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EDITORIAL

Read This If You Intend To Run For OUSA

The OUSA student executive elections are coming up, with campaigning beginning on the 14th of September. For those that are tuned in to the happenings of OUSA, you'll have some understanding of the current Exec roles.

However, the Exec has passed a decision this week to put major role changes to the student body via SGM. These role changes will rejig half of the Exec. As far as I'm aware, the rationale, justification, and description of those roles has not really been released or advertised to students. But at the SGM that is set to be held on September 9th, students will be expected to vote on these changes in order to make the final decision. There will be time for questions – and I have a lot. I think all students should.

What I do know is that if students pass the role changes on that Wednesday SGM, current indications from the Exec suggest nominations for those same roles will open on the Monday (September 14th), with campaigning beginning on the Thursday (September 17th). While the average student (and even the super clued in student) won't necessarily be well versed in what those role changes mean, the current Exec will be. I implore students to keep an eye on this fact: some Exec members will rerun for the Exec. Notice whether those members immediately run for the new roles that they created. Consider whether that is fair. As described in my opinionated news article in Issue 18

(Can The OUSA Executive Get It The Fuck Together?) there has been very little information circulated about these new roles. But the Exec must know, and they've been slack in explaining – despite knowing their way around an informative Instagram carousel. And those bad comms are the fault of every single Exec member.

In my opinion, that lack of explanation to students is nothing new. Even last year, I published an article that expressed my opinion that the OUSA referendum had been poorly advertised. Year upon year, I tend to feel as if the Exec (and often OUSA generally) rely on Critic to explain and advertise their activities. That leaves us very little room for critical commentary when all our time is being used to understand what the fuck is happening and trying to bring students up to speed.

At the end of the day, everyone's burnt out at this point in the year. I definitely am. I think the Exec are too. We're all students and working way too many hours. But it's one thing for me to rush around and miss some edits, and another for them to seemingly hastily pass major role changes with next to no advertisement or explanation to students.

I hope students ask questions at the SGM. I'll see you there.

★ Hanna Varrs 



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LETTERS UNIVERSITY BOOK SHOP

For all booklovers, everywhere.

Hey!!!! Huge critic fan here! I've noticed recently I've been finding it hard to get ahold of the weekly critics, also in the usual boxes they keep getting full of the older critics (confusing!!). Still huge fan but would LOVE if it was easier to get ahold of the critic and especially the ones for the right weeks.

Editor's Response: Hi! I'm going to assume you're talking about the stands in Central Library. It's pretty nuts, but those stands are often out of magazines by Tuesday morning – sometimes even Monday afternoon. They're our fastest moving stands, so try other locations such as St Daves, smaller libraries or your hall if you're in first-year to get a copy. Those places tend to have lower pickup compared to Central. In terms of the older Critics, we refill the Central stands with previous weeks because we get the mags that haven't been picked up with previous weeks because we get the mags that haven't been picked up dropped back off to us at the beginning of the new week. We redistribute them to the Central stands only once all the new mags have been picked up from that stand, so if you see old mags then you've missed out this week from Central – sorry! The good news is that we always tend to have some leftover copies from areas with lower pickup, and we'll put them back in Central Library the next week, so just keep an eye on those stands.

Send a letter to the editor at critic@critic.co.nz to be in to win a \$20 UBS voucher.

Kia ora Critic,

I have just read this week's edition and would like to add my perspective.

"... when students organise an actual opportunity for politicians to engage with them, suddenly the enthusiasm disappears". Well of course none of the right-wing leaders showed up, and they were only proved right by the poor behavior. Constant interjections by the soundboard were childish and a complete embarrassment to the student population. And it's disappointing to see a politician asked a question, then be immediately cut off by loud jeering from the crowd and disrespectful comments from the mediators.

Isn't one of the key reasons we are at university to learn how to better articulate our opinions and emotions into constructive conversation? If those that are screaming the loudest really do believe that they are right, wouldn't it work better to prove the politicians wrong in an open conversation?

We may be the leaders of tomorrow, but is this really how we want the leaders of today to see us? We are better than this.

Sincerely,

A severely disappointed member of the student population

Editor's Response: I just want to note that when Molly (the author of that opinion piece) expressed her anger about nobody showing up, we meant ALL politicians. I notice you say "of course" no right-wing leaders showed up, being "proved right" by "poor behaviour". Few notes here: what were students proving right? That they would negatively respond to policies that 1) degrade and dehumanise our communities and 2) be annoyed that leaders had 7 months to show up and didn't, with near zero communication with the OUSA Political Rep/organiser of the debate? I take your point about the soundboard and jeering – it sucks to be interrupted. It also sucks to not be listened to, engaged with and generally just walked all over. In my opinion, that is what the current coalition has done to so many of our communities – with the leaders spearheading those decisions. At a certain point, I think that politicians deserve to be cut off when they literally talk about ways to make your life worse as a student, let alone nearly every other sector of our society in Aotearoa. I implore you to not put down yourself or your fellow students: we are not childish. We are not an embarrassment. We are constructive. We invite everyone to the table. We are articulate. Our Executive wrote many great questions for the politicians. We host open conversation. We want everyone to be better. If you didn't fuck with the debate, I get it – I didn't either. But it wasn't because of the students.

The 'hide google AI overviews' chrome extension by developer 'zbarnz' effectively does what it describes, with a side effect of also knocking out the google currency conversion feature. win some lose some.

Editor's Response: I won't worry about currency for a trade like that.

Dearest Hanna

I am so so sorry for my recent erratic behaviour towards you from the other side of the office. It probably will happen again.

#tryingtoacceptothersforwhotheyare

#tryingtobecomeakindperson

- From the designer (shape specialist)

Sent from my design computer

Editor's Response: Thanks Stella. From the Editor (word specialist). Sent from my editor computer.

Kia Ora Critic,

FOR ALL THE SAINTS WHO FROM THEIR LABOUR REST is a church hymn. We may have lost the Ranfurly Shield on Sunday to Canterbury. However, it was a great day for rugby in Dunedin. Forsyth Barr stadium was full of keen rugby supporters. We may have lost one game but they are still GOOD SPORTS!

Yours sincerely

Anthony Skegg

Editor's Response: Thanks Stella. From the Editor (word specialist). Sent from my editor computer.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 150 words or fewer. The deadline is Thursday at 12pm. 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 Editors. Critic Te Arohi 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.

The News

ISSUE 20 KAWEPŪRONGO 24/08/2026

Law Revue Pisses in Rowling's Goblet of Fire 'Yer a Law Student, 'Arry!

By Harry Almey Staff Writer//news@critic.co.nz

Law Revue shat satire all over J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire and called it art. It was.

Law Revue 2026 follows Harry Notter, a wimpish boy forced to do chores by his evil flatmates, who receives a letter one fateful day from Albus Dumbledorean. Huzzah! He has been accepted into second-year law. Stepping back into the law-eat-law world of Richardson Castle, Notter is mysteriously thrust into the Tri-Legal Tournament, despite a third-years-only policy (positive discrimination). Harry isn't worried, though, despite who he faces: Cedric Bigotry and Draco of the firm Malfoy-Dixon-Crouch – much-needed representation for National-voting gay law students.

The first main sketches, on stage and screen, really wowed us. Each bounced from Potter trope to Potter trope without missing a beat, and with some pretty ace effects – like students walking right through the Richardson lift doors – outstanding work from the video crew.

Law Revue also delivered some really memorable main-sketch characters. Harry Notter, played by Rakai Murray, develops from wimpishness into the overly-prideful "Boy Who Passed". Jomana Moharram was a kick-ass Hermione, and Dev Pandya portrays a ginger Law student with an AI girlfriend and a pretty unreliable wig. Often overlooked, the background actors also deserve kudos. Between this revue and last, Law's defining strength is in its no-name characters creating a fun environment on stage, without stealing the spotlight. Case in point: Cedric Bigotry, played by Conor Chesney, stripping and flexing on the opposite side of the stage. Eilis Dender was also outstanding, and we're not just saying that because she held a Critic at one point. From her sexy Dobby to her dancing Chris Luxon, she absolutely killed it. And once Logan Ding established his Malfoy, all he had to do was say "scoff" and hold intense eye contact with Harry Notter to have us in fits. The homoeroticism too juicy, the Drarry too buttery. Ough. Still waiting for that kiss though.

The decision to adapt a Harry Potter book was brave, considering the author has been bashing the transgender community for [checks notes] nearly a decade. Habeas Chorus, the Law singing troupe, took the stage by storm with a parody of Lilly Allen's Fuck You, aimed at J. K. Rowling. Told by the pre-show announcement to boo if a wild Rowling appeared, the audience obliged as Habeas chased her off. Law Revue had given us little cause for concern, after last year's

show musically shat all over the UK Supreme Court's anti-trans ruling. Still, they stuck the landing.

While Capping dodged politics this year, a Law Revue (especially one held in an election year) is never complete without a law-oriented political satire. True to form, Christopher Luxon, David Seymour, and a biblically accurate Winston Peters (doing a Duckwalk dance) used their singing talents and new Move On Order legislation to get some beggars out of there. If you don't laugh, you'll cry.

Side sketches that were prescient, but not super serious, made up the other highlights: an accurate portrayal of passive-aggressive law LinkedIn posts, and an ad recommending lonely fifth-years take a first-year paper. Too soon, bro. Add Dev's excellent portrayal of The Matrix's Neo, and it's all just so fucking flavoursome.

The law jokes were much easier for the uninitiated to understand, compared to the 2025 Revue. Which is why we were a little confused at the non-law jokes thrown into the blend. Even their Law lecturer sketch managed to top last year's, especially with the outstanding behind-the-scenes clips. The non-law sketches weren't unfunny, per se. We appreciate a depiction of Grant Robertson as an evil Eye of Sauron situation – so deep-fried he looked AI-generated – as much as the next guy. But as good as the Mourning Routine, Bananas in Pajamas, and Raro sketches were, they were kinda giving B-tier Capping Show pitches.

