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EDITORIAL: IT'S CALLED TRANSPARENCY, BABES

I had been looking forward to writing a silly little editorial this week about something inconsequential and fun. Daylight savings brings it out in me – you don't need to be bogged down by a hot take when you're shuttling back and forth from campus in the dark. I wanted to write something to read in the middle of your lecture and have a chuckle under your breath. Just a conversation starter really, something you can have a passionate yet ultimately unimportant debate about over \$4 lunch with your friends – like whether it's acceptable to drink a glass of milk (my take: it's fine).

Then the feature got interesting, and that plan went out the window. You'll see why if you read it.

This week, News Editor Hanna emerged from a rabbit hole of Alice proportions. She's been in and out of the office for weeks with updates, revelations, tips, and speculations while investigating the fuckery that has been our national student union. Or, the corpse of it at least. The original angle of the article was sparked by current student presidents' attempts to start a new national body that can campaign for student issues. We desperately need one, but to cut a long story short, it doesn't look like that's going to happen anytime soon. A bit like a student bar, really, with the last (Starters Bar) ironically being sent to its grave just the other day.

The quick and dirty of it is that a national student union is a collective of student politicians who are able to be the voice of students when it looks like they may be shafted by something the Government is trying to implement – again. It's what student associations like OUSA do, who write submissions on laws such as the no-cause eviction bill (a prime recent example of the shit Government tries to pull). The national version just has more weight behind it. Or it would have if these Beehivers-to-be would pull their heads out of their asses, pause the bickering, pay their mounting bills, and actually do what students' fees are paying for them to do.

Hanna's feature wound up being more of an autopsy on NZUSA. She felt for a pulse, wishing for a flicker of a beat, and all she found was a cold, stiff cadaver. She donned her sheriff's hat and sought out to piece together the story of how poor old NZUSA had died, and it turned into an episode of *Broadchurch*. People who she spoke to who actually knew something were tight-lipped and shady, and those who didn't really seem to know were more than happy to express bold and somewhat baseless opinions.

It's a massive shame and we don't want to point fingers too harshly. The whole situation was sparked by a bill passed in 2011 that meant NZUSA was operating with its hands tied behind its back, and was run by a body of students who were sacrificing their time (and probably their social lives) for the good of their peers, while lacking the time and competence. From what we could see, there were some awesome students involved throughout the whole messy situation, people who were trying to do what they could to ensure students had someone advocating for them at a national level. But there were some disappointingly petty accusations thrown around about power grabs and petulance that froze any real mahi.

The importance of the feature is to bring this into the light. So many of these decisions were made in a black box – decisions made with students' money, something I don't need to point out is a precious commodity when y'all are emptying piggy banks to afford OUSA lunch. You have the right to know what is going on with your student associations. I'm willing to bet that a big number of you haven't even heard of NZUSA – and that's not your fault.

So a big kudos to Hanna. Her autopsy report: "shitstorm". Flick to the feature for the tea.

NINA BROWN

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Complaints should be addressed to the Secretary:
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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.

LETTERS

UNIVERSITY
BOOK SHOP
For all booklovers, everywhere.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Congrats on a splendid 100 years issue. As I spilled my quality link Chinese meal all over it this lunchtime I thought how brilliant it is that 100 years on students still have such absorbent copy to take in. In all seriousness it is a great tribute to the dedication, inspiration and curiosity of students, Critic staff and writers. Nowhere else in Aotearoa is there a student paper that is so much part of the fabric of the university community, and that captures the lives of students so well. Thanks for taking the time to honour the history, and to continuing the legacy of a powerful independent student voice.

Cheers!, Grant [Robertson]

PS I can confirm that experts are correct.

Editor’s response: *Cheers Grant! Question: was it a succulent Chinese meal?*

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

Hi Critic,

Not to be a sorry pedantic loser, but minimum wage actually rose to \$23.50, not .15 as per the last issue.

Do better :P

Editor’s response: *Whoops.*

Madame Critic (and her subjects),

I reach out today to bring to attention an issue of great weight on my soul: y’all are gross ("Y'all", of course, being an umbrella term for any uni student in the Central Library bathrooms). I cannot form words to describe the psychic damage I take when I witness one of you sickos "washing your hands" or whatever the fuck that is. In the past 2-3 weeks I've become increasingly aware of how few people know how to count to 5 (let alone 20), or even work a soap dispenser. On more than one particularly disturbing occasion, I've seen someone swipe their hands through the faucet stream and walk out, nary a bubble of soap rubbed across their piss-hands. It's like none of you were conscious thinking beings through a global pandemic or something. What kind of horrific RFK-esque brainworm is eating your fucking grey matter to make you think it's okay to neglect basic hygiene, especially with witnesses? What happened to shame? Atp wash your hands or lose 'em, man.

Love,

a concerned, clean citizen

Editor’s response: *Detty pigs*

Hello Critic,

After reading your 100th year issue, I am deeply saddened by the amount of hate you get. Every year of study I have enjoyed reading Te Ārohi, my first-year walls were decorated in snips and my fourth year walls still sport a bit of deco. I love the horoscopes (sometimes horrorscopes), recipes – the chickpea curry has been passed through my family, and most of all, the snaps of the week. Please don’t be sad at all the mean people, you are awesome, never change (except for bringing back moaningful confessions).

Yours,

Faithful reader xoxo

Editor's response: *Appreciate the love! But sorry, Moaningful will probably stay dead*

want to be a pain in my arse.

What do you mean I’m digging myself into a gaping glory hole of student debt for some wack wifi that always conveniently decides to go down faster than a fat kid on a seesaw when I choose to finally finish procrastinating my assignments?

Maybe this is my sign to not be productive and get a sweet treat instead?

Yours,

A privileged student with first-world problems.

YOUR WEEKLY BULLSHIT ROUNDUP

The Highlanders played Fijian Drua last Saturday! It was after print, so we don’t know the score

Following a car crash that injured five staff and students, Craccum magazine are petitioning Auckland City Council to enforce 30km/h speed limits on Auckland Uni campuses

Donald Trump paused all tariffs on countries for 90 days, except for China which he raised to 125% because he’s a diva

Otago Uni has blown its budget for the Christchurch campus redevelopment project by a whopping \$100 million. The Uni is blaming “unprecedented” circumstances since the initial 2018 budget’s approval and complexities associated with the high-tech specialist equipment needed, the ODT reports

An intoxicated 20-year-old man was taken to hospital last Thursday after a knife was pulled in a heated argument in North D, the ODT reports

Critic Te Ārohi will feature on Seven Sharp on Monday, April 14th in a story covering our Centenary!

Missing: Two of the three Critic couch cushions. Give them back, please.

GEMS are hosting their annual Wine and Cheese event on Thursday, April 17th. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Follow the link on their Instagram page bio to sign up!

Green MP Benjamin Doyle has been the target of “transphobic hate”, including death threats, following social media controversy over their Instagram account named ‘BibleBeltBussy’, Stuff reports

It was the Audio Visual Drop Kicks’ last Pint Night last week :(

Three Māori and Pasifika student leaders were kicked off the Massey student association, Te Tira Ahu Pae, two weeks before the end of their term last week. The decision was made over email, without advance notice, and without the opportunity to respond, reports Massive magazine

Lorde released a new music snippet to TikTok, hinting at a new album

Southern Events in for a Hyding

Bands report “unprofessional” behaviour in the Hyde lead up from up-and-coming events management team

Disclaimer: Staff writer Zoe Eckhoff is a band member of Ammonita, who were interviewed for this news article.

OUSA's annual Hyde Street Party on April 5th left its typical trail of Look Sharp costumes, crumpled cans, smiley face baggies, and students happily tired from six hours of boogie banked in the sun. But some disgruntled bands claim that diversity quotas, disorganisation and miscommunication behind the scenes cast a cloud over the experience.

Now in its 28th year, Hyde Street Party is one of the most iconic days of the Otago student calendar, with tickets so coveted they're only available through a lottery system. “Like fish to water, thousands of costumed students flock to the little street each year to sink piss under the open sky, accompanied by sausage sizzles and the comforting drone of DnB,” as Critic described the event in a 2023 history of the party.

Given the event's status, Hyde Street Party is the Super Bowl half-time show for student bands (outside of Pint Night). There are three stages at the event and a setlist of acts for each. It's the responsibility of each flat to sort the bands or DJs for their stages with OUSA's help (as the general organisers of the event), who Critic has been told provided a guide for events management suppliers – including Southern Events. The guide also included encouragement for a “diverse approach, particularly to genre”.

The “diverse approach” is where things became misconstrued. Southern Events, who were hired by flats to organise equipment and acts, appear to have interpreted this to be an emphasis on diversity of gender. Multiple bands Critic Te Ārohi spoke to reported strange interactions with Southern Events in order to fill this supposed quota.

Ammonita, a female-presenting punk rock band, performed at flat number 4 at Hyde. They got the gig after seeing a post on Instagram by Southern Events asking whether there were bands with women members. Alt-rock band FÜBAR also responded to the post, saying that while they were all dudes, “We got a gay guy.” In a screenshot shown to Critic, Southern responded, “That'd lowkey be [all good].” FÜBAR ended up going out of their way to have a female singer join for the day, too. It was a move Southern said would make them “much more appealing for OUSA. It's just politics, but it's their main focus.”

Another band, One Day, was also asked if they had any girls in their band. “It was weird them asking about genders in the band for a street gig,” drummer Jamie told Critic. Southern can be seen in screenshotted messages asking One Day whether they had any female artists, again explaining that OUSA “needs diversity, aye”. When One Day responded that their singer was female, Southern replied that they'd “put them on”.

OUSA told Critic Te Ārohi that Southern Events clearly had misconstrued their intentions. While they're “committed to supporting diversity and inclusion across all its events as we represent all students” the emphasis was on genre, and said they would review as necessary to make sure everyone was on the same page next time round.

Southern Events' manager Morgan told Critic, “We put a lot of extra effort into this for Hyde Street and ran what we consider the most diverse line up Hyde has ever seen, which we think is the reason that it was such a hissing success. Of course, if we offended any artists by being too direct with our inquiry for diverse acts, then we apologise, and I guess will look to inquire in a more friendly manner from now on.”

But confusion over a supposed diversity mandate wasn't the only issue bands had. Ammonita and FÜBAR both complained of unprofessionalism from organisers (with some flats switching from Southern to Gravity midway through organisation) that made it unclear whether they would be able to play at Hyde. Ammonita were “fucked around” right up until a week before Hyde, until which point they weren't able to confirm whether they were playing, let alone which stage or time. “I think it's extremely unprofessional, and just really annoying if people haven't got their shit together,” said the band's drummer Karl.

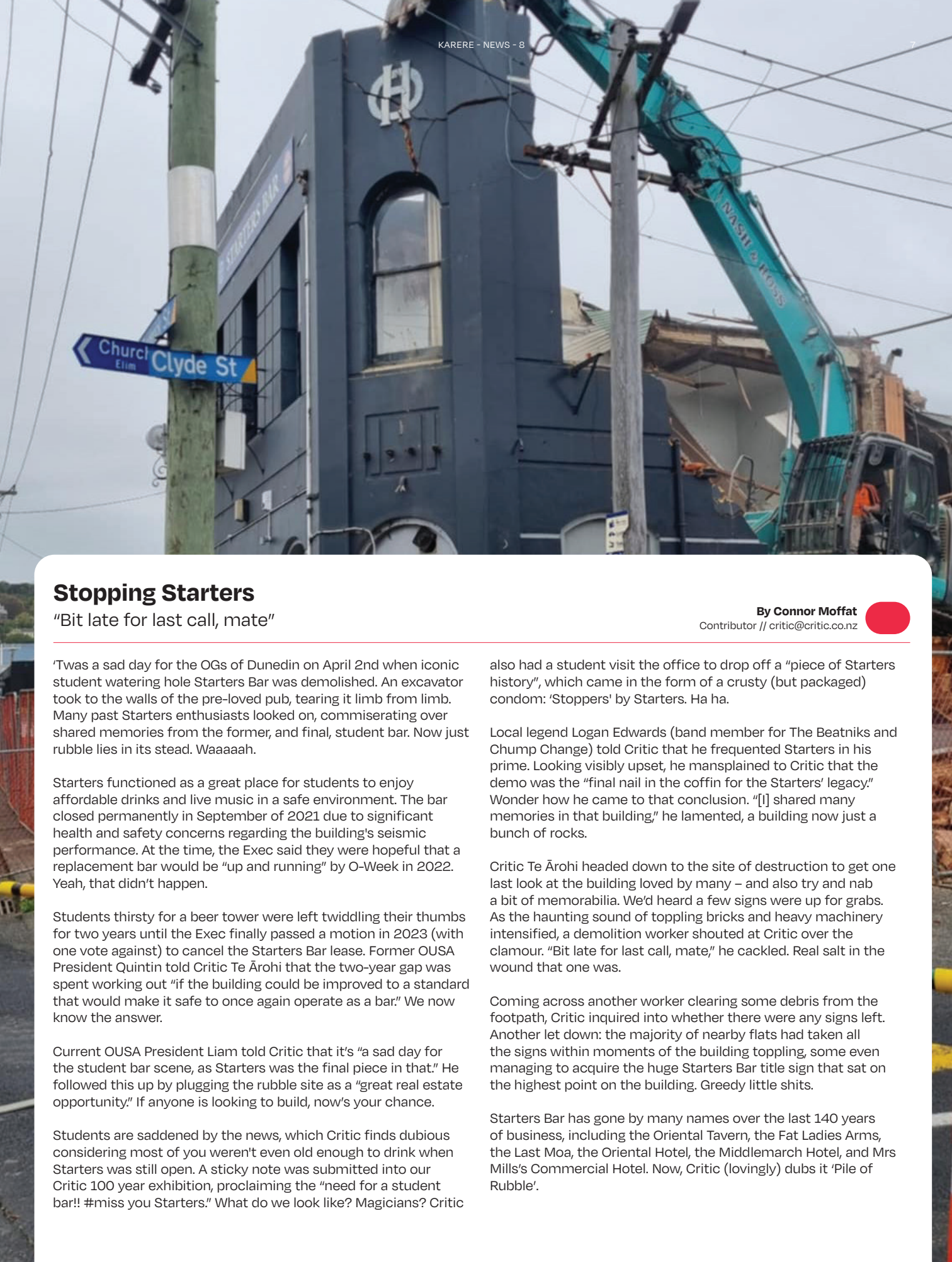
FÜBAR didn't end up playing at all after what their drummer Gregor described as a “fuck around” with Southern Events. Despite repeated messages seeking to confirm their band's slot, Southern failed to respond until a reply that said they could “buy a ticket if you want to get on the lineup.” Gregor wasn't pleased. “We weren't too keen on going to Hyde unless we were playing.” The last they heard from Southern was on the 25th of March – just over a week away from Hyde itself – before a prompt ghosting. “I'd expect them to have a bit more together, I guess,” said Gregor. One Day reported a similar Casper-like experience. “[Southern] expected us to supply mostly everything, and then the comms just went dead,” Jamie told Critic.

Purple Dog – who played at Gentlemen's Club flat, run by Southern – did not report any issues with Southern. “The comms were fine overall,” vocalist Imogen told Critic. “Sound check on the day was quite disorganised,” she said, and informed us that she “was not told about any diversity quota.” Morgan told Critic, “We did miss a morning band sound check due to a slightly delayed set up. However, this was quickly rectified by the proffesional [sic] sound tech we had on hand, and from the first tune to the last drop, the day went seamlessly.”

Southern Events provided a written testimony from the Gentleman's Club in their defence (which Critic confirmed was legit): “We partnered with Southern Events to assist us with the stage set up, sound technicians and some assistance with artists [...] Morgan was super keen to get involved and [Southern Events] came round to make sure our flat was viable straight away. We then worked with these guys to create an artist list and set times to secure the host from OUSA. Southern Events professional approach made [them] the first pick for OUSA and it was all go from there.”

At the end of the day, it seems students had a great time and enjoyed the diverse line-up of local acts. Except FÜBAR. They stayed home.

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



Stopping Starters

“Bit late for last call, mate”

By **Connor Moffat**
Contributor // critic@critic.co.nz



’Twas a sad day for the OGs of Dunedin on April 2nd when iconic student watering hole Starters Bar was demolished. An excavator took to the walls of the pre-loved pub, tearing it limb from limb. Many past Starters enthusiasts looked on, commiserating over shared memories from the former, and final, student bar. Now just rubble lies in its stead. Waaaaaah.

Starters functioned as a great place for students to enjoy affordable drinks and live music in a safe environment. The bar closed permanently in September of 2021 due to significant health and safety concerns regarding the building's seismic performance. At the time, the Exec said they were hopeful that a replacement bar would be “up and running” by O-Week in 2022. Yeah, that didn't happen.

Students thirsty for a beer tower were left twiddling their thumbs for two years until the Exec finally passed a motion in 2023 (with one vote against) to cancel the Starters Bar lease. Former OUSA President Quintin told Critic Te Ārohi that the two-year gap was spent working out “if the building could be improved to a standard that would make it safe to once again operate as a bar.” We now know the answer.

Current OUSA President Liam told Critic that it's “a sad day for the student bar scene, as Starters was the final piece in that.” He followed this up by plugging the rubble site as a “great real estate opportunity.” If anyone is looking to build, now's your chance.

