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**ISSUE 14
14 JULY 2025**

EDITOR
Nina Brown

SUB-EDITOR
Ellie Bennett

NEWS EDITOR
Gryffin Blockley

FEATURES EDITOR
Hanna Varrs

CULTURE EDITOR
Jordan Irvine

ÉTITA MĀORI
Heeni Koero Te Rerenoa

STAFF WRITERS
Adam Stitely, Molly Smith-Soppet,
Jonathan McCabe, Zoe Eckhoff, Tilly
Rumball-Smith, Stella Weston, Lotto
Ramsay

CONTRIBUTORS
Grace Hards, Sam Smith-Soppet

FOOD COLUMN
Ruby Hudson

BOOZE REVIEWS
Joan of Rark

DESIGNER
Evie Noad

SUB-DESIGNER
Connor Moffat

ILLUSTRATION
Jakira Brophy @jakira.art
Tevya Faed
Gemma McKinney @worms.in.k
Jimmy Tannock
Ash McFarlane @ash_designs_uk
Stella Caulton @stella.ila.b.e.l.l.a
Sophie Broadley

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kevin Wang

VIDEO EDITORS
Hunter Jolly, Connor Moffat

CENTREFOLD
Photo by Ash McFarlane and Stella
Caulton

FRONT COVER
Photo by Evie Noad

ONLINE
Will Wray

DISTRIBUTION
Pedals Dunedin

ADVERTISING SALES
sales@planetmedia.co.nz
03 479 5361

READ ONLINE
critic.co.nz
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GET IN TOUCH
critic@critic.co.nz
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Tweet/CriticTeArohi
03 479 5335
P.O.Box 1436, Dunedin

*Critic Te Arohi is a member of the
Aotearoa Student Press Association
(ASPA).*

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EDITORIAL: CENSUS WAS A TRIP

Welcome back to campus! While many of you had a well-deserved rest and shroom-induced epiphanies, I tripped in a labyrinth of census data, was sent down corridors of correlations, and came out the other end both enlightened and far too familiar with your lives.

The Critic census was birthed in 2021 as a random collection of student data that then-Editor Erin joked about selling to the highest bidder. They learned that students at the time trusted OUSA more than the University, that 46% reckoned they'd eventually be able to afford a house (probably through that reliable tuna and veg diet, eh Brooke van Velden), and that 439 were willing to hand over personal information for some Wax Mustang tickets. Four years later and 681 of you did for no incentive at all!

In the successive iterations of the census, regular questions have tracked trends in financial hardship, drugs of choice, celebrity crushes, randomness, political leanings and general day-to-day lives. Students have always been broke as shit, but are especially counting pennies in the current cost of living crisis. You've picked up a tobacco habit since 2021 but are drinking slightly less. Margot Robbie has fallen off her multi-year pedestal, outvoted by Florence Pugh lovers. Y'all have always underestimated how much sex you have compared to your peers and overlooked the value of \$4 lunch (fucking go already). Except for 28 people, no one likes the Government. One person actually suggested Chris Luxon belongs in prison.

New questions have come and gone to reflect the changing times. After the Uni's budget cuts announcement in 2023, we asked students whether they'd been affected, revealing a depressingly large proportion who essentially said "not yet". Last year, we asked whether you thought University's rebrand resembled bananas and reactions to Grant Robertson's appointment as Vice Chancellor.

There were so many burning questions we wanted to ask you this year – funnily enough, journalism is a profession of busy-bodies – but reigned into asking about ChatGPT use, thoughts on the University's institutionally neutral stance on the Palestinian genocide and, out of sheer curiosity, what your unpopular opinion is. I swear I dedicated a day to each of these three questions.

Ironically, while I was Googling Excel functions and jumping to conclusions, the Government announced they were cancelling the five-year nationwide census. The decision will end a 150-year tradition of population data collection across the motu that's charted and shaped political decision-making, tossing the system for a more "efficient" method of using pre-existing administrative data. In the same way that chewing the fat over the national census has helped the Government to identify gaps and do something about it, the Critic census does the same for us.

I've learned that you loved reading about a baby doll named Fuckwit whose adoptive fathers drop kicked down Castle St. You appreciate it when Critic doesn't pussy about asking the hard questions of the Uni and OUSA – doing "real journalism" as some put it. The crossword received a lot of love, even more so when there aren't any errors. Centrefold art continues to both adorn walls and be used as kindling. We don't mind, it's fucking cold. You were equal parts scandalised and mesmerised by President Liam's provocative photoshoot, and you reminded us that students "are not weekly partiers who skip lectures". We'll keep that in mind.

How will Critic adjust to meet your needs? The crosswords will be bigger. The magazine is 12 pages shorter to meet your brain-rotted attention spans (not really, it's a money thing). Moaningful Confessions are back – you can thank the 25 students in the census who practically begged for it. Critic will keep making Exec meetings awkward with our questions and printing sick art to cover the cracks in your walls. So happy Second Sem to everyone – except the person who speculated that the horoscopes are generated through AI. On behalf of our Orb, fuck you.

NINA BROWN

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LETTERS

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Ka pai Critic for the article on hearing injury and prevention (Issue 11). I've played in bands since the '90s and have been diligent with protecting my hearing, but couldn't save it from a single, sudden loud noise. My hearing loss is clinically "Mild" but at 35 dB loss in the low frequencies, it's like a speaker with a blown woofer. I also have diplacusis, a distorted sense of pitch, which turns voices robotic and musical tones metallic and wrong. Tinnitus is the worst consequence: imagine a neighbour's car at fast idle, every waking moment. You do not want this.

Don't hesitate to wear earplugs, even if you're just hammering nails or riding your motorbike. Keep headphone levels moderate, don't shout in people's ears, and if you suspect a hearing injury, get help immediately: steroids and magnesium may help if given promptly.

Rock on,

Doop the Gherkin

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

Quick complaint. I understand lecturers and tutors have lives (even though they don't often understand the same about their students), but the consistent lack of effort to mark assignments before the exam period starts is truly baffling. God forbid I have some constructive feedback about my understanding of the content and writing ability before I take a whole exam based on it. Every single year without fail, I am set a plethora of assignments all at the same time, and every single year none of them come back to me until after exams begin. Low-key, that is literally their job, I managed to write all the assignments due within three-hour intervals that I started two days before, but they can't read them and pull an arbitrary grade out, write a quick 'top job', or 'could've done better'. USELESS.

Kind regards,

Annoyed student unaware of her progress this year.

Dear Jordan Irvine, by proxy of Ms. Critic

Firstly, I must commend your recent performances in the Cage. Reading on your descent into madness is always a highlight. But I must bring to your attention a piece of tangentially related Cage media. Critical Role, a popular d&d show for those unfamiliar, does a Halloween episode every year and for the one most recently, they all dressed up as an iteration of Cage from across his vast filmography. C3, Ep112 to be exact. It behoves me to ask you, as the Cage expert in training, what your thoughts are on their outfits, accuracy and otherwise? This was during a time in the campaign where 10 years of stories were colliding, and to have the cast dressed how they were for 4+ hours was a fever dream I can only compare to your current efforts.

All the best for your continued survival in the Cage

A cheering onlooker

Editor's response: *This column has been discontinued (they're out of the cage, if you will) but I'll get you two in touch for Cage-related discussions*

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 150 words or fewer. The deadline is Thursday at 5pm. Get them into Critic by emailing us at critic@critic.co.nz. Letters of a serious nature directly addressing a specific group or individual will not be published under a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances as negotiated with the Editor. Critic Te Ārohi reserves the right to edit, abridge, or decline letters without explanation. Frequently published correspondents in particular may find their letters abridged or excluded. Defamatory or otherwise illegal material will not be printed. We don't fix the spelling or grammar in letters. If a letter writer looks stupid, it's because they are.

YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN ROUNDUP

Thursdays in Black and UniQ are hosting a collaborative Sex Quiz: The Second Cumming at Auahi Ora on August 1st to fundraise for the clubs' ongoing mahi. There'll be sexy prizes up for grabs!

At the end of May, students' associations from around the motu descended on Dunedin for the inaugural Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association Conference. Reportedly, most Students' Associations were no longer members by the end of the conference weekend

Otago halls stopped serving food to students with special dietary requirements in early June after a Te Rangihīroa resident with an egg allergy ate an incorrectly labelled piece of cake, sparking a Ministry of Primary Industries investigation into food procedures, RNZ reports

Construction on the new Dunedin hospital has resumed after the project was paused last year amid a series of challenges and public backlash, NZ Herald reports. There will be a new community engagement group established to keep locals informed on the latest

As of July 1st 2025, all rental properties must now comply with Healthy Homes Standards. Landlords have had since 2019 to bring their rental properties up to scratch

Bathurst Resource postponed submitting it fast-track application to mine 20 million tonnes of coal on the Denniston Plateau by over four months, citing concerns over 'social license' to operate. This comes after 70 protestors camped at the proposed site, including one student whose in court proceedings for wilful trespass, says 350 Aotearoa

NZ Parliament chose not to take action on paid training after being handed a petition by paid placements Aotearoa

Since the last Critic issue, the following clubs have been affiliated with OUSA: Society of Otago University PPE Students, Generation Screwed Otago, Otago Society of Arts & Philosophy, Otago University Marine Students Society and the Swiftie Club

A University spokesperson confirmed to Critic that an incorrect list of readings for students were provided for a RELS exam last semester, making 7/20 multichoice questions impossible to answer. Tauira were given full marks for these questions to apologise for the mistake.

Otago University has risen in international rankings, back among the top 200 universities in the QS World University Rankings at 197th – 17 places higher than last year

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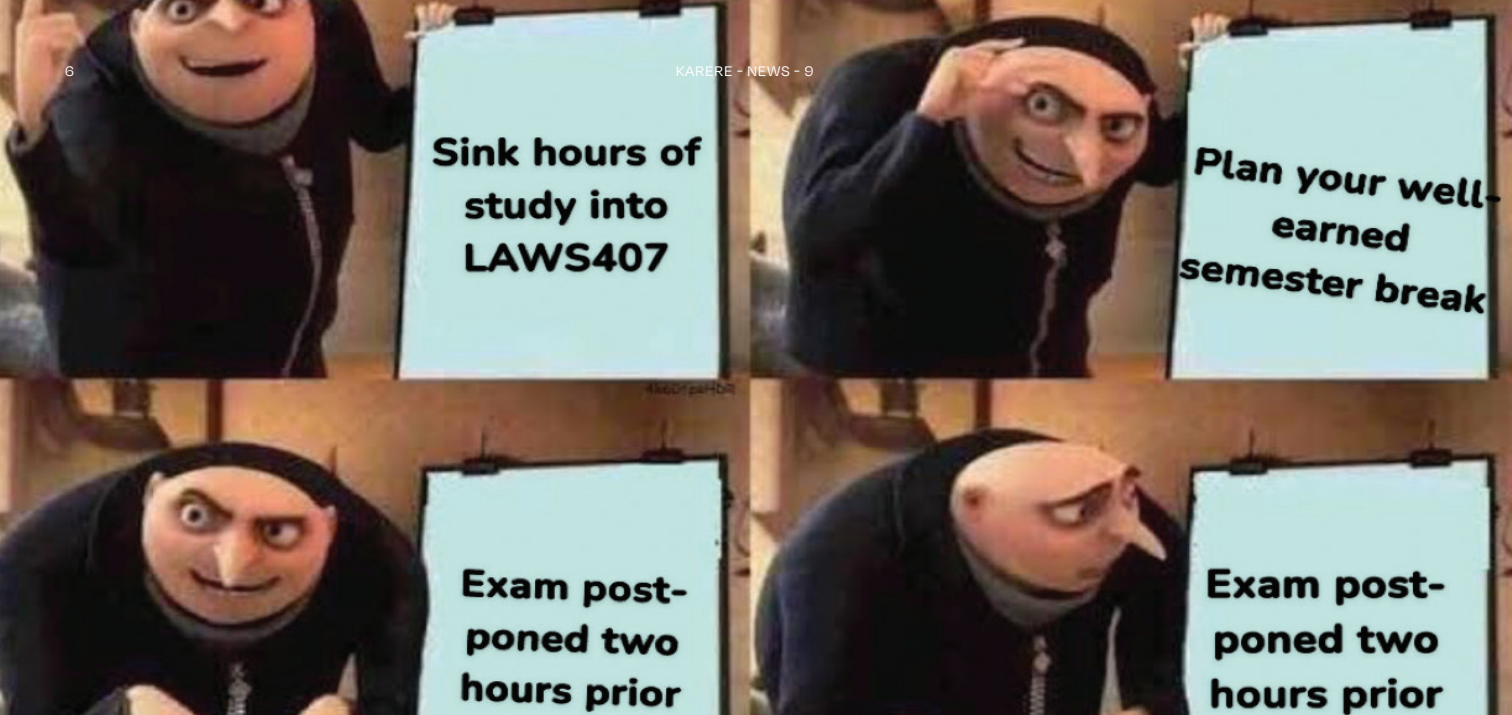
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Law Exam Leak Labelled “Crippling”

Uni forced to postpone exam following academic conduct breach

By Sam Smith-Soppet

Contributor // news@critic.co.nz

On the morning of Friday June 6, Law students had been gearing up for one of their biggest exams of Semester One, LAWS407 Company Law. A couple of hours before the exam, however, they received an email from the University advising that following a breach of academic conduct, they'd been forced to make the “difficult decision” to postpone the exam. Cue carnage.

Whistleblowers had tipped the University off that the contents of the examination had been leaked the night prior through a Snapchat group chat. In one of campus' biggest scandals this year, there seemed to be a different version of events whispered across every table of Auahi Ora and in friend group chats.