While it was off to a rip-roaring start with the first three main sketches, they lost a bit of steam in the middle, giving way to two meandering, middle-of-the-plot sketches, and we know why. Hermione puts the unqualified Mr Notter through a training montage for the first trial, which is cancelled, and that's how Act 1 ends. It would have been a funny riff on law exams if it didn't kill the momentum it built up. The second trial is also cancelled, and the final is basically just a running race.

Overall, the show managed to balance comedy with an actual plot. Good storytelling is deceptively, dangerously easy: give a main character a flaw, then a do-or-die challenge where they have to change, or they fucking die. Law aced this. The focus is Harry Notter's ego driving away Weasley and Hermione, who he relies on, not on the trials themselves. Still, we would have

liked one brief spoof on a law-y challenge. Y'know, maybe in a montage? But fair's fair – the middle of every Potter book is just wacky nonsense and nothings, so maybe they were just being faithful to the text.

Holy-freaking-well-executed-surprise-plot-twist: Dumbledean submitted Notter's name into the Goblet! Dumbledean knew Harry Notter used AI to get into second-year, but he just couldn't prove it. Dumbledean was Weasley's AI girlfriend this whole time! And he just killed Cedric Bigotry with the Code of Conduct! He would've gotten away with it too, if the groovy gang didn't kill him with the power of friendship (yippee). So take heed, ye cheaters. Law school isn't about the grades, or

Take Notice: Student General Meeting To Be Held September 9th

Have your say on Exec role changes

A Student General Meeting (SGM) will be held in a couple of weeks, discussing major role changes to your OUSA student executive. SGMs invite students to vote on constitutional changes passed by the OUSA Exec – the constitution cannot be altered without student backing. As previously reported, six Exec roles will be affected by the constitutional change, with a “greater focus on student engagement, representation and accessibility”. According to meeting minutes circulated for the 27th of July, the changes “redistribute responsibilities across a larger number of representatives, allowing advocacy portfolios to be more specialised and responsive to student needs”. Long story short, it's a biggie. At the time of writing, there has been no comprehensive explanation of the rationale behind the changes. The only context available to students is from Critic Te Ārohi's own previous reporting, and meeting minutes found on the OUSA website. Here's what we know:

The Administrative Vice-President (20 hours) already exists, and is responsible for being the President's 2IC, plus doing a heap of admin. This includes maintenance of internal policy and overseeing the legislative requirements of the Association. The AVP monitors the strategic goals of the Association – taking over some of the strategy work from the current Finance and Strategy Officer (more on that soon!)

New role alert! The Engagement Vice-President (20 hours) will also be a 2IC, and is “responsible for the oversight and co-ordination of student engagement with OUSA, its political stances and advocacy on campus.” Given the Political Representative role will be dissolved due to the role changes, this role will pick up the portfolio. The EVP will also work “closely with the Administrative Vice-President on the monitoring and implementation of the association's strategic goals”, which includes promoting strategic direction across campaigns, marketing, events and OUSA official communications channels. A glorified social media manager? Just kidding.

The Finance Officer (15 hours) replaces the Finance and Strategy Officer and is responsible for overseeing the

the clerkships, but the friends you make along the way.

Our final verdict: it wasn't quite as outstanding as Capping, but didn't have any real stinkers. It was consistently high quality, and a damn enjoyable show.

And with that, the last of the classic three student revues has concluded for 2026. Consider giving them a go next time around if you haven't already. Law and Med revues aren't super incomprehensible to those who didn't choose those insane degrees. They're more like department-specific standup. A labour of love – that's what each revue is. And with the final bow, you can see it. Everytime. ★

“financial performance, commercial interests, implementation and monitoring of the commercial goals of the Association.” If that wasn't enough, they're also the “primary liaison” between the Exec and all commercial decision-making parties (namely the OUSA Holdings Board and the Finance, Expenditure and Strategy Committee). Furthermore, they're responsible for co-authoring the annual budget in conjunction with the Chief Executive and representing the Exec on OUSA's boards with commercial interests – such as University Union Ltd and OUSA Holdings Ltd. No Exec member currently does this, and a change like this could potentially increase cohesion between commercial decision-makers and the Exec.

Read this next bit carefully. The current Academic Representative (20 hours) and Postgraduate Representative (10 hours) roles, will be replaced by a new Academic Officer role and an Educational Representative role, 10 hour roles each. According to minutes from the 27th of July, (current) Academic Rep is being split due to the current role being “very meeting heavy and busy”. The (new) Academic Officer will be responsible for “co-ordination and primary oversight of the educational affairs of the Association” and ensuring that the academic interests of members are “represented, respected and enhanced.” They will also be present at the University Senate (the primary academic governing body of the University of Otago) and lead academic campaigns and policy strategies of the association.

On the other hand, the (new) Educational Representative is also responsible for oversight of the educational affairs of the Association, in conjunction with the (new) Academic Officer, and will ensure that the academic interests of members are represented, respected and enhanced, by acting as a liaison between the university academic staff and OUSA. This shit is harder than finding 10 differences in Critic's spot the difference. The Educational Rep would also be responsible for the oversight of Postgraduate support by the Association and will work in conjunction with the Academic Officer to advocate on behalf of postgraduate affairs, so while Postgraduate Rep will be dissolved by the changes, the work itself isn't disappearing – it's just being reallocated to a new role.

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



The Welfare and Equity Representative (15 hours) is responsible for co-ordination and oversight of welfare and equity affairs of the Association and will ensure that the needs of members are represented, respected and enhanced. Currently, this role is a 20 hour role, but is seeing a reduction to 15 with the introduction of a Disabled Students Rep (more on that soon).

The International Students Representative (10 hours) is responsible for representing the interest of international students. They must be an international student when running for, and while in, Executive Office.

The Clubs and Societies Representative (10 hours) is responsible for representing the interest of all clubs and societies affiliated with the Association and their members. Where reasonable, this Officer will assist in fulfilling the roles of the Executive that are not covered by other Executive Officers and/or assist other Executive Officers with their roles – so they'll need to be a bit of a jack of all trades.

The Residential Representative (10 hours) is responsible for representing the interests of recreation, social culture, and residential colleges at the University. Where reasonable, this Officer will assist in fulfilling the roles of the Executive that are not covered by other Executive Officers and/or assist other Executive Officers with their roles.

A reestablished role approaches! Good day – it's the Disabilities Representative (5 hours). The Disabilities Representative is responsible for advocating for Disabled Student members, ensuring their interests, rights, and wellbeing are represented, respected, and advanced within the Association's welfare and equity matters, and on campus. The Disabilities Representative will act as the direct Association liaison between the National Disabled Students Association, the Otago Disabled Students Association and OUSA.

The Opportunity Party Lays Out Their Pitch To Students

TOPs top policies from Deputy Leader Daniel Eb

If or a party with no sitting MPs, The Opportunity Party has been subject to extensive coverage coming up to this year's election, and their polling is steadily creeping toward the five percent threshold they'll need to enter Parliament in November. However, one criticism has been thrown at them from both sides of the political spectrum: what, exactly, does the party stand for? Opportunity has spent much of the 2026 campaign pitching itself as an alternative to Aotearoa's increasingly partisan political system. Led by Quilae Wong, the party says they want to “fix politics” and build the “next economy”, ultimately positioning themselves as the circuit-breakers in terms of the current state of Parliament. But for voters, particularly the thousands of students who are voting for the first time, understanding what those promises actually mean isn't so straightforward.

Following the lively OUSA leaders debate on August 11th, Opportunity's Deputy Leader and candidate for the Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate, Daniel Eb, sat down with Critic Te Ārohi to explain, defend, and justify some of their top policies.

Universal Basic Income (UBI)

At the forefront of Opportunity's economic policy is a proposed Universal Basic Income (UBI) (or “Citizens Income”). This would put up to \$370 into the pockets of “nearly every” Kiwi weekly, coming to a maximum total of \$19,400 annually. The catch? Someone has to pay for it. To solve this,

Ex-officio roles won't be changing, so both the Te Rōpū Māori Tumuaaki Takirua and Pacific Islands Students' Association President will still be represented on the Exec.

Also of note is that while the changes were passed by the Exec to be put to SGM last Monday, only one person has been cautious about the role changes. President Daniel Leamy has repeatedly voiced concerns about there not being “enough time to fully discuss these changes” and for the changes to be “canvassed fully”. He emphasised that these are “substantial changes”, and argued that they should be supported by a more “comprehensive consultation process” and longer timeframe to allow students “adequate opportunity to consider and respond to the proposals”. In saying that, the minutes do not record any plans for student consultations from Daniel or suggestions as to how this could've been made to happen. If you don't like Plan A, provide a Plan B? Daniel also proposed that the SGM should be cancelled, and that the proposals should be pushed for consideration to the 2027 Exec – “allowing for a thorough student consultation process to be undertaken.”

If you're still a bit confused, then #same. The minutes from the 10th of August note that a discussion document will be drawn up, which should hopefully be circulated to students ASAP. Forgive Critic for having trust issues, though – the minutes from the 3rd of August emphasise that these changes should be “advertised and communicated wider” to make sure students understand that student roles aren't being taken away, and that reduced positions will be picked up by other positions. The minutes from the 27th of July note that President Daniel Leamy and AVP Kamesha Jones will “send out emails to the wider student body to explain these changes”.

Anytime now. ★

By Daniel Gray
Contributor//news@critic.co.nz



Opportunity proposes a land value tax of 1.75% on urban land and 0.5% on rural land, with Citizens Income replacing most existing benefits, including the student allowance, to help foot the bill.

We asked Daniel who stands to gain and who stands to lose under a UBI system. “No one will be worse off,” he said, pointing to a 10-year model that Opportunity has tested. The idea behind a Citizen's Income, he said, is to create a welfare system that is more flexible in the face of AI-driven job losses, economic shocks, and geopolitical instability.

Daniel said that “students like yourselves, who have no income while you're studying” will be one of the groups that benefit the most from the Citizens Income. He explained that students will see “between \$50 and \$70 extra a week on top of your current student allowance”. Returning to the topic of student allowances, we asked him whether student loan living-cost payments would be affected. Daniel wasn't entirely sure, believing that they would likely be replaced by the UBI too.

