo, pickles)

BURGER "PATTY"

1 onion (diced)
500 g Beef Mince or 400 g Lisa's Mediterranean Falafel Mix
1 tsp dijon mustard
1 tsp tomato sauce
2 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp dried oregano
2 tsp paprika
1 tsp dried thyme

BURGER SAUCE

3 Tbsp whole egg mayonnaise
1 ½ Tbsp tomato sauce
3 tsp pickle juice
1 tsp dijon mustard
3 tsp pickle relish
Pepper

I use the
Kev's Pickled
Gherkin Relish

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius. While the oven heats up, chop the potatoes into small chunks. Toss the potatoes in 3 Tbsp of oil, add salt and pepper (or any other spices you like). Once fully coated, chuck them onto a lined baking tray and into the oven to cook for approx. 35 mins.

Step 2. As the potatoes cook, place a large frying pan over a medium heat. Add 2 Tbsp of oil to the pan. Once hot, add the diced onion to the pan. Cook this for 5 mins, until soft.

Step 3. From here, add the mince or falafel mix, ensuring to fully break it up in the pan. Add the spices, sauces and some salt and pepper to the mince/falafel (see notes). Mix until combined.

Step 4. If a mince user, simmer for 15 mins, stirring occasionally, until it is fully cooked through. Falafel users just need to cook the falafel until it is brown and heated through.

Step 5. While the mince is simmering and potatoes cook, stir together the burger sauce ingredients into a large bowl.

Step 6. Once the potatoes are cooked and crispy, and the mince/falafel is cooked through, you are ready to assemble!

Step 7. Place the potatoes, mince and vegetables into a bowl, top with your burger sauce and enjoy!



Welcome back to another year of booze. We're kicking things off with a bang thanks to the new Emerson's Dirty Bird, the latest member of the Bird Dog family for all you IPA nerds. Though new on the scene, Dirty Bird is sure to become a household name with its captivating taste, one that's sure to get you fucked – but not before appreciating the craftsmanship of a bloody good beer.

Straight away, Dirty Bird encapsulates what a good – nay, great – beer is meant to look and taste like. The packaging puts every other Canva-ass beer company to bed with its awesome mutated dog/chicken combo and sick gothic font. Despite the dark ale look of the can, the juicy flavour is unmatched compared to other Bird Dog drinks. It smells like you're drinking freshly squeezed, homemade juice, a standout compared to your usual IPAs that smell weirdly floral and leave you questioning whether the \$14 you spent was worth it.

The rich aftertaste, although it overstayed its welcome a tad, is nowhere near as off-putting as your other pale ales. The taste remains consistently brilliant. I'd like to imagine Emerson's cooked this one up in a massive

pot like some type of evil beer witch, scheming as to how to make the perfect configuration of how drunk someone can get while remaining respectable enough to be served another.

Dirty Bird's alcohol percentage takes no prisoners. But don't bother trying to cut back; I could not seem to not get enough of these. Neither could anyone else who took a sip and enjoyed it (other than a flatmate who spit it out straight away. Sorry bro x). The strong 6.2% meant a nasty headache in the morning, which did not help with the hangxiety after telling everyone the night before that the drink was named after their mum in high school. Yikes. Nevertheless, a small price to pay for a great night. Ka pai.

PAIRS WELL WITH: A certifiable Dunner Stunner

X-FACTOR: Funny name haha

HANGOVER DEPRESSION LEVEL: 8/10. I didn't mean what I said about your mum, bro

TASTE RATING: 9/10. Simply lovely



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OUSA'S FIVE BIG ISSUES



Nau mai, haere mai – whether you're stepping onto campus for the first time or back for another year, welcome to Otago!

I hope you've had a chance to recharge over the break, because what's ahead is everything that makes student life special – long nights, great memories, and, let's be honest, a bit of study squeezed in when you can.

For those who don't know me yet, I'm Liam, your OUSA President for 2025. Now, I could tell you all about myself, but that's not why you're here. Instead, I want to talk about you, and the things that will shape your experience, and our work, this year.

Over the past few months, the OUSA Executive has been working hard to make sure we hit the ground running. O-Week was huge, and a massive thank you goes to everyone who made it happen. This year, the Exec stepped out from behind the BBQ and into the crowd, handing out thousands of Arnott's Treatles (because free snacks are a student's love language), but more importantly, we listened.

And what we heard, loud and clear, was that students want action on five big issues:

1. The Cost of Living – No surprises here, it all adds up. Students are feeling the squeeze. Getting a degree shouldn't mean scraping by.

2. Student Culture – The student experience is more than just lectures. Whether it's student bars, live music or the traditions that make Otago unique, students want a culture that works for them, not against them.

3. Student Welfare – Whether it's mental health support, making sure no one falls through the cracks, and working towards a safe walk home for everyone. Wellbeing at university shouldn't be a privilege, but instead a right.

4. Student Housing – The Dunedin flatting experience is legendary, but that doesn't mean it should involve ice on the inside of your windows. Warm, dry, affordable housing shouldn't be too much to ask.

5. Education Accessibility – Everyone deserves a fair shot at their education – whether that means financial support, better academic resources or breaking down barriers that hold students back.

Now, Here's the Challenge.

It's easy to talk about what's wrong. But this year, we're not just here to talk.

For too long, there's been this awkward "will they, won't they" dynamic between OUSA and students. That stops now. If we all agree these are the big issues, then the only way we make progress is by working together.

So here's the deal: this Executive is here to fight for students. But real change happens when you get involved, when you speak up, when we stand as one. Because when students mobilise, things move.

So let's make this a year of action. Let's make student voices impossible to ignore.