Critic Te Ārohi heard from an Otago Uni spokesperson for their official account of events. “The student, who had been granted permission to sit the Company Law examination early due to a challenging exam timetable, signed a confidentiality agreement as a condition of this arrangement. This student was a member of a study group, established several weeks prior, to prepare for the examination. The study group was using a group chat app, and the student made an unsolicited disclosure about the examination to peers via a group chat the night before the scheduled exam sitting.”

Other sources disagreed slightly with the University's version of the story. Some who Critic Te Ārohi spoke to are claiming that the student who took the exam early told a friend of the content of the exam, who then put that information into a group chat. Regardless, the exam content was out of the bag. News of this leak soon reached the Law faculty, at which point the exam was postponed, an academic conduct investigation was launched, and you couldn't step foot on campus without hearing about it.

Affected Law students told Critic Te Ārohi that it took a serious toll on an already stressed bunch. One student described to Critic how their “initial relief” at the email quickly turned to “frustration and annoyance”. It was their biggest exam, having spent the vast majority of their study dedicated to preparing, including sacrificing study time for a business exam the following morning, deciding it was worth it. “But then that exam was cancelled

leaving my weeks of prep redundant and me wondering why I even bothered. I could have easily used this time for my other papers. The idea that someone else's idiotic actions led to my entire exam season being uprooted was extremely infuriating.”

Another student called the cancellation “nothing short of a large disruption” and the lack of notice “crippling”. They too had gambled with their study time and opted to prioritise LAWS407 – study that went to waste. Students had heard rumours of a take-home exam which didn't come to fruition, instead being given the option of different dates further in the future to sit the exam. “It impacted my break in the sense that it extended the stressful exam period into a time where I was supposed to be relaxing and spending time with my family. Instead I was deviated from this by the threat of an upcoming exam,” a third Law student told Critic.

The student who caused the disruption “recognises they have made a serious error of judgement, is remorseful and has apologised for the disruption they have caused, both to their peers and the faculty,” said the Uni. It wasn't just the leaker who faced trouble from the Uni overlords. The spokesperson also confirmed to Critic that students who received the disclosed information and failed to report the breach were investigated as well. Any failure to report the leak was found to be “inconsistent with the University's academic integrity policy and misconduct findings have been made in relation to these students”.

Likely being keen to get over the scandal, the Faculty of Law Dean Bridgette Toy-Cronin told Critic, “Now that the investigation has concluded and appropriate actions have been taken, I have asked the students to move forward with a shared commitment to integrity, respect and growth.” While tauira may be concerned about their exams getting leaked in the future, the Uni also told Critic that they have “25 years of data that suggests significant gaps do not exist in the [exam] processes” to prevent a similar leak occurring again. For now at least, the dust has settled (on the scandal, not the unopened law textbooks). Critic is excited to see what joke they make about this in Law Revue later this year.



Students Swarm the Beehive: Youth Parliament Debriefed

And you thought you had a productive semester break?

By Jonathan McCabe

Staff Writer // news@critic.co.nz

Youth Parliament provides a socially acceptable setting for rangatahi to yell at a room full of important people. The biggest news story to come from Youth Parliament were the accusations of censoring the youth voice, levied against the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD). Critic Te Ārohi had a fly on the wall in the Youth Press Gallery – here's the tea, straight from Wellington. Parliament gossip hits just as good as the campus rumour mill, turns out.

Sick of screaming her political takes into the void of social media, Otago Uni second-year Law and Politics student Jomana Moharram took her ideas to Youth Parliament. The triennial event hosted by MYD allows future leaders to strut the halls of the Beehive, simulating the experience of an MP or journo. Each MP selects a politically driven rangatahi to take their seat in the House of Representatives over the course of the event. Change-makers and overachievers alike gathered for the two day event over the recent semester break in Pōneke.

Ōtepoti-based Greens MP Francisco Hernandez chose Jomana to represent him at Youth Parliament. In her short time at the Uni, Jomana has founded Amnesty Youth Otago (where she remains co-president), and is the secretary for both POLSA and Campus Greens. Jomana's goal is to make politics more accessible to university students. She mocks students who say “I don't really do politics,” while emphasizing the point, “Baby, politics is doing you. Politics is screwing you actively every single day of the week”. Civics education was a priority for Jomana who addressed the topic in her three-minute general debate speech in the chambers of Parliament. Civics education teaches people how the Government works, what their rights and responsibilities are, and how to actively participate in a democratic society. She says in her speech that New Zealand's unfair system “deprives people of their participation in democracy,” making it harder for the general public to hold the Government to account.

Jomana understands that students living week-to-week off StudyLink don't have time to keep up to date with Parliament TV. These expectations aren't fair on this generation of students “because they're obviously just trying to get by.” Many students believe that living in a shitty, mouldy student flat is a “rite of passage” according to Jomana. She believes that civics education in schools will make it easier for students to challenge these assumptions.

What created the biggest buzz within the Beehive was debate over censorship. Youth MP speeches had to be submitted ahead of time to MYD, but many participants readying to pop off in the debating chamber were met with an email with the subject heading: ‘General Debate Speech feedback – changes required’. Big-kid politicians are protected by ‘Parliamentary Privilege’, the concept that you can't get in legal trouble for pissing anything or anyone off in Parliament. MYD claims that their suggested edits were in the interest of preserving the apolitical nature of the event and protecting Youth MPs who do not have parliamentary privilege.

The suggested changes included remaining politically neutral, removing naming and shaming (especially of political parties) and making sure no speeches breached defamation, copyright, privacy, or contempt of court laws. Changes weren't mandatory, however national news headlines were filled with groups of Youth MPs claiming censorship, while other peers pleaded this was not the case.

If you challenged the changes, MYD would respond making it clear that “it is your choice how you use that feedback”. Despite this, Jomana doesn't believe that the “threat” of legal trouble is a realistic one. “You're not gonna get sued for defamation unless you say something like, [Minister for Youth] James Meager called me a terrorist monkey, and then he kicked my cat!” Let's assume that last bit was sarcasm.

Reflecting on the event, Francisco Hernandez believes MYD acted in a manner of “overcaution, leading to inadvertent censorship”. In a press conference, Labour MP Greg O'Connor likens the issue of censorship to “pushing down on a custard square. It will just pop out the sides.”

When it came time for Jomana's speech, she ignored most of the feedback. Without fear, she proudly criticized the coalition. Reflecting on the experience she said, “I enjoyed it a lot, actually.” Critic Te Ārohi can safely report that Jomana is seemingly safe from any threats of trouble from the Government after her speech.



(OUSA) Greening Out: Second Quarter Reports Summarised

22,696 words of bureaucratic headache summarised just for you!

By **Gryffin Blockley**
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Two quarters (for non math majors: half) of a year in, it's been hectic for the OUSA Executive. They've been no strangers to Critic Te Ārohi's headlines, with a referendum, BDS postures and questions of Political Rep Jett's conflict of interest making appearances – a let's not forget the countless hours of behind the scenes work that never sees the light of the news. To get their honorarium (fancy OUSA-speak for the Exec gets paid), each member must submit a report of what they got up to in the last quarter. Critic has the hot goss:

Liam White – President

President Liam White has had a stacked quarter, backed up by his report being just under double the length of other Exec members. As the spokesperson of OUSA, he's been featured in the media a lot. Heck, he even mentioned Critic's (alleged) tabloid presidential scandal of his modelling career as proof of this. Liam notes, however, that he wants to shift from reactionary to proactive comments to media in the future. Within OUSA, he called their policy framework "completely wrong" and alongside Admin-VP Amy is actioning better internal running of the organisation. When talking about meetings with Vice-Chancellor Grant (who he said is trying to be more accountable on student issues), Liam mentioned Grant has made fun of his fashion choices in the last quarter. Critic humbly requests a fit check before the next meeting.

The President's report was perhaps the most brutally honest of them, even admitting that he'd considered resigning four or five times. "I'll be honest, the relationship between myself and the 20-hour roles have certainly been tested in the last month and a half," he said. It seems Liam is pressing ahead for better days though, saying, "I think it's probably fair to say that this year has had some significantly more difficult discussions than last year, looking at BDS and Jett's Council runs that probably haven't been handled perfectly on my end. I stand by all decisions made, but have also found some resources from Sports NZ around how to be a better chair so will be following these up." A tough semester, but Mr President is keeping his chin up for the greater good of students.

Amy Martin – Administrative Vice President

The Administrative Vice President perhaps does the most behind the scenes out work of anybody on the Exec, keeping everyone in line on the inside and focusing on student engagement. Amy has continued to grow the Exec's Instagram presence (@ousaexec), slowly demystifying the role of OUSA. The referendum at the end of last semester was also some of Amy's work, with 1766 student voters being the fruits of her labour. Internally, there's so much more the AVP does behind the scenes that not even Critic can grasp fully; from helping other Exec members achieve their goals, OUSA policy and constitution review work, and coordinating

the Aotearoa Tertiary Student Association (ATSA) conference – it'd be no surprise if Amy still sees OUSA green when she closes her eyes.

Daniel Leamy – Finance and Strategy Officer

OUSA didn't go bankrupt last quarter, so obviously Daniel has done something right. He reckons the Exec budgets "looks healthy at this point of the year", so Critic will ask (for the second time) for a cheeky budget raise if that's the case. Aside from counting pennies, Daniel also helped Residential Rep Callum with flat visits and writing referendum questions pros and cons with VP Amy. On the back of Jett's announcement to run for council, he's taken over Jett's roles as Political Action Committee chair and leading the engagement drive for Local Body Elections next quarter. All this work isn't without its challenges, though, with Daniel saying, "I continue to be frustrated by the layers of bureaucracy, and reluctance from the executive to embrace necessary and meaningful change." Let's see what next quarter holds, with Daniel declaring he's "committed to pushing the executive to be bold". Rest assured the Daniel Leamy fan club (affiliated last quarter) will be behind him – despite disappointingly not getting a mention in his report.

Stella Lynch – Academic Representative

Demonstrating her impact this past quarter, Stella said she has "been interviewed by Critic a lot". No lie, most significantly uncovering a fee discrepancy in a 400-level Marine Science paper. This has had a real tangible impact on students, with the discrepancy fixed and another student potentially uncovering another in one of their own papers. As Academic Rep, Stella's work is founded on being on an insanely high number of different committees, causing her to admit, "I don't have a work-life balance which is disappointing." The uphill battle of establishing a lecture recordings policy continues to tick along, with a focus group getting established at the start of this semester. As a testament to her grit on behalf of academic accessibility, this would reportedly be the first time an OUSA Exec member has been named co-sponsor of a University policy.

Amy Whyman – Welfare and Equity Representative

Behind the scenes work dominated the second quarter for Welfare and Equity at OUSA – but that just means exciting things are on the way! A proposal for mandatory Te Whare Tāwharau training for tutors and demonstrators is in development and making its way through the layers of Uni-bureaucracy. Along with the Admin-VP, the Amys have also been working on a safe streets campaign for students which should hopefully come to fruition in Q3. Work is also ongoing around special consideration protocols, which many in the community believe are not up to scratch for students with chronic illnesses or disabilities.

Jett Groshinski – Political Representative

Considering the current political climate, it's no surprise the last quarter has been busy for the Political Rep. Jett wrote submissions on numerous policies of concern to Otago taurira: the Regulatory Standards Bill, taxation of charities, safety improvements on State Highway 1, Otago Regional Council public transport plan, and the Dunedin City Council nine-year plan. Within the university, he engaged with clubs Pride in Law and UniQ on bill submission workshops. Meetings with political big-wigs were arranged, and he even found time to praise (or drag) prezzie Liam for being "less late" to meetings this quarter. Jett has relinquished chair of the Political Action Committee after his well-publicised run for Dunedin City Council was announced.

Callum Hadlow – Residential Representative

Quarter two brought the first glimpse of winter in North D, with many people seeing how truly cold their flats can be. As Residential Rep, Callum embarked on a student quarter 'flat sting' to check whether flats were up to Healthy Homes standards (I think we all know the answer to that). Off the back of Q1, he finished his visits to all of the Uni's Residential Colleges. A few students who had flatting issues reached out and he gave his helping hand as well, but didn't give much detail into what or how. A big issue on his plate has been trying to resuscitate the Subwarden Committee to ensure our college kaiawhina get the working conditions they deserve. Deep in his report, when talking about Admin Vice-President Amy, Callum said, "I have a suspicion that I have reduced the amount of years on her life." (Blink twice if you need help, Amy). Unfortunately, Callum's been under his ten hours and the Exec voted to cut his honorarium by half for a month.

Josh Stewart – Postgraduate Representative

As the Postgrad Rep for 2025, a huge part of Josh's role is trying to build up the profile of the (relatively infant) Society for Postgraduate Students (SPS). After battling low engagement, the tides began to change in Q2, marked by a transition to more social events. A monthly postgrad morning tea was organised, a huge success to top off Q2. Within OUSA, Josh has also sat on eight different committees, and has helped voice concerns raised over whether postgraduate tutors are being overworked, to the detriment of their research output. This quarter hasn't been without its challenges for Josh though, reporting an 8.29 hour average for his 10-hour a week role. As a result, the executive voted to reduce his honorarium by 10% over a 4 week period.

Deborah Huang - Clubs and Socs Representative

Clubs and Socs Rep Deborah has probably spent more time thinking about a very different type of clubs than freshers have. Getting the word out of our Uni's many clubs' antics to Critic Te Ārohi, Radio One and Te Aka Tauri (the undergraduate magazine) has been a priority. Behind the

scenes, she made a new Clubs and Socs constitution template, making the onboarding process easier and more transparent in the future. The template was redrafted in conjunction with Te Rōpū Māori to include a new Te Tiriti o Waitangi clause, becoming a mandatory part of the constitution template for all new clubs. Deborah also mentions wanting Critic to feature more clubs – our inbox is open.