“You just have the cash, and we trust you to spend it the right way,” Daniel added, speaking to how the UBI would be distributed. He pre-emptively encouraged students not to spend it all on alcohol, before sheepishly admitting that he would've done exactly that himself.



We then asked if students who are currently eligible for additional support through the allowance would receive further benefits on top of the Citizen's Income, or whether every student would simply get the same amount. On this, Daniel couldn't give us an answer, admitting that the party has not yet modelled the idea.

Daniel also explained that people already receiving benefits, such as Jobseeker support, would be the other group benefiting the most under the UBI. According to Daniel, the current welfare system can create a disincentive to work, but Opportunity's "tax reset" would amount to the biggest tax cut in New Zealand history.

The Supermarket Duopoly

Moving to a more topical and less speculative issue, we asked Daniel for his thoughts on the supermarket duopoly and what Opportunity would do to break it up. His simplified explanation? Turn the Commerce Commission from a "watch dog" into an "attack dog", giving it greater powers to take on duopolies and other "uncompetitive markets" through the High Court. Daniel doesn't think the government should simply mandate the breakup of businesses and organisations. Instead, he argues that we need the "right people with the resources to do the right job" to make sure the process is handled properly.

If you could implement one policy right now, what would it be?

To make sure Daniel didn't get too comfortable, we asked the million-dollar question: if you could implement one policy right now, what would it be? "Geez Louise," he replied.

Daniel's pick was an Opportunity policy which has only been released officially following our interview, dubbed "Clean Up Politics". The policy aims to crack down on political lobbyists and donations, build an anti-corruption commission and bring the policy-making process "into the daylight".

"It's a little bit unsexy. Well, actually it might be sexy, given some of the stuff that's happened recently," he said. "We're really lucky in New Zealand. We have a very effective, trusted governmental system, but you don't get that for free, you have to keep pushing that and defending that and making bad actions be seen and be visible. And so, I think it's unsexy, but in the long-run it's really necessary." He added that people need to have faith in the government, because if not, we could get into some "really bad places".

Position on the "Definitions of Woman and Man" Bill

Daniel was quick to say that Opportunity vehemently opposes the coalition government's recent Definitions of Woman and Man bill that narrows the terms "woman" and "man" to a biological level. He called it "unscientific", "political point-scoring" and ultimately "unnecessary".

[insert doodle here]

What would you say to students who feel disillusioned or overwhelmed by the current state of politics and feel like we aren't going anywhere?

"I'd say you're not the only ones," Daniel reassured. But Opportunity is entering the thrall with a spring in its step. "No one in the party has been a politician before," Daniel explained. "But we have some public servants who know how the system works."

He acknowledged that the party's lack of political experience would come with both advantages and disadvantages. But, he argued, that was the point. "I'd rather have new people come into the system with a history of building businesses and leading environmental movements," he continued, pointing to what he described as "really cool, awesome people" on Opportunity's candidate list.

"Give them a crack," he said, "because again, the system isn't working the way it's supposed to."

Student Association Fees

With ACT announcing its proposal to make the student services levies voluntary for students on the eve of the OUSA leaders' debate, it was only natural that we asked Daniel what Opportunity's position was on the matter.

Daniel again admitted that the party hadn't yet looked into the issue, and had no detailed response to it. However, Dunedin candidate for Opportunity Dave Bainbridge-Zafar, who was sitting in on the interview, was quick to jump in. He said the party does not support ACT's proposal, labelling the idea as "ridiculous". He argued that student associations play an important role through the provision of student services, and need the support and funding that is provided by a compulsory levy.

Parting Words from Daniel

Whether Opportunity can adapt their big ideas into workable policy in government remains to be seen, and will likely continue to be speculated by the public and media alike in the election build up. For a party campaigning on changing our politics forever, perhaps the biggest question is whether they can convince voters that Opportunity knows how to hit the ground running, and put change into tangible actions.

After a quick photo and a quick chat about student life, Daniel was off, no doubt relieved that his day of bickering on the debate stage and then being grilled in the Critic office was over. He did, however, leave us with some final words of wisdom, "I can't think of a group of New Zealander's that need to be lifted up more than young people, because you build the future in which all of us are going to live".

With many different issues front of mind for tauira, there's certainly topics that couldn't be unpacked in just one article. Critic Te Ārohi will keep covering what we can, but for any party you're considering voting for, make sure you do your background research to see what politicians are offering to fix before the polls open. ★

There's Too Much Talent In Dunedin

Bring The Noise finalists share their mindset for the finals

By Saraia Allais
Staff Writer//news@critic.co.nz



USA's eighth annual band competition, Bring The Noise, presented by Radio One, is well underway with seven finalists selected from two heats that took place a couple weeks ago. The up-and-coming musos will go head-to-head on the 28th of August, 8pm, at U-Bar, where they will be competing for a prize pack consisting of a promo deal with Radio One, a Sublime Studio recording package, a seminar with music industry professionals, and much more. Basically a holy grail to help break into the NZ music scene, so there's sure to be some fierce competition.

But if you weren't there for the heats, or were too drunk to really pay attention, we've got you. Critic Te Ārohi sat down with all seven winners to hear about who they are, what kind of music they make, and what their strategy for the finals will be.

DITA UR FRIEND

A born and raised Dunedinite, Dita's artist name comes straight from her 5 year old self, which continued as a family nickname. Much like the city she calls home, her style is hard to pin down into a few words, but many describe it as ethereal and experimental. She released her debut EP, 'Home for the Love Sick', last year, featuring stand-outs including Misfortune and Saturday Night. Outside of her solo work, Dita performs alongside fellow finalist, Krit, in the collective SatShift, which has built its values around inclusivity and community. Her strategy for the finals is simple: get the crowd ready through some serious grafting and an outrageously colourful outfit.

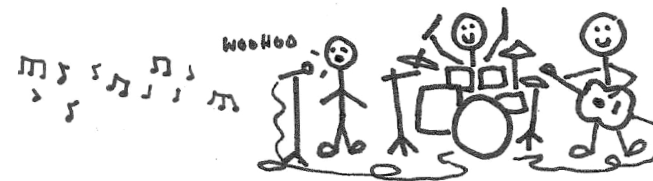
Monkey Do

What does Monkey Do do? According to the band members: "scream and jump around." Like many bands in the Dunedin scene, their sound sits somewhere between alt rock and indie, depending on the song. Their biggest inspirations are the Dunedin bands and creatives around them, noting that they were stoked to see a wide range of music represented in this competition.

Their strategy for the finals? Play the songs they like. In the initial heat, they opted to play their shortest songs so that they could squeeze in a full set. Now that they've made it through, they just want to have fun and show what they're made of. One motivation for entering this contest is to redeem themselves for their "kind of shit" performance last year. Redemption arc incoming? You'll have to go and see for yourselves.

Tomuri Spicer

Tomuri Spicer has been performing since he was little, but says it didn't get serious until he moved to Dunedin. Once he'd done that, he joined King and Queen's Kapa Haka and was asked to collaborate on an album. These days he describes his genre as kid-friendly, with summertime NZ pop vibes. His main goal is to make people happy through his performances and maybe teach them something along the way. Great to see someone bringing the summertime vibes to U-Bar, despite being in the depths of winter. His final strategy is just as wholesome as him – give it all he's got and have fun. Toumuri also praised how great it has been to still see music and performing arts being funded in Dunedin with "local artists supporting local artists."



Krit

Another local in the mix, Krit started making music when he was 13 through collaborating with his mates. His sound lies in "every facet of rap", and he continues collaborating today in the collective SatShift with Dita. For him, he wants to show that collaboration is key, as it fuels musicians to keep improving. Krit and his band also want to spotlight Dunedin's vast rap scene, noting that one of Bring The Noise's biggest strengths is that it showcases how much talent and breadth there is in Dunedin music. His strategy for the finals is sweet, aiming to just be himself and hoping that what he puts on stage resonates with the audience and judges.

Freak Accident

In a Freak Accident, Karl from last year's winning band, Ammonita, has found himself back in the competition this year with a new(ish) band – Freak Accident. The band connected through their shared interest in psychedelic music, with their band's genre being mostly Hardcore Punk, with psychedelic elements in the mix too. Their goal for their songs is to "have more meat than bones" by packing every lyric with as much meaning as possible. They entered to have fun, although Karl also emphasised that the prize-pack is "definitely worth it." More importantly, they praised what Bring The Noise is doing for the Dunedin music community, saying that "the effort they are putting in is definitely being reflected back." Strategy-wise, they emphasised professionalism and passion. With Karl's insider knowledge, they reckon the judges are looking for talented musicians willing to put in the work – and Freak Accident's got it covered.

Dararidh Lu

An ex-member of the now disbanded band The Friendlys, Dararidh is now producing songs and performing live solo. He started out on bass guitar when he was eight, before expanding to guitar, then the keyboard, and now vocals – a true musical jack of all trades. His versatility extends to genre, too. While his usual style is indie pop, he's not afraid to dabble, with his next release taking a turn towards grunge rock. He draws inspiration from his, and sometimes his friend's, personal experiences, believing that when a song comes from the heart it can really speak to audiences. His thoughts on the competition were simple: "cool as hell", highlighting how great it is that people still go out to see local bands perform. Like Monkey Do, he's saved his best songs for last and is excited to show what he's got at the finals.