Students are saddened by the news, which Critic finds dubious considering most of you weren't even old enough to drink when Starters was still open. A sticky note was submitted into our Critic 100 year exhibition, proclaiming the “need for a student bar!! #miss you Starters.” What do we look like? Magicians? Critic

also had a student visit the office to drop off a “piece of Starters history”, which came in the form of a crusty (but packaged) condom: ‘Stoppers’ by Starters. Ha ha.

Local legend Logan Edwards (band member for The Beatniks and Chump Change) told Critic that he frequented Starters in his prime. Looking visibly upset, he mansplained to Critic that the demo was the “final nail in the coffin for the Starters' legacy.” Wonder how he came to that conclusion. “[I] shared many memories in that building,” he lamented, a building now just a bunch of rocks.

Critic Te Ārohi headed down to the site of destruction to get one last look at the building loved by many – and also try and nab a bit of memorabilia. We'd heard a few signs were up for grabs. As the haunting sound of toppling bricks and heavy machinery intensified, a demolition worker shouted at Critic over the clamour. “Bit late for last call, mate,” he cackled. Real salt in the wound that one was.

Coming across another worker clearing some debris from the footpath, Critic inquired into whether there were any signs left. Another let down: the majority of nearby flats had taken all the signs within moments of the building toppling, some even managing to acquire the huge Starters Bar title sign that sat on the highest point on the building. Greedy little shits.

Starters Bar has gone by many names over the last 140 years of business, including the Oriental Tavern, the Fat Ladies Arms, the Last Moa, the Oriental Hotel, the Middlemarch Hotel, and Mrs Mills's Commercial Hotel. Now, Critic (lovingly) dubs it ‘Pile of Rubble’.

Abuser's Art Ousted from Campus

Otago Uni panel votes to remove Middleditch statue

By Adam Stitely & Hanna Varrs
News Reporter & News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Content Warning: *Contains details of child sexual abuse.*

The artwork of historic abuser John Middleditch was removed from Otago University campus on Friday, April 4th. The decision was made by Registrar Dr David Clark, advised by a six-person panel – including University staff, Māori and student representation, and sexual violence support and prevention expertise – that was formed following a student-led petition calling for the artwork's removal.

Middleditch was convicted in 1976 of indecently assaulting at least eight girls between the ages of 8 and 11 years old. The disgraced artist's Dunedin sculptures hit the headlines in February after the Dunedin Hospital apologised to one of his victims, a woman who had repeatedly asked for his work to be removed. But the hospital wasn't the only site where his work was on display – eyes turned to the University's since-removed sculpture that stood outside UniCol.

One of the loudest voices speaking out against the presence of Middleditch's art on campus was Bee Brown, an Otago student who launched a petition on the 12th of March, campaigning for the University to get rid of the sculpture. "John Middleditch is a [convicted] child sex offender," the petition stated. "Should we leave these sculptures to represent something we do not and should not promote?"

"As an art teacher who hosted lessons in his house, he took full advantage of being a teacher and a supposed 'idol' for the young girls, using their trust to groom them at their vulnerable age. Despite the harm caused, John Middleditch went on to be a successful and renowned sculptor with little consequence for his actions," Bee explained in her petition. "Middleditch was only fined \$800 for the lifetime of trauma he has imposed on the girls, now women, he assaulted during that time."

When Bee launched the petition, she told Critic Te Ārohi that she thought it had potential to make an impact – but only if students backed it. Bee acknowledged it could be "daunting" to add your name to something of that nature. "But if we stand together in support of one another, we have the power to make an important difference to the lives of those who have survived Middleditch's abuse. Sometimes there's not always one right answer, but listening to the voices of those who have been subject to his abuse should hold great value in deciding how to go about this issue."

380 people signed the petition. One signatory said in the petition's comment section, "Dunedin is my hometown and the University of Otago is my University. I do not want to have any association with a man who has preyed on people like this. It is horrific." They were firm in their position that the sculptures at

the University and Hospital "need to be removed and scrapped." Another signatory, PPE student Ian, told Critic he thought the sculpture was something the University "should probably look to remove" if it represented "the work and life of a man who used art as a means to take advantage of vulnerable women."

Critic Te Ārohi had prompted the University for a response to the petition when Bee hadn't heard anything back. David Clark responded that the University had formed a panel to review the artwork. OUSA President Liam White was onboard with the Uni's response, saying that the committee was the "right way to go to ensure a wealth of voices are heard and [can come to] a really informed opinion." A diplomatic response before adding it was a good step to review art from "a person that is as monstrous as John Middleditch."

The University announced their decision in a press release last week: the sculpture was getting the boot. "Following thorough and careful consultation, the panel established to review the University of Otago's ownership of artwork by John Middleditch has advised the removal of the sculpture, Eleven Bronze Rods Supporting Albatross Wingspan, from public display."

"The panel feel that removing the sculpture aligns with the University's public commitment to providing a safe environment, given the knowledge we have now about Mr Middleditch's offending and convictions. Knowledge of this offending changes the nature of the relationship between the University community and the work concerned, and its removal from public display reflects a need to re-think the place that the work has in the University."

Bee was "elated" at the news, expressing her gratitude to both the signatories of the petition and the University for hearing their voices: "Our voices were heard and you did an amazing thing. I can't thank you enough." Most importantly, she addressed the survivors who wanted the sculptures removed: "I want to express my apologies to the survivors of Middleditch's indecent assaults. These types of incidents should never happen, full stop. Even worse, you were young girls who got taken advantage of, and for that I am so sorry. You are brave and important. You are finally being heard, and it is an important piece of the puzzle to finding peace in the midst of such a horrible situation. Often, sexual assault cases do not come to an ideal conclusion for the victims due to the lack of evidence or support in certain cases. I am honoured to have helped take part in this small win of justice for you."

The panel will complete its final report in the coming weeks, and the University will review any further recommendations from them.



Sustainability Office: Tetra Pak Recycling and Prizes for Sticking Around for the Mid-Sem

PSA: Coffee cups can't go in the yellow bin

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

The nature-loving students at the helm of the University of Otago's Sustainability Office have announced a range of projects to keep campus clean and green. Critic Te Ārohi sat down with tētēkura (student leads) for a fantastic yap about waste management (subverting the rubbish press students often get) and swapping plane emissions for backyard "staycations" this Easter break. Word on the street there's even prize incentives involved.

Fourth-years Abigail (Law and Global Studies) and Jess (Environmental Management and Marketing) are both tētēkura at the Susty Office, tasked with Waste Minimisation in Shared Spaces and Sustainable Transport, respectively. You'll be familiar with some of their mahi alongside other student leads. They run Te Oraka (basically a \$20-capped second-hand store) and act as a middleman for the susty student voice within the Uni.

The first initiative the duo told Critic about was a new Tetra Pak recycling plant in the Link set up by the Uni Café staff (one of only five in Dunedin). Tetra Paks are that plastic-like cardboard material used for Up&Go and plant-based milks. Despite being a fan favourite of environmentally conscious folk who've boycotted Big Dairy, Tetra Pak are tricky to dispose of ethically – surprisingly not belonging in your yellow recycling bin.

Now, students can conveniently dispose of Tetra Pak (rinsed and flattened) en route to lectures or a \$4.50 Miga Hako rice ball. Local coffee joints will also benefit from the location of the bin, who Abigail noted seem to be the biggest users judging by the large, cleaned-out and cut-up stacks left next to the bins. Once done and disposed of, Tetra Pak will make its way to saveBOARD in Hamilton, where they're recycled into building materials.

Also on the sustainability cards is a waste management plan for the Otago Uni Open Days in May, an event that tends to generate a shocking amount of rubbish. "I'm sure you've seen it, there's like a million free somethings," Abigail joked. It's also the only day of the year that the Uni seems to scrap the requirement for reusable alternatives to single-use, meaning takeaway coffee cups make

an unwelcome return to campus. Tētēkura urge students to be mindful over this period and consider if you actually need that "free something" that, chances are, will be chucked by the end of the day.

The second project the girls proudly announced was an Easter break collaboration with the DCC. Name a more iconic duo. "It's been one of the DCC's goals to figure out how to keep students in Dunedin over the breaks," Jess told Critic. The brain child born out of this partnership is the 'Seven Wonders of Dunedin' – a list of backyard adventures that's basically your Easter break itinerary sorted. "We spoke to students on campus to find out their favorite things to do and see in Ōtepoti," Jess explained.

The travel home for the mid sem break comes at a cost "not just for our wallets, with the offensive price of flights at the moment, but also for the planet," Jess told Critic. "For someone based in Auckland, the trip home and back emits approximately 0.41 tonnes of CO² – the equivalent of driving the whole length of the country 1.5 times."

For students looking for a way to save money and emissions this Easter (while still making the most of your time off uni), Dunedin's own backyard has plenty to offer. Even better, the Sustainability Office and DCC have teamed up to offer prize pack incentives for sticking around over the break worth between \$250-300 each. There's one centered around biking, bussing, walking, and a 'staycation' pack to get people to stick around – provided students submit proof of completing the challenge.

"The idea for the competition is we want people to record footage over the break of them exploring somewhere in Dunedin, or filming themselves using the buses to get to places, or using any sort of sustainable travel over the break." Easy as – film a TikTok or cute vlog for the Sustainability Office to review, and you're in. Entries can be posted on social media tagging the Sustainability Office (@sustainability_at_otago) – provided you have a public account – or DMed to the Sustainability Office team through Instagram. Keep an eye on their socials for the full details!

Yep, Someone Actually Read Them: OUSA Exec’s First Quarterly Reports

With twelve reports to read, it's like horoscopes for a POLS student

By **Gryffin Blockley**
News Reporter // critic@critic.co.nz



It's that time of year when Critic gets its hands on the coveted quarterly reports of our OUSA overlords. Rumour has it these are just as sought-after as a copy of *Sunrise on the Reaping*. Our Exec members get paid by honorarium, meaning they have to provide proof they've done stuff to get paid. These reports are the proof – let's see if they've earnt the moolah in a sea of bureaucratic writing. Bonus points because all Exec reports landed in Critic's inbox on time, which hasn't always happened in the past.

Daniel Leamy – Finance and Strategy Officer

Email response time: 1 hour, 7 minutes
Favourite sport: Rugby

Taking great steps since accidentally getting scammed last year, Daniel's settled and busy in the role he was first thrust into through a by-election last August. Tent City was a dominating event in the first quarter, with Amy (Administrative Vice President) getting a shoutout for their collaboration, calling her an “absolute legend”. Future plans for the rest of the year include a new health and safety policy, initiatives around cost-of-living, a student bar (please, we're counting on you) and future strategic direction of OUSA.

The only negative of the report was the shocking revelation Daniel has not done his required five hours of community service as required by all Exec members, saying, “No, I need to get onto this ASAP, but I sit on an OUSA affiliated club committee so will likely use these hours.” Critic won't snitch if you increase our budget.

Deborah Huang – Clubs and Socs Representative

Email response time: 4 hours, 43 minutes
Cats or dogs: Dogs

Our Clubs and Socs Representative has been busy at work for the first quarter, despite the lack of roof on her name-saken building. Deborah impressively states that she follows every club she can find on Instagram, planning to utilise her Instagram next quarter. Continuing on the grind as caretaker to all the clubs, Deborah said, “[I] spoke to (almost) every single club, asking them what challenges they might face, what they would like from me, and how they can reach out to me.”

Future plans for Clubs and Socs include overhauling the “overall extremely difficult to work” with OUSA clubs constitution, creating a global calendar of Clubs and Socs events, and changing alcohol, welfare and grants policies. Sounds like a busy schedule for the representative of OUSA's branch promoting student relaxation and recreation, aye?

Ibuki Nishida – International Students’ Representative

Email response time: 49 minutes
Coffee order: Long black

Ibuki's had a stacked first quarter to coincide with the arrival of many international taira into Dunedin – along with key events like the International Food Fest and International Welcome and

Expo. A big goal for the next few quarters is to create more casual and conversational events for international students, for both OUSA and the International Students' Association. In other Exec work, Buki's working hard to improve communication and record-keeping between each year's exec. Ibuki ended his report shouting out Bailey (Residential Rep Callum's dog). Critic would like to shout them out too (just cos).

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

Email response time: 1 minute
Favourite bird: Pīwakawaka

Our Pacific Island Students' Association (UOPISA) President, Saluvaia, has been hard at work for our Pacific whānau in the last quarter. Work continues from last year to find an appropriate fale for UOPISA exec operations. She's collaborating with their member associations to host more events, and create advocacy opportunities. A Pasifika focus group is also being put together with the Uni's Campus Development team to gauge dedicated needs and spaces for the future too. Seluvaia gave special mention of making “the treacherous drive to Waiholā in the fog” to introduce herself to the OUSA Exec during training. Critic concurs – something about that lake is fucking terrifying.

Liam Patrick White – President

Email response time: 15 minutes
Favourite colour: OUSA green (or brown)

If you've ever wondered what the President's middle name was, he put it in on the report, so Critic is sure he wants this broadcasted to the entire student body. Hot off the heels of being the 2024 Political Rep, there's no doubt Liam Patrick White has locked in for his first stint of the dictatorship presidency.

His report contained the singular goal (that we were allowed to see) of the President Role: “Be the official spokesperson of the association.” Liam mentions yarning to the ODT, TVNZ, Critic Te Ārohi, the New Zealand Herald, and Times Higher Education as part of his role. And he has the receipts to prove it – twelves links to news articles involving his Presidential duties. OUSA Prez or media mogul? Critic can hardly tell now.

Amy Whyman – Welfare and Equity Representative

Email response time: 2 hours, 34 minutes
Black or blue ink: Black

Amy has literally put blood, sweat and Treatles into the Exec this year, sacrificing the top of her thumb during the prep for the International Food Fest. This was accompanied with many bags of Treatles given away during Tent City – part of the 2,750 boxes OUSA shifted in O-Week. Progress has been made on three key goals this quarter, which will continue as the year goes on: Te Whare Tāwharau training for tutors and demonstrators within the University, creating a sub-warden committee, and overhauling special consideration and arrangements for disabled and chronically ill students.

Critic Te Ārohi wants to give a shoutout to Amy for having one of the least-dry reports to read. Thank you for thinking of the welfare of the writer who had to read all fifteen of them. Highlights include calling Academic Rep Stella a ‘G’, and admitting, “I love emails. I am also the kind of person that cannot have an email just sit in my mailbox without doing something about it.” Slay Amy.

Jett Groshinski – Political Representative

Email response time: 2 minutes
Favourite club: POLSA

Submissions seem to be the name of the game if you're the Political Rep. Jett spent lots of time learning how to write submissions to governments and councils, especially good ones. He shouts out his and Liam's oral submission on the Treaty Principles Bill as well, which Critic reported on in Issue 3. Wholesome bonding with the President? Apparently not, since he shades Liam elsewhere in the report for rocking up to an Exec meeting late (perhaps the hottest piece of gossip in any of the reports).

Lots of work lies ahead in the next three quarters with the Local Body Elections and OUSA's Politics Week both coming up in the second semester. Jett also hopes to focus on advocating for better housing quality for students on behalf of OUSA, which will undoubtedly become a much bigger priority with impending winter doom.

Stella Lynch – Academic Representative

Email response time: 36 minutes
Favourite flavour of cake: Mum's chocolate sour cream cake

Putting aside the duties of Academic Representative this quarter, Stella assumed the mantle of Treatle fairy during Tent City. If that alone wasn't enough work, Stella might've misread the title of “academic representative” as “academic weapon”, boasting membership on a stella-r nineteen different committees. Work continues from the mammoth lecture recording policy campaign from last year, with a more focused consultation upcoming on the freshly-made draft policy. In the future quarters as well, we can expect advocacy for paid placements, and work on an AI expo with the Uni. Exciting times for those that are locked-in.

Amy Martin – Administrative Vice President

Email response time: 1 minute
Preferred mode of transport: Walking

Our Administrative Vice President has been here, there, and everywhere in the last quarter. Supporting the President, other Exec members, facilitating training and chairing the policy committee has kept the OUSA-ship smooth-sailing. Future work

plans to keep improving student engagement (including their Instagram, which Critic still has beef with). As a Vice President, part of their duties are to “assume all the power and duties of the President in their absence”. This happened once, apparently, when “Liam passed over power once during a sausage sizzle when he had to go to a meeting, but he hasn't let power out of grasp yet.” Not doing much to beat those dictator allegations, are you Mr President? Josh Stewart – Postgraduate Representative
Email response time: 1 hour, 44 minutes
Favourite lecture theatre: Te Iringa Kōrero in Te Tumu, or St Daves G.O4

Despite a difficult personal start to the year, things are ticking along well for the University geriatric community (postgrads). With a whopping ten committees with his membership, most have been met in the last quarter to get the ball rolling. The main goal for the next quarter primarily includes getting the Society for Postgraduate Students (SPS) fully up and running, Critic is unable to think of any retirement villages near campus appropriate to host their events.

Callum Hadlow – Residential Representative


Email response time: 19 minutes
Electric blankets or hot water bottles: Hot water bottles

“Boots on the ground work” describes the work our Residential Rep has been up to. Good news after the role sat absent for a decent chunk of time last year following the resignation of the previous rep in August. Flattening Fest and hall visits have been the main outreach in the last quarter, so students can remind Callum that no matter where you live as a student, it's a bit shit. Reviving the residential and subwarden committees are a big goal for the rest of the year, to ensure students' and kaiāwhinas' concerns can be properly heard. Oh, and another shoutout to his dog Bailey who's earning himself a reputation for crop-dusting weekly Exec meetings.