Ibuki Nishida – International Representative

Ibuki's Q2 has had the International Students' Association (OISA) front and centre, with a series of exciting events. A fundraising bake sale and an international karaoke night were bumper events for OISA and planning was undertaken for both the Multicultural Ball and international students arriving at the beginning of Sem 2. Buki also helped Residential Rep Callum with flat visits and Academic Rep Stella for her lecture recording policy. Looking ahead to the next quarter, Ibuki is looking forward to doing more work on other Exec campaigns now that he's put the grunt work into OISA.

Seluvaia Ratoul – President of the University of Otago Pacific Island Students' Association

Seluvaia may take the cake for the most appearances of any Exec member in the last quarter, showing face at 24 (!) different events associated with the Pacific Islands Students' Association (UOPIA). The relationship between OUSA and UOPIA has been bolstered with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) being signed. A huge (and ongoing) battle for Selu has been securing a UOPIA Fale. For now, they have a temporary space in the IBS building (an unfortunate acronym), used for various meetings, but they're relying on Campus Development to find a permanent Fale for Pasifika students. UOPIA is also collaborating with academic associations to make sure staff support for our Pasifika whānau is adequate. A pretty cool night market was hosted in collaboration with Te Rōpū Māori, too.

Ngātiki Taylor & Porourangi Templeton-Reedy – Te Rōpū Māori Tumuaki Takirua

As always, the Te Rōpū Māori (TRM) Tumuaki Takirua have wrapped up a busy quarter. On top of all their work supporting Otago's Māori taurira, Ngātiki and Porourangi act as 'ex-officio' members on the OUSA Exec. An MOU has been signed between OUSA and TRM, strengthening the ties between the groups further. Another huge win for TRM was securing a space for Māori students in the library, rounding off a semester of incredibly high student engagement with TRM. On the admin side of things, Ngātiki and Pou sit on a whopping eight different OUSA-related committees, are undergoing strategic planning with other Māori students' associations around the motu, and continue to host taurira at the TRM whare and run weekly kaupapa.

Campus Banksy Calls Out ‘Old Boys Club’ Exec

All it took was \$130 in ink and paper

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

In the wake of news that Political Rep Jett Groshinski will be running for council and continuing in his role despite a conflict of interest, anti-OUSA Exec propaganda posters have popped up on notice boards around campus calling for Jett to resign. As of writing, Jett tells Critic he has no plans to vacate either role.

Amidst the typical club events notices, appeals for Masters’ project participants and advertising for Mexican flan fundraisers, eagle-eyed observers have spotted the artistic flair of fourth-year History and Politics major Fergus Parks. Critic Te Ārohi caught up with the propaganda-perpetrator who accused OUSA of being an “old boys’ club” in their apparent failure to acknowledge their responsibility to their constituents (students) and make decisions behind closed doors.

Fergus’ warpath began when he read an online article published by Critic on June 3rd titled ‘Council-Gunning Political Rep’s Conflict of Interest’. The article reported on Political Rep Jett Groshinski’s recent Labour-endorsement to run for council in this year’s local elections. An admirable feat for a student who’ll be rubbing shoulders with a typically older crowd in his race, but one that prompted “robust” discussions among the Exec over how he would manage the clear conflict of interest being a supposedly “neutral” political representative of students.

While some members of the Exec voted for his resignation, the majority agreed it was manageable if he stepped away from their Local Body Elections campaign and gave up the chair of Political Action Committee. Fergus shared the position of Academic Rep Stella, who’d been spotted by Critic in a video call to be wearing a big frown and holding up a sign that read “JETT RESIGN”. “Well I gave it a read and frankly I was outraged,” Fergus told Critic, calling the conflict management measures a “band-aid solution”.

The bee in Fergus’ bonnet was that the Exec’s actions have, in his view, failed in their obligations to the student body that they serve. If the University of Otago campus were New Zealand, students are its citizens, and OUSA is the Beehive that houses Parliament (the student Executive) which directs the factions of Government (departments like Student Support) and is reported on by the Press Gallery (Critic Te Ārohi). The Exec, as the elected representatives of students, are in public-facing roles to serve the needs, wants and desires of their constituents.

Fergus laid out his gripes in a stern 500-word email to Critic Te Ārohi on June 4th. “I was left concerned about the fairness and impartiality of Jett Groshinski in his role as Political Representative, following his decision to run for the local council. As the article outlines, Groshinski is a member of the OUSA Executive. The same body that, in a recent referendum, proposed to and I quote, ‘endorse local election candidates who campaign for policies to support students and improve student outcomes in the upcoming 2025 Local Body Elections.’” 56% of students voted against this, with multiple comments noting the fishiness of an Exec member being one of said candidates.

There were also worries about the Exec as a whole being Labour-affiliated. Not only is Jett running for council as a Labour-endorsed candidate; President Liam White is also a Labour member and Vice President of Southern Young Labour, a conflict he’s openly noted. Given the strong affiliation, Fergus said it sets a precedent of student leadership positions being “strategic pawn for political agendas, rather than roles dedicated to genuinely representing the diverse interests of all Otago students.”

Critic Te Ārohi spoke with Liam and Jett for their response. Liam had had an email exchange with Fergus (probably a robust one, knowing him), responding to Fergus’ fears about the Labour-aligned friends not managing the conflict properly. “Which I think is an entirely fair thing to be concerned about,” said Liam. An important thing to remember, however, is that everything goes by the Exec, three of whom were vocally against Jett continuing in his role but were outnumbered by the rest. “So everything has to go by them and the Exec are watching it really closely to make sure that it is managed responsibly.”

While it is true that the Exec had the final call on how they would manage Jett’s conflict of interest in running for council, it’s worth noting that none

of them were very happy about it. Apart from Liam, none of them had been made aware of Jett’s aspirations for council until the ODT published an announcement on May 21st (prompting a very awkward Exec meeting straight afterward). At the following week’s meeting where they discussed the best plan out of four options Jett had laid out – ranging from “baseline separation” to “full resignation” – even those who wound up voting for him to stay said they were faced with “two unideal options”.

There were multiple aspects of that meeting that Fergus had taken issue with. The first was that they had considered holding the meeting in confidential committee, effectively meaning that Critic would be unable to report on it, and therefore leaving students in the dark. “That would be absolutely ridiculous,” said Fergus. “[Groshinski’s] going into a public role while still being a representative of [students], so students damn well have a right to know what he’s planning on doing as the political representative of the students.”

A serious consideration of the Exec had been that if Jett were to resign, they were worried they wouldn’t be able to find a replacement for the role. Fergus had a strong reaction to this suggestion. “Bullshit,” he said, rolling his eyes. “I’ll go for it, for goodness sake.” He said he was sure many other Politics majors at the university would as well, calling the Exec “lazy” for not wanting to put the effort in to organise a by-election. “Well, guess what? That’s the job you were voted in to do bucko: to represent the people. And when the people want change, you need to hear those voices.” Liam’s response was that Fergus couldn’t claim to be a representative of all students and that the Exec’s main concern was whether a new representative would get up to speed in time for local elections in September.

The self-described history nut has taken matters into his own hands to spread the word about the Exec’s actions. Armed with Politics tutorial knowledge of Kremlin propaganda posters (a class he ironically takes with Jett), MediBang (poor man’s Photoshop) and his parent’s printer (plus \$85 in ink and \$45 in paper), Fergus went on a posterizing spree around campus. “Look I’m not trying to say ‘down with the Executive, burn, anarchy’. What I’m just simply trying to do is to raise awareness,” he said. Campus’ own Banksy was spotted chuckling to himself as he tacked up images of the Exec puppeteering students at the voting booth.

“I do appreciate it when people reach out, because otherwise I have very little idea what the student body actually thinks,” said Liam. “We represent 20,000 students, and so to have a student reach out with a concern is great.” Outside of that, he said the Exec can only infer from their own experiences and operate within their own bubbles. Liam reckoned more students should take advantage of using university spaces to promote what they believed in but would also encourage students to speak directly to the Exec to air concerns first.

Jett didn’t say much to Critic about his reaction to the posters – or couldn’t without being interrupted by Liam – other than that he was “shocked” (“reasonably concerned” in Liam’s words). Liam reckoned it was the first instance of that sort of student response to Exec activity since the 2010s. Jett said it was “a little bit confronting” for someone to be publicly calling for his resignation and was “surprised” at the backlash.

Critic’s notes from the initial Exec meeting about Jett’s candidacy show that multiple members even expected no one to notice nor care. But Fergus certainly does. By failing to consult with students on his candidacy, a role that might compromise his ability to serve students’ interest across the political spectrum, and then continuing in that role, Fergus reckons Jett is left with two options: to either stay in his role and do the job he was elected to do and drop the political campaign, or resign in order to campaign. “I personally still think it’s a manageable conflict,” was Jett’s response.

Fergus’ parting words for students was this: “Every now and then, you gotta find something you stand for, whether it’s the ongoing war in Palestine, climate change, the issues with gender equality pay. You need to stand up for something once in your life, and I’d say if you want something to be done, you do it yourself. Stand up, be heard.” With that, he left to put up more posters, leaving one in the OUSA stairwell on the way out.

KEEP IT DOWN!

PARTYING SOON?

- Tell your neighbours early
- Turn it down at a reasonable hour
- Keep doors closed
- Reduce the bass
- Register your party online with Good One

A Noise Control visit may lead to a formal warning. Receive another complaint and you risk fines of \$300 – \$500.

www.dunedin.govt.nz/noise

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CITY COUNCIL | **kaunihera**
a-rohe o
Otepoti



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ESPRESSO BAR

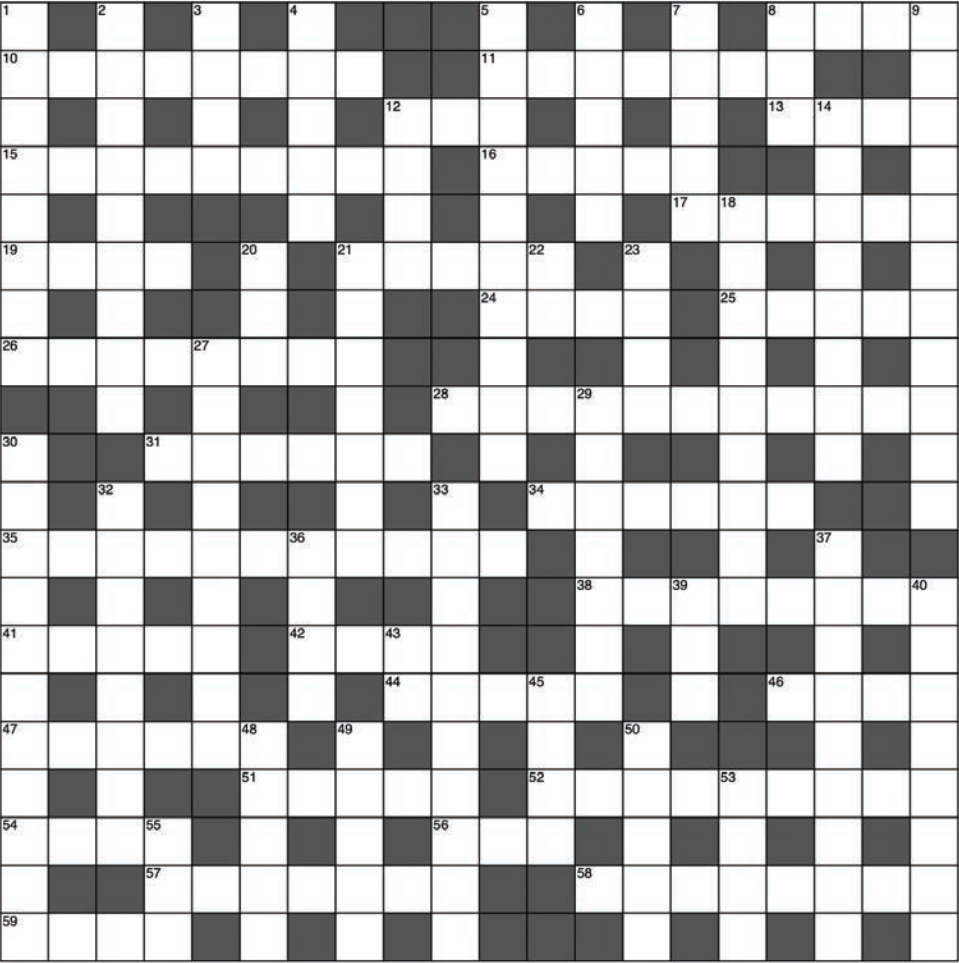
36 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

ACROSS

- 8** 21A, but Spanish
10 Mary Jane
11 Tooth doctor
12 E.g.: Baltic, Tasman, Caribbean
13 Taylor Swift has 40 of them (acr.)
15 Sarcastic article
16 What 'Goodfellas' and 'The Godfather' have in common
17 Tofu Boy at Kikki's (2)
19 Group lovin'
21 Māori cat
24 Small island
25 Religious doctrine
26 Mufasa's cause of death
28 SSRI's can hinder your sexual what
31 Padmé's baby daddy
34 NZ's was ranked the world's sexiest in 2019
- 35** Red tape
38 Carlos Sainz & Alex Albon
41 End of sem lecture content
42 Umbrella company for Speight's, Emerson's and Steinlager
44 Southern Alps follow this
46 Te Pāti Māori MPs recently faced punishment for this
47 Shrinkflation's latest victims on campus
51 5, 7, 5
52 AP shot, say (2)
54 Nile goddess
56 Subbies (acr.)
57 "Scissor-fish"
58 Basement Octagon club
59 Black-tie event