Cleos

Last year's runner ups are back in the game, with more experience under their belts and their eyes on the prize. The bandmates met in the same paper last year before entering Bring the Noise for their third-ever gig. Their motivation remains the same, saying that "any opportunity is a good opportunity." Their sound is mostly indie folk rock, with all five members bringing their own inspiration and sound into the mix to create an "amalgamation stew". Their strategy for finals this year is to "write shit" and try to do something new. Outside the competition, they plan to start scaling up their musical endeavours. They mentioned they're playing at Forsyth Barr for the Dunedin Craft Beer & Food Festival, and have two more singles coming out soon. They're certainly ones to watch in the Ōtepoti scene. ★



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PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

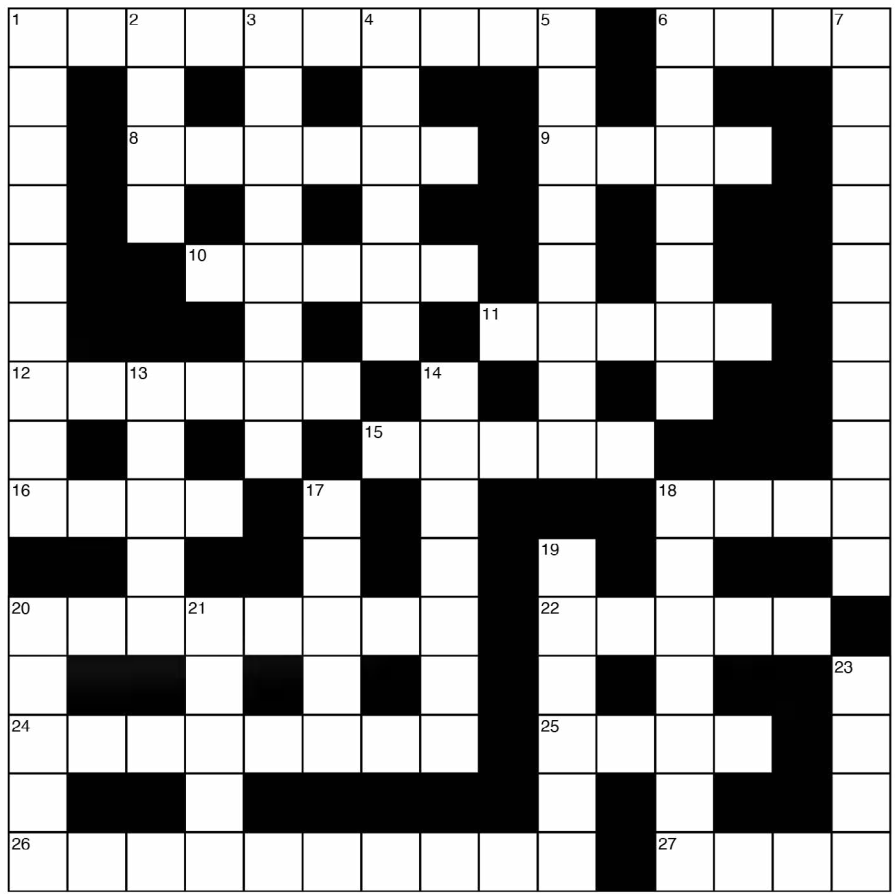
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36 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

ACROSS

- 1** Art movement where normal things are distorted into uncanny variations
6 2015 pop song '____ By the Ocean'
8 A kind of whale found in the Arctic Ocean
9 New Zealand streaming service
10 Goobers
11 Sinister mermaid that lure sailors to their death
12 A bad kind of fame
15 Extreme fear and apprehension
16 Bleak
18 Clamp-like guitar device
20 Brand of electric scooters found across Dunedin
22 Stories
24 Plenty
25 False trick
26 Underground Minecraft structure containing the End Portal
27 Opposite of good

DOWN

- 1** Can be done with clay
2 People (typically) have 24 of them
3 Microscopic worms that pose a threat to crops
4 Body of water
5 da Vinci's most famous painting, 'The ____' (2)
6 Gen Z slang for 'ugly'
7 Public display of artworks
13 Famous Mexican portrait painter ____ Kahlo
14 If you hate your degree, you may be tempted to... (2)
17 Graphic design website for newbies
18 Art piece made by sticking different materials together
19 Carved
20 Imperfections
21 Smoothie flavour
23 Cain's brother



Find crossword answers on critic.co.nz

SUDOKU

www.sudokuoftheday.com

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	6		3	7	2	9		
8	1			9		5	4	
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EASY

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HARD

WORD FIND

HOALMPUOPMCMXCUIWAYW
YDXLZPLKIGGFHGDGEWXTBUTNJ
WEACBDELCKDDPOWERBALLTLPO
SHXVBAEHAQFHDKF AEFCJJSUER
TBALIUAE SPJETEBRRKQGAYCUW
OMXRSNNQSEJTOWFRUTMQGNAAZ
MTWHEMKUOIONALNYPWSSIGMAS
SXRKXCAYVTULTLTZDARYYFSSR
TIF FANYBFAQLVXPZDWXZGCTLY
YMFHNZERNTLXGZDFJOCOGMANX
SDLGQRXSLAVRVMIBDKSWVVS DQ
CCYDMFNOZNJVFKXEQEYTBTHKN
OGUBQTRNDGSSAIDEHYDRATION
LOXLYWREMAPPRSHHBXVJSSSHD
LWUGPLBNSLUBTSUDUZPBWTOEO
IEJMETBOZCIYZURIHANNALPDN
EREPEQUOREOQDV BVEUNGNSWIP
AJKPKYRCDEAPPBIKMDXUGXHD
ONTQDEVXEOEAQFGEPEOALSCMK
COXRHAJDEPDRSYZBVHRLDQTOH
QAWBBELONGINGEQPUCVMVAAX
WLIOQIPEHBYDEDLZZZGCUIEIDV
EIBEVREETWDTRAMPOLINETOSV
UFAWL IUEOZZFQHIOBNLCVBXLM
VOAKETDHVINBAZFLASHBKYTLT

FIND THESE WORDS:

ARTSY
DAVINKY
BORDER
COLLIE
PEITATANGA
GUSTAV
RIHANNA
FLASH
SIGMA
STASH
SCULPTURE
TIFFANY
KISS
KERMIT
EASEL
PICASSO
DEHYDRATION
RAILWAY
POWERBALL
WHARE
BELONGING
TRAMPOLINE
DADAISM
FRESCO
FARTZ

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences between the two images

Illustrated by **Gemma McKinney**



5 THINGS I THINK THE MAN HAD A HAND IN

By Saraia Allais

Illustrated by
Eleanor Walker

For legal purposes, I reject the term “conspiracy theorist”. It makes people think about ol’ Uncle Jack sitting on his front porch in a tinfoil hat with a rifle across his lap. That’s not me. I am a well-educated, highly suspicious, and arguably brave citizen, prepared to ask questions and uncover the truth.

I have spent two consecutive all-nighters conducting highly sophisticated research into the sinister forces behind the scenes, fuelled by a sick mixture of Red Bull and white Monster, . And, as everyone knows, Instagram comments and Reddit posts never lie. Hot girls are, in fact, paranoid.

The same people who laughed at Galileo for suggesting that the Earth revolves around the sun may dismiss me too. Naturally, the lizard people who have infiltrated the government will do everything they can to suppress original thinkers like myself. But as the brave pioneer of Critic Te Ārohi, I am willing to put my life on the line for you, the students of Otago University, and expose the secrets hidden beneath the surface.

If I go missing after this article, you know who to blame.

1. THE DEHYDRATING FOOD TREND CAME AT AN AWFULLY SUSPICIOUS TIME.

Do we all remember the dark corner of TikTok where everyone suddenly owned a dehydrator? I still have nightmares about dehydrated honey. But has anyone ever stopped to ask why? Well, what else is an infamous dehydrator? AI.

BigChat has been working behind the scenes to condition us into craving dehydrated foods.

Now you may be asking: “What is BigChat doing with the water?” Simple. Inside every dehydrator is a tiny portal transporting the water from our foods directly into AI data centres. They started small with prunes and raisins, but now we’re seeing increasingly dehydrated abominations hit our shelves.

Trigger warning: what I am about to say may open your eyes.

What else is approximately 70% water? Human bodies.

One day, giant flying dehydrators will roam the sky, sucking our bodies dry to feed the AI overlords. I reached out to several dehydrator manufacturers about this theory. Unsurprisingly, none responded.

The truth no one wants to accept: the government is trying to raisin-ify the human race.

2. AIR NEW ZEALAND KILLED PASSENGER TRAINS.

This one isn’t a conspiracy theory. It’s just economics.

Railway tracks run all over New Zealand, including straight through Dunedin, yet the average Kiwi barely uses them. Why? Because if there were a convenient, eco-friendly and deeply romantic form of intercity transport available, no one would ever force themselves into cramped airplane seats, next to people who have yet to discover showers.

We are living in a country so small people often forget to put us on maps, yet the only feasible way to travel between most cities is by plane. Coincidence? I think not!

You would think all those railways in Dunedin might save us from relying solely on the chronically late and unreliable OrBus. But no. The trains are reserved for tourists and people willing to pay for the privilege of going nowhere useful.

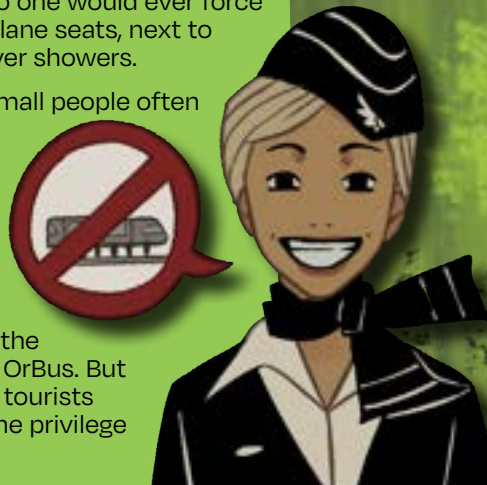
Passenger trains are no longer a form of transportation but a “scenic tour” tourist trap. The best you can do is spend hundreds of dollars staring out a window at Central Otago. At that point, you may as well fly to Australia. And who is there waiting for you? Air New Zealand.

Sometime around the mid-1970s, romantic train rides disappeared from TV. Gone was the love interest running beside the train, and instead we were fed the idea of the “airport crush”, because apparently being squashed into seat 28b behind a crying toddler just screams romance. Suddenly, every love story started ending at Gate 9 instead of Platform 2.

Follow the money.

When I tried to confront Air New Zealand, a flight attendant named Joo Dee told me that “there are no trains in Dunedin”. I’m just saying, I have never seen Christopher Luxon and a passenger train in the same room.

The tracks didn’t disappear. They were disappeared.



3. LOTTO WAS INVENTED TO CATCH TIME TRAVELERS.

I am embarrassed to promote such a mainstream theory, but this one is undeniably true.