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

Email response time: *crickets*

It's been a busy start of the year for Te Ropū Māori (TRM), with the freshers pōwhiri, Kickstart 101, and submitting against the Treaty Principles Bill included in some of the achievements for Q1. A revamp of Te Rito's whare over the break has increased student engagement for the first quarter too, and engagement and participation in social events and kaupapa has likewise been just as high. A memorandum of understanding is in the works between TRM and OUSA, hopefully strengthening the relationship for future quarters ahead.



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Facebook Marketplace Reselling on the Rise

Critic – \$50, Used. Good, Pick up Campus

By Ben Friend
Contributor // critic@critic.co.nz

Among Dunedin's students, there is a common interest: the desire to acquire stuff, or to get rid of stuff. The primary tool used in this pursuit is the Wild West of TradeMe: Facebook Marketplace. With fewer barriers in making a listing, no fees, and an overall freer second-hand market, it's a one-stop shop for all manner of goodies. But there's also more opportunity for fuckery to take place – reselling side-hustlers included. If Critic's sources are correct, it's on the rise.

Resellers are pretty self-explanatory: they make purchases to resell the item at a higher price for profit. One student, Max, got in touch with Critic Te Ārohi to warn about the phenomenon of Facebook resellers. "Yeah bro, I was buying this PS5 for \$550, but when I got it, I realised the power supply was munted. When I tried to contact the guy, he'd already blocked me, so I couldn't even report him." One might argue it serves him right for not playing Xbox.

Following Max's horror story, Critic reached out to several students to understand how widespread Marketplace reselling is in the community. Many students used Facebook Marketplace, but only some were aware of the concept of reselling. One student remarked: "My flatmate got ripped off on there." Another was very against it, calling resellers "bottom-feeders".

Not many students Critic spoke to said that they would engage in it, with responses ranging from "I think its a good idea, but ceebs" to "fuck that bro I don't want to fuck people over." Another admitted to reselling clothes, "Anything I stop wearing I sell, except for the stuff my mum buys me." On the ethics of his business, he said, "Honestly, if you're reselling clothes it's good. So many clothes in op shops are too expensive and just end up getting chucked out, so it's better if people wear them." Better start investing in jorts and Birks.

Luke, a third-year Food Science student, is a regular reseller – and he's made a pretty penny doing it, too. When asked about his business, Luke said, "Oh yeah, I only really do one [sale] a week. Been doing it for about a year, probably made about \$1700." That's one way to beef up the student budget. "One time I found a TV for free and sold it on for \$200, that was pretty good." It isn't really about making a living for him. "I mean, it's not like I'm gonna be doing it the rest of my life. It's just something to do, and it gets me a bit of pocket money to buy a kebab on the weekend."

He gave three keys to success for any future Marketplace magnates interested in starting their own enterprise: "Having a car, browsing Marketplace at every waking moment, and if an item is too expensive, just get your mate to lowball the seller through another account." The golden goose for resellers is finding an item listed for free, such as a janky-looking bike. With a bit of Kiwi ingenuity and student-style fiscal desperation, that once-worthless bike can now be resold for \$50. Cha-ching!

To those reading this and questioning the morality of such trades, Luke claims that he sees no issue with the hustle. He always improves the value of each item, fixing or cleaning them before returning them to the market and "stands by his flips", dealing with any gripes that the customers may have. However, not all resellers maintain standards like these, and some operate on a "buyer beware" level.

It's not all doom and gloom in the reseller sphere. Some genuine goodness can be found in the item trade, according to Luke, who recounted to Critic his story of acquiring an old radio, cleaning it up, and selling it at a discounted rate to an old pensioner who had owned a similar radio when he was a young boy. "Sometimes a smile is better than the money," Luke shrugged. Lovely.



ACT Drafts Bill to Axe Race-Based Uni Support Services

UOPISA President "extremely concerned" by the bill

By Jodie Evans
Features Editor // features@critic.co.nz

An ACT Party member's bill has been drafted to "ensure universities do not allocate resources, benefits, or opportunities based on race." ACT claims the "race-neutral" bill advocates for "fair access to opportunities" through proposed amendments to the Education and Training Act 2020. Otago staff and students have expressed concerns to Critic Te Ārohi, but appear unconvinced the bill will be passed into law.

The bill in question was drafted by ACT Party's Tertiary Education spokesperson, Dr. Parmjeet Parmar. In an interview with Te Ao Māori News, Parmar expressed her opinion that university policies targeted at Māori and Pasifika students are unfair.

When asked if she could name five such policies, the MP, who immigrated to Aotearoa in 1995, appeared to struggle to name policies other than entry programmes for Pasifika and Māori students. One such programme across various Aotearoa universities is the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme (MAPAS), which seeks to lift Māori and Pasifika representation in the health sector workforce.

Otago Uni has that for Health Sci, aiming to address historical inequities in access to health professional education for Māori and Pasifika people. Taking away this pathway for Māori and Pasifika students would affect scholarships, grants, financial assistance, accommodation, and access to designated spaces, rooms, or other facilities.

Otago's MAPAS is the Te Kauae Parāoa policy, implemented in 2021 to support academic equity for underrepresented taura. This includes those from Māori, Pasifika, and refugee backgrounds. Its guiding principle is to create a "workforce that represents the communities it serves [that] will improve health outcomes for all." The policy (and its earlier versions) has been credited with increasing the number of Māori medicine graduates at Otago. As of 2023 (the most recent stats Critic could find), Māori make up 15% of the cohort – just short of their 17.3% proportion in the general population.

Porourangi Templeton-Reedy, Tumuaki Takirua (co-President) of Te Rōpū Māori, stressed to Critic the importance of such pathways for the success of Māori in Western tertiary learning spaces. "Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka provides a unique Māori student support system that nurtures, motivates and inspires Māori students to create Māori academic excellence," he explained. "Without our current support system, we would not be where we are today"

Seluvaia Ratoul, President of the University of Otago Pacific Island Students' Association (UOPISA), told Critic Te Ārohi that the group was "extremely concerned" about the bill, which targets "lifelines of support that exist to help undo the effects of systemic and generational inequality – measures that were fought for, not handed to us [...] [This bill] wrongly assumes that everyone in Aotearoa is on a level playing field. This is simply not true."

A University spokesperson told Critic that while more work is needed to achieve equity for taura, they are proud of the success of support systems such as the Te Huka Mātauraka Māori Students' Centre and the Pacific Islands Centre. They added, "We know from students' feedback that these services are essential." They also wished to remind students that the bill was still a long shot, requiring majority support in Parliament to become law, which they considered "highly unlikely". At this stage, "students can be assured that Otago's commitment to Māori and Pacific students remains steadfast."

However, Seluvaia's message to Parmar, ACT, and those supporting the draft bill could not be clearer: "We are here because of our communities, not in spite of them. And we refuse to stand by while our right to equitable support within tertiary institutions is politicised and undermined by a mere draft bill that has ignored years worth of evidence and is rooted in ideology rather than reality."

PUZZLES PUZZLES PUZZLES

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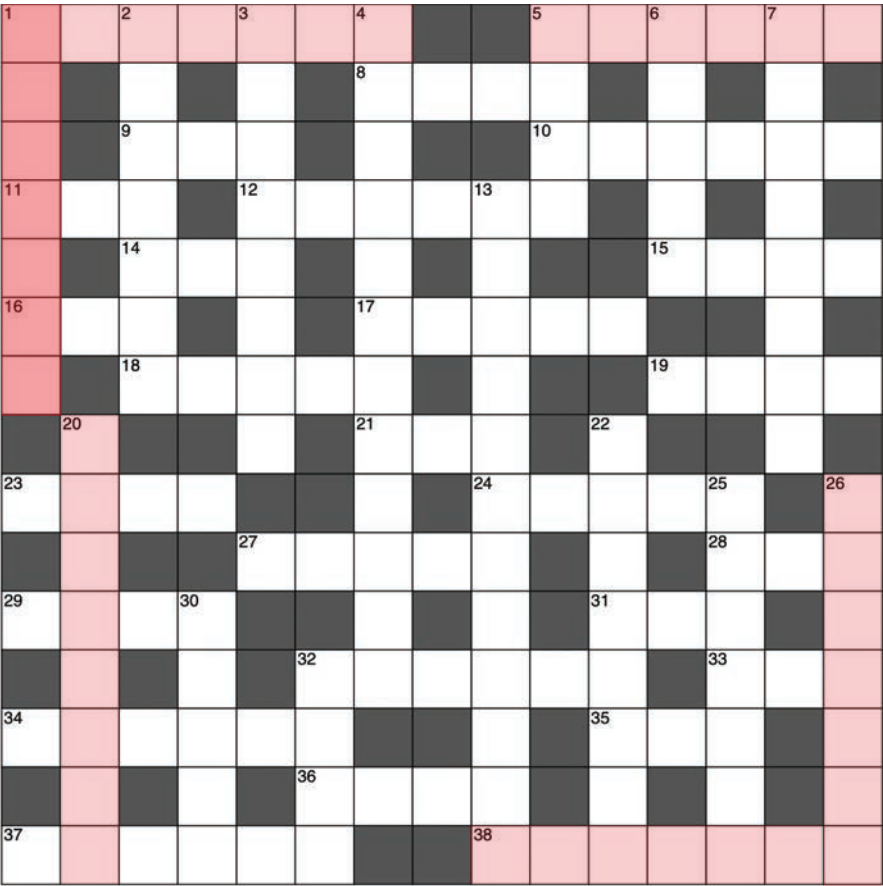
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 What Donkey likes and thinks is nice
5 Timon's family loves digging them
8 Blackfish
9 Pee after sex to avoid one (acr.)
10 Haiku, for example
11 Sheet of biological film
12 Vaginal farts
14 "Stand up" (te reo) (2)
15 Musky billionaire
16 NZ tuna
17 Holds Bob Ross's creations
18 Typo, for example
19 Student rep
21 Defining period of time
- 23 Christmas was when Jesus was what
24 Jughead and Hermione Granger are both what
27 You strum one
28 Māori gathering
29 Sprinkle it on 13D
31 Ram's mate
32 Snakey code
33 Big, evil mouse
34 Make monkey never cramp
35 Roman three
36 Blue, flappy and waterproof
37 Quick drawing
38 Dune-dwelling pest

DOWN

- 1 Connecting clue, locally
2 Baby guitar
3 Popular rum drink
4 Bachelor elimination round (2)
5 Bugle call
6 What Emma Roberts is to Julia Roberts
7 Easily pierced (2)
13 Typically eaten at 1D (3)
20 Hatchet
- 22 Kardashian heritage
25 Toy Woody's job
26 Cause for celebration
30 Attribute
32 Sidewalk, foot_____



ISSUE 7 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. CARISBROOK 6. FRESHERS 12. IWI 13. BROADSHEET 14. NORSE 15. ASTON 16. IRD 17. IOK 19. ME 20. CAKE 21. TOGA 23. ICEBERGS 26. GST 29. TV 31. BONSAI 32. MP 34. GLUTE 35. TOMATO PASTE 38. CAPTAIN COOK 40. ENJOY 41. PT 43. ROTTEN 45. DR 48. ART 49. SUBSTACK 52. OUSA 53. RENT 56. WA 57. CGI 58. PEA 59. NOMAD 62. THUMB 63. GRAMOPHONE 65. TE KORERO 67. THE BEATLES

DOWN: 1. CRITICISM 2. REINDEER 3. SCARFIE 4. OAR 5. KRAB 7. REEBOKS 8. SATAY 9. EDIT 10. SCANDALIZE 11. ASPECT 13. BEING 18. KG 22. OASIS 24. REUNION 25. STENCIL 27. SHOOK 28. GO 30. QUAKERS 31. BLOWJOB 33. PDA 34. GOT 35. TOWER 36. AMY 37. TAP 38. CARTOONIST 39. PATHS 42. TAKEAWAYS 44. ER 46. CAMPBELL 47. CENTAUR 48. ATWOOD 50. UNITE 51. SEQUOIA 54. BC 55. EDGAR 60. MILK 61. CHAT 64. NYE

SUDOKU

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WORDFIND

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SUSTAINABILITY
ALIENS
HEY HEY
ARIES
UNIONISM

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Illustrated by Jackson Bird

There are 10 differences between the two images



THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF

RUMOURS OF
CORRUPTION,
SHODDY
ELECTIONS AND
OWING \$80K
IN GST

NZUSA

By Hanna Varrs
Illustrated by Tevya Faed

Let's face it: students are consistently sidelined in political decision-making. Juggling soaring living costs, exploitative landlords, and clinging to the hope that this damn degree will actually be worth it in the end, we've got little time or energy left to rally for change – not when most of us are just trying to keep our heads above water. Enter student unionism, a united political body of students there to advocate for our interests and keep us from once again being shafted.

Unionism might call to mind the crazy-eyed Freddie from *Peaky Blinders*, organising rallies of workers who rattle their fists against The Man and upset the status quo.

But in the more accurate sense of the word, unionism means collectively having each others' backs. That's the idea, anyway. The national student union is the phoenix that swoops in with the tools to save the day. It's the insurance policy that means that, say, if the Government wanted to introduce a no-cause eviction policy meaning students (who are largely renters) can be kicked out of flats with 90-days' notice, Big Union is there to argue how objectively shit of a policy it is – written in nice politics-speak and with the authority to back it up. Established in 1929, the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) is the Paul Mescal to the scattered gladiators of student associations, there to unite our voices into one.

DICTIONARY (YOU'LL NEED IT):

STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS:

AUSA - Auckland University Students' Association
ATSA - Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association
AUTSA - Auckland University of Technology Students' Association
LUSA - Lincoln University Students' Association
OUSA - Otago University Students' Association
UCSA - University of Canterbury Students' Association
WSU - Waikato Students' Union
NZISA - New Zealand International Students' Association
NZUSA - New Zealand Union of Student Associations
NDSA - National Disabled Students' Association
TMĀ - Te Mana Ākonga (National Māori Student Association)
Te Tira Ahu Pae - Massey's Student Association

TERMS:

Honorarium - an honorarium is a token payment, made at less than market rate. Common for services on a volunteer basis, but where some payment is appropriate. These payments are honoraria.

Incorporated Society Officer - a person occupying a position in the society that allows them to exercise significant influence over the management or administration of the society

VSM - Voluntary Student Membership Bill

NZUSA came across my radar about a month ago at one of the OUSA Exec's weekly meetings where President Liam White mentioned that NZUSA was ending, with the Aotearoa Tertiary Student Association (ATSA) taking its place. What was meant to be a short 600-or-so word news piece blew out into a 6000 word feature after I cracked open my laptop, searched #NZUSA on the Critic website, and got digging. I imagined tales of a student-led, politically savvy organisation with the power to lobby for students' interests: mould-free housing, caps on fee increases, and a future free from crushing student debt.

Instead, the results prompted a whispered "holy fuck". News stretching back as far as I could scroll told stories of NZUSA grappling with successive restructuring, indecisive student associations leaving and rejoining (and then leaving and rejoining again), OUSA pouring in nearly \$23k to save it from collapse, NZUSA begging alumni for spare change, and a \$2.4 million sexual violence campaign fumble (part of the fallout from an NZUSA staff member allegedly sending a dick pic to fellow staff). And that's just scratching the surface.

Call me Alice, because I was down the rabbit hole, armed with the question: is student unionism self-immolating, or will a new phoenix rise from the ashes of its predecessor? Strap in and grab some popcorn for a deep dive more janky than your Hyde Street Party K-hole. I hope you're good with acronyms.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

National student unionism is what every student who's endured the StudyLink waiting times should want, and for a long time, NZUSA lived up to its mandate. Since its birth, NZUSA has campaigned nationally for the issues their paying members (student associations like OUSA) brought to their attention. Membership fees for associations varied and operated on a sliding scale roughly aligned with each association's size, comparable to the flatmate with an ensuite bedroom paying more rent. For OUSA (certified big boy), this was a modest \$45k. In their prime, NZUSA delivered a real impact. They campaigned for inclusive LGBT+ policy, opposed nuclear warfare, challenged the "racist" COVID-19 travel ban on behalf of international students, and advocated for the implementation of fees-free study.

A recent win was the 2013 "fixing" of StudyLink. The social service critical to tertiary studies had failed to pick up 800,000 calls, causing considerable delays in students' payments. "The union listened to students and made improving StudyLink a top priority," reads a NZUSA press release from the time. Working with the Government, NZUSA slashed those missed calls down to 8,000 by 2015, and almost everyone got their entitlements on time. A shame for Six60's streaming stats when those hold times were reduced, but a win for students. And with recent news of StudyLink's buckling system – under pressure from 5,742 more student allowance applications and 16,273 more Student Loan applications compared to last year – it seems students left in financial limbo (some going four weeks without payments earlier this year) could use an advocate like that now more than ever. But this time, there was no NZUSA swooping in to save the day.