DOWN

- 1** Don't run with these
2 Home of reels
3 Fears bleach and wax
4 Canoe wood
5 Kylo Ren actor (2)
6 Dagger
7 Muslim veil
8 Where girls walk with exaggerated hip sway (acr.)
9 Headstrongly
- 12** A ____ to yeast
14 Effie Trinket: "That is ____!"
18 'Washboard' muscle
20 Your rent, weekly
21 Less well-off
22 We, collective
23 Quest-leading protagonist
27 Fruit containing an enzyme that breaks down skin



- 29** Castle breathas' baby name (issue 8)
30 Blush-inducing
32 Miniature tree vegetable
33 "Just play it cool" (2)
36 Tranquil
- 37** Octy VIP
39 Fireplace wood
40 Money-saving fresh produce shopping
43 Nude marketplace (acr.)
45 RMA and Bill of Rights are examples of what
48 Loan ____
49 Hagrid's brother, for example
50 Fish rhyming with 53D
53 Peace and ____
55 Hot tub

ISSUE 13 CROSSWORD ANSWERS
ACROSS: 2. LEE VANDERVIS 7. DORA 8. LOUD 9. KIROV 13. HIKOI 14. MR SPEAKER 16. MILSAP 18. WAITANGI 20. NATIONAL 22. ELEVEN 24. EMBARKING 27. PADDY 28. OASIS 29. WALL 33. ABBA 34. DAVID SEYMOUR
DOWN: 1. ADO 2. LAP 3. VROOM 4. DR 5. REINA 6. SOVEREIGNTY 10. SKY LIT 11. PITA 12. SPRITE 13. HUMAN RECORD 15. RAW 17. PŌNEKE 19. NEVADA 21. LON 23. LIPO 25. ALIBI 26. GOLEM 30. BAR 31. GAY 32. US

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CONFIDENTIALITY
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Illustrated by Jackson Bird

There are 10 differences between the two images





Kiritea Smith, Chair of the 30th Committee – Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Pūkenga

Porourangi Templeton-Reedy, Co-President of Te Rōpū Māori – Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tūhoe, Tainui

Nā Heēni Koero Te Rerenoa
Ngāti Hine, Te Waiariki, Te Rarawa

HONOURING THE PAST, CELEBRATING THE PRESENT, AND BUILDING THE FUTURE

It's been three decades of unapologetic presence, fierce advocacy, and whānau-first leadership at the University of Otago – and now, Te Rōpū Māori (TRM) is turning 30.

In early November, TRM will honour this major milestone with a wānanga like no other – three days of connection, excellence, and mana Māori in full force. The celebrations will spotlight the brilliance of our taura, past and present, through a packed schedule of activities, seminars, and the highly anticipated launch of Te Rōpū Māori's first-ever official album.

Critic Te Ārohi spoke to Porourangi Templeton-Reedy, current Tumuaki Takirua (Co-President) of Te Rōpū Māori, and Kiritea Smith, Chair of the 30th Committee, about what this kaupapa means and what's in store.

WHY THIS BIRTHDAY HITS DIFFERENT

Since its earliest days, Te Rōpū Māori has been more than just a student association – it has been a refuge, a launchpad, and a kāinga rua for generations of Māori students at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka. What began as the "Māori Club" – a rōpū made up of university students and wider community members bound by culture – would eventually formalise into the incorporated society now known as TRM.

"Prior to 1995, Te Rōpū Māori was known as 'Māori Club,'" reflects Kiritea Smith, one of the driving forces behind the 30th celebrations. "Comprising of taura Māori from the University, but also community members who came together sharing one common factor – culture." The group officially became an incorporated society on 26 May 1995. "Since then, TRM has grown significantly and further solidified its place within the university as a kāinga rua – a home away from home for taura Māori."

This year's milestone isn't just about looking back – it's about recognising the whakapapa of the association, celebrating those who came before, and laying the groundwork for those still to come. Wanting to support that legacy in a meaningful way, Kiritea stepped forward last year to chair the committee responsible for organising the 30th and other large-scale kaupapa.

Her goal was to ease the pressure on Te Rito, the core TRM executive, so they could continue their day-to-day advocacy and support work without taking on the full weight of this major event. Since then, she's pulled together a dedicated committee of taura and alumni, leading regular meetings and overseeing the planning and delivery of the celebration. "Chairing this rōpū has meant being able to guide the vision and bring to life a series of events that truly honour the mana and legacy of Te Rōpū Māori."

Now, with the vision set and the groundwork laid, the stage is ready for a celebration that brings it all to life.

WĀNANGA VIBES: WHAT'S ON

For some, this will be a first encounter with Te Rōpū Māori. For others, it's a return home. Either way, the 30th promises

to deliver something special. "This kaupapa is shaping up to be something truly special – a celebration that highlights and honours the achievements of our taura Māori, both past and present," shares Porourangi. "More than that, it's an opportunity to come together as a collective to celebrate the strength, resilience, and legacy of Te Rōpū Māori."

So, what's on the horizon? According to Kiritea and Porourangi, there's plenty to look forward to. In early November, TRM will host three days of immersive kaupapa, including panel discussions, keynote speakers, sport and cultural events, and a final gala night to close the celebrations in style.

But perhaps the most anticipated moment of all comes earlier: on July 24, Te Rōpū Māori will officially release its debut EP. Kiritea explains that the album brings together "six significant waiata, composed and recorded by both taura and alumni over the years". The project showcases both the talent and passion of TRM members, as well as a standing legacy of their collective voice.

Alongside the EP, Kiritea says she's looking forward to seeing alumni return to campus for the three-day celebration – an opportunity to reaffirm the impact and significance of Te Rōpū Māori at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka. A legacy project in every sense, the album amplifies the voices, creativity, and cultural power of Māori students. It stands as a sonic reminder that our stories, our sound, and our excellence are not only alive – they're thriving.

HE WĀHANGA HOU – THE FUTURE STARTS HERE

TRM's 30th is more than an event – it's a mirror held up to three decades of growth, grit, and collective power. From grassroots advocacy to cultural leadership, Te Rōpū Māori has long been at the heart of shaping Māori student experiences in Ōtepoti. They have led protests, hosted pōhiri, nurtured future changemakers, and held space when few others would.

Beyond the festivities, the 30th is a call to the next wave of Māori students: step in, step up, and know you belong.

"While our celebrations will spotlight its long-standing history, we also plan for the future and hope it shows why Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka can be the first pick for all Māori wanting to study at university. Ka ora a kāinga rua – our second home lives!"

So, whether you're a current taura, a TRM alum, or simply someone who backs Māori excellence – this isn't just a party. It's a celebration of everything we've built, everything we're becoming, and everyone we carry with us. Tickets are still available to purchase. Don't miss the chance to witness history – and be part of it too.

RECESSION INDICATORS

OTAGO EDITION

By Molly Smith Soppet
Illustrated by
Jimmy Tannock

Aotearoa technically isn't in a recession anymore, but this is what I have seen and things I expect to see in the near future as signs of economic backsliding.

1. Full buses
2. Home hair cuts and choppy bangs
3. U-Bar pintflation (alongside the death)
4. The rise of platonic room-sharing
5. PAK'nSAVE introduces a one-in, one-out system
6. English majors drinking instant coffee
7. Campus scones shrink
8. The University leaves a slice of cheese on the side of a building for almost a year
9. Not just gym bros eating chicken and rice and intermittent fasting
10. ED stomach-pumps homebrew alcohol
11. Four dollar lunch becomes 'lunch for a fiver' (OUSA must give credit to me when this inevitably becomes the tag line)
12. Briscoes no longer has a sale on
13. Critic starts pay-walling articles
14. Pint Night becomes a pint-less room with a band playing
15. UniPol charges \$2 per visit, \$1 for ball hires
16. Students actually apply for Community Services cards
17. Neighbouring flats go in on a WiFi plan together
18. Salvation Army empties of hot water bottles and containers

19. The Dumpling Lady goes out of business
20. People still hang out in the Link during semester breaks (for the warmth duh)
21. Paper disappears from the university printer trays
22. Campus bathroom signs limit students to one sheet per pee, two for a poo
23. Everyone sells their laptops and relies on Central Lib monitors
24. Stealing toilet paper at parties (anything is better than 2 ply)
25. Stealing eggs at parties
26. Stealing bread at parties
27. A hiss on a vape will cost you \$5
28. OUSA Clubs and Socs showers form queues
29. Campus Watch suspends students for squatting in St Dave's
30. A local election happens but no one has a good campaign other than mediocre Facebook posts begging for campaign funding
31. Second-years break into their old halls to do washing and snatch butter sachets
32. Liam White gets a second job
33. Students start stripping the copper from around University buildings
34. Brawls over Re:Ori' giveaways
35. There's a case of scurvy at Otago





1. How's your dating life going?

- a) I'm too busy for a dating life outside of the occasional situationship
- b) Torn between testing whether I'm actually bisexual and lusting after Pedro Pascal
- c) Locked down in a long-term relationship and giving my single friends dating advice
- d) Tinder is bleak, I'm sick of small talk, and my bio is definitely spicier than I am in real life
- e) I have more hoes on the go than my friends know about, one in each port
- f) Been making an effort to go on dates and overshare at parties about the latest updates (like that one guy who called my vagina a Bob Ross painting)

2. What sort of student are you?

- a) I treat it like a full-time job to the point of unironically saying 'TGIF' (then working over the weekend anyway)
- b) I keep a balanced lifestyle but knuckled down for exams (AKA hand-writing bootcamp, fucking oww)
- c) I don't often go to my lectures but mainly study from either the Marsh or Central Lib
- d) I've become increasingly reliant on ChatGPT to summarise course readings to keep up with the workload
- e) Go to all my lectures in person, except for that one time I slept through my 8am class alarm
- f) An increasingly nervous one as graduation looms. Might take a panic post-grad to avoid the job market a bit longer

3. What's your party style?

- a) I'll usually sip at the two drinks I brought to pres (one per pocket), sober drive my mates to the Octagon and turn in early but have the occasional big send
- b) Pint Night loyalist despite often ending up crying in the bathroom and ruining my clothes in the humidity, and going to the odd Crown gig to honour the Dunedin Sound
- c) Slowly working my way through all the RTDs at Leith Liquor, parking up every weekend with brews before seeing where the wind takes us (a bag, probably)
- d) 21st royalty at this point but only going hard for my besties (I'll die otherwise)
- e) I love an adventure – the more people I meet and nicher the conversations, the better
- f) BYOs and potlucks are my new favourite thing. Any excuse to get silly on the wines and hang out with the people I love, really

4. How do you prefer to spend time with friends?

- a) A Peninsula mish when we get the chance
- b) Browsing second-hand shops like Static Age or Hard To Find Books
- c) Doesn't need to be anything crazy, just hanging out in each other's flats is nice for the company and yarns
- d) Going out for coffee and having a big gossip or vent
- e) Probably a sesh if I'm going to be honest
- f) Either a hike or games night depending on the mood

5. What's your hot take?

- a) Library sniffers and coughers are selfish
- b) You can be friends with your exes but not people with starkly opposing political views
- c) Uni papers aren't that hard to pass and eggs should be cheaper
- d) The use of AI is immoral and will rot society's critical thinking skills
- e) I did not care for the Shrek movies and small talk sucks
- f) It's rude of my unrequited crush to flirt with me

6. What sort of Critic reader are you?

- a) Makes for a good toilet read. The weird bong piece, the presidential scandal photoshoot, and that Ritalin feature have been highlights
- b) My flat is plastered in Critic art (rip the ocean centrefold). We especially loved the Wizard and the music issue Clash centrefold
- c) The horoscopes have lowkey predicted major life events and the booze review provides a reliable laugh
- d) The investigative features and news articles are pretty cool – actual journalism. Oh and the debatables are entertaining
- e) I like the quirky shit that you wouldn't find anywhere else. Also, Critic should definitely bring back Moaningful Confessions
- f) I do the crossword religiously and the only article I can remember was that Castle St baby one called Fuckwit

Mostly As: Health Science/Med

Your friends tease you for the amount of hours you spend at the library and for getting twitchy around anyone with cold symptoms, but you can't afford to get sick (again). Two-minute noodles are your best friend and some of your most heated arguments with friends have been over the correct way to cook them. Your sex life has been a bit dry lately, but at least you can be confident in knowing where the clit is or how to find the G-spot. Exercise is the most effective mood-booster, so you train that dog in you through rain or shine and have either developed a dependency on pre-workout or consider it to be the devil.

Mostly Bs: Arts

Life is all about balance, baby. You're passionate about your studies (except that one dud paper), are often the initiator for friend group plans, and are constantly taking up new hobbies like crochet or climbing. People without interests are dull. Over the break, you made an effort to reset after a big semester: picking up a book you'd always been meaning to read (The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath), hanging out with your family (gently explaining how to use they/them pronouns), going on some grounding nature walks, and op-shop restocking your wardrobe for your flatties to steal from.

Mostly Cs: Commerce

When life gets you down in the dumps, you simply strap on a pair of running shoes and slap pavement to the beat of house music. Fuck it, you might even sign up for the Dunedin marathon this year. You've spent an alarming amount of time on TikTok over the break watching Reddit stories, practically live in your puffer jacket, have grown an emotional attachment to your hot water bottle, and will probably end up living in one of NZ's big cities if you stay in the country after grad. Either this describes you to a T or you're resentful of being lumped under the same stereotype yet again.

Mostly Ds: Law

You're the queen of multi-tasking and think that doing things one at a time is inefficient – you brush your teeth on the toilet, listen to podcasts while cleaning the flat, and write essays as you cook dinner. While efficient, you can become so focused on the task at hand that your coffee grows cold, often being microwaved multiple times before finishing. Strangers at parties are at risk of being pulled into a rant about the supermarket duopoly or whether the MMP system is still fit for purpose, debating skills you've probably applied to a letter to the editor. But one more tequila shot and you become the life of the goddamn party, before crashing in your beautifully curated (but often messy) bedroom.