What’s the first thing you would do if you could travel back in time? Obviously win Lotto. Memorise a few numbers and suddenly you’re \$40 million richer. Hell, win it a few times. What’s the harm? Such sheep thoughts disgust me. The harm is that you’ve just identified yourself as a time traveller to the government.

Why do you think Lotto is run by the government, you ask? Do you really believe they created Powerball just because they were feeling generous? The same government that took away Fees Free? Don’t be ridiculous. The Lotto isn’t a prize. It’s bait.

And why do we never hear about Lotto winners in real life? It’s always “someone won \$55 million and is keeping it private”. A better explanation is that they were silenced, held in a room underneath the Beehive as Luxon interrogates them on whether the All Blacks will ever win another World Cup, and on how many days he has before the next coup.

If anyone reading this is some greedy bastard from 2092, this is your only warning.

Forget the numbers.

4. GSSD: GOVERNMENT SEAGULL SURVEILLANCE DRONES.

Now, I’m not saying that all seagulls are surveillance drones. That would be ridiculous. But a good chunk of those fuckers have to be fake.

Have you ever seen a seagull dive for fish in the sea like other birds? They’re always eating chips, pizza, chicken. I once had a seagull snatch a Night n’ Day cookie right out of my hand. A goddamn cookie?! What kind of natural-born bird eats a cookie? The kind with a hungry agent sitting at the top of the Clocktower controlling it.

And let’s not forget just how many of them there are. There’s always about ten seagulls outside St Daves ready to assault any poor student they can get their claws on. I refuse to believe that nature intended that. Remember: real birds eat worms. Government engineered surveillance drones steal your KFC.

You never see a seagull chilling out in the forest or chilling alone at an empty beach. Never! They’re always prowling around the university, the mall, the Octagon – anywhere large groups of people gather. Why? Because they’re collecting data.

Still don’t believe me? I went up to ten seagulls for comment and they all flew away.

I rest my case.

5. THERE WAS EVIL INTENT BEHIND THOSE 2020 PAPER-THIN MASKS.

I’m not saying that masks don’t work – that’s a whole other thing and Critic Te Ārohi isn’t going anywhere near it. I’m talking about those flimsy, disposable, paper thin masks sold in bulk back in 2020.

Think about it. If you were a mask company and suddenly everyone in the world needed your product, would you make the perfect mask that never needed replacing? Of course not. That’s bad business!

We’ve all heard about planned obsolescence: make something halfway decent, market the hell out of it, then programme it to crap out shortly after. Ahem, Apple.

Those masks weren’t flimsy by accident. They were designed to break at the slightest tussle. They couldn’t handle the supermarket toilet paper raids – and they weren’t meant to.

And why were they always white or blue? The colours symbolising surrender and compliance? Coincidence? Don’t be absurd. Classic subliminal brainwashing. You don’t make billions by being ethical.



If you’ve made it this far, congratulations. You’ve either awakened to the sinister forces at play, or you’re a secret government spy trying to suppress the truth. There’s no in-between.

If Critic suddenly announces that this author is “taking a break from journalism”, or if this article disappears from the archives, you’ll know I have spoken the truth.

Until then, stay vigilant and question everything.

Especially seagulls.★

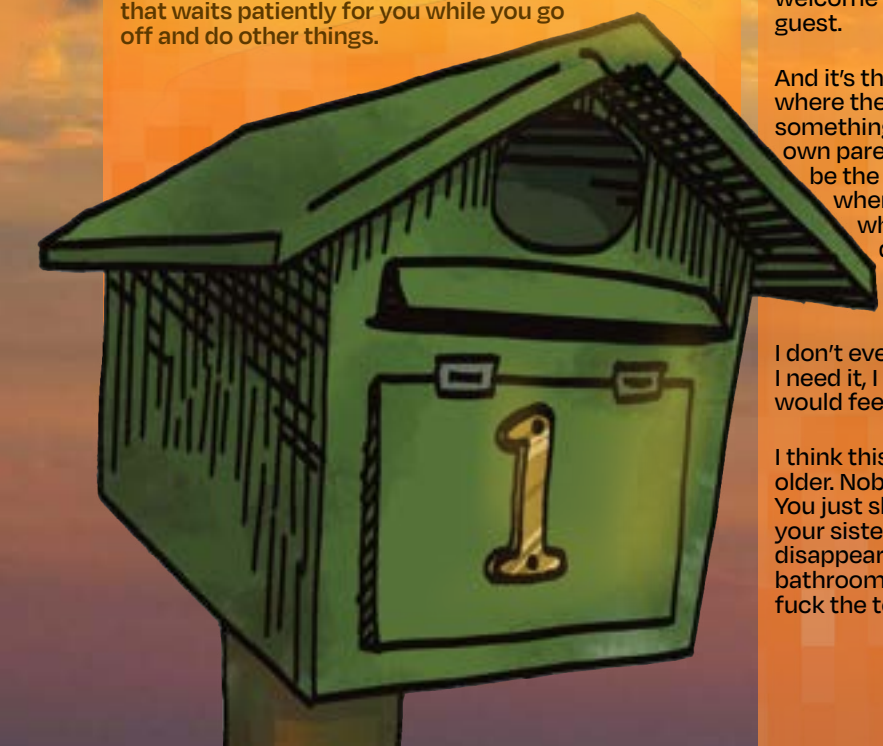


I have spent five years ruminating on the idea of home. On where it is, what it is, and what it means to me, and to those around me.

I was lucky. I grew up in a happy family who lived in the same house from when I was six months old until I left for uni, so I had never really needed to question what home meant to me. This was home, where my Dad would set up a fake Christmas tree every year because I had bad hayfever, where the door frame was covered in Sharpie markings noting me and my siblings' growth spurts sat, where I knew which cupboard had the good snacks, which doors creaked, and where everything lived without ever really having to think about it.

Home was a fixed point. You left it, but you always came back.

I think that kind of certainty and stability made me a little naive. When you've only ever had one home, you only think of it as an address. Something permanent that waits patiently for you while you go off and do other things.



Coming to uni was strange. First year felt like a movie set in the 'big city', where I got to do dorm-style living with my best friends nearby and only had to worry about changing my own sheets. For the first time, I was away from home without really being away from home. I had a new bed, new friends, a new city and a new life, but my parents' house was still there. It was still the address on my bank statements. It was where I spent the holidays. It was still the place I called home.

Halls make this whole transition deceptively easy. You get all the independence of moving out while dinner still magically appears every night. There are hundreds of people around you also pretending they know how to be adults, but someone else is making sure none of you starve.

Somewhere in that first year, Dunedin started to feel like mine. I knew which streets got me home fastest, which supermarket I liked, which shortcuts were actually shortcuts and which ones just involved walking up a hill for no reason. Suddenly, my life was happening here.

I remember my Dad's reaction the first time I referred to Dunedin as my 'home', and the look of horror and sadness in his eyes. 'Home' was now somewhere he didn't even know. Maybe I was even replacing the home he had made for me. But I was just trying to describe where my life was happening. At the time, I felt like one of us had to be right: either my parents' house was home, or Dunedin was. It took me a while to realise that home can be more than a house.

About a year into uni, my sister moved into my old bedroom. There was no shrine left behind in my honour, no untouched childhood bedroom waiting for my triumphant return. I was replaced. Fair enough, really – my room was always better.

Then my parents moved out of that house I grew up in altogether, and whatever physical claim I had to that version of home disappeared with it. None of my stuff lives at their new house. I don't have a drawer, a shelf, or even a pile of clothes I forgot to take with me. It is my parents' house. It is my sister's house. I am obviously welcome there, but I am essentially just a very loved guest.

And it's the mundane stuff that gets me. I don't know where the towels live. That sounds stupid, but there is something devastating about not knowing where your own parents keep their towels. Home is supposed to be the place you can navigate in the dark. The place where you know which cupboard has the mugs, which drawer has the batteries and which door needs a little kick before it will close. Now, I stand in my parents' kitchen opening cupboards like I'm staying in an Airbnb.

I don't even know their address off by heart. Every time I need it, I quietly pull up Google Maps because asking would feel worse.

I think this is one of the stranger parts of getting older. Nobody actually kicks you out of home. You just slowly lose your admin privileges. First your sister takes your bedroom. Then your stuff disappears. Then one day you are standing in the bathroom after a shower wondering where the fuck the towels are.



Meanwhile, the flatting years had made 'home' more transient. I didn't particularly want to call a place where it was sometimes too cold for my phone to charge 'home', and student flats are not exactly renowned for inspiring permanence. The carpet is questionable, the shower pressure is a gamble, and there is almost certainly mould growing in corners that everyone has collectively agreed not to investigate.

But I loved those flats, and eventually I realised I wasn't attached to the houses. I was attached to the people inside them.

There's something comforting about knowing someone would always be in the kitchen when you came home. Someone to tell you about the weird thing they did in their tutorial. Someone to sit on the couch while you complain about your day. Someone who'd ask if anyone needed anything from the supermarket and suddenly four of you were all piling into the car to buy one bottle of milk. Someone to wander into your room without knocking because the piece of gossip they had just couldn't wait.

Home became the place where I could walk through the front door after a horrible day and be understood. It became the place where I could be annoying, grumpy, ugly, silent, loud or completely ridiculous without worrying that the people around me would suddenly decide they hated me.

Then they all graduated. One by one, my flatmates moved into careers, further study, different cities and different lives. It is a strange part of university that everyone counts down to, but nobody really prepares for. You spend years building a life with people and then suddenly everyone starts leaving it. There isn't always some dramatic goodbye. Sometimes someone just moves their boxes out, you hug in the driveway, and a few weeks later they are sending photos from a new flat hundreds of kilometres away.

So home moved again, into a flat formed through a Facebook Marketplace listing, and it felt different. Moving into an established flat is weird. Everyone else already knows whose shelf in the fridge is whose, where people sit on the couch, and what the unspoken rules are. You arrive with your boxes and your bond, and still feel like you are staying in someone else's house.

It's even worse when you are literally moving into someone else's old room. Their Blu Tack is still on the walls. Their name still gets mentioned in stories. Everyone else has months of shared jokes and flat lore that you weren't there for.