The student presidents at the helm of NZUSA were outspoken, Parliament-ready politicians in the making. For example, University of Otago Vice-Chancellor Grant Robertson served his time as NZUSA co-president back in the day. Many of the things students rely on today, such as interest-free student loans while studying, were made possible, in part, by NZUSA's consistent foothold in national politics. They had some serious weight to throw around. The "daddy" of all student associations, NZUSA consistently united student groups across the motu under a shared cause. University campuses have their differences – Auckland students will always be alarmed at the idea of a funnel

on entry, Canterbury students shocked that nobody cares what high school you went to, and Victoria students unaware that it's not normal to pay \$11 for a matcha latte. But no matter what campus a student association came from, you were united in your passion for students' rights, and so you were passionate about NZUSA.

Yet last year, then-OUSA President Keegan Wells told Critic Te Arohi that all was not well behind the scenes of NZUSA. While not formally disbanded, it lay dormant, existing only in name: "NZUSA is around – [but] it's not very alive or very well." What went wrong?

THE NAIL IN THE COFFIN: VOLUNTARY STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

To begin, current OUSA Prez Liam directed me to the Voluntary Student Membership (VSM) Bill – what was, in his opinion, the "final nail in the coffin" for NZUSA. When VSM was voted into law in 2011, it very nearly crippled every student association in Aotearoa. VSM removed requirements for students to join their student associations and pay fees. Otago students were therefore no longer automatically part of OUSA, and so the association would be forced to rely on donations to function instead. Without financial backing, associations risked collapse. On our home turf, it would mean no minion-invaded Hyde Street Party, no Student Support to run to when flatting arguments break out, and no Clubs and Societies (that's \$4 lunch and sauna, to those who don't celebrate).

But OUSA was lucky. Harlene Hayne, the Vice-Chancellor at the time (the seat Grant Robertson now occupies), recognised that keeping OUSA functioning would be pretty sweet. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was cooked up between the University and OUSA, with the University to provide extra funding post-VSM. Ever notice that \$1.1k student services fee you're charged when you sign up for your courses? OUSA goes to the Uni every year to ask for a chunk of that fee, and the Uni signs off on how many zeros will go on the cheque. Acting as a middleman, the Uni basically decides if OUSA will have a good year or not. For associations subject to SLAs, universities hold the vitality of student unionism in their hands. Not so good for so-called independent student unions, but it's the best solution post-VSM that we have.

Contrary to what you might think, OUSA doesn't only dish out cash on flashy events like Toga Party. A big part of their function happens behind the scenes in the interest of student advocacy – and this includes membership with associations such as NZUSA. Needless to say, the effects of VSM were felt up the chain all the way to NZUSA who, like all student associations, heavily depended on the funding from its members – the members who were now put in precarious positions. Naturally, NZUSA vehemently protested the Bill. While the idea of voluntary student membership had been circulating since the 1990s, NZUSA had fought it until 2009, when ACT MP Heather Roy introduced the Bill into Parliament. In 2011, as VSM gained serious traction again, ACT and the National government pushed the Bill into law. A year later, then-OUSA President Logan Edgar locked himself in a cage for two days in the middle of winter on Union Lawn to show support for NZUSA's stance against VSM. But it seemed student union funding was still left out in the cold, even after Edgar was back inside.

THE DOWNFALL OF NZUSA: PETTY POSTS, MURKY FACTS AND FINGER-POINTING

Conducting an autopsy on NZUSA was a fucking nightmare – and I was the coroner. Bounced around different association representatives in an endless game of he-said-she-said, an NCIS-worthy account of NZUSA's final hours was beginning to form. Former VUWSA President Marcaill was in one ear, giving her account of the union's untimely demise, while former NZUSA President Ellen was in the other – undercutting Marcaill's story and claiming she had receipts. Add to that the 10+ other student presidents I spoke to. Let me say now: when it comes to NZUSA, everyone has an opinion – including those who were probably in Year 11 Social Studies when it all went down. Someone fetch me a glass (bottle) of wine.

The last we publicly heard from NZUSA was early last year in the form of an ominous Facebook post. National President Ellen Dixon and co-Vice President Tangihaere Gardiner announced on Facebook that they were leaving NZUSA. Ellen's incredibly stacked LinkedIn shows that she started with NZUSA as the National Education Officer in January 2021, then became National President in November of 2022. Tangi was a former Vice President of the National Disabled Students' Association (NDSA).

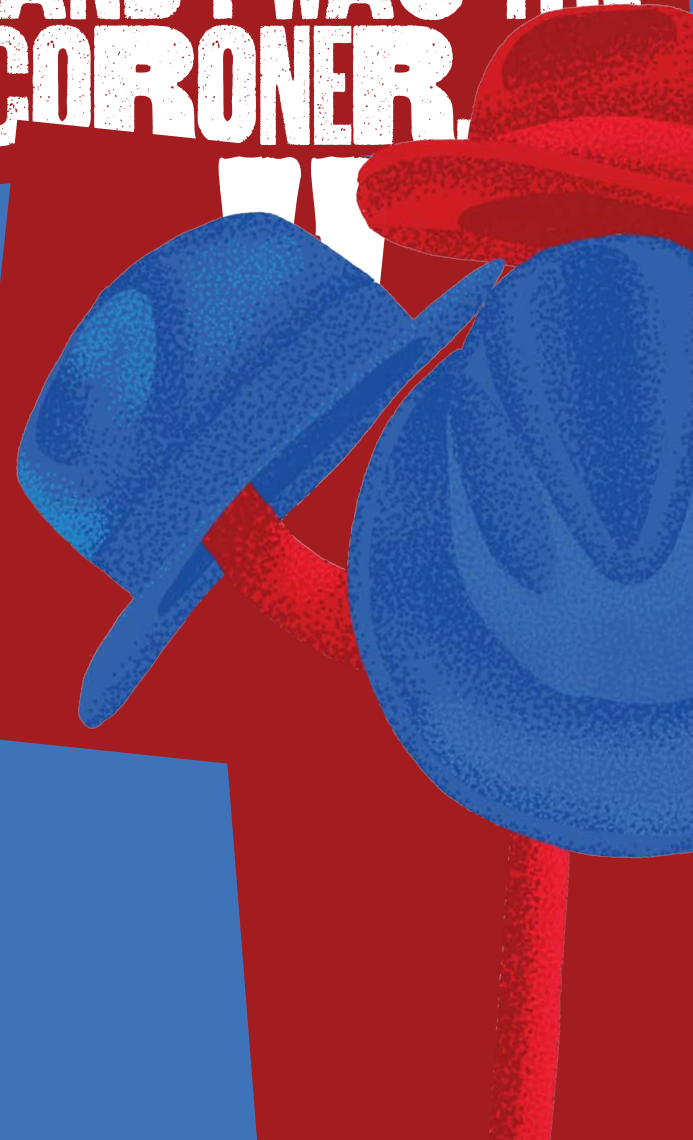
The post alleged that the election process that would have determined their successors had been "messed up by others", meaning that they couldn't hand over their roles. They'd had enough. "We have not been very fairly treated while we were in this organisation, so we decided to leave," the post reads. "We don't feel that this currently represents good student unionism, so we weren't happy to stay." And that was it. NZUSA's long line of presidents didn't end with a bang, but a vexed Facebook post. The next day, the page's intro was changed to: "We are NZUSA, the national voice for tertiary students in New Zealand. Authorised by Who Knows?" with a laughing emoji – to really rub salt in the wound.

I reached out to every student president under the fucking sun to figure out what this Facebook post meant (okay, it was just current ATSA members and UCSA). What I've dredged up hopefully paints a somewhat clear picture of what must have gone down, though there's still a chance that what happened in NZUSA will stay in NZUSA. Between the amount of information that I've been told strictly "off the record" and to avoid the potential of any legal action, I can only write so much.

Back in August, Salient (Victoria University's student magazine) reported on Marcaill's take on her time with NZUSA, particularly what she believed to have caused its downfall. She claimed that ever since VSM in 2011, NZUSA had struggled to retain members, having lost much of its power. Marcaill further alleged to Salient that NZUSA had grown "structurally unstable" and "corrupt". "The role of the President effectively became a power grab [...] people were using fees to attend overseas conferences rather than helping students." Salient also reported on rumours that the IRD were investigating the organisation, and that it hadn't been audited in over seven years. The article was taken down for factual inaccuracy. I'm not certain exactly which facts, but I was unable to find any evidence to substantiate these reports of an investigation nor any claims of unjustified overseas travel.

The alleged misappropriation of funds and the NZUSA

CONDUCTING AN AUTOPSY ON NZUSA WAS A FUCKING NIGHTMARE – AND I WAS THE CORONER.



Presidency being a “power grab” are pretty bold claims to make. This holds especially true if we take Ellen and Tangi’s Facebook post at face value – claiming they left NZUSA due to feeling increasingly poorly treated in the lead-up to the NZUSA elections. When I first reached out to Ellen and Tangi asking if they would like to arrange an interview regarding NZUSA, they declined, citing an ongoing process with the Employment Relations Authority with some of the members of the ATSA who are still in the functioning NZUSA. The Employment Relations Authority (ERA) is like the Tenancy Tribunal but for employment law – whatever happened in NZUSA must have been quite serious.

I approached fresh-faced VUWSA President Liban Ali about his predecessor’s claims, who also stone-walled enquiries. When asked if he could comment, he gave me a curt “no”. Liban refused to speculate and lacked context surrounding what ex-Prez Marcaill may have been referring to. A sensible stance – but maybe other presidents would have no such reservations. I turned to OUSA President Liam White, one of the few remaining members of NZUSA. While Liam only took over as OUSA President in January (well after the union dropped off the radar) I figured he might’ve gotten an idea of what went down. What did he make of Marcaill’s loaded claims? “I don’t know, that’s the bit where it gets really sketchy,” Liam told me, sounding strained from the hours he’s been putting into the uphill battle of NZUSA and ATSA.

I couldn’t take the mystery any longer. I picked up the phone and went straight to the horse’s mouth: Marcaill. “It wasn’t about any specific presidents,” she told me. “It was just about repeated behaviour that had happened over the past decade.” She listed what she saw as financial missteps, along with personal concerns about leadership. Sounding like a conspiratorial contestant on a dating show, she speculated about people taking on the role for the “wrong reasons” and “not dedicating enough of their time to students”. During this tumultuous time, Marcaill pointed out that multiple student associations left – only four university associations were members in NZUSA’s final hour. “Having four out of eight [university] associations as part of your national group is not a good look” she stressed. To be fair, the last association to leave (aside from VUWSA in 2024) was AUSA in 2021 – and NZUSA’s membership had been stable since then.

“The stuff about the election process having confusion and issues with it is true,” Marcaill continued, speaking to Ellen and Tangi’s resignation post on Facebook. Her version of events is that Ellen and Tangi (on behalf of NZUSA) cancelled the 2024 election and didn’t set up a new one. “That was purely because there were allegations about people who were running for a position, to do with bullying, and Ellen and Tangi didn’t feel they were in a position to moderate those discussions [...] The election process was ‘messed up’ because people brought formal complaints against people who were running.” A total can of worms, to say the least.

You’ll remember Ellen had initially declined to comment. But after hearing about my juicy kōrero with Marcaill, and after her advocacy team gave her the go-ahead, she too picked up the phone. Enter contestant number two. Ellen’s perspective was that while she and Tangi had had two failed election attempts while running NZUSA, Marcaill’s comments about them being unable to moderate these discussions may not have been the full picture.

“When Tangihaere and I were running NZUSA, we attempted to run two elections,” Ellen told me. “[Both elections] were jeopardised by members for reasons potentially threatening the reincorporation of NZUSA under the Incorporated Societies Act.” For those who aren’t intimately familiar with the Incorporated Societies Act (read: have a life), it just means that NZUSA would cease to exist. According to Ellen, the first election got canned due to two candidates having formal complaints or threats of formal complaints being laid against them by local students’ associations for “various alleged reasons”. Ellen claimed there were also issues with the way that these candidates ran for their

roles, which might have violated the law at the time.

Ellen’s version of events is that the second election attempt fell over due to members’ failing to listen to the polytechnic representatives in NZUSA, which she felt “divided the university and polytechnic representatives.” Ellen and Tangi ultimately threw in the towel at this point, which is when they made the Facebook post. “[The election issues] did not represent the vision of solidarity that Tangihaere and I have for students in Aotearoa New Zealand, or our personal values, hence we resigned.”

In terms of the unjustified travel that Salient and Marcaill alluded to, Ellen argued that NZUSA’s accounts were frankly fucked and that it wasn’t anyone in particular travelling anywhere. To cut a long story extremely short, Ellen suggested that members of NZUSA throughout history had been using incorrect account coding – which tended to make some numbers (particularly around travel) on the finance sheets bigger or smaller. “This was a characteristic of NZUSA having poor budgeting and account management in previous years,” Ellen told me. She even appointed an accountant to try and sort it out when she gained access to the accounts. “Even the accountant agreed that National Council representatives required accounting training due to the mistakes made in previous years,” she said.

There is a bigger problem, one that might explain why Salient mentioned the IRD. As of the October 2023 financial statements (publicly available on the New Zealand Business Number register), NZUSA had nearly \$80k worth of unpaid GST and was trading at a loss of just over \$84k. Ellen claims that this outstanding total was waived in 2021. “The chartered accountant for NZUSA was on our IRD page in 2023, and would have highlighted this if it were an issue. We were very conscious about it in 2023, so all the tax was paid, and the proof of tax payments were provided at each National Board meeting,” she explained.

As of the 2023 financial statement, NZUSA’s net assets stood at \$37,216.62. That seems to be all that’s left of NZUSA now – the organisation that once campaigned for some of the biggest student issues has been reduced to under \$40k and a pending Employment Relations Authority case. It all sounds like one really bad joke. What do you get when you put a bunch of relatively unsupervised young people with little business experience in a union, juggling multiple hats and unpaid bills, biting off more than they can chew? I’ll leave you to come up with a punchline.

Aside from the financial dire straits, Liam also spilled the tea on rumours that in-house bickering had plucked the feathers from NZUSA, accelerating their nosedive to demise. He’d heard it was a classic case of knocking heads among big personalities. In Liam’s opinion, the culture among members morphed not into a place to do work but to show off. “At the end of the day, everyone around that table is a student politician. They know what they’re there for – a career in Parliament after. And they see NZUSA as how they make that mark.”

While NZUSA certainly saw its fair share of impressive presidents, Liam believed an unhealthy cycle emerged near the organisation’s final breath – presidents would be elected to the position, become inundated with drama, and abandon ship. Rinse and repeat. “It had this pattern of there being a president sometimes, other times not,” Liam claimed, with a severe lack of leadership and direction arriving at a time when it was desperately needed.

NZUSA is in the process of liquidating with the help of OUSA, LUSA and Te Tira Ahu Pae, Massey’s student association. Unfortunately for the cleanup crew, things seem far from squeaky clean – accidentally winding NZUSA up without settling their debts. “We’ve reached out to liquidators and said that ‘this is our process, this is where we’re at’, and they’ve said ‘shit – you’ve done this in completely the wrong order. But we’ll still take it!’ So we’ve got liquidators that we’re working with.” NZUSA: deceased.

DROPPING LIKE FLIES

Messiness at NZUSA extended beyond the boardroom bickering. Constitutionally, it was also a shambles. “People had different voting rights depending on their student association and student numbers, which doesn’t feel like a partnership,” said Liam. I then asked Liam if he thought this was potentially feeding into the environment where some people felt that they weren’t treated as well as others. “Uh... probably. If I was going to say who got burned in NZUSA, I would say equity groups, polytechs – everybody involved in NZUSA has probably been fucked over at some point,” he speculated, letting out an exasperated laugh.

The equity groups that Liam is referring to are the national Māori students’ association, Te Mana Ākonga (TMĀ); the National Disabled Students’ Association (NSDA); and New Zealand International Students’ Association (NZISA). They have a special role to play at NZUSA in advocating for their equity groups on a national level alongside the geographically segregated student associations like OUSA. When contacted by Critic, TMĀ chose not to comment.

Irfaan Ariffin is the president of NZISA, and he was not shy about making the group’s historic stance on NZUSA known (yeah, I know – annoyingly similar acronyms). “We didn’t want to be a part of NZUSA. We didn’t agree with the ethos of it,” Irfaan told me, explaining that from his understanding, NZISA had consistently turned away from joining NZUSA. Rather than buy into the beef, NZISA focused on their own policy and relationships with other associations. Irfaan couldn’t provide me with much more detail; he didn’t probe too much when he got the handover documents from his predecessor. Based on what he’d seen, though, he said, “I would agree with Liam that equity groups were being ‘burnt’ in his words, because the fact was that they weren’t actively being involved with NZUSA.”

Alongside NZISA being consistently checked out from the turmoil that was NZUSA, AUT’s President Alicia also explained to me that she didn’t think her association had been a member for several years. She first had the AUTSA and NZUSA discussion come across her table in 2023 when she was Academic Vice-President. Alicia said financial concerns – namely the membership fee – had played a significant role in conversations about rejoining. “I guess we wanted to know where the value was before we paid forward students’ money [...] We just wanted to see some results before joining.” AUTSA’s prudence may have been their saving grace.