Mostly Es: Science

Science students, you're the dark horses of the student population. Arts students get the credit for their creativity, but you bring a chaotic zest for life to the mix. On a semester break roadie, you'll be the one to play tour guide, the first to strip down for a mid-winter skinny dip, and then cheekily bring out a vacuum-packed bag of mushies. Time to reconnect with Papatūānuku and each other. You're often going down rabbit holes of random studies, articles and podcasts; are fairly savvy with your money (always buy second-hand); and are a notorious procrastinator, preferring to people watch from St Dave's than write another fucking report.

Mostly Fs: Education

Doom scrolling has started to take a toll on you, and you've been trying to beat the winter blues (and successive gear comedowns) by exposing yourself to less depressing news. Your friendly demeanor means you're often the friend in the know, but it can also mean strangers at parties or in town feel too comfortable revealing their deepest secrets with you. Tupperware is a passion, as is your eclectic collection of mugs to facilitate that caffeine habit – mainly instant, but you allow yourself the occasional barista-made treat. If you get round to those travel plans, it'll definitely include a stint volunteering in some mountain villages in the middle of fucking nowhere and wearing nothing but clothes you found at a hippie market.

I CAN TELL
WHAT YOU
STUDY
BASED OFF YOUR
CENSUS
ANSWERS

I spent the semester break trawling through census data and am confident I can accurately guess what you study based on how you answer the following questions. If I get it wrong, it says more about whether you're in the right degree than my powers of generalisation.

ANSWERS

Is that correct?

Are you a Leo?

... if you
what I me



By Nina Brown
Illustrated by Tevya Faed

Disclaimer: AI was used as a data analysis tool in the research for this article.

The Critic Te Ārohi census is back for its fifth year. What originally began as thinly veiled nosiness has morphed into an annual data-gathering exercise, tracking the trends of the fine specimen we call the Otago student.

As the years have gone on, Critic's become even nosier. Our need to peer into the lives of students has progressed past the binoculars you'd find on your grandad's windowsill to a NASA-scale motherfucker. From the rise of ChatGPT use as a "search engine", the uptick in Ritalin as a recreational drug, consistent superiority of Central Library and support for the Greens, a slow but steady increase in rental prices, and the beef over flat dishes – here's the tea on what's hot and what's not among your peers.

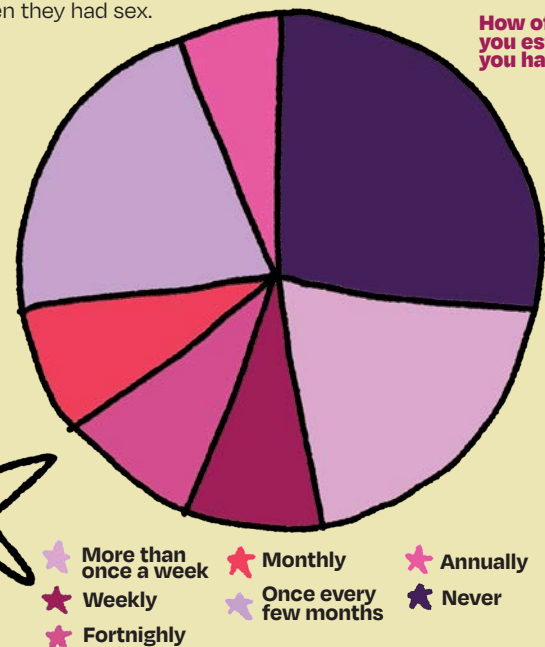
WHO COMPLETED THE CENSUS?

681 of you patient souls completed this year's census, which we realised was no easy feat after watching a student fill it out over the space of an hour. This was in between the arguments over whether pineapple belongs on pizza, the Rice Purity test you had to retake, and paragraphs to write on complex geopolitical issues if you so fancied. Genuinely, thank you for taking the time. And valid to those who typed "idk" by the 78th question as your coffee grew cold (173 in total).

Our numbers were less than last year's 1005 which provided a fairly accurate representation of the student body regarding proportions of age groups, gender and ethnicity. That was the result of social media plugs, magazine advertising, QR code poster on campus, and lecture bashing. We couldn't be fucked going that hard this year – a big semester of birthday celebrations left us weighed down with cake – so this year was the accumulation of social media and mag ads. Based on the most popular answers, the average census respondent was a straight Pākeha agnostic third-year female science student from Otago whose celebrity crush is Pedro Pascal.

SEX & RELATIONSHIPS

The Capping Show this year portrayed the North D student experience as an orgasmic landscape where car windows aren't just foggy from the cold, and chances are your boyfriend is in the closet. Critic's census debunks the hetero hook-up culture stereotype of breathas and beezies swapping saliva on Flatpack beds. Only half of students identified as straight and 52.6% of students are having sex every few months at most. Unsurprisingly, students' relationship statuses were the biggest influence on how often they had sex.



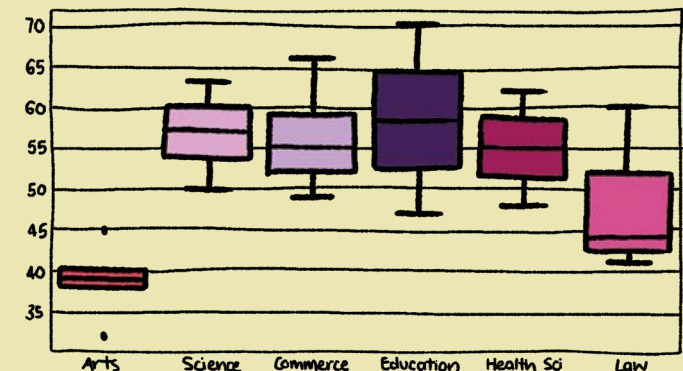
Half of students in the census were single, none of whom reported having sex more than once a week. The majority of singles have no sex at all (26.9%) ("practicing semen retention" as one person put it), some citing healing from a break-up as the reason. Others celebrate an annual romp in the sheets (9%) or have sex once every few months (16.7%) when they redownload Tinder (used by 41% of respondents). The next most popular dating apps when the craving resurfaces are Hinge (28%), Bumble (10.7%) and Grindr (4.6%) – including the person whose relationship status is simply "lonesome gay yearning". Critic suggests to the person who's still sleeping with their ex despite having all of the dating apps to actually use them.

Adorably, an equally high proportion of students as those who are "neutrally single" (35.5%) also reported being in a relationship with the person they thought might be "the one" (27.8%). Critic could not confirm whether this was influenced by couples taking the survey together – which could have affected the stat of 49.8% of students who "don't consume porn". While couples were most likely to be getting fucked down on the regular, not all are pashing in the Rob Roy line. Those in less happy relationships (either "neutral" or "negative") tended to report having less sex than the love birds. Those going steady (8.2%) had a mixed bag, ranging from more than once a week to never, which could be a product of long distance, an overactive Satisfyer Pro and Pornhub in an incognito tab (among 34% who use the site). Critic's thoughts and prayers are with the students who either admitted to being in a doomed relationship, or are in the trenches of situationships – 19 with someone who just won't commit (boo) and 30 are on their way to being locked down (yay). With 64.5% saying they've been in love before (13.2% were unsure) it seems hope is not lost for romance at Otago.

RICE PURITY

Remember that list of 100 questions everyone became obsessed with in high school to test how "pure" you were? We asked students to retest themselves to see how their scores had plummeted since learning how to smoke cones behind your hall

and popping your cherries. Results showed an average score of 50.9, meaning most of y'all have danced without leaving room for Jesus and fondled a buttocks or two, but not gone so far as to do meth or commit incest. Good on you. To make things more interesting, we measured how dirty each degree was: Arts students are the freakiest among us (av. 39), Law students are getting their wild days out the way before committing to the straight-laced lifestyle (av. 44), and we can be rest assured that the teachers of our future kids are the purest of them all (av. 58).



UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIA

OTAGO SATISFACTION

The University of Otago is equally as renowned for its academic prestige and gorgeous grounds as its thriving campus and wild student life. The darker underbelly of party culture can often attract some heat in the media, and there's been plenty of upset over courses cut to plug financial holes, but 91.5% of students in the census reported being happy with their choice to study in Dunedin. Thankfully, given many are from the North Island (52.2%) and flights are expensive.

HALLS

Halls of residence each come with a unique culture, stereotype and traditions, spurring a loyalty in students that'll have second-year Salmond residents protesting an "unfair" food review even though they no longer live there. Interestingly, despite there being a reputation of some halls being more aligned with certain subjects (e.g, Carrington for HSFY) there was an even spread of degrees across the halls. The 89 students who wished they went to a different hall had gone to Toroa, Caroline Freeman, Salmond and Studholme. While Arana was the most common answer for the hall of envy (21.7%), Selwyn, Carrington and Te Rangihīroa were also the ones that got away.

FUTURE CAREER

Despite what you might think, the students spending their course-related costs on decks and ski passes are still here to study towards a career. But how many of us know what's at the end of the tunnel, and how many will end up taking a panic postgrad to avoid the hellish job market? There was a 42:28:30 split of certainty, uncertainty, and flat-out denial. Validating the smugness of career-oriented degrees and your dad, Health Science, Medicine, Law and Science had the highest rates of career certainty. But hey, what Med student gets to experience the joy of being connected with Paddy Gower on LinkedIn?

BEST STUDY SPOT

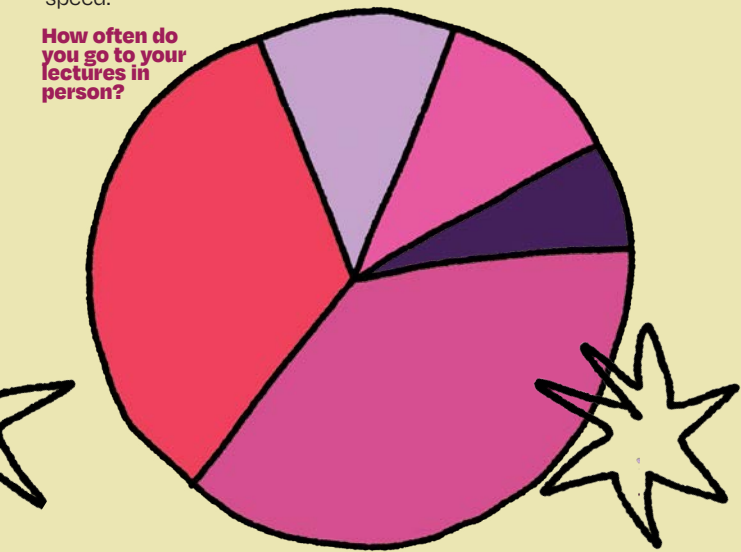
Central Library reigned supreme with 42.7% of the votes for the best study spot – or maybe just the one with the most room for everyone and their Frank Greens. The pecking order remains the same as 2024 among the other libraries: the Robertson (AKA "Robbo") 18.4%, Richardson 11%, the Marsh 9.5% (an endearing

mix of Castle breathas and Aquinas freshers who didn't quite make it to campus), St Dave's 6%, and the Health Science Library 2.9%. Postgrad elitists came out in force to brag about having an office – the only perk, so we'll let them have it. The reliable cohort of home-bound hermits listed their flat as their favourite study space. Critic couldn't confirm whether their flatmates were the ones listing “power” under the most common flat beef.

LECTURE ATTENDANCE

Post-pandemic conversations after the rise in remote learning speculated whether this would become the norm among students. However, two thirds of students in both 2024 and 2025 have said that they attended most, if not all, of their lectures in person. On the occasion that they couldn't attend a lecture – such as clashing schedules with a part-time job – 58.4% said they always watch the recording online, and 35.2% said they “sometimes” would. A whopping 92.5% of students thought all lectures should be recorded, loving the squeaking sounds lecturers make when on 2x speed.

How often do you go to your lectures in person?



- I go to all my lectures in person (unless I have a valid reason)
- I go to most of my lectures in person
- I go to less than half my lectures in person
- I go to half my lectures in person
- I go to none of my lectures in person

GRANT ROBERTSON'S PERFORMANCE

It's been a year since Grant Robertson stepped into the shoes of Vice Chancellor in July 2024. A former OUSA President (1993) and Minister of Finance from the Covid era, Grant inherited a big job: mopping up leaky university coffers, addressing rising campus unrest about Israel-Palestine, managing numerous large-scale building projects, worrying over increasing use of generative AI, heading a rebranding of the university, and shushing a student magazine pestering him about its 100-year birthday.

When Grant took the role last year, students in the census were largely apathetic about the appointment – 50.6% felt neutral, 7.4% disapproved and 42% were in support. This year, Critic Te Arohi asked students how you've rated his efforts, hoping that if you didn't know him from his title, then you'd recognise the jolly guy from the University's Instagram videos. The 348 students who answered gave him an average rating of 3.66 out of 5 (39.4% ranking him four stars). The one star cohort are either salty about him raising tertiary fees last year or found out he's from Palmy.

TECHNOLOGY

CHATGPT

In just a few years, ChatGPT has turned into the students' – and lecturers' – best friend. Able to chew up data and spit out an essay

or course outline in a matter of moments, there's been widespread nervousness about its implications in tertiary education.

Otago Uni's policy on the use of generative AI says ChatGPT can be used as a tool for learning and research, but relying on it for assignments is considered academic misconduct. 23.3% abstain from ChatGPT use, 43.2% do occasionally (the academic equivalent of social smoking) and 33.5% openly admitted to using it often – an increase from the 25.6% who had last year. Its primary use is as an assignment-planning tool (69.3%) to provide a structure or work through brain block. The second highest use was as a search engine (59.9%), and the third was to edit assignments (50.7%). Other creative uses for ChatGPT include marking work based on a marking schedule, simplifying difficult concepts (the new “[insert concept] for kids” Google search), coding, summarising readings or, in a bleak *Black Mirror* twist, as a therapist.