Shitty flatmates make that feeling even more complicated. A bad flat doesn't necessarily mean screaming matches and slammed doors. Sometimes it's just that you don't really want to be in the common spaces. You hear someone in the kitchen and decide you're actually not that hungry. You sit in your room for hours, because walking into the lounge feels like gate crashing. The hallway is somewhere to pass through, not to linger. It is strange to feel like a guest in a house with your name on the tenancy agreement.

Eventually, the entire 'home' you pay hundreds of dollars a week to live in is really just one bedroom and a shelf in the fridge. It was my room. My bed. My books. My clothes piled directly beside the wardrobe they were theoretically supposed to live inside. The little collection of things that had followed me from flat to flat.

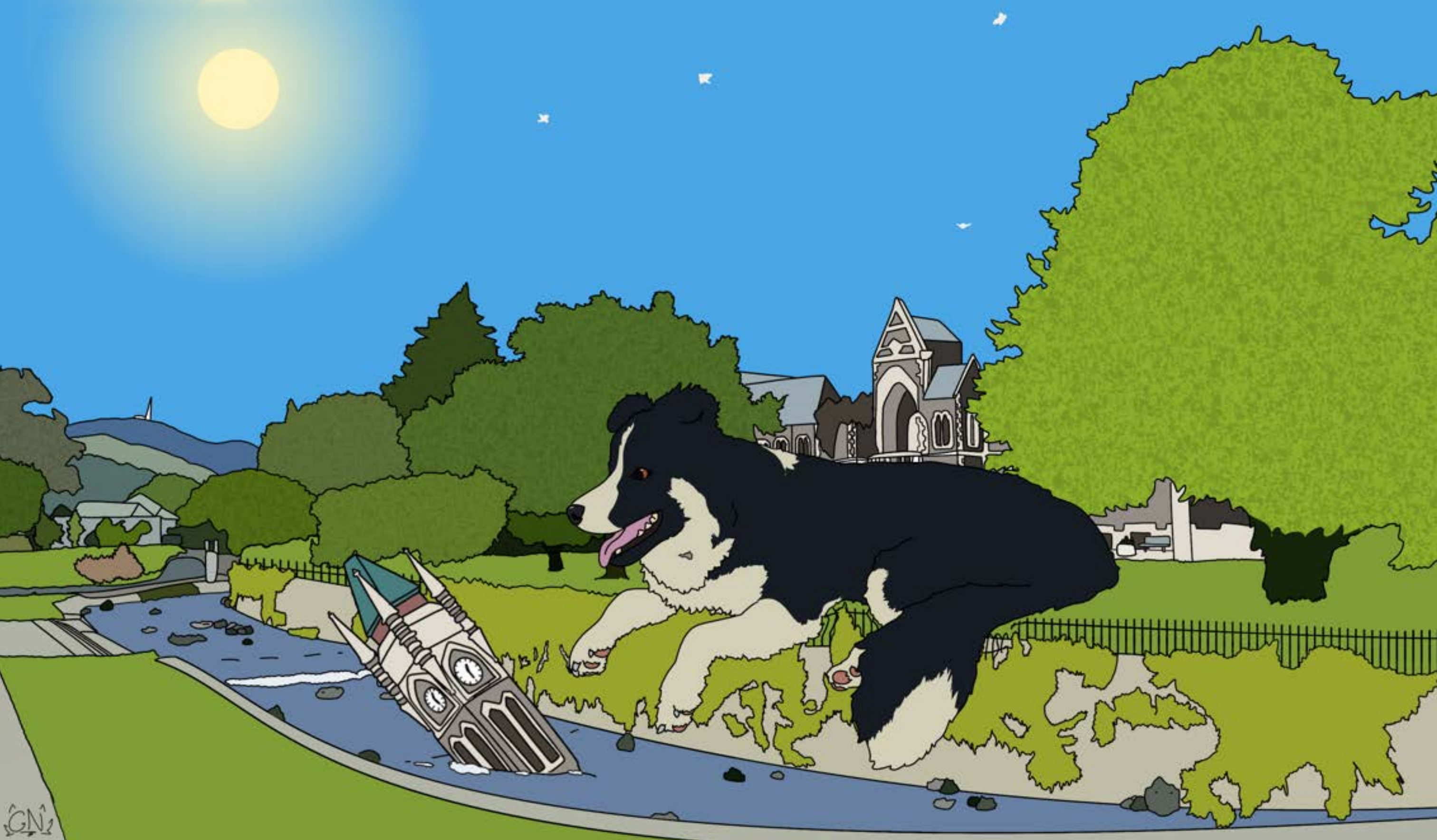
Strangely, it taught me something. For the first time, home wasn't something somebody else had made for me. My parents weren't there. My best friends weren't there. If I wanted somewhere to feel familiar and safe, I had to create that feeling myself.

Hindsight is a beautiful thing, because now I can see that all along 'home' hasn't just been a house, or even the people inside that house. It's a feeling. Belonging. Safety. Familiarity. Loving and being loved. Sometimes that feeling lives in your childhood bedroom. Sometimes it lives in a freezing flat with six people shouting to each other from opposite ends of the house. Sometimes it's a person who lives in another city. Sometimes it's just the relief of shutting your bedroom door at the end of the day. Home isn't one fixed point. It can stretch. It can disappear for a while and come back looking different. It can be something you inherit, something you build, something you share, or something you have to create for yourself.

For you freshers desperately searching for 'home', you might not find it right away, and that's okay. Your hall might not feel like home. Your first flat might be a damp shitbox populated by people you never speak to again. None of that means you are doing university wrong.

You might only realise somewhere was home once you have already left it. That is the annoying thing about home: the harder you try to pin it down, the more it moves.

I still call my parents' place home, even though I need Google Maps to find it. I call Dunedin home too. Neither feels like a betrayal of the other anymore.★



Life is short, do what you want

ART WEEK

By Stella Weston & Maea Wikohika

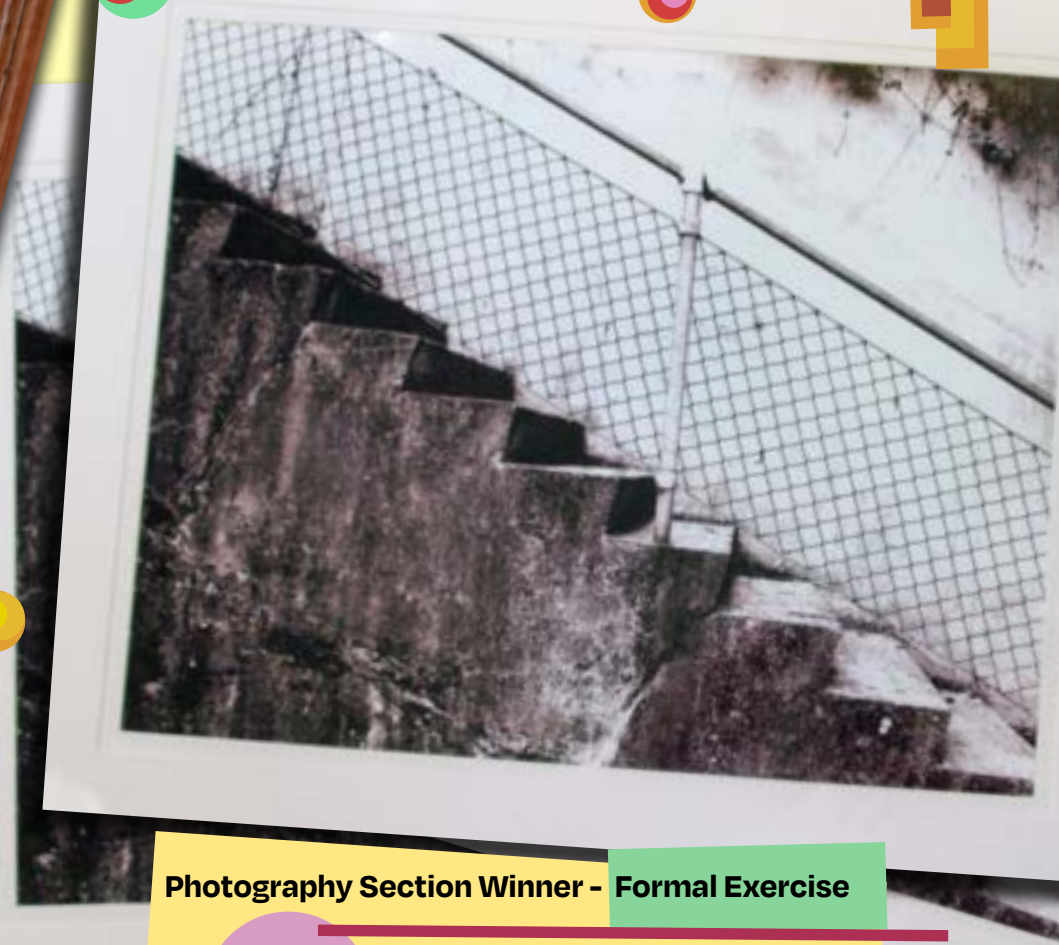
Art Week is back and better than ever. Walking through the Link-turned-art-gallery, Ōtepoti students' talent was on clear display. The OUSA-run Art Week competition had five sections: photography, illustration, sculpture, painting, and other, as well as a separate photography and poetry competition. Critic Te Ārohi sat down with some of the winners (those we could track down in a 24-hour window) to chat about their inspiration for their entries, and their artistic passions in general.



Randall x

Illustration Section Winner

Schrodinger's Jesus



Photography Section Winner - Formal Exercise

Mark Bridgmout

Sculptural Section Winner - Toga Party

Mark Bridgmout currently studies at the Polytech, completing his Level 6 Diploma in Art and Design, specialising in ceramics. Mark worked as an optometrist in South D, and when he retired 3 years ago he figured he'd better find something to do. He promptly took up ceramics.

This piece is part of a series of about 30 figures, all part of Mark's exhibition project for his diploma, centering around "the typical Kiwi bloke". The rest of Mark's work can be seen on his Instagram (@markbridgmout), and his exhibit will be in Port Chalmers on the weekend of the 13th of November. Choosing which figure to enter was a no brainer: "the student, of course. Someone everyone's going to relate to, and that's what my exhibition is all about."