“The fact that not everyone was a member...” Alicia began, before trailing off. “Say if AUTSA were the only one who wasn’t a member, it may have prompted a different conversation.” Indeed, NZUSA’s members were dwindling. A 12-month leaving notice was given by AUSA in 2021, closely followed by VUWSA in late 2022. VUWSA’s vote to leave was made after years of “unhappiness” and failing to find “the value we get for the \$45,500 levy we pay.” Value extraction seems to be a common concern for NZUSA members and spectators. Although VUWSA indicated they might stick around if their concerns were addressed, they permanently withdrew in August 2024 – interestingly, while Marcaill was still an officer of NZUSA. “This decision was informed by several factors, primarily the significant financial risks and liabilities associated with our continued membership,” VUWSA explained in a media release.

“There was a huge discussion that took place at the end of last year to decide to close NZUSA when we were talking about ATSA and how that would work. It felt really unfortunate that a national student body that had been around for over 90 years was coming to an end in our time,” Alicia told me, sounding genuinely regretful. She described that, in a way, it felt like ATSA’s formation was to the final detriment of NZUSA. Like pulling the plug on the daddy union’s life support. While it felt “weird to turn a new leaf”, Alicia couldn’t look past the issues that had plagued NZUSA. “We

kind of just needed a new start,” she said, referring to the new iteration of NZUSA under a different name that didn’t carry the same baggage. “It’s exciting to get a national voice together [with ATSA] to talk about student issues.”

So let’s talk about ATSA.

A NEW DAWN: ATSA

Aotearoa Tertiary Students’ Association (ATSA) is a fledgling phoenix attempting to rise on brittle limbs from the disappointing ashes of NZUSA. Or the secret identity the main character in a movie adopts after faking their death, leaving the turmoil of their past life behind them – *Gone Girl* style. A media statement released on March 20th by Instagram user @atsa.nz (with no profile pic yet – sloppy) announced: “A collaborative body focused on improving communication and strengthening the student movement nationwide.” The whole gang is here this time – NZISA, NDSA, TMĀ, LUSA, OUSA, AUTSA, AUSA, Te Tira Ahu Pae and VUWSA. Enough acronyms to make you regret human evolution itself.

“ATSA is dedicated to ensuring that student interests are effectively represented and that the collective voice of students is heard on important issues,” the post reads. “By fostering closer relationships and collaboration among students’ associations, the committee seeks to create a more unified approach to addressing the needs of students.” That’s nice, honey.



Liban seems like a real spokesperson for what ATSA aims to accomplish. “The previous national student body was plagued with a lot of dialogue that shifted the conversation away from student interest,” Liban explained. A euphemism for constant bickering. “A lot of egos were getting in the way of work that needs to be done by students, for students,” Liban admitted. Sounds similar to Liam’s speculation about NZUSA devolving into a place to show off. “The foundations on which ATSA is built are focused on what students need. We need [ATSA] to relate back to the students.”

I asked Liban about whether ATSA was engaging in any discussion about that big scary membership fee. “It’s a talking point, but not one [ATSA] has really engaged in,” he admitted. “Right now, we’re trying to figure out structure and sustainability. My personal opinion is that I don’t want to talk about finances until we have a sustainable structure or plan, you know? I don’t think that sets us up well – we could crash and burn.” Sounds like a national student union that I used to know.

Thinking about the kinds of discussions that may have plagued the dying (and broke) NZUSA, I asked if postponing discussion of fees might make ATSA more productive compared to its predecessor. “Yeah, definitely,” Liban agreed. “It makes us more productive [...]. Later down the line, where we do have the conversation about contributing finances to hire admin and whatnot, we can have a good, robust and genuine discussion rather than coming in guns blazing [...].”

Liam’s opinion seemed to echo what Liban was saying when asked the same question about fees. “The poison pill in NZUSA was that money was changing hands, which made things really difficult. It meant that any conversation you were having, you were talking about someone’s livelihood. You were talking about their groceries. It was very difficult to talk about anything else,” he explained. Here’s to hoping tabling the conversation about fees isn’t just delaying the inevitable – more bickering.

Canterbury’s student association (UCSA) is notably absent from ATSA’s lineup. When asked for comment about UCSA’s long standing no-show in both NZUSA and now ATSA, President Luc MacKay told me that UCSA hadn’t been a member of a national student body since the early 2000s, choosing instead to surpass the whole sticky situation by working directly with the University, local government, and national decision-makers. UCSA also considers itself pretty buddy-buddy with other student associations, and makes use of those relationships without a formal body.

It’s been working pretty well for them so far – they’ve likely saved a buck or two, not only on membership but on migraine medicine. So, they figured “why fix what ain’t broke” and decided to stay out of ATSA. But they’re open to changing their minds. Luc confirmed that UCSA is committed to reviewing their decision in mid-2025 and will be keeping a close eye on ATSA in the meantime. Imagine UCSA as a hiring manager who watches you like a hawk during a job trial. Let’s see if ATSA makes it through the first shift.

WILL ATSA FLY?

Three meetings in, ATSA already has issues, quelling my hopes for the hatchling to take flight. The minutes for an ATSA meeting held on the 25th of March indicate some tensions arising over whether members should be paid for their time on working groups. What initially started as a discussion about equity groups advocating for compensation escalated to “Well – shouldn’t we *all* be getting paid?”

Eloise, co-President of NDSA told me that they were “hoping to work with individual associations around pay, and show the benefits our unique experience and skills between equity

groups would provide.” Eloise expressed that NDSA was “a bit disappointed” in how that conversation went. “Overall, it’s been indicative of the previous issues experienced by equity representatives throughout NZUSA,” she told me. They hope that local associations consider whether they truly value the experience and skills provided by national equity groups. “I question how ATSA intends to change attitudes towards equity and vocational learners,” Eloise said. They expressed uncertainty about whether ATSA would be “safe, equitable, and considerate” if NDSA were to introduce members from other tertiary education providers and private training establishments.

Despite these concerns, Eloise described NDSA’s feelings about ATSA as “cautiously optimistic,” and that “there have been improvements since NZUSA”, but “whether or not there has been real change remains to be seen.” Time will tell. “The tertiary sector has recently undergone significant change [...]. We hope ATSA will work with us to ensure our learners are not left behind or fall through the cracks.” Eloise finished NDSA’s comment by expressing that NDSA’s primary goal is to make change for students – “whatever the cost.”

As a solution, Liam and Gabriel (AUSA’s President) suggested that student associations could offer their own equity group members to sit on behalf of national equity groups such as NDSA, NZISA and TMĀ. This would essentially provide those equity groups with a paid member to work on their behalf toward shared issues.

To give you an example, that would be like taking Ibuki (Buki) Nishida (OUSA’s International Rep) and getting him to sit on working groups on behalf of NZISA. Buki and NZISA have the same goal: helping international students. Given Buki needs to meet his 10 hours for OUSA, working on a group on behalf of NZISA would only help him meet this. Plus, it’s a more hands-on-deck approach for national equity groups, who are sadly underfunded and overworked.

But the current NZISA President Irfaan wasn’t on board with this suggestion. He raised concerns that having equity representatives from student associations may diminish the role of equity groups (such as NZISA) on national committees. There’s room for criticism here: is worrying about the diminished role of national groups beside the point when you’re basically getting free helping hands? Explaining his logic, Irfaan continued with the Buki example – reiterating multiple times “on the record” that he loves Buki and it’s nothing personal. As Buki is a part of OUSA, he sits on NZISA’s reps council. “We listen to him, we take his point of view, we go to the Government,” said Irfaan. But to have Buki to sit in on the NZUSA committee (“again, I love him”) would mean that OUSA is sitting in, Irfaan explained: “His allegiance is to OUSA. Mine is to NZISA.”

Despite the disagreement, Irfaan suggested that some execs had misinterpreted the situation – assuming that if equity groups wanted to be paid, they wouldn’t bother with the working committees if they couldn’t compensate their members. “We don’t agree with that,” Irfaan said firmly. “Equity groups feel that they need involvement.”

Irfaan touches on a core issue that ATSA will always wrestle with: the many hats that student politicians wear across different committees. At the end of the day, student associations owe their ultimate loyalty to their own – the students on their campus, facing local issues. Asking presidents to contribute to ATSA means asking them to juggle national student interests, when they get paid (barely) to serve their own. Personally, I’d be pissed if my monetary contributions to OUSA were being used for the benefit of Auckland students – isn’t that AUSA’s problem? And vice versa, times eight member associations.

It’s a sentiment felt by elected student reps across the motu. As UCSA’s Luc put it, explaining their continued absence from ATSA: “Our priority remains ensuring the best possible

outcomes for UC students, and we will continue to collaborate with our peers across the country to achieve that goal.” Student associations are driven by the needs of their own students, and that remains their top priority. Everything, including national collaboration, revolves around this focus. At least UCSA was honest about it.

Arguably, the risk of power struggles among presidents is somewhat curbed by ATSA’s lack of staff and its rotating chair structure. It’s a bit like musical chairs – the power dynamics remain fluid, keeping any one person from holding too much sway. Liam told me that no one person has the social media passwords (maybe the whole NZUSA Facebook thing taught people a lesson), and Irfaan certainly felt that issues within ATSA were resolved quickly and effectively.

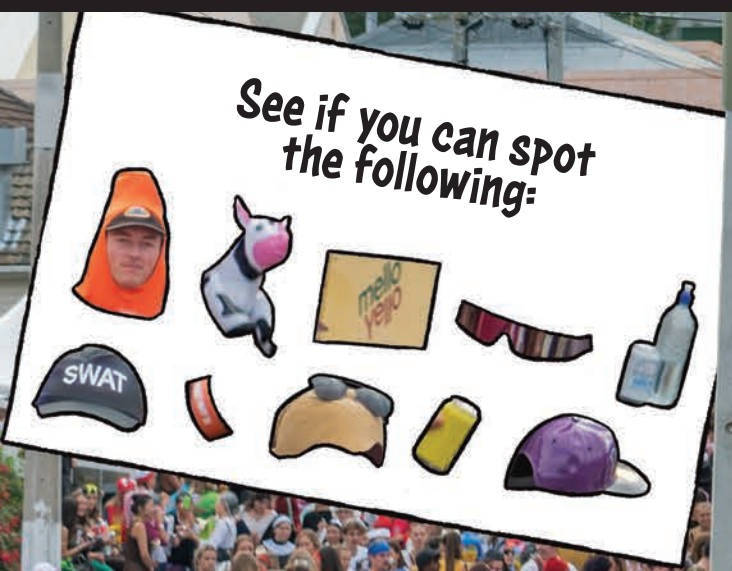
I have one final note about ATSA: an anti-VSM campaign is not on the cards. That’s quite a shock, given how funds are the lifeblood for any student association – national or otherwise. Reminder: VSM means student associations going cap in hand to universities to ask for money. Liam told me that OUSA, alongside other individual associations, are keen to pursue VSM individually. “There are a lot of national political campaigns that need to happen. Whether they happen through ATSA or not, they’ll happen. Even if it kills me, it’ll happen,” Liam told me. That’s some devotion.

WRAP UP

After clawing my way out of the rabbit hole – sifting through legal documents, maddeningly media-trained email replies, business ledgers, he-said she-saids and more off-the-record piping hot tea than I’d expect from a hall of residence (not a student body my money is being wasted in) – I can only describe NZUSA’s unravelling as a complete shitshow. I’d be more subtle about it, but after being talked in circles by students clearly destined for careers as politicians, I’m too tired and too frustrated not to call it like I see it. It had all the markings of classical political corruption (or the season finale of vintage *Shortland Street*): big egos, dubious financial records and worryingly little financial attention paid to the very stakeholders who matter most –that’s us, the students. Way to fucking go.

Against all odds, a *Horton Hears a Who!* speck of hope persists (very) deep within me. What became of NZUSA does not have to become ATSA’s fate. If members can recognise and remain honest about the role they are serving, progress toward national student issues can be made – despite competing local interests. While student associations are all unique, they must unite on the common ground of student wellbeing. Nothing is more important, and I don’t want my money spent on anything other than the success of my fellow students. I couldn’t give less of a fuck about any overseas conference when my mates have mushrooms growing in their living room – whether that’s in Dunedin or Wellington. If ATSA can help us, then use my money for that.

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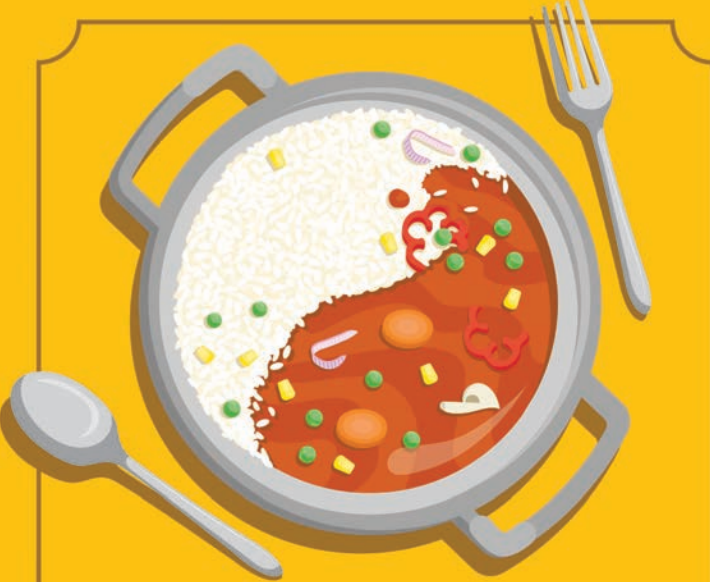
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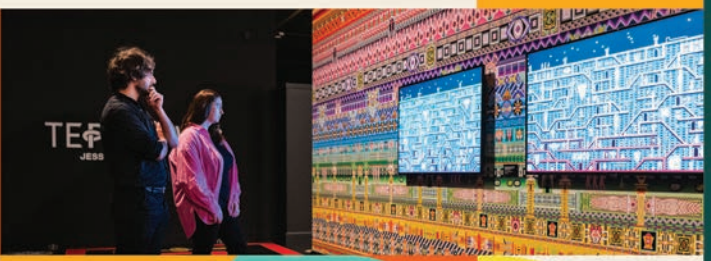
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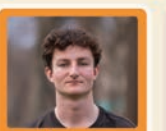
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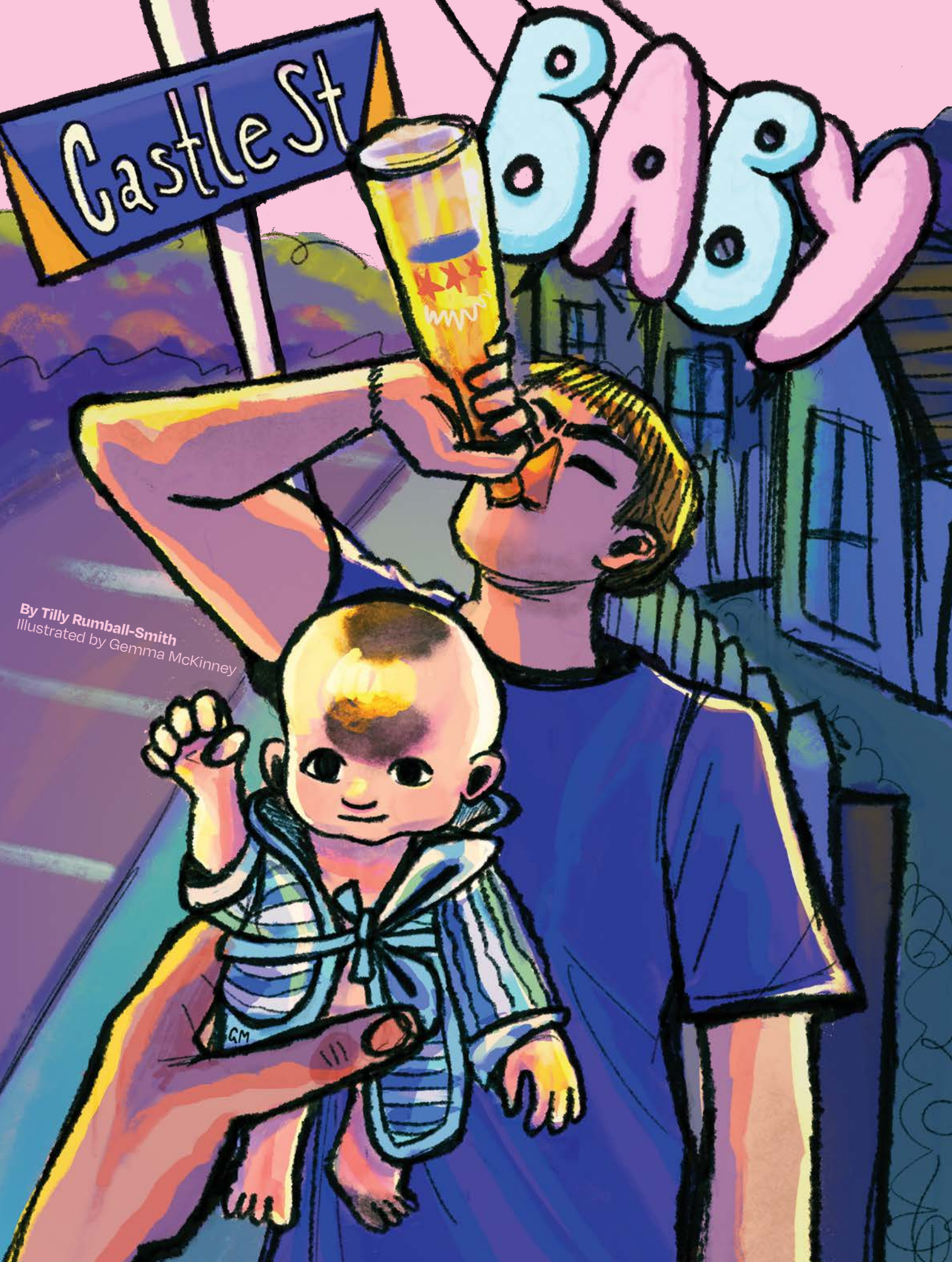


Tumuaki
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Porourangi
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By Tilly Rumball-Smith
Illustrated by Gemma McKinney

CW: Violence

Critic Te Ārohi gave a (fake) baby to a five man Castle Street flat to take care of from Thursday to Sunday. There were only three rules:

1. Don't lose the baby.
2. You must bring the baby with you everywhere.
3. You must keep a diary of your adventures with the baby.