Kia kaha – let's get to work.

Liam White
OUSA President

Illustrated by
Tevya Faed

RANGI COLUMNS - 1

45

It's your season, Pisces! Your intuition is strong, but so is your ability to procrastinate. Mid-week, expect an existential crisis (classic), but by Friday you'll be thriving in your natural element: DMCs at a host you hardly planned to attend.

Fav moment of Ori: Rugby at the Zoo

★ PISCES ★

Decisions, decisions. Do you go out? Stay in? Start that assignment? You'll overthink everything this week, but the stars say just commit. You'll stick the landing if you try the trick.

Fav moment of Ori: OneFest

★ LIBRA ★

You're charging into this week like a first-year at Ori: unstoppable, over-caffeinated, and slightly reckless. But by Wednesday, reality (and overdue bills) will hit. Just try your best to keep the peace with your flatmates, you're stuck with them for the rest of the year.

Fav moment of Ori: Castle Street hosts

★ ARIES ★

Friday is going to be your day! You will get a Facebook invite to a super cool activity you have wanted to do for ages and it's going to blow all your expectations out of the water.

Fav moment of Ori: Running away from the cops

★ SAGITTARIUS ★

The new year's goals crumbled pretty early, but that doesn't mean you need to wait until next year to quit those naughty habits. Try giving up the vape, hitting the books and giving your vibrator a deep clean.

Fav moment of Ori: Monday in U-Bar!

★ AQUARIUS ★

Your ability to read people this week is uncanny, it's a shame you can't read yourself though. You hate all your papers, maybe even your degree and have no clue what your hopes and dreams are but this week will help steer you in the right direction.

Fav moment of Ori: The inevitable red card

★ SCORPIO ★

Big changes have just happened for you and your emotions are all over the place. Don't worry, next week will be heaps better but you have a few shit days ahead of you, so make sure to stock up your summer and you may be able to afford an avocado or two.

Fav moment of Ori: EVERYTHING (Mum bought you a Superpass)

★ CANCER ★

You are the embodiment of main character energy this week, thriving in every social situation. But your bank account? Not so much. Try sticking to the budget your mum made you over the summer and you may be able to afford an avocado or two.

Fav moment of Ori: Dimension, of course

★ LEO ★

This week you are going to receive an amount of money that will pull you out of the financial pit you have been in since Floweek started. JUST be sure to not spend it all in one place (Leith Liquor).

Fav moment of Ori: Meeting the love of your life in a mosh

★ CAPRICORN ★

Your love for peace and quiet clashes with the reality of uni life. Take some time for yourself because if you thought last week drained your social battery, this week will fucking wreck you.

Fav moment of Ori: Freebies at Tent City

★ TAURUS ★

Your pencil case is full and your calendar colour-coded, but you are one spilt drink away from a total mental breakdown. Take a walk in nature and try not to get worked up when dumb shit like fire alarms threatens to ruin your meticulously planned day.

Fav moment of Ori: Clubs Day

★ VIRGO ★

You're juggling more social events than assignments this week, and honestly? Respect. Just remember to keep uni on the list of top 10 priorities, those first assignments really will sneak up on you.

Fav moment of Ori: Toga Party

★ GEMINI ★

SNAP OF THE WEEK



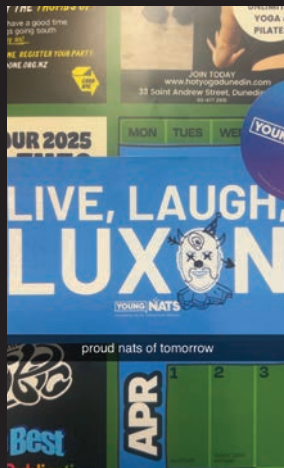
SEND A SNAP TO US AT @CRITICMAG BEST SNAP EACH WEEKS WINS AN OUSA CLUBS & SOCS SAUNA VOUCHER

SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT CRITIC ON INSTAGRAM TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE



critic crosswords got a new fan



proud nats of tomorrow



Yea sure mate



Melted assorted sweet treats, mini chess, sic rubik's cube solves, Draco the dragon, and a very impressive photo of my sporting prowess (notice how I made it a full 6 inches off the ground??)

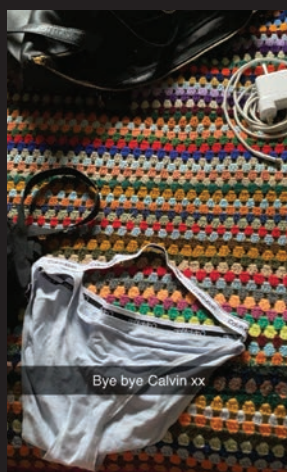
This is how you attract new friends during O-week, folks. I hope you're taking notes!



TOE-Week Stark



how am I meant to make my bitch a Valentine's Day gift if none of the critics have the words "girth master" in them??????



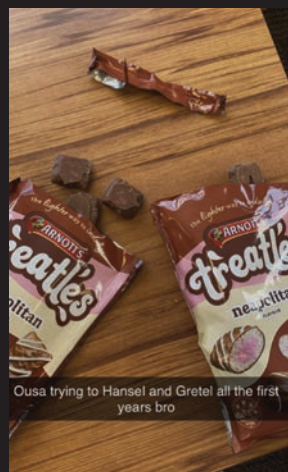
Bye bye Calvin xx



Freshers beware



Relatable



Ousa trying to Hansel and Gretel all the first years bro



Two types of people

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Wednesday
March 5, 7pm

Free Entry

Koha
welcome

שלום

سلام

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introduction from
local Jewish,
Palestinian, and
mana whenua
voices

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