Mark has taken night classes over the years, ranging from metalwork, to painting, to stone carving, but ceramics was always the one that "really interested me the most, I got the most enjoyment out of it." Mark wants to just see where his work takes him, and is undecided how much more he wants to study – hesitant about whether he wants to get deep back into the academic side of art and design.





Maiya is in her second year of a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the Polytech, specialising in painting. She saw this competition as an opportunity to share her work, and was "already feeling really good" because she'd had people reaching out to tell her they loved the piece. The win was totally unexpected, and Maiya is "very grateful for everyone that has said nice things about my work. It's just... it's awesome."

The painting is based on a childhood photo of Maiya dressed as a zombie princess for a school disco. Maiya has always loved how this photograph captured how she felt as a kid, and this work is about "embracing that weird little girl inside of you." The concept and title are also an homage to a Hole song and Courtney Love. Maiya added that she saw one of the other entries was entitled 'Miss World' – another Hole song. Shout out Marnie – your twin is over here.

Maiya is currently working on another assignment, an external exhibition with her fellow painters, so keep your eyes out in September for that. Maiya also dabbles in... everything else. She's been working on collages recently, is a "naive hobbyist photographer", and likes to crochet. While Maiya admits she has the typical artist dream of making a living off her work, she prefers to focus on just trying her best in the present, and seeing where that takes her.



Marnie painted this pair of jeans for her friend's birthday, taking cues from the sneaker-art accounts she'd been scrolling through on Instagram. She reworked a black-and-white image of the Virgin Mary, threading it through a lattice of telephone wires and religious iconography across the front and back. Marnie explained that she "needed to get some paint onto this" after wanting to try her hand at painting on fabric for the first time, though she's since discovered that fabric paint bleeds far more than she expected. "I've told her, don't wear them in the rain," she laughs, "because I don't know what's going to happen."

Marnie's relationship with art started with acrylics in high school, and later grew into a stint drawing political cartoons for magazines under the pseudonym Florence Pollock. These days she splits her time between physical media and digital art on her iPad, though she admits art has taken a back seat since starting her BA in English, with a minor in Media, Film, and Creative Writing. "It feels like I only do art when I have no readings," she says. Even so, she carves out space for it where she can, sometimes painting alongside her friend over a glass of wine. "Everything digital is kind of hidden away in a room by yourself," she says, "but this is very much a collaborative kind of thing."



Other Section Winner
- *Whisper Through the Wire*

Marnie Brosnahan



JeSSica Finnie Photo Competition Winner - *Angels Alight*



Jessica took this photograph on a trip to Punakaiki with her mum. She'd heard about the rock formations, but wasn't at all expecting to see the white-fronted terns skimming the waves. Jessica explained that "watching [the terns] flurry across the water was so captivating, I wanted to capture their essence," and she managed it through a slow shutter speed to blur their motion into the waves. Jessica has always loved nature, and moving from Arizona all the way to New Zealand for University has opened a whole new world of wildlife to her.

Jessica's passion for photography goes back to her childhood, when her mum would lend her a camera for summer camps. This sharpened into something more serious in high school, and now photography competes with the ever challenging first year health science. While she admits this balance isn't easy, it's precisely that difficulty that makes her passion matter more. "It's my break from the sciences," she says. ★

GIG REVIEW:

Makeshift Sustainability Festival: Screenprinting Gig

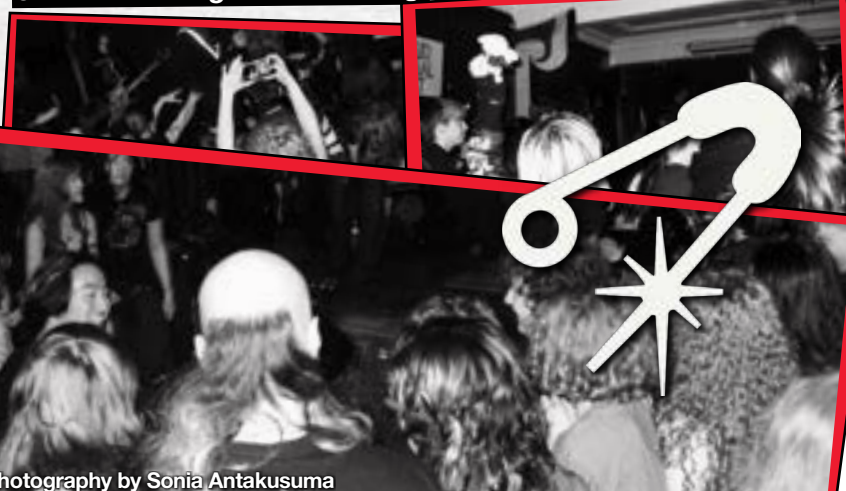
WRITTEN BY MAKESHIFT FESTIVAL PRODUCER: JUSTINA KING
Last Saturday marked the end of the Makeshift Sustainability Festival - a month-long programme of events focused on repair-based skills. These were workshops on the basics of a variety of hands-on skills or crafts - carpentry, electronics, sewing, screenprinting (on secondhand clothing) and more. The ultimate goal was to connect people looking for these skills to existing sustainability initiatives spread out across Ōtepoti that might have been unheard of to some - such as Te Oraka (on-campus thrift shop that runs night markets and gigs!), Stitch Kitchen, Com2Tech and Cook Brothers Construction.

The final event of the Makeshift Festival was a DIY screenprint-your-own-merch gig. The idea was to print onto your own existing clothing with the logos of the local bands that would play later that evening, like riot-grrrl icon Vagina Dry, alongside U-No Juno, SPLINTER and STRAP.

The hope was for an event with a total punk DIY philosophy - print it yourself, and re-engage with your existing but unworn clothing in your wardrobe. In doing this, you can take back some control and some autonomy over what is ultimately an overflowing landscape of clothing - unfortunately perpetuated by the encompassing system of capitalism and colonisation. Sometimes this sustainability thing can be overwhelming to think about, or do something about. We wanted to make this event as something small to look forward to - despite the current political and environmental climate!

After the screenprinting session we had our four band line-up play live. Crowd-favourite U-No Juno had amazing stage presence as always. Their set included their enchanting, Dunedin-sound reminiscent single Skyscrapers, with lead vocalist Ramona inviting the crowd into movement with her lulling and rocking to the song's rhythm. They were followed by hardcore three-piece STRAP, who brought the crowd rocking up a notch. Their set launched a moshpit complete with vigorous crowd circling, energetically matched by the vocals and instrumentals. Next up was iconic Vagina Dry, whose frontwoman El brought absolute raw energy, warranted rage and emotion into the lyrics on women's rights, white privilege, consent, police brutality AND David Seymour. Their single Brutalised is the best thing ever live, by the way. We concluded the night with SPLINTER, with their music catalysing what can be described as a turbulent, violent rocking ocean of crowd energy, complete with moshing, crowd halves like waves colliding with one another, circling and crowd-surfing.

continue reading @ r1.co.nz/blog



Photography by Sonia Antakusuma

TOP 11



Sivle Talk (Dn) 1
There's An FBI Office In Wellington

U-No Juno (Dn) 2
Frown

Loa Loa (Dn) 3
Jester

the pink opaque (Dn) 4
glow

GIG GUIDE

FRIDAY 28TH

Dance Happy Doom Crew Presents: DANKFEST Night 1
The Crown - 8:00 pm

Radio One and Sublime Studio Presents: BRING THE NOISE 2026 FINALS
U-Bar - 8pm

SATURDAY 29TH

Dance Happy Doom Crew Presents: DANKFEST Night 2
The Crown - 8:00 pm

Hannah Everingham 'Big Surprise' Album Tour
Pearl Diver - 9:00 pm

Dunedin City Jazz Orchestra Tuning Up
Hanover Hall - 7:30 pm

Mel Parsons 'Castle Hill' Album Release Tour
Glenroy Auditorium - 7:30 pm

SUNDAY 30TH

The Klezmer Sisters
Folk Club - 7:30 pm

Find more @ r1.co.nz/gig-guide!

***DANKFEST exhibits:**
Acid Police, ChemChain (Tāmaki Makaurau), Distracted (Tāmaki Makaurau), Fastplant, Finance, Fumitory, Mega Howler (Tāmaki Makaurau), Mooring (Kirikiriroa), Rheumy, the pink opaque, Seek Help!, Space Bats Attack!, Strings Speak Mountain (Waihōpai), Strap & U-no Juno



STREAM RADIO ONE!

OUSA EXEC

Kia ora
The OUSA Exec are aware of reports from students alleging white supremacist activity in Dunedin. At this stage, it is not clear whether these groups have any involvement with Otago students. While there is currently no confirmed connection, we believe it is important to keep our student community informed and encourage everyone to remain vigilant.

We encourage students to take sensible precautions, including avoiding walking alone at night where possible. If you witness suspicious or threatening behaviour, or if you feel that you or someone else is in immediate danger, please call 111 and contact **Campus Watch (0800 479 5000)** as soon as possible. If you experience a hate crime of any kind, you can still report it even if you were unable to identify the person or only remember limited details about them.

For more support options don't hesitate to reach out to OUSA Student Support or contact the OUSA executive at welfare@ousa.org.nz and president@ousa.org.nz. OUSA stands firmly against racism, hate, and intimidation in all its forms. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and welcome on our campus, regardless of their race, ethnicity, culture, or background.

To our Māori, Pasifika, African, Asian, Middle Eastern, and all other students of colour in our community: we stand with you. We encourage all students to continue looking out for one another and to stand together in solidarity against hate.

If you wish to report student misconduct of any kinds, you can report it to any of the entities listed above or the Proctor (proctor@otago.ac.nz).

We will continue to monitor the situation and share further information if appropriate. In the meantime, please take care of yourselves and those around you.

Noho ora mai, OUSA Exec ★

25

\$5 LUNCH

Provided by **TANDOOREE GARDEN**

Monday - Friday | 12-2:30pm
Harry Evison Lounge
Clubs & Socs, 84 Albany Street

More details at bit.ly/fivedollarlunch

Clubs & Socs ousa

ELECTIONS 26

ENROL TO VOTE

IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS

October 25 You have until midnight **October 25th** to enrol or update your details to vote in the **2026 General Elections**

Heeni as The Island Princess

Signed, Sealed, (Still Left On) Delivered Nā Heeni Koero Te Rerenoa
– Ngāti Hine, Te Rarawa, Te Waiariki

If there's one thing a Ngāpuhi likes, it's arguing a case. Unfortunately for everyone else, I've always got one.