We didn't tell them about our secret social experiment. Would they take care of the toy as if it's a real baby like the couples on *Love Island* or would they tear it to pieces? Critic will let you decide if they were good fathers or not.

George*, Montgomery*, Rogan*, Flynn* and Miller* have decided to keep the baby, by the way. Critic asked for it back and they said no, so basically we lost 20 dollars and they gained a child.

THURSDAY

Critic handed George the baby in his 3pm lecture. It was born in The Warehouse from an assorted collection, and just so happened to be 'baby has a bath' so wore a smart little bathrobe. George immediately told Critic to put it away as he was "self conscious about being a dad," so adoption was postponed until we'd reached his flat. He hadn't brought a backpack and was too ashamed to carry the baby through campus.

4:02pm:

The baby had officially been adopted. The boys helpfully timestamped all entries in their baby diary, so Critic knows that exactly two minutes after adoption the child was drop-kicked down Castle Street. Four minutes after that it was placed in the airfryer to "await its untimely death." The boys do not seem to take kindly to suddenly having a child to care for, but they assure Critic this is "all part of the hazing process" here at their flat. "None of us had ever been parents before," flatmate Montgomery tells Critic in the follow-up interview. They didn't really know what to do with it. "I just thought he was ugly." Rude. Valid, but rude.

5:10pm:

The boys turned the baby's toy bottle into a bong. However, they promise it wasn't until later that the child actually had its first cone (they are so responsible). At this point they've named their precious child 'Fuckwit'.

6:03pm:

The baby goes missing for the first of many times over the next days. It's later found in an empty ice cream tub filled with water in the freezer. Later, the baby is burnt after being set on fire, and for the remainder of the weekend it has a large black spot on its forehead. The boys tell Critic that trying to kill the baby was a "collective effort" between the dads. Critic does not endorse infant murder of any kind.

FRIDAY

9:30am:

The baby has its first coffee and then hits the gym: "Big chest day, get them gains." After a lunch of chicken tenders, the baby has an afternoon bong and then travels to Mt Cargill "screaming at the top of its lungs."

ET ENEY WAS NO WHAT



8:00pm:

The only entry is: "Baby fucks it up." Critic is unsure what this refers to and would rather not ask. We wandered over later that night to have a durry with the baby. It's not looking great, but all body parts are intact and it still has its bathrobe, so that's a win.

That night, Montgomery hides his speaker under George's bed and plays crying noises for an hour. They're starting to treat the toy as a real child, just like *Love Island*, where the fake baby inevitably drives the couples crazy.

The boys tell Critic how many times the baby went missing today. George (who was the primary father figure) would constantly be looking for and relocating it – across the fence, up the top of a tree, in the freezer and so on. At this point, the other flatmates are still mostly disinterested in baby Fuckwit. Rogan speculates his role in the whole thing was an unhappy grandad, while Montgomery was a godfather – has to be around but doesn't actually do anything.

10pm:

Flynn has bonded with the baby. That night "flatmates play with the baby and enjoy it," but the other boys hastily corrected Critic that only Flynn enjoyed playing with the baby and they still thought it was weird. After inquiring why, the boys respond: "Baby has no chat." He doesn't do anything around the house. Fuckwit's a freeloader.

SATURDAY

Saturday is Baseline: the day the boys really became fathers. They tell Critic how they finally thought it was cute. Critic infers this is because girls absolutely loved the baby at the festival, so the boys grew towards liking Fuckwit as well. Love is too strong a word to describe their father-son relationship at this point.

Lots of people wanted photos with the baby as well, which made the boys very popular. George put it in the top pocket of his checkered button down shirt (the unofficial uniform of breathas at festivals) to keep him safe.

The diary says at Baseline "baby funnels" and "baby bumps." In the interview, the boys express dismay that they hadn't thought of taking a shot out of Fuckwit's head, which they'd discovered on Friday was removable. "Everyone decapitated the baby," they tell Critic proudly. That day George did a couple bumps of gear off the baby's head in the portaloos, which Critic thought was quite creative but poor parenting.

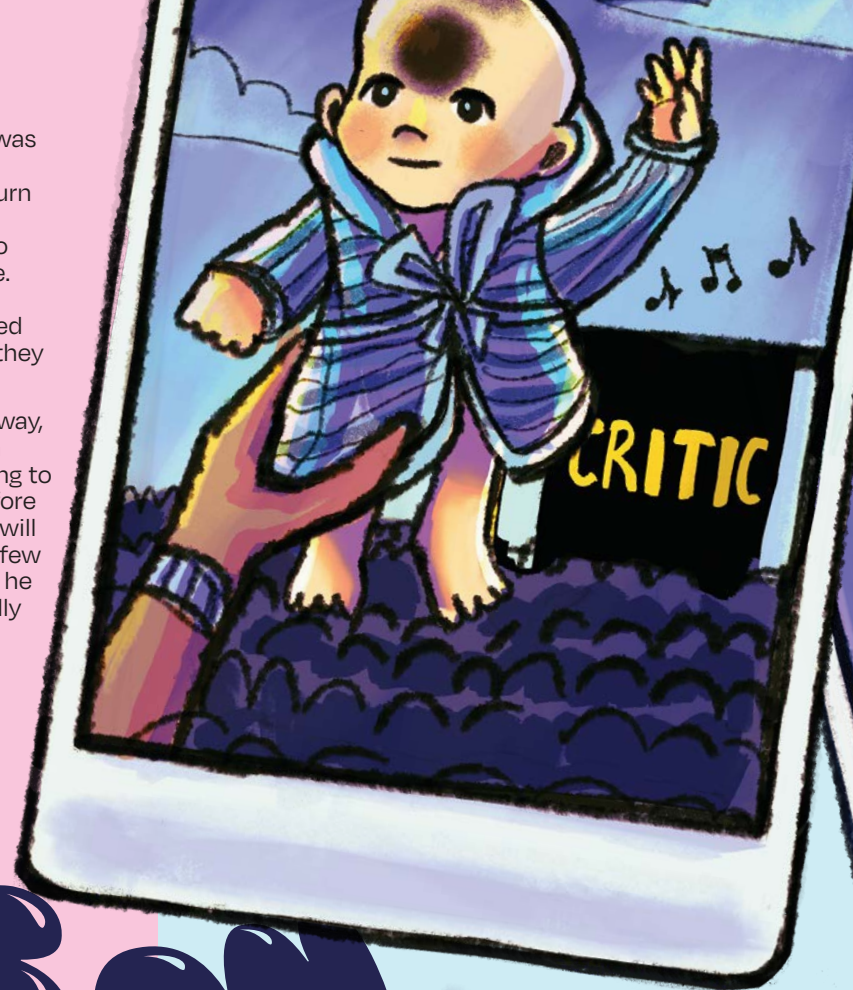
SUNDAY

Today was the end of the boys' time with the baby. Critic ask them to give Fuckwit back. They've inflicted so much violence on it that we assumed they'd be happy to have it out of their sight, but they all say no.

Why? "When you really look at it, it does look cute. I was trying not to look at it [before] because I didn't fuck with it," says Montgomery. Rogan comments, "The burn marks add character." As Critic is interviewing them, they're discussing bringing the baby to Hyde and also dousing its head in alcohol to see if it will light on fire. At this point, Rogan becomes self aware. "Is this an experiment?" and Critic informs them that we wanted to see what would happen under their care – would they turn all paternalistic or would they destroy it?

They tell Critic that Fuckwit was loved in a different way, that he received 'tough love'. Critic mentions that on Friday it seems like the flat just saw him as something to destroy. "I tried to ruin him," Montgomery admits before trailing off, and Flynn cuts in, "He's a tough bastard, I will say." The flatmates then stop listening to Critic for a few minutes while they decide what to name the baby if he was real. Reginald. Barry. Knobhead. Kael. They all really like the name Kael. "Like the plant?" "No, K A E L."

It is this an experiment?



However, Rogan doesn't agree with any of this emotional stuff. "It's not real. It's a piece of plastic." Montgomery, George, and Flynn snap out of their baby fever as they realise they're feeling emotion towards a child's toy, and stay silent for the next minute. It was nice to see some paternal connection for about thirty seconds. We need more displays of male emotion in the world.

Fuckwit's pinned on the wall when Critic came over to interview, and they pull him down to listen in. They keep looking over to it, telling Critic proudly that he's still in one piece and still has his clothes for the most part. Bare minimum but acceptable. When Critic asked what they thought of the experiment, they mused it had shown them what they'd be like as real parents. "Shit," says Flynn.

Critic ask them if they want another baby. "Two? What for?" Montgomery says they'd be open to it. They also wanted to make it clear to readers that if the baby had disabilities, they wouldn't have treated it with such violence. However, Fuckwit was an "inglorious bastard". He could handle the heat. From a lighter. When they burnt his forehead.

*Names changed.



By Connor Moffat
Illustrated by Jimmy Tannock

THE GREAT CONE GAME

You may have heard of the Chicken Chase, a daring drinking game involving a horde of bros and baes drinking their way along the rainbow (pubs) to find the pot of gold (a mate dressed as a chicken in an undisclosed pub, drinking their way through a collective tab). Critic Te Ārohi played our own version of this game at the Hyde Street Party, swapping the chicken for a cone and pubs for flats. If you're curious to play yourself, here are the rules.

STEP 1:

Everyone shows up to the party and puts drinks/money into the community drinking pot.

The actual amount may vary depending on how many people show up to the party. The more people who show, the less everyone has to put in. You may eventually get some of this returned to you in the form of alcohol at the bars/flats. Maybe not. We recommend anywhere between \$10 and \$20 or 1-2 drinks per person depending on the size of the group. The goal should be for the cone to have enough cash or drinks to not worry about buying any of their own drinks for at least a couple hours.

STEP 2

Get drunk.

This part you should be familiar with.

STEP 3:

Decide who will don the cone costume.

The lucky person is now the centre of everyone's universe for the night

STEP 4:

Choose a designated "chase area."

This is actually really important and should be done before people even show up for the party. You want to set a very specific designated area the cone is allowed to use to choose their bar or flat. We recommended doing some research before and finding an area that is 1) walkable for the group and 2) has enough bars/flats. You want to pick a region where there are enough bars/flats to keep things interesting but not so big no one will ever find the cone.

STEP 5:

The cone is given the money from the community drinking pot.

This can be a substantial amount, so for the love of God don't lose it.

STEP 6:

The cone has 30 minutes to pick one bar/flat within the designated area where they will spend their evening drinking with everyone else's money/drinks.

This area varies depending on where the chase is taking place and will be clearly established to everyone at the party beforehand (see Step 4). For example "any bar in the Mission between Street X and Street Y"

STEP 7:

Once the cone leaves everyone else separates into teams.

The team sizes depend on the number of people at the party. Minimum of 2 people. Bring drinks with you.

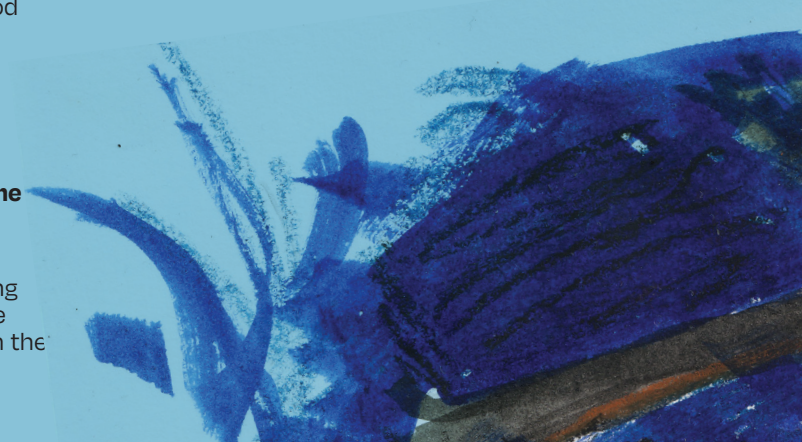
STEP 8:

The teams depart 30 minutes after the cone has left, and try to find the cone.

The rest of the night is filled with trying to figure out what bar/flat the cone is at. There are additional rules listed below that will direct how you're allowed to communicate with other teams, and what happens if you do or don't find the cone at the bar or flat you enter.

THE RULES

1. The cone can't move once they select a bar/flat.
2. The cone should be drinking with everyone's money/drinks.
3. If your team finds the cone, you also get to start drinking with everyone else's money/drinks until it runs out.
4. If your team is the last one to find the cone, you buy everyone a round of drinks.
5. If you get to a bar/flat and the cone is not there, you must order and finish a drink or finish a drink of your own before moving onto the next bar/flat.
6. Before you leave the bar/flat, you must have someone take a photo of you at said bar/flat.
7. You may not text or communicate to other teams saying where you are going next.
8. You may not text or communicate to other teams saying if you found the cone.
9. If by (pre-designated time) everyone has not found the cone, the cone will dispatch hints on their location so everyone can meet before closing time.



How to overthrow your flat dictator

FLAT

Flatting is a delicate balance of personalities, habits, and passive aggressiveness. For the first time, you get to experience life free from the watchful eye of parents or RAs – and that usually means 2-minute noodles for every second meal, putting off your washing to the last minute, and, inevitably, *those* flat meetings. The ones about power conservation, keeping the flat tidy, and “being respectful to the other people living here.” Which is fine... until it isn't. If these conversations feel less like problem-solving and more like being in the Gulag, chances are you may be dealing with a flat dictator. Here's Critic's guide to knowing what kind of authoritarian you're living with, plus some revolutionary tips on how to liberate yourself from their iron-fisted rule.

MAO ZEBONG

Everyone has a different opinion on weed, and that's fine! It's basic human decency to not hotbox the living room if your flatmates aren't into it. However, there's “please don't smoke inside” and then there's Mao Zebong. Good ol' Zebong hates even the sight of a bong in your room. Their nose is stronger than a drug dog's and they will be able to smell that purple haze (or what your dealer claims is purple haze) through the 12 layers of Lynx Africa. If you try to nip outside for a quick joint you will be reprimanded quicker than you can say, “Sir, yes, sir.”

Best believe that they will appoint themselves to do random room checks, and anything vaguely cylindrical will be left on the dining room table for you to explain when you get home. Because weed is a gateway drug and Zebong would never dabble in the ganja, you are an addict.

Tips to overthrow Zebong: Get a vaporiser, light some incense, and smoke in the shower to rub it in their face. Bonus points for blasting Bob Marley at full volume – that's what I call a Cultural Revolution.

MESSOLINI

The most common form of flat authoritarian is the Messolini, commonly misdiagnosed as ‘neat freaks’ or ‘type A people’. The first warning sign will be the colour-coded, laminated chore chart that appears on the fridge one day, paired with a message in the group chat about punishments for not doing your assigned tasks that week. If it's your first year flatting, this chart can feel like a relief. In theory, it helps everyone do their fair share. But past the first year, do we really need a chore chart? Surely we're all fairly sensible and proactive adults who know when something needs cleaning? Maybe that's a question for another day.

Messolini clings to that goddamn chore chart harder than a drill sergeant at military boot camp. And, just like a drill sergeant, they're mouthy – in the group chat. Messolini hides behind their screen while doling out punishments for forgetting to put a liner in the bin after rubbish day. However, they will also mysteriously have neglected to properly clean the bathroom, again. Their Canva propaganda is the highpoint of their life, and they revel in the power of getting to tell people what to do. It's Messolini's way or no way, and they will cry at one flat meeting about the fact that no one empties the dishwasher.

Tips to overthrow Messolini: Resist. Stop engaging. Clean when things are dirty, not when a little pink square with your name in it tells you to.

POL POTS AND PANS

Sometimes life happens. You cook pasta, you forget about it, you fuse it to the bottom of the pan. You leave it to soak,

Disclaimer: Critic is not responsible for any arguments, ruined friendships, or toxic living situations.

By Ellie Bennett & Molly Smith-Soppet
Illustrated by Jakira Brophy



because standing at the sink and scrubbing fusilli off metal is not an immediate priority. Apparently it should be, according to Pol Pots and Pans. God forbid a pan is left on the bench overnight.

Expect crime scene-esque photos in the group chat, an all-angles analysis of your misdemeanour with the “friendly reminder” (a death threat would be less intimidating) that other people need to use the pots. And like, valid. What isn’t valid is the fact Pol Pots and Pans stockpiles dishes in their room like they’re preparing for the apocalypse. One more “hey, can we start washing dishes as soon as we’re done with them <3” and I’ll take that pan and [REDACTED] to your [REDACTED] until you [REDACTED].