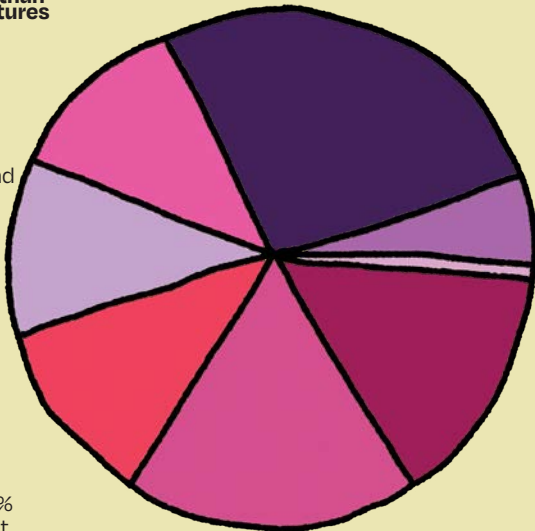
EXAMS

Given the threat of AI to academic integrity, universities are forced to doubly ensure that students' work is their own. You wouldn't want to be represented by a lawyer or treated by a doctor who graduated based on AI-essays, after all. In the census, only 10% thought all exams should be digital. A majority of students (62.3%) thought only some exams should be digital, and 15.7% of students voted that all exams should be handwritten.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Hopes for escaping brain rot and touching grass were dashed in the results for social media use. Half of respondents spent at least ten hours on their phone a week, with a big chunk (28.5%) spending 20 or more hours doom-scrolling on Instagram reels (the most popular social media app). Somewhat surprisingly, Facebook beat TikTok in popularity – perhaps due to the options it provides: marketplace finds, clicking article links (a girl can dream), stalking your high school friend's Greece trip photo dump, or plotting the perfect 21st event description. Kudos to the same four people from last year who raw dog life without social media.

How many hours did you spend on your phone last week?



- 1 hour or less
- 2-4 hours
- 5-6 hours
- 7-9 hours
- 10-15 hours
- 15-20 hours
- 20+ hours

PARTY CULTURE

ALCOHOL

In a country of boozers to the point of having a national day for sinking a crate, Dunedin is proudly patriotic. Students reliably ranked drinking habits similarly to last year, with a similar proportion of students reckoning they drank less than their peers

(42.7%) as the number who thought they were on par with their peers (37.4%). 10% proudly clicked “more” while 9% didn't drink at all. Compared to stats from the first Critic census in 2021, there was a higher proportion of students who drank less, less who were the same, and slightly less who drank more than their peers. Either Duffers is losing its touch or there's simply more drugs on the scene.

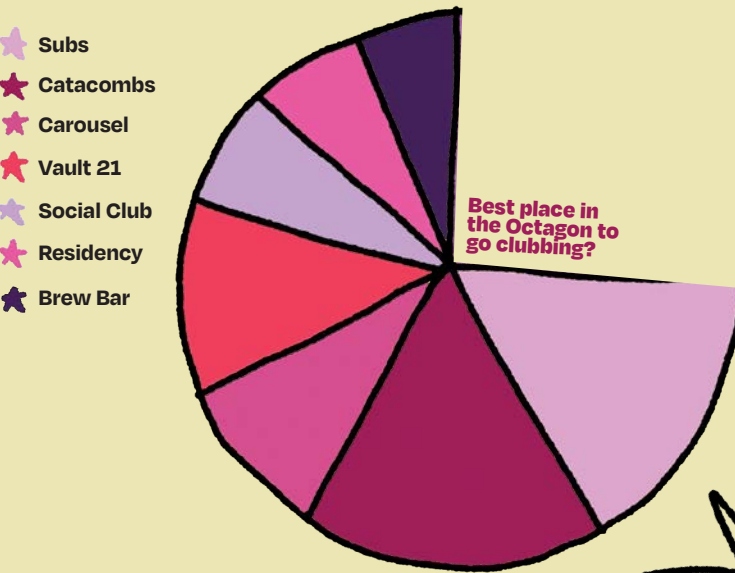
DRUGS

Dunedin might be one of the few cities where weed is practically legal and drones are dropping baggies at flat's doorsteps. The drug trends over the years have remained fairly consistent: weed reigns supreme (72%) and MDMA is its loyal sidekick (39.9%). Over the years, spot number three has been contested – nangs were ousted by Ritalin last year, where it remains in 2025 (21%). Since last year, there's been a slight uptick in Ketamine use (go horsie, go!), surpassing both shrooms and acid in popularity. Other weird shit students have been getting high on includes 2CB, salvia, and dexys that did “NOTHING”.



GOING OUT

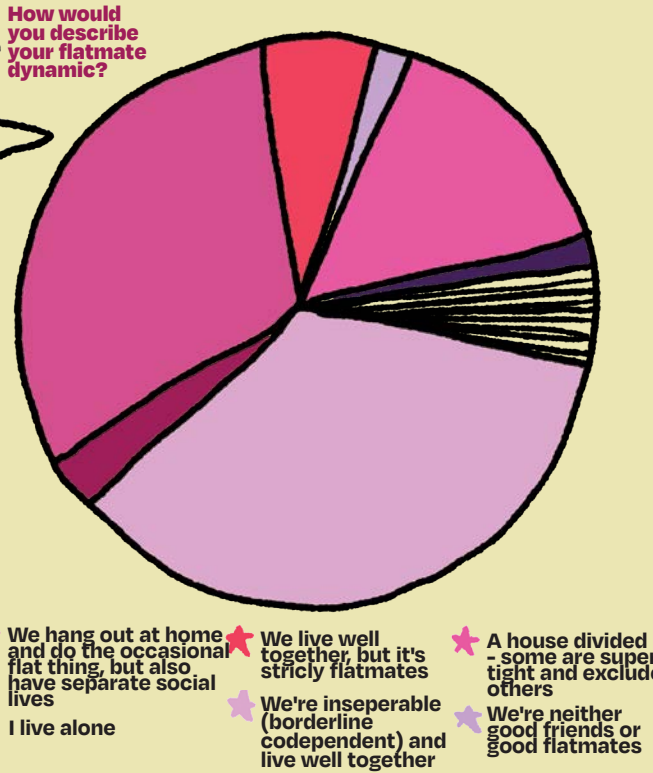
The beauty of living within 100 metres of your best friends is having endless options for pres. But when you aren't testing the structural integrity of your flat's walls with thumping DnB and actually make it to town, where's hot? Subs kept its top spot, alluring crowds of students with toast time and foam parties (18.4%). Catacombs climbed from fourth to second this year, raking in 14.8% of votes. Vault 21 dropped from second to third (10.3%). Carousel copped fourth (9.7%) a popular haunt for house fiends and those who “socially” smoke cigarettes (32.3%), with less reaching for a vape on a night out (23.9%). Admittedly we missed gig venues and stuck to Octagon clubs, so apologies to U-Bar or Crown diehards – where the 36 students who punch darts on the reg can probably be found leaning against the building.



- Subs
- Catacombs
- Carousel
- Vault 21
- Social Club
- Residency
- Brew Bar

FLATTING

Dunedin is often described as a “student city” where most students reside shoulder-to-shoulder (61%) and flatmates can become like family. The most harmonious flats were born out of pre-existing relationships. Both first-year hall mates and groups of high school besties described their relationship as being either “borderline codependent” or simply living well as a group. Friend of friends or Facebook marketplace flatties had mixed results – some describing neutral cohabitation, hanging out a home while retaining separate social lives, others “a house divided” – and flatting with strangers seemed more likely to make for an awkward living situation. Critic unearthed some drama in the comment section, with perhaps the juiciest answer being: “I love four of my flatmates to bird [sic] and we are good at living with each other, but the other two are psychopaths and need a reality check before they get curb stomped.” Yikes.



There's nothing quite like the adrenaline rush of glancing at a flat group chat notification starting with “hey guys, can we please...” What's the beef in flats? Dishes racked up the top spot (68%) – triggering flashbacks of pans left to “soak” and mouldy month-old coffee mugs. Next was rubbish (32.2%), power usage (28%), noise-levels (18.8%), fridge space (16.3%), laundry (14.4%), bills (12.5%), visitors (10.9%) and car parking (5%). Individualised answers included not hanging up the bathmat, trauma dumping, locking the front door, general tidiness, and flatcest (tea). To the person whose flatmate keeps pissing on the floor: thoughts and prayers.

POLITICS

POLITICAL LEANING

Tertiary campuses have a reputation for being liberal, progressive spaces, and it seems Otago is no different. Half placed themselves on the left, and a further 18.9% went far left. A similar

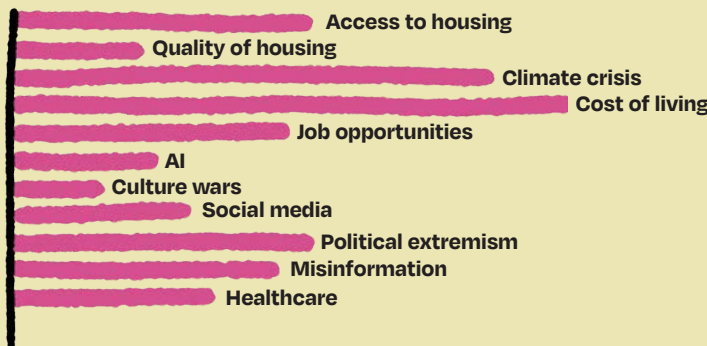
proportion of students were either central or unsure (12%), 5.7% were right-leaning, and only two students considered themselves to be on the far right.

For newly minted voting citizens of New Zealand, only half of students said they felt that any political party represented their views. Most students indicated that they would vote for the Greens (51%), with one person listing Chloë Swarbrick as one of their main sources of trusted information. The next most popular parties were Labour (16.2%), Te Pāti Māori (6%), National (5.3%) (one second-year girl said she voted National but regretted it, “sorry girls”) and The Opportunities Party (4.4%). Reasons for those who abstained ranged from a claim that voting is for communists (unsure they understand the concept), another claimed to “hate all of them equally” and one person wished they could vote for Trump. MAGA man also thought unemployed people who spend all their time protesting “could be doing more important stuff”.

REPRESENTATION & THE GOVERNMENT

The current government is a right-wing coalition between the National Party, ACT, and NZ First who have slowly been working down their list of “objectionable” things Labour did and reversing them. 84.3% of students said they didn't like the current government, a higher level of dissatisfaction compared to last year's 73%. Distrust in the government could be related to any number of bills hurting the tertiary sector, but overwhelming opposition to the controversial Treaty Principles Bill (73.4%) was almost certainly a factor. Those who somewhat or strongly supported the Treaty Principles Bill were either ACT or National voters, with one Green outlier. Unsurprisingly, none of those who supported the bill felt represented by the OUSA Exec, who earlier this year submitted in opposition to it. One of them was one of the two people who subscribed to pastafarianism (religion of the Flying Spaghetti Monster).

BIGGEST ISSUE FACING OUR GENERATION



Students could be forgiven for feeling glum about the state of the world given the threat of World War 3, backsliding promises on climate protections, a flailing job market, struggling healthcare system, and the rise in misinformation – all accessible from the comfort of our mould-riddled flats. But what takes the cake?

At O-Week's Tent City, the Exec discovered that the biggest issue on students' minds was the cost of living, and the census showed the same. Students' worries are consistent with a broader trend in Aotearoa, with a recent Ipsos NZ survey (a track of issues most important to Kiwis and the political parties best able to manage them) discovering that out of 1000 Kiwis, 55% consider cozzie livs to be the biggest issue. Among students, the proportion was higher, with 78.7% listing cost of living in their top three concerns.

The next biggest issues on students' brains were the climate crisis (55.2%), access to housing (34.4%), political extremism (33.9%) and job opportunities. Individualised answers included a decent helping of existential angst, with many students wishing for a “fucking all of them” option (one in all caps). Other additions

to the cesspit of issues included overseas emigration, the “radicalisation” of youth, political correctness, lack of connection to Mother Earth, racial equality, and critical thinking. To sum it all up, one student said their biggest worry was, “Lack of a truly killer soundtrack to go with all this political turmoil. The Clash can only be stretched so far, ya know?”

To navigate it all, we asked students where you're turning to for accurate political information. Many students said they didn't fully trust any of them, but out of the presented options mainstream news outlets were your most trusted source (69.2%). Student media came second (44.6%) with Critic Te Ārohi scoring 67% of students who reckoned we maintain high standards of journalistic integrity, and plenty of slaps on the wrist for mistakes that have eroded trust (always learning). Social media (37.7%) and university lecturers (38.2%) were about on par in students' eyes, and politicians came in last (18.4%). One person just relies on this guy called Zeth for their information.

RENT

The biggest chunk of change students need to afford week to week is rent. The average price is similar to last year, a third paying between \$160 and \$190, and another between \$190 to \$210. No matter the suburb, there was a middling average of around \$190, with wide gaps even within suburbs. While some in North Dunedin are paying pennies (~\$125) in those "character-building" historic homes , others just blocks away are paying up to \$275. Both probably have even odds of passing Healthy Homes standards. Central Dunedin had the most stable middle range of rental price and the bougie students could be found dotted around the flashier Pine Hill or St Clair, happily paying for their refuge away from midnight yelling and breaking bottles.

FINANCES

To make ends meet in a cost of living crisis, only 23.5% of students are eligible for the student allowance. Students are also relying on the support of their parents for occasional small expenses (52.1%), rent/hall fees (25.8%) or weekly groceries (15.1%). 54.5% of students have a part-time job, 86 of whom have more than one. Distribution by industry was education (22.3%), hospitality (19.3%), retail (18%), customer service (10.2%), supermarket (7.2%), fast food (5.6%), events (4.8%), media (4.8%) and cleaning (4.8%).

UNPOPULAR OPINION

In a debut question this year, Critic asked you for your unpopular opinion. With 235 responses to comb through, it made for an entertaining read that left us equally impressed and concerned. Answers could be categorised under political commentary, random shower thoughts, and hot takes, with an extreme range that can be best encapsulated by one answer: “Pineapple belongs on pizza. Bring back the death penalty!” We couldn't include them all, but here's a highlight reel: disagreements over whether people with differing political beliefs can be friends, an endorsement of Winnie P staying in Parliament “because he's absolutely hysterical”, a love confession for Maggi noodles, someone who snacks on milk powder, people going back to “dumb phones”, someone who reckons being into true crime is “icky”, big forehead and peasant living fetishes, opinions that being tipsy is more fun than being drunk and that “microwaves aren't as important as everyone says”, distaste for wearing Uggs on campus, “bitches hate nuance” and a second-year who “really just can't get behind furry culture”.

OUSA

The Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) is responsible for almost everything on campus outside of your studies and UniPol membership. From your first experiences at

Toga Party at Ori' to resolving flat dramas with Student Support, to browsing student entrepreneurial stalls every other market day or reading a copy of Critic over a \$4 curry and listening to Radio One in Clubs and Socs – it's all OUSA. Historically, despite OUSA's best efforts (and Critic's) there's been a shroud of confusion in the difference between OUSA and the Uni. This year, an optimistic two thirds of students ranked their understanding of OUSA to be between three and four out of five, with familiarity naturally increasing in older year-levels.

OUSA EXEC

The Exec is the elected board of student representatives who govern OUSA. There was an even split among students who were at university last year in whether or not they voted in last year's elections. Much like predecessor Keegan Wells, current President Liam White campaign for the top dog role was uncontested. 66.2% of students even know who he is, adorning flat walls with the Tabloid centrefold of Mr President blowing his constituents a big kiss.

Under Liam's leadership, this year's Exec hit the ground running, announcing it to be a “year of action” with intense planning sessions on how they would tackle their top priorities: the cost of living, student culture, welfare, housing, and education accessibility. Jury's out on whether they bit off more than they could chew. 310 students ranked the Exec's performance this year at 3.56 out of five. Pākeha reported the highest satisfaction with OUSA's performance (4.33), then Asian students (3.2), Māori (2.6) and Pasifika (2.25). Asked to what extent they agreed that the Exec represented their views, the three biggest chunks said they agreed (33.2%), were neutral (28%) or simply didn't know (27.5%).

OUSA \$4 LUNCH – “FRUNCH”

Cost of living listed as the chief concern among students, but not nearly enough are making the most of frunch in the Clubs and Socs building. To the 65% who are missing out and surviving on two-minute noodles: a cheap curry, pasta or soup is the light at the end of the tunnel. 15.3% have cottoned on to the \$6 butter chicken, a more bougie option. Crunching the data confirmed Critic's suspicions that there is a correlation between those who're part of extracurricular clubs and frequent frunch (AKA ski bums who are trying to petrol back and forth from Wanaka all season). Wednesday's dal makhani with rice and potato curry retained its top spot (5.6%) and Thursday's soup remained at the bottom (2.8%).

Thank you dearly to everyone who dished the details of your lives and offered your opinions for the fifth Critic census. And that's the tea.



Think you can do better?

Stand for council.

 **DUNEDIN** CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

dunedin.govt.nz/stand



VOTE 2025
LOCAL ELECTIONS

PŌTI 2025
NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

From fans to friends. A local rock band from Wanaka ended 2024 on Spark Arena's stage playing with Grammy-nominated act Highly Suspect. 2025 saw the band interrupt their usual rotation of gigs with a nationwide tour promoting their self-titled album, Powder Chutes. Shredding through chords and slopes, the band named after a narrow gully of snow takes on Re:Ori 25. Powder Chutes headlines Tuesday night at U-Bar, supported by Ammonita, Fubar, One Day and The Daze.

Critic Te Ārohi spoke to the lightly dusty duo, Clarke West (guitarist) and Otis Murphy (bassist). Absentees to the yarn were (lead singer) Henry McConnell, and (drummer) Archie Orbell. Clearly, the Après ski hangover got to them.

Just like an iceberg, the lore of this band runs deep. Archie, Otis, and Henry started playing together in year six of primary school. The latest addition to the band was Clark, completing the quartet in 2020. Now the bandmates all flat together in their hometown, Wanaka.

Clarke labels Highly Suspect as one of the band's biggest influences alongside Korn, Tool, Turnstile and Kora. This indie rock band doesn't need to be signed to a label because they have a Dad-ager. The band owes it all to Otis' Dad, Murph, who acts as their manager. "We wouldn't be able to

organise half the stuff by ourselves 'cause we're all useless idiots," jokes Clarke.

Professional lighting, high quality production, and a strong creative vision set this band's music videos apart. Local resources are used to keep production value low. The secret behind the sauce is their director and cinematographer Joe Murdie. This industry professional is an expert in bringing out the best in the natural environment. In the music video for their song 'Merchants' a sandstorm takes place. Otis reveals that it is just his Mum standing "far behind the camera with a bag of sand and a leaf blower."

When the boys attended Highly Suspect's Christchurch show in 2024, they sprinted to reach the barricade. These lads finna be in the pit. In an act of self-promotion Archie threw some Powder Chutes merch onto the stage. Johnny, the lead singer of Highly Suspect recognized the band name. Picking up the hat, he said, "Powder Chutes? I've heard of Powder Chutes before." He then proclaimed on stage: "Next time we come to New Zealand, you're gonna open for us."

A 'chance' encounter in town later that night had the two bands yapping. After realizing that both bands were playing shows in Wellington that weekend, Johnny asked the boys to be their opening act. The day before the show, all posters

were changed to include Powder Chute's name. Otis was honoured, but also joked that the last minute changes "must have been a pain in the arse" for their publicist.

"That was one of our best gigs ever," said Otis. At kick ons in Wellington town, Highly Suspect asked the Wanaka band to open for them again, this time in Auckland. With only two days to prepare and no way of getting their kit to Spark Arena, they had to pull every favour they could. Shoutout to the legends who drove a drum kit from Welly to Auckland in time for the event.

The night peaked when Johnny demanded Henry break free from the mosh pit and get up on stage for 'Lydia' the band's biggest hit. Johnny handed Henry the microphone. Having covered the song a million times before Henry knew exactly what to do. Clarke got given a shot at playing guitar while the rest of the band hyped them up. "This is the start of a very long friendship," Johnny told the audience. In reflection Clarke called it "coolest moment of my life," while Otis chimed in, "Honestly, I wish I remembered it more."

Powder Chutes is setting its sights on higher peaks: next up is recording a new album. Catch them at U-Bar for Re:Ori on Tuesday, July 15th. Get in quick and purchase your ticket from OUSA's website.

Powder Chutes



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BOOZE REVIEWS

BY JOAN OF RARK

This article does not start with a sip, but with a journey. Of course, by journey I mean driving from my boozeless flat in the North East Valley to Rattray Street to pick up a rarer drop than most conjured up by those mad bastards under the Triple Star: Speight's Hazy Pale Ale.

Speight's is really New Zealand's version of Stonehenge: a national institution, a constant, an immovable object against the unstoppable force that is craft brewery. While Speight's does have a range that has expanded a fair way with the advent of low carb beers – namely the Summit range – they do dabble in the oddball and strange. One of these dabbles is Speight's Hazy Pale Ale.

You may be thinking to yourself, “When the fuck did Speight's start making a hazy?” which funnily enough was also my reaction, but thanks to some clearing up from the wonderful Thomas at the Speight's Cellar Door shop (shot g) it's been at least since April – when he began working there (a coincidence). There's the tiny inconvenience of it only being available at the brewery for off-license consumption and at Speight's Ale Houses for on-site antics, but it only added to the novelty in my eyes.

Clocking in at a cheeky 4.5% and only available in sizes between 1 and 2 liters (of course I got the 2) it makes for a potentially shocking Rhino at 7.2 standards in a bottle, but leads with a rather pleasant smell, which could be described as like if you mixed all the hazys you can buy at the supermarket together: a rather general hazy scent, which bodes well. Whilst the scent is hazy, as is the weightyness in the mouth, the taste is like if you were thinking about GMAs (Gold Medal Ales) whilst drinking a hazy. And boy do I fucking love GMAs. The lack of that odd crafty bitterness makes this possibly the only hazy I have ever enjoyed.

Although the price at \$14 a liter is a bit steep, it's okay as this is basically if beer were what you thought whisky was like as a kid. Its rich, full spectrum flavour is what could only be described as TheBomb.com and the taste, while consistent, makes you want to just hold it in your mouth forever. Also, go get a Speight's Mates card – you get 15% off all merch and piss you buy from the brewery, so a 24 of Summit cans works out to be \$37, you beauty.

CHUGABILITY: No, don't be a fucking animal/10

HANGOVER: Life hack, you can't be hungover if you never stop drinking these beauties

PAIRS WELL WITH: Life, 'Ventura Highway' mashups



Welcome to Semester Two! I hope you had a great break and are braced for a wintery start to the second half of the year. We have an absolute classic this week: the humble spaghetti bolognese. I know what you're thinking: “Pfft please! I know how to make spag bowl!” But when I tell you that you don't make it this good, you gotta believe me. Simple is best, and with a little special ingredient you've got the best spag the flat's ever laid eyes on. Give it a go and thank me later.

INGREDIENTS:

- Oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 x large brown onion (diced)
- 2 x carrots (diced)
- 2 x sticks celery (diced)
- 3 x garlic cloves (finely chopped)
- 500 g beef mince
- ½ cup whole milk

- 1 can pasta sauce
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 x beef OXO cube (crumbled in plain)
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried mixed herbs

Recommend the Pam's garlic one

diced not grated makes a massive difference

I know it feels like we've gone rogue here but trust the process people

MI GORENG GRADUATE
By Ruby Hudson

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Step 1.** Place a large pot, with a small amount of oil in the bottom, over a medium heat.
 - Step 2.** Dice your onion, carrots and celery, and add to the pot. Sauté the vegetables with a pinch of salt for approx. 10 mins or until soft, stirring occasionally.
 - Step 3.** Add the garlic and cook for a further 3 mins until fragrant.
 - Step 4.** From here add the mince to the pot. Stir into the vegetables to break it up and cook for 5 mins until browned.
 - Step 5.** Add the milk and cook for a couple of minutes stirring to incorporate.
 - Step 6.** From here add in your pasta sauce, tomatoes, OXO cube, oregano, and mixed herbs, plus some salt and pepper. Over medium heat bring the sauce to a simmer.
 - Step 7.** Once it has been decently bubbling for approx 5 mins, lower the heat and cook with the lid on for a further 15 mins.
 - Step 8.** While the sauce cooks, chuck in your pasta and prepare any extras like grated cheese or garlic bread.
 - Step 9.** Remove the lid and simmer for a final 5 mins.
- Serve up and enjoy a tasty flat feed!**

NEW ZEALAND'S MOST FAMOUS BEER



By Hunter Jolly and Hanna Varrs

DEBATE

IS IT SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE TO DRINK GLASSES OF MILK?

FOR:

It was a bit of a shock to learn that drinking the occasional glass of milk was a controversial act. I'm an adamant milk slurper, so you'd better believe that after a hard day of mahi, I like to come home and guzzle down a pint or two of it. What's not to love? It's full of top notch nutritional goodies including proteins, antioxidants, vitamins, calcium, healthy fats, etc. Not to mention it tastes bangin' too.

I'm aware that my opp in this case is dubious of the ethics surrounding the milking of cows to produce and distribute bottles of milk in bulk but, as is the case with so many different areas of farming, there are also morally-sound methods used for this. If you have ethical concerns about how your dairy milk is being sourced, there are New Zealand-made alternatives that you can switch to, such as 'Happy Cow Milk' that take great measures to ensure that the calves come first. They don't even start milking until the wee ones have their fix first!

I don't feel any need to ramble on about this too much, it's a pretty basic concept that milk is good for you so have no shame in drinking the odd glass of it. Just don't be super freaking careful about it if you're dairy free, have an allergy, are lactose intolerant, etc. That's all. Cheers.

AGAINST:

You have something on your top lip, you big baby. You like that, huh? Milk moustache? You look fucking weird.

You are literally drinking an animal by product that is made for baby animals. The cow milk you drink, in order to be produced on such a mass scale, is made by milking impregnated cows that have been, or will be, separated from their calves. Bet you feel great now. The toll that milking cows takes on the environment is also massive, creating three times as many greenhouse gas emissions compared to plant-based milks. You can get your calcium from other avenues that don't rely on drinking baby cow milk. Selfish prick.

Aside from the toll on the environment and animals, it's also just personally not the vibe. You get that phlegmy tastes in your mouth (don't be that person that's always clearing their throat), you come across like you've got mummy issues (hi, Homelander), and you're probably fast tracking yourself into developing IBS. Not worth it, bro.

I restrict my argument to full-throttle drinking glasses of milk. I think it's okay to get the odd full-cream coffee, but it's genuinely all about moderation. Drinking glasses of milk is over indulgent. It's the sinful greed they spoke of in the Bible.



MOANINGFUL CONFESSIONS

CAUGHT, CLAWED, AND CHLORINATED

There's something about Mediterranean air that turns you into the kind of girl who says yes to Jägermeister and public fingering.

I was on a family holiday – key word: family – on a sunny Spanish island when I matched with a hot local man on Tinder. He was charming, he was suave, and he kissed me on the cheek when we met like I was in a bloody Pedro Almodóvar film. We went strolling through moonlit streets to pick up some drinks (he chose Jägermeister, a red flag I ignored for the plot), then headed back to the courtyard of my hotel where the pool was glowing like a siren's trap. It was 2am. We were drinking. Smoking. Vaping. Giggling. I was wearing denim shorts and bad decisions.