Tips to overthrow Pol Pots and Pans: Start soaking all the pots and pans, even when unnecessary. Then one won’t seem so bad. Or hide all the forks or something, idfk.

KIM JONG UN-PLUG

A classic first conversation among flats is about power providers. Most students opt for the 9-12pm free power. You’d struggle to find a flat that wasn’t running the washing machine, dishwasher, shower, and dryer all in those three sacred hours. An electrical fire waiting to happen? Probably. But it’s free. While it’s a great way to save a bit of extra cash,

sometimes you inevitably have to do laundry in the daytime – there’s no chance my sheets will dry otherwise.

Kim Jong Un-plug would say otherwise. They’re such a tight-ass about money that the use of any electrical appliance before it’s free is BANNED. A true Kim Jong Un-plug won’t even allow lights until 9pm, so you’ll be shuffling about with your phone torch as the only light source, feeling like an 18th century peasant running through the halls of the castle by candlelight. Cute little roleplay until you’ve kicked the corner of your bed for the sixth time and have genuine fears your little toe may require amputation.

But, don’t worry: you can always flock to Kim Jong Un-plug’s salt lamp that will inevitably be on at all times because it “gets drippy otherwise”. Want to dry your hair after a cheeky morning shower, though? That’s a luxury, comrade.

Tips to overthrow Kim Jong Un-plug: Google how much your appliances actually use and realise that \$0.03 per hour doesn’t really add up.

FROZEPH STALIN

A special subclass of the Kim Jong Un-plug is Frozeph Stalin. No matter how cold it gets, the heat pump stays off. They’ve romanticised suffering and take sick satisfaction in seeing their breath indoors. They’re single-handedly ensuring that the hot water bottle and Oodie markets stay afloat.

Frozeph Stalin’s ideal winter aesthetic is Survival Mode. They relish the struggle. You, on the other hand, just want to feel your fingers. Soon, you’ll be rationing tea bags like you’re bracing for another Russian winter and knitting your own gloves for warmth. Soup will become less of a meal and more of a coping mechanism.

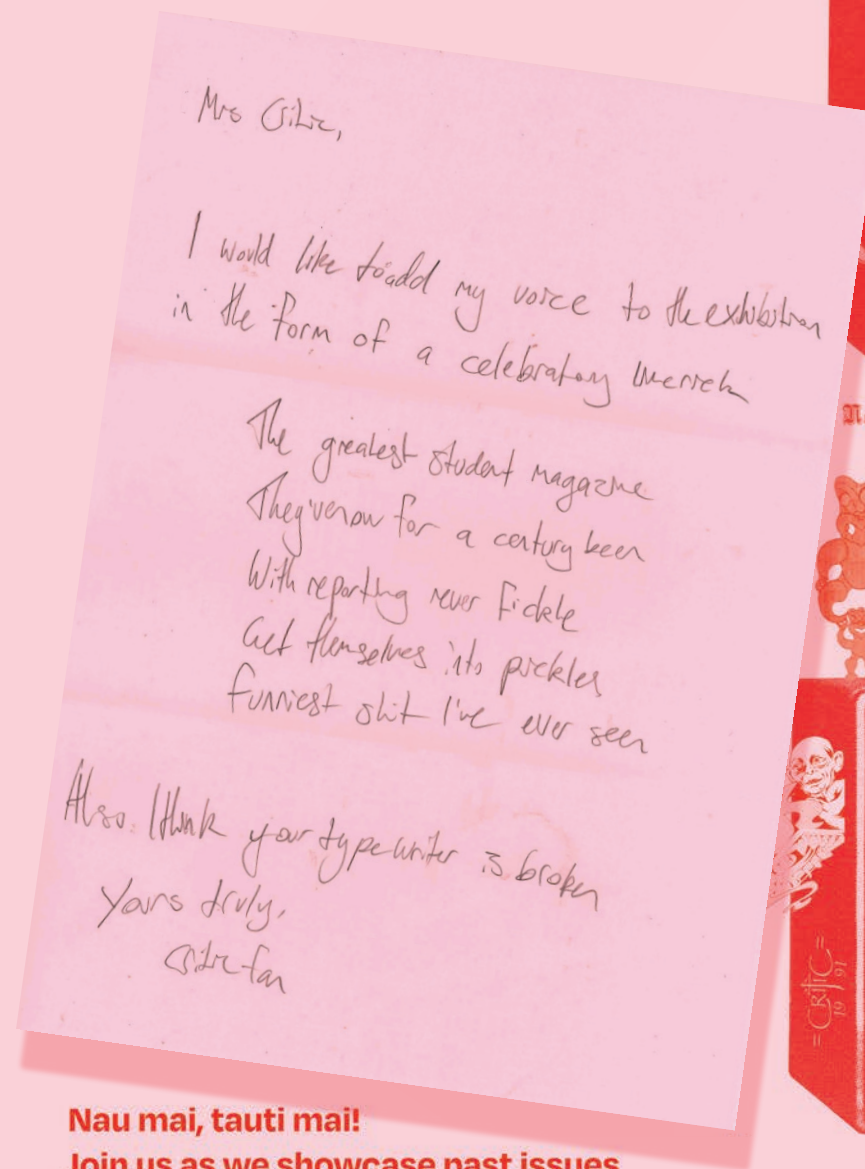
Tips to overthrow Frozeph Stalin: Start turning the heater on in little increments – gaslight, if you have to – until they realise that being warm is actually not so bad after all. Also, read Nina’s ‘Turn on Your Heat Pump’ editorial from last year (issue 6); she makes a pretty compelling case for just growing up and turning the heat pump on.



ISSUES!

100 years of Critic

Visitors to their **ISSUES! 100 Years of Critic** exhibition are invited to contribute when visiting the gallery by handwriting or typing a letter. The winning letter of the week will be featured in the magazine and the author gets a free Critic tote bag! Email critic@critic.co.nz to claim your prize.



Nau mai, tauti mai!

Join us as we showcase past issues of **Critic Te Ārohi** and pay them out for being totally f#\$%ing ancient.

Mon – Fri | 9am – 5pm
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Special Collections

First Floor
Te Pātaka Kura Pokapū
Central Library



RADIO ONE
RAD TIMES

Gig
GUIDE

TUESDAY
15 APRIL

OPEN MIC NIGHT
THE BOG
Hosted by Boaz and Samarah. 8pm.

THURSDAY
17 APRIL

REGGAE VIBES
THE CROWN HOTEL
Featuring Jungafari, The Yemenite, Te Selecta, and Thief. 9pm. \$5.

1
91 FM

Run by the University's Sustainability Office, Te Oraka is so much more than a thrift shop. Their kaupapa is to make sustainability accessible to everyone through a series of events and initiatives. Jesikah Triscott, their Kaitakawaenga (Engagement Team Lead) told Critic Te Ārohi about Te Oraka's mission and what gets people through the door.

Although Te Oraka operates under the Sustainability Office, it has its own cost centre – meaning what goes around comes around for this not-for-profit enterprise. Every dollar spent on that \$12 tweed blazer is reinvested into the sustainability space rather than other areas within the Uni. "Whatever you buy here, you'll benefit from it further down the track," Jesikah explains.

'Drop for Good and Shop for Good' is one of Te Oraka's most popular events, offering a convenient drop location for departing flats whose necessities won't fit into Jetstar's 20kg check-in bag limit. During Flo-Week, Te Oraka sells these items to incoming residents at mega-affordable rates. It's first come, first serve, and the atmosphere gets intense: when the floodgates open, prepare to scrap someone over a set of drawers.

The initiative captures the heart of Te Oraka's kaupapa: one student's trash is another's treasure. Jesikah tells Critic that the initial inflow of cash allows them to "kick off the year with a few of our bigger events, and start paying our student employees for their time." Jesikah hopes that this model can be applied to more sectors of the University down the line, such as how kai could be handled on campus. "Does it have to be profit-driven," she asks, "or do we just want to feed people who might be hungry?"

Te Oraka first opened in UniPol's old weights room on Anzac Ave. Reflecting on the space, Jesihak jokes, "How the heck did we make this look like a cool thrift shop? It is like an abandoned hall." While the warehouse is still used by Te Oraka to sort through donated goods, store excess stock, and host Drop and Shop for Good, at the beginning of last year Te Oraka took over the Sustainability Office's

space on the corner of St David's Street and Little Leith Street – a much needed upgrade. Jesikah relishes the new location, calling it "a saving grace, because we used to have to spend all of our energy trying to convince people to walk down to us. Now we just need to convince people to just pop in and have a coffee."

Another initiative Te Oraka runs is a pay what you can Bike Grab every Tuesday, working alongside Southern Youth Development. Donated and reclaimed bikes from landfill are matched with students in need of affordable transport. After registering through a Google Form in Te Oraka's Instagram Linktree, students are invited to the office to make some minor repairs with guidance. Jesikah says that the overarching goal of the Bike Grabs is to give students access to more sustainable forms of transport and recycling unused goods, all while helping students "build more skills around bikes."

When they first began the Bike Grab initiative, Te Oraka sold pre-repaired bikes under a 'pay what you can' basis. Jesikah noticed that after giving students the option to work with Southern Youth Development to repair their bikes, people began to pay more for them, theorising it could be down to students building a relationship during the repair process.

Jesikah encourages students to come during opening hours to drop clothes off. An additional bonus is that for every three items accepted, they give you a free swap from the shop. She encourages students dropping off goods to be mindful about what they're donating: "Sometimes things come to the end of life and that's okay. We just don't wanna be the thing that sits between a student and a skip."

Te Oraka is open every weekday from 11am to 1pm when students are on campus.

Follow them on Instagram @te_oraka to stay updated and join their social club to look out for volunteer opportunities.

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9 APR

1

91 FM

TOP

1 Mim Jensen (NZ) – Safe in Body
 No. 1 last week | 4 weeks in chart

2 Mikaela Cougar (NZ) – Pity Party
 No. 10 last week | 2 weeks in chart

2 SODA BOYZ (NZ) – Enough
 No. 2 last week | 3 weeks in chart

3 George VILLA (NZ) – Keep It All Together
 No. 8 last week | 2 weeks in chart

4 Vera Ellen (NZ) – sangria (demo)
 No. 5 last week | 4 weeks in chart

5 Ani Saafa (Dn) – Gripes
 No. 4 last week | 6 weeks in chart

6 Casual Healing (NZ) – Hypersensitive feat. Mā
 1 week in chart

7 Coin Laundry (NZ) – Worm in my Ear
 No. 10 last week | 4 weeks in chart

8 Bunchy's Big Score (Dn) – White Noise
 No. 7 last week | 5 weeks in chart

9 L. Hotel (Dn) – Dead Ends
 No. 9 last week | 7 weeks in chart

10 Michael Llewellyn (NZ) – The Fish Song
 1 week in chart

11 The Response (NZ) – Set Something On Fire
 1 week in chart

Mazagran Hit Picks

Beef x Mouth (NZ) – Wash Away
Keira Wallace (Dn) – Lambs Aren't Waking Yet

LOCAL PRODUCE

By Jonathan McCabe

te oraka

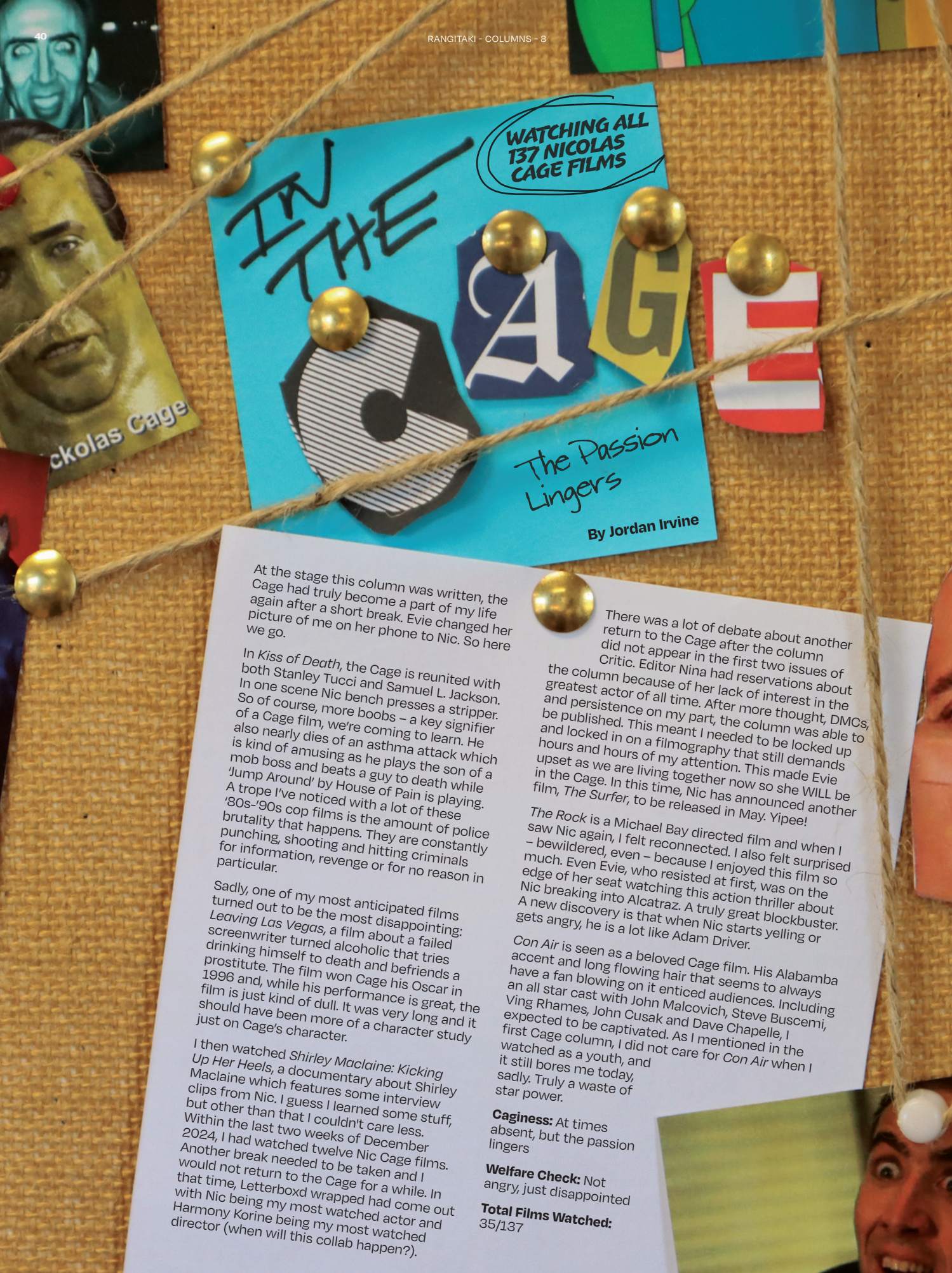
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TŪHURA
Otago Museum

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At the stage this column was written, the Cage had truly become a part of my life again after a short break. Evie changed her picture of me on her phone to Nic. So here we go.

In *Kiss of Death*, the Cage is reunited with both Stanley Tucci and Samuel L. Jackson. In one scene Nic bench presses a stripper. So of course, more boobs – a key signifier of a Cage film, we're coming to learn. He also nearly dies of an asthma attack which is kind of amusing as he plays the son of a mob boss and beats a guy to death while 'Jump Around' by House of Pain is playing. A trope I've noticed with a lot of these '80s-'90s cop films is the amount of police brutality that happens. They are constantly punching, shooting and hitting criminals for information, revenge or for no reason in particular.

Sadly, one of my most anticipated films turned out to be the most disappointing: *Leaving Las Vegas*, a film about a failed screenwriter turned alcoholic that tries drinking himself to death and befriends a prostitute. The film won Cage his Oscar in 1996 and, while his performance is great, the film is just kind of dull. It was very long and it should have been more of a character study just on Cage's character.

I then watched *Shirley Maclaine: Kicking Up Her Heels*, a documentary about Shirley Maclaine which features some interview clips from Nic. I guess I learned some stuff, but other than that I couldn't care less. Within the last two weeks of December 2024, I had watched twelve Nic Cage films. Another break needed to be taken and I would not return to the Cage for a while. In that time, Letterboxd wrapped had come out with Nic being my most watched actor and Harmony Korine being my most watched director (when will this collab happen?).

WATCHING ALL
137 NICOLAS
CAGE FILMS

IN THE
CAGE

The Passion
Lingers

By Jordan Irvine

There was a lot of debate about another return to the Cage after the column did not appear in the first two issues of Critic. Editor Nina had reservations about the column because of her lack of interest in the greatest actor of all time. After more thought, DMCS, and persistence on my part, the column was able to be published. This meant I needed to be locked up and locked in on a filmography that still demands hours and hours of my attention. This made Evie upset as we are living together now so she WILL be in the Cage. In this time, Nic has announced another film, *The Surfer*, to be released in May. Yipee!

The Rock is a Michael Bay directed film and when I saw Nic again, I felt reconnected. I also felt surprised – bewildered, even – because I enjoyed this film so much. Even Evie, who resisted at first, was on the edge of her seat watching this action thriller about a new discovery is that when Nic starts yelling or gets angry, he is a lot like Adam Driver.