Now, let me set the scene: this pool closes at 7pm. It's surrounded on all sides by multi-storey buildings – including the room my parents were staying in. From their balcony, one might've seen a girl who looked a lot like their daughter, nipples out, being fingered by a Spaniard in dim blue light.

I wish I could say the shame hit me in the moment. It didn't. The Jäger was hitting harder. His hands were down my pants. My hands were down his. It was glorious, forbidden, borderline cinematic. Until a very real, very angry security guard started yelling at us from the shadows. I, drunk and terrified, was convinced I was being kicked out of the hotel. I staggered off toward my room to pack my things like a drunk fugitive, blacked out, and woke up face-down on the couch with pool chlorine still drying in my hair.

No sex happened, thank God. Partly because the mood was destroyed, and partly because one of my friends once told me that if you have sex in a pool, your vagina can suction onto the guy's dick and you'll get stuck like a pair of horny LEGO bricks. I don't know if that's true, but I was in no state to test the theory.

All I know is that I had a fantastic night. Someone on the balconies probably did too. If you're reading this and you saw me: no, you didn't.

Lesson of the week: Gorgeous Spanish men are not to be trusted, especially if they carry Jägermeister and call you “guapa”. I currently have the flu and am pretty sure he licked it into my throat. Would I do it again? Absolutely.

xoxo,

Someone's Disgraceful Daughter




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 ousa

Illustrated by Tevya Faed

RANDOM COLUMNS - 14

33



This week you'll find the thing you so desperately need to fill that hole in your heart. You've felt a little 'out of sorts' lately and crave stability; this will come from the most unexpected of places.

Mistake to Avoid: Getting addicted to vaping... AGAIN

★ PISCES ★



It's time to romanticise the fuck out of life. Libras are particularly susceptible to seasonal depression and this season is the absolute pits of Dunedin weather. So when you turn on the heat pump at 9pm, think about streaming a 12 hour continuous loop fireplace to your tv, just for the 'vibes'.

Mistake to Avoid: Spending your paycheck in one day

★ LIBRA ★



It's time to create a new password that you will use for everything. Data leaks are happening everywhere and your Instagram DMs have some juicy secrets that would ruin some relationships if they got out. So add a '#' to the end of your current password or if you're really serious about cybersecurity come up with a whole new one!

Mistake to Avoid: Spilling tea that isn't yours to pour

★ ARIES ★



Sagittarius, you love a fresh start, and for a uni student there is no fresher start than a new semester. So get everything in line, order a whole new wardrobe, read some self help books to form a new personality – do honestly anything to distract you from those disappointing exam grades you have been avoiding telling your parents about.

Mistake to Avoid: Farting while sitting in a lecture theatre

★ SAGITTARIUS ★



You are going to accidentally get in contact with someone you want to avoid. Other than that, this week all your umming and ahing about the future will settle and you finally feel comfortable with your decisions.

Mistake to Avoid: Putting too much on your plate and crying in the shower about it

★ AQUARIUS ★



This week is going to run rampant with strange encounters. Be sure to see the good in the people you meet, you never know what lesson you could learn from them, or the connections that they have.

Mistake to Avoid: Drinking four coffees before lunchtime


★ SCORPIO ★



It's time to go through your shoe collection and get rid of those musty, stinky, dirty shoes that you never even wear but keep them around because they "hold memories". The only thing they hold is most likely the Covid-19 virus and about three shots worth of various spirits.

Mistake to Avoid: Bottling it all up and letting your vape take the stress away

★ CANCER ★



Your plans for the week are going to change quite a lot, so don't get attached to how they are now. There is something waiting for you if you roll with the punches and stay positive about the fact that not everything will always go the way you want it to.

Mistake to Avoid: Not packing your bag the night before

★ LEO ★



This week you are accidentally going to get too high and experience ego death. Coming out the other side is going to be rough, and you will be way too self aware, but it will also make you a bit more compassionate and caring for those around you. Maybe lay off the weed for a bit though.

Mistake to Avoid: Relying on others to tell you what your responsibilities are


★ CAPRICORN ★



Avoid the kitchen this week, nothing good will come from your attempt at meal prep and it's just easier to rely on your flatmates or the local fish and chip shop. However your creativity will come out in other ways so get ready to be covered in paint, paper cuts and glue.

Mistake to Avoid: Not realising that this is what it's all about

★ TAURUS ★



Your rage runs deep this week, and even the tiniest of grammatical errors will set you off. Try channeling the rage into something productive, like creating a list of all of your enemies and trying to figure out if they really are connected and all plotting your downfall.

Mistake to Avoid: Forgetting to buy toilet paper until you are stuck up shit creek with no paddle

★ VIRGO ★



You're feeling a little bit homesick this week, so try to treat yourself the way your parents do when you're home. Take yourself out for brunch, buy 3-ply toilet paper, instead of two and let yourself turn your heater on a little bit before the free power.

Mistake to Avoid: Not wearing enough layers of clothing

★ GEMINI ★

SNAP OF THE WEEK

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

CONTACT CRITIC ON INSTAGRAM TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE



WINNER



OUSA EXEC

THE GLORIOUS AND HALF-SERIOUS REVOLUTION

The last couple of months have been rough. Not “there’s no seats in the link” rough. More like “I tried to rebuild the student movement with a whiteboard and a lack of sleep” rough.

Please don’t misinterpret this, I love my job. There’s no greater privilege or pleasure than being your President. But I can’t pretend that it hasn’t been hard. Somewhere between trying to return OUSA to surplus, fix the tertiary system, building a student bar, change the attitude of the city towards students... I have become a boring son of a bitch.

Not in a quirky “I actually like jazz” way. I mean genuinely boring. A pain to be around. The kind of guy who turns a pub chat into work chat. Somewhere along the way, I forgot how to have fun. I thought a successful year meant a strong Ori and ticking every box on our reform agenda.

A friend of a former President told me most OUSA Presidents develop a “do or die” mindset. At the time, I laughed. Now? I think they were being generous. I’ve been carrying the collective weight and anxiety of 20,000 students, on top of my own in my first “professional” job. And honestly, I let that crush something important. In all of that pressure, I forgot what actually sits at the heart of the Otago spirit: We were never supposed to take ourselves that seriously.

The Critic tabloid photoshoot was the most fun I’ve had all year. Not because it was strategic, or on-message, or part of the 5-year plan, but just because it was stupid. Glorious, pointless, handsome but very deeply stupid. So I’ve been asking myself; how can we hold space for the serious problems we face without making it all soul-crushing.

I went back and read the column I wrote when I beat Mr. No Confidence and was elected President. I had written a throwaway line promising to keep “the Otago sense of humour.” I think somewhere along the way, I traded that humour for hopelessness. But I’ve come to believe something: the bravest thing we can do right now is laugh while staring down the system. Not because it’s funny, but because we still believe this experience should be something we love.

I’ve also noticed something else. A quiet voice floating around campus saying things like “students don’t care anymore,” “nothing’s going to happen,” “why bother?” Where have I heard this? In meetings, in conversations, the library, and flats. This isn’t just defeatist, it’s contagious. I’ve caught that bug, and started thinking that all we can do is manage the decline, make some noise, graduate and move on.

But this isn’t who we are. Otago students have never been passive. We’ve protested, organised, and won real victories on issues like hardship grants, course cuts, rental fairness and the right to own a bong. Not because we had the perfect leadership or the perfect plans, but because we dared enough to give a fuck.

Now you might be writing a letter to the editor saying, “Liam, this isn’t very fun. Also, isn’t this your job?” If you’ve got a problem, do something about it.” Honestly. Fair. I used to think that too. Seven months in, I’ve realised something: no OUSA President can do anything alone. Because the real power isn’t here in my office. It’s in you. It’s in us.

So here’s what I’m asking for the second half of my term, not just for me but for all of us. Let’s stop treating student life like it’s a problem to endure. Let’s start treating it like a community to thrive in. Let’s meet the housing crisis with reform and ridiculousness. Let’s demand free education and make jokes about Central Wi-Fi. Let’s believe in something better and make it happen with passion, mischief and genuine love for each other.

If I’ve only achieved one thing by the end of this year, let it be this: that students at Otago believe in their ability to change seemingly immovable things. This is where you come in, if you’ve ever called bullshit on your flat being too cold, your fees going up or even just thought “this isn’t right, someone should do something” then come and be that someone. Chat to the Exec when you see us around. Come to a forum. Sign a petition. Email or message us. Show up at my office. But most of all show up, make your mark, get shit done and crack some jokes while you’re at it.

Liam White
OUSA President



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’

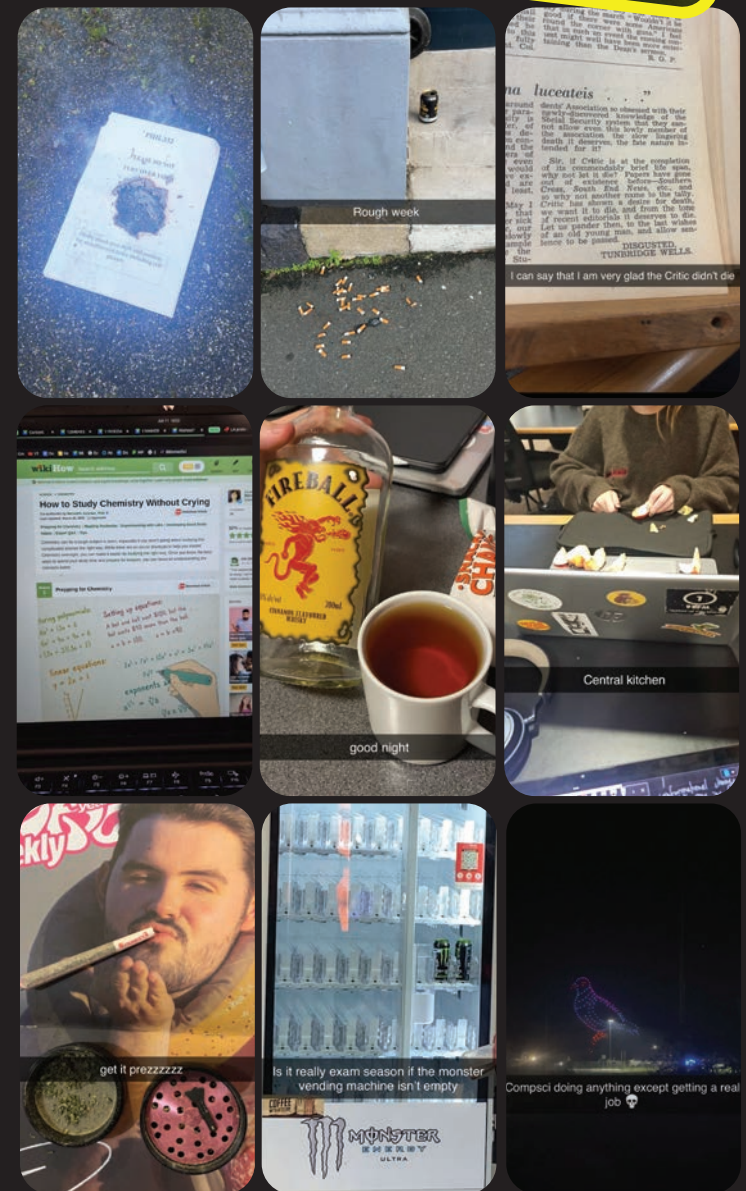
If you are caught lighting or trying to light a fire illegally, or adding rubbish to a fire, this will be treated as a serious breach of the Code.

4. Throwing or breaking bottles

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

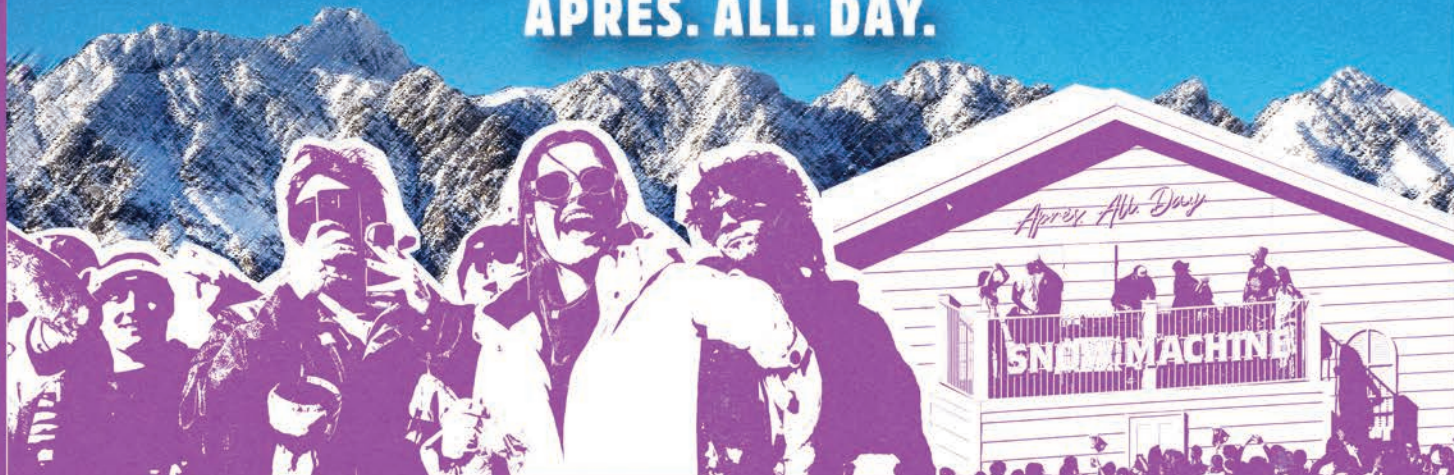
5. Forging documents and signatures

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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