Con Air is seen as a beloved Cage film. His Alabamba accent and long flowing hair that seems to always have a fan blowing on it enticed audiences. Including an all star cast with John Maltovich, Steve Buscemi, Ving Rhames, John Cusack and Dave Chapelle, I expected to be captivated. As I mentioned in the first Cage column, I did not care for *Con Air* when I watched as a youth, and it still bores me today, sadly. Truly a waste of star power.

Caginess: At times absent, but the passion lingers

Welfare Check: Not angry, just disappointed

Total Films Watched:
35/137



By Hunter Jolly & Ella
Grayson

NO:

Let's not be silly here, team. I love Star Wars and Aliens in the Attic as much as the next guy, but you know what else I love? Rational thinking.

Let's consider, for one, the sheer vastness of the universe. It's probably infinite in scale, and even if it's not, it may as well be to us. The likelihood of any alien civilization knowing of our existence is thus miniscule, and even if they are aware of our existence, what would they achieve by entering our atmosphere? Surveilling us, perhaps? If that's the case, why not do that from space? I refuse to believe that they have the technological capability to traverse the universe but not the technological means to spy on us from beyond our atmosphere.

Furthermore, so much of the supposed 'evidence' of extraterrestrial activity on Earth are things like the Egyptian pyramids, crop circles, Stonehenge, Nazca Lines, etc; which all have perfectly reasonable scientific and cultural explanations behind them. Also, again, what would any of this achieve? Are aliens just chill art enthusiasts that travel from system to system, building random structures as they please? That's dumb. It's also stripping the impressive human beings who made these marvels of their well-deserved clout.

Area 51 is something that I find really cool as a concept, but do they have actual alien spacecrafts and biological samples? I doubt it. I'm obviously not the first person to make this point, but I think

it's one that needs to be stressed here: if aliens are so advanced in their intergalactic navigation, then how in the frick are they crash landing on Earth so easily?! If you're an alien who perhaps isn't the most confident flying saucer pilot, then why would you blast off to the depths of space, pull up on Earth, and then head straight for the ground with a catastrophic collision?

I am sure there's got to be some other life out there in our ever-expanding universe, but to think that they've not only found us, but have also paid us visits, is quite ridiculous.

YES:

Absolutely. But let's get specific. Before diving into this debate, we need to be clear on one thing: the interpretation of what an alien even is. Google tells us that an alien is either a) A foreigner, especially one who is not a naturalised citizen; or b) A being from another world.

So technically, we as humans are all aliens in some context. You travel to another country? Boom – you're a legal alien. The language we use makes it sound like humans are constantly figuring out who belongs and who doesn't. It's like being an "alien" is just a state of unfamiliarity.

But if we move into the second definition (the extraterrestrial one) the convo shifts from legal lingo to the conspiracy and weird taboo zone. Let's be real: there's no conclusive PUBLIC scientific evidence that aliens have visited Earth... but I smell bullshit. I mean look at Area 51, what the fuck is going on there? And alien sightings – if we've been to the moon, who's to say that they haven't visited us? This whole moon landing thing happened in 1969, wayyyy before AI made that shit all possible. Other things I believe aid the 'aliens have been to earth' theory are: Australia's C.I.A (just think about Pine Gap), deserts (33.3% of land area is desert, weird shit is happening), the Pyramids (where to even begin), orcas (apex predators of the ocean with giant, highly wrinkled brains seeing things we can't even imagine), and pigeons (high key suss).

Also, in 2019, researchers discovered extraterrestrial organic material in 3.3 billion-year-old ocean sediments near Barberton, South Africa.

Literal space dust that helped form early life. So, like... maybe we're the aliens.

Maybe the thing we fear is already us.

In conclusion: yes, aliens have visited.

Or maybe we've evolved from them.

Or maybe we are them. Either way,

something's up – and it's not just Elon's satellites.

HAVE
ALIENS
VISITED
EARTH?

It's that time of year again... winter is coming! This week we have a hearty staple that everyone will enjoy. Full of vegetables and a tasty mince, this recipe is a great weeknight dinner, and is awesome leftovers for lunch the next day. If you are vegetarian try subbing the mince out for lentils for an equally delicious meal.

INGREDIENTS:

Cheese
Salt
Pepper
Oil

MINCE

1 large onion (diced)
1 carrot (grated)
1 cup celery (diced)
3 cloves garlic (finely chopped)
1 cup frozen peas
2 Tbsp tomato paste

add extra if
you're a big
fan of peas!

MI GORENG
GRADUATE
By Ruby Hudson

500 g beef mince
1 tsp dried rosemary
1 tsp dried thyme
1 tsp dried oregano
1 cup beef stock
1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
2 tsp dijon mustard
1 Tbsp corn flour

POTATO TOP

4 medium potatoes (diced)
2 garlic cloves (whole, peeled)
50 g butter or a splash of milk

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1. Begin by bringing a large pot of water to the boil. Once boiling, add a large pinch of salt and the diced potato and garlic. Cook for 10-15 mins until the potato is tender. From here, remove from heat, drain, add the butter/milk and mash until smooth. Place aside.

Step 2. While the potato is cooking, start on the mince by placing a large pan over medium heat. Pour a small amount of oil to the pan once heated and then add the onion, carrot and celery. Cook for 10 mins until soft.

Step 3. Add the garlic and tomato paste, and stir through the vegetables until mixed through. Cook for 3 mins until fragrant.

Step 4. Add the mince, rosemary, thyme, oregano, salt and pepper. Stir and break up the mince until mixed through and cook for 10 mins stirring occasionally.

Step 5. From here add the beef stock, Worcestershire sauce and dijon mustard. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 10 mins.

Step 6. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees.

Step 7. Stir through the frozen peas, and sprinkle the cornflour over the mince. Stir in until combined.

Cook for a further 5 mins until the sauce has thickened and peas are just cooked.

Step 8. In a large oven dish, layer the mince on the bottom, top with mash potato, season with salt and pepper, then grate a generous layer of cheese on top.

Step 9. Bake uncovered for 30 mins or until the cheese is golden and bubbling. Set aside and let it cool for 10 mins.

Enjoy! Serve with a fresh salad or garlic bread and slather it in tomato sauce!



BOOZE
REVIEWS
BY GIN SWIGMORE

Hey Hey

Bye-bye distasteful, cheap RTDs and Hey Hey to the latest pathway to getting shitfaced. Hey Hey is a refreshing new take on the RTD phenomenon dominating the alcohol industry, and has now introduced us to a fruity cocktail twist. Reduced daylight hours and drinking in a cold flat where you can see your breath? Crack open a Hey Hey and it'll feel like you're poolside at a villa in the hot summer sun of Ibiza.

Upon my first tentative sips of these at Rhythm and Alps, I'll admit to being pleasantly surprised. Usually I opt for something like Speight's when buying drinks for myself, and avoid the watery, supposedly fruit-flavoured RTDs that seem engineered to be purely bingeable. However, unlike their close cousin Clean Collectives, the flavour of Hey Heys packs a punch (get it, like fruit punch).

My taste buds were overwhelmed with the citrusy and sweet flavour of cloudy pink grapefruit – one of the many flavour options. If you're a lover of cocktails and defender of those cute little umbrellas that make any drink automatically cooler, this is the one for you. The gin flavour doesn't even taste like your standard cheap house gin, nor does it come with the backwash aftertaste characteristic of other RTDs on the market. It's giving Zanzibar: a little bit bougie, with the self-awareness of catering for a student crowd.

Hey Hey is your aunt's drink of choice for a day at the races and would pair well with a polka-dot dress and a fascinator (the fancy clip-on hats). They're also the drink that your Hawaiian shirt-wearing dad would say is "too girly" but you catch him demolishing a couple hours later because they're refreshing as fuck.

After a couple of these you feel a little bit light-headed with a touch of regret entering the midst. Hey Hey had me wanting to befriend my high school Social Studies teacher on Facebook to rehash why she gave me an A-chieved on that one assignment. While drinking them you do feel like a bit of a champion, like you're in the *Love Island* villa and Tommy Fury is hitting on you (we stand with Molly Mae).

Despite the tropical aura of Hey Heys, I would not recommend drinking these on a hot summer's day – they will be putting you to sleep very quickly, waking up with the dreaded sunglass tan lines and in a trance of hangxiety. Hey Hey is the perfect drink for just a couple of quiet ones with your mates but also if you want to feel cocktail drunk responding to everyone's Instagram stories. Go try at your own risk of embarrassment and a sore tummy.

PAIRS WELL WITH: Binge watching *Love Island*

X-FACTOR: Cocktail sunset vibes

HANGOVER DEPRESSION LEVEL: 5/10

TASTE RATING: 8/10



POSTGRAD SOCIETY IS BACK



Kia ora everyone, especially postgrad students (sorry freshers)

My name is Josh Stewart, and I am the 2025 Postgrad Representative. This job entails a lot of committees, being the port of call for postgraduate issues to be brought to, and the chair of the Society for Postgraduate Students (SPS).

SPS is the primary organisation on campus for all postgraduate students, whether you're enrolled in a PhD, Masters, Honours, DipGrad, Postgrad Diploma, or Postgrad Certificate. Last year, SPS hosted the popular 'Imposter Hour' as a safe space for Postgrad Students to express our frustrations (and whinge about supervisors) and share our experiences among a similar community.

This year, SPS is BACK! We have just held our AGM and are working to put together a fun programme of events and opportunities. Stay tuned on the SPS Facebook and Instagram pages for events and news throughout the year. Also, don't hesitate to get in touch with SPS Socials, or to postgrad@otago.ac.nz if you have any questions or want to get involved!

Mauri ora,

Josh Stewart
Postgrad Rep

Illustrated by
Tevya Faed

RANK - COLUMNS - 8

45

You have assignments due this week that you have forgotten about. Time to reread the course outline and fill in that calendar your aunt gave you for Christmas.

What flat archetype are you:
Doesn't do dishes

★ PISCES ★

Libra, this week you are going to be pushed to the edge. Your flatmates are starting to feel more and more like a long term, super committed relationship every time they text to ask where you are at 3pm. Setting boundaries is not being rude, it's making your relationship much healthier.

What flat archetype are you:
Bongs as decor

★ LIBRA ★

You have had a large amount of energy all Aries season, and it's time for you to sit down, hydrate, and rest. This week you have some down time so make sure to put it to the best use and stop the doom scroll.

What flat archetype are you:
Smelly room

★ ARIES ★

If this week was a drug for you Sag, it would be MDMA. You will have many moments where you realise you are feeling way too happy for the situation. But hey, YOLO! It could be a good time to squash that flat beef, too.

What flat archetype are you:
Groupchat warrior

★ SAGITTARIUS ★

You're broke, and you've been broke. It's time to stop putting stupid small purchases on Afterpay because you owe that stupid little app way too much money and really can not afford the \$100+ payments every week. And no, you do not need to buy a coffee on the way to uni every day.

What flat archetype are you:
You're perfect

★ AQUARIUS ★

As a Scorpio, you find it hard to form lasting romantic attachments, but this week that is all you crave. You feel open and ready to start something with long term intentions. Use this confidence to go out and find your person.

What flat archetype are you:
Power waster

★ SCORPIO ★

You're feeling very nostalgic this week for no reason at all. Maybe it's the start of an existential crisis or maybe you're just still on a comedown from the weekend. It will be making you want to walk the streets of Dunedin at night, but just remember to wear a scarf!

What flat archetype are you:
Bathroom hog

★ CANCER ★

This week is a test of your patience. Everyone around you is moving at snail speed and saying stupid shit. Leo, be sure to give everyone the benefit of the doubt. You don't know if someone's toast fell butterside down this morning and ruined their week.

What flat archetype are you:
Leaves skid marks in the toilet

★ LEO ★

Nobody understands you, and this week that feeling is at an all time high. As a self-proclaimed black sheep, you often find it hard to not stand out in a crowd. Use it to your advantage and make everyone think you're way cooler than you actually are.

What flat archetype are you:
Doesn't recycle, ever

★ CAPRICORN ★

Mercury is in retrograde and is making you a magnet for all things bad. Don't listen to those people who are coming to 'apologise' for their past actions, they don't mean it and will only ruin you even worse this time round.

What flat archetype are you:
Never empties the vacuum

★ TAURUS ★

Life is chaos and you feel so fucking overwhelmed it's not funny. With Mercury absolutely shitting on your vibe it's important to take a moment and think before you open your mouth and offend everyone in the room.

What flat archetype are you:
Loud sex-haver

★ VIRGO ★

Gemini, it's time to get your freak on. Order that Peaches and Cream cart and put it to good use. This is the week to try some toe curling tricks and blow the dust off your toys. Don't feel embarrassed to bring them into the bedroom, everyone else does.

What flat archetype are you:
Door slammer

★ GEMINI ★

THIS IS NOM*d

29.03.25 - 06.07.25
FREE! OPEN 10AM-5PM DAILY
30 THE OCTAGON DUNEDIN
WWW.DUNEDIN.ART.MUSEUM
DEPT. DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL

CRAIGS
DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY

CHILLI DHABA
INDIAN TAKEAWAY

Free Naan bread with purchase of main meal dine in or takeaway
(use code **Greencard**) 1 card per order

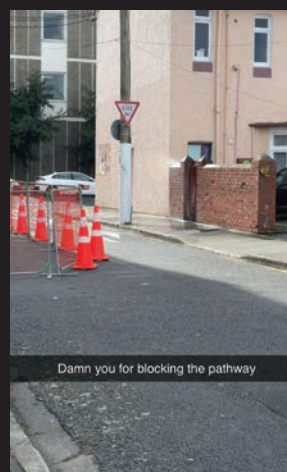
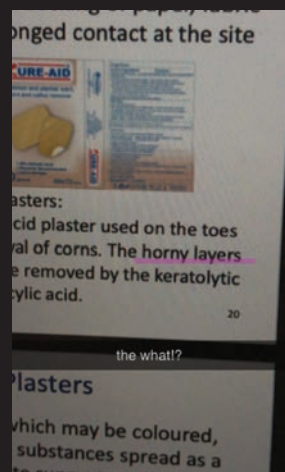
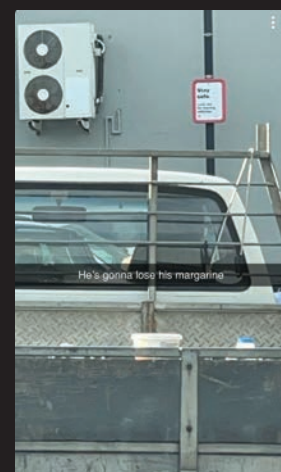
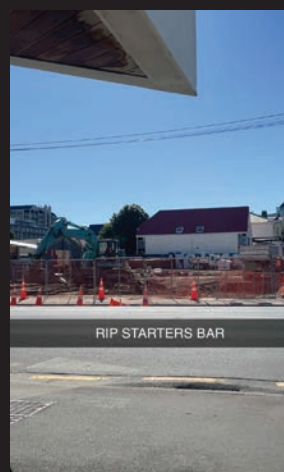
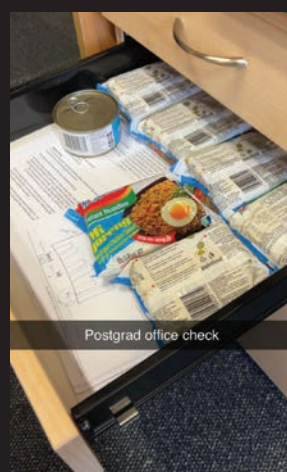
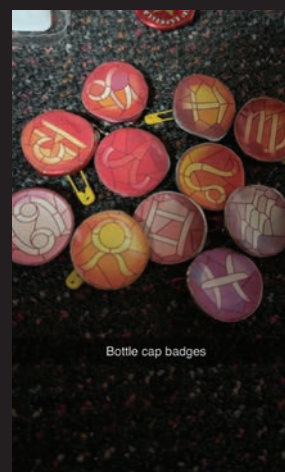
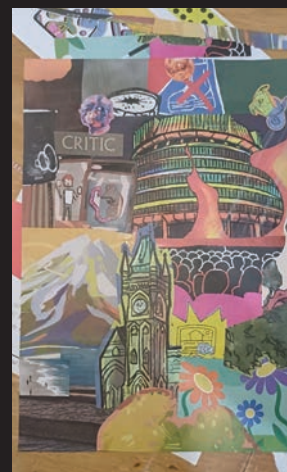
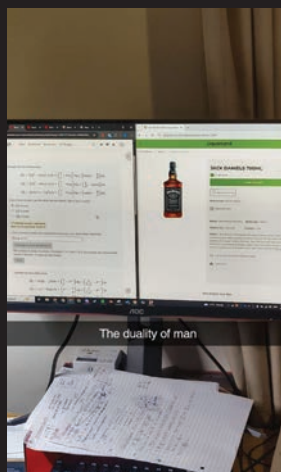
SNAP OF THE WEEK



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

SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT CRITIC ON INSTAGRAM TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE



SEXTET
SKETCH COMEDY

THE
CAPPING
SHOW

SEXYTET
SELWYN BALLET



SHOWING MAY 2025

10TH, 13TH, 14TH, 15TH, 16TH, 17TH, 21ST, 22ND & 23RD

DOORS OPEN 7PM

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AUDITORIUM



ousa

The OUSA

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

*Honouring those who fought,
valuing peace*

Friday 25th April 2025

1PM - 3PM

Outside the University
Staff Club

(Union Hall if wet)