We were promised that phones would make us more connected. Instant messaging arrived and, for once, the name did exactly what it said on the tin: messages became instant. You no longer needed a landline, a stamp, a mailbox, or three business days to tell somebody you were thinking about them. Suddenly, in the span of a few minutes, you could congratulate a friend on the other side of the country, check in after an important day, or tell someone you were thinking of them. Nowadays, all of the above can be achieved by forwarding a funny video.

But before all of this, communication was more deliberate. The pool of people you could reach was smaller. You had phone numbers, not catalogues of friends. More importantly, you had to actually decide who mattered enough to call or send a letter to. There was a degree of intention anchored into communication that is difficult to replicate when everyone is permanently available.

Communication became cheap, immediate and almost entirely frictionless. And we became unbelievably comfortable with completely ignoring each other.

Seen By Everyone, Heard By Nobody

The strangest part is that nobody has actually disappeared. You can watch somebody's life unfold in real time without having a conversation with them for months, years even. Social media has made communication the antithesis of communication itself: you like a story – tap the little heart, watch half of it, and move on. Social media has perfected the art of letting somebody know we saw their life without us actually bothering to enter it.

Social media-etiquette has become its own bizarre mechanical bull, and most of us have apparently agreed that the rules are simple: hold on when it is convenient, fall off when it isn't, and never ask why someone stopped riding. There's a meticulous, unspoken social contract in which everyone is entitled to access while not at all obligated to reciprocate. Social media is a fleeting, belligerent place at times, where attention is given freely one second, and withdrawn unceremoniously the next.

That juxtaposition matters because friendship has never been built entirely out of grand gestures, has it?

Rather, it is the little acknowledgements that keep a relationship beating: remembering the exam, asking how the date went, checking up on their family, sending a photo that reminded you of them. None of this is difficult, and that is why its absence says something.

BRB, Starting a Fan Club

I'm embarrassed to admit that I have multiple conversations sitting on my phone of me making repeated attempts to participate in somebody else's life without much evidence that they are interested in participating in mine. You can congratulate, ask questions, send love and keep the conversational door open, and still: delivered. It's like being a backup dancer in someone else's legacy tour. Except, really you're standing in the crowd. #fanbehaviour

I think that is the part we've become far too comfortable pretending not to notice. A friendship cannot survive indefinitely on one person providing the audience, the questions, the congratulations and the conversational CPR. At some point, the asymmetry stops being incidental and starts forming the architecture of the relationship. It gets to a point where I have to ask myself: am I someone's friend, or merely their audience? Should I start a fan club?

Do Not Disturb, Ever

We have never had more ways to reach each other, yet somehow, reaching someone now feels like an imposition. Social media has become the Olympics of having as many friends as possible without having to put in much maintenance effort, and our phones double as a numbing tool for anything that requires us to sit still. It's clear now that instant gratification has ruined us – we've mistaken constant access for actual connection. If this is what "convenience" looks like, I'd sooner bring back inconvenience: the landline, the stamp, three business days, and a walk to the bloody mailbox.

The phone was supposed to make reaching people easier. Perhaps it did, without promising that anyone would reach back. Maybe phones do work both ways, after all.

Long Live The Question ★



Illustrated by
Stella Caulton

HAVE SOMETHING JUICY TO TELL US?
SEND YOUR SALACIOUS STORIES TO
MOANINGFUL@CRITIC.CO.NZ
SUBMISSIONS REMAIN ANONYMOUS.



Moaningful Confession

A Nail-Biting Tale
By Chappell Moan

We all have that person that's somehow accumulated an impressive amount of lore and become a celebrity within the friend group. Mine was this guy who I had no romantic feelings for, and who I invited to my birthday party – entirely as a joke.

By some miracle, he showed up. Right on time, if not a little on the early side. Everyone knows that you don't show up at 7pm on the dot unless you're a close personal friend of the host, and definitely not if you're... whatever he was to me. Luckily, I was the birthday girl, so I was adequately smashed when he arrived. Most of what happened that night is a total blur, but I've pieced it together in the months that followed through photos, videos, and hangxiety-inducing conversations.

He came straight upstairs to look for me, and found me cutting lines on my bedroom floor with my student ID (what can I say, it was my birthday). The bag I was sampling had been found on the ground at a festival, lovingly referred to as 'mystery bag' by my flat. Determined to buy this guys silence, and not offend some of my more conservative houseguests, I offered him some. Whatever mystery bag was, he did not like it.

He proceeded to follow me around the house, and we began making out in every corner. I honestly don't know if I was physically dragging him around or if it was more of a lost puppy kinda vibe. As the party began to wind down, we ended up on the couches with my flatmates.

He seemed to have no intention of leaving, so I took the opportunity to slide into a bad habit – nail biting. Not my nails, mind you. His nails. And he let me do it... for a really long time.

Finally, we ended up back upstairs, and I was determined to go to town. Lying flat on my back, I made this poor man put my shoes on for me, then fell down the stairs. We made it about a block down the road before I decided I wanted a battered sausage and took a sharp turn into the greatest oasis for any poor drunk soul – Night 'n Day. I'm pretty sure I ended up underneath the drinks fridge. I am absolutely sure I got my battered sausage.

He half-carried and half-corralled me back up the street into my bedroom. We made out for a while longer, and he (honestly, understandably) thought we were going to have sex, but I rolled over and promptly went to sleep. I should admit, I left him to sleep on the side of the bed that had a towel laid out under the sheets. A towel that was working hard to soak up certain liquids from the night before.

We woke up at the restful hour of 2pm, and when he saw the time he bolted straight out the door, yelling that he had no phone, no wallet, no ID, and no-one knew where he was, because he'd lied to his friends about coming to my birthday party in the first place. He did not text me again, so maybe he never found his phone. I did see him in town a few months later, so he did find his ID in the end, and he did in fact come home with me again. We never had sex. ★



Illustrated by Lola Diehl

Horoscopes

Illustrated by Eleanor Walker



PISCES

Tired of missing the worm? You're still not getting to campus early enough for a Union Street carpark, no matter how many alarms you set. Accept your fate and start the trek from the Valley an hour before your lecture – wrapped head-to-toe to ward off frostbite.

Your Future AI Overlord: Copilot



ARIES

Flat beef? Steak your claim! We don't mince words and neither should you! Prepare for the mould wars – no amount of JIF will conquer this battlefield. The only glazing going on in your flat is on a donut. Upgrade that vodka bottle to a hot water bottle and brace yourself.

Your Future AI Overlord: Meta AI



VIRGO

If life is looking pear shaped, remember that an apple a day will not keep the herpes away! It's time to knuckle down and not be rash. Don't forget to slip, slop, slap (and wrap) before having fun. Because let's face it – the apples you pick tend to be rotten to the core.

Your Future AI Overlord: Jabberwacky



GEMINI

Romance might not be in the air, but a chance for some light flirting is about to throw itself on your doorstep. Indulge a little, but remember: keeping a full roster during test week is a logistics nightmare. Try and keep it casual!

Your Future AI Overlord: Gemini



AQUARIUS

Ignite the flame within you. Don't wait for a spark with someone – you need to make your own magic! I sense that you've been alone for a while, and it's time to stop hunting. Embrace your own power and go solo. Who will carry the boats? You will!

Your Future AI Overlord: Giga Chat



SCORPIO

There is a very important phone call you've been putting off for weeks. The longer you wait, the harder your life gets. Follow up on what you've set in motion and trust that your life will be so much easier once you finally hit the dial.

Your Future AI Overlord: Leny



TAURUS

Enrolled yet? It's time for democracy manifest! Take your hand off that penis and enjoy a succulent meal. Get ready for your POLS friend to overexplain the Greens' tax policy to you. Tabloid politics will only get you so far, so please do your own research.

Your Future AI Overlord: Perplexity



CAPRICORN

The Leith is rising from the downpour, but not as fast as your stress levels. Commerce students might be taking the easy road, but your anxiety won't let you settle for less than a 9.0 GPA. Time to grind in silence and keep your brilliance a secret from everyone else.

Your Future AI Overlord: DeepSeek



LEO

The slopes are calling your name – the Otepoti snow day gave you hunger for the alps. You're ready to sell your sanity, fill a five-seater car with eight of your friends and make the long road trip to Queenstown. Beware: there will be at least three arguments on the way!!

Your Future AI Overlord: Siri



CANCER

You've been swamped with assignments and tests, but the light at the end of the tunnel is finally close enough to burn your retinas. Soon you'll be free to blast the heater at home all day and have free reign over the fridge. Every day is a feast!

Your Future AI Overlord: Grok



LIBRA

That 8am lecture at Castle isn't going to attend itself. However, given the amazing fortress of pillows and blankets you've built, staying under the duvet is a completely valid excuse to skip your lab. Nestle up and half-listen to the lecture recording at 1.5x speed later.

Your Future AI Overlord: Claude

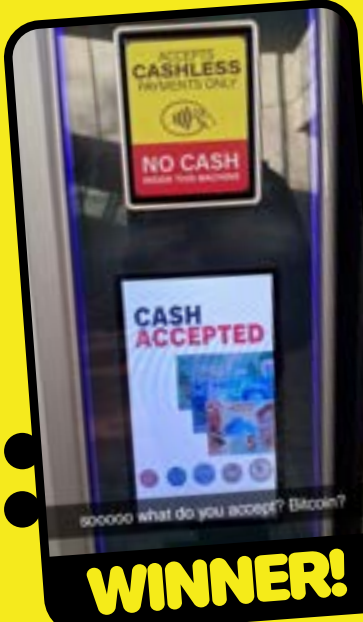


SAGITTARIUS

You've started blowing perfect O's with your breath inside your own freezing bedroom. It's time to turn the heater on – power bill be damned! Even if you have to busk for your supper, at least your monstera will look slightly less dead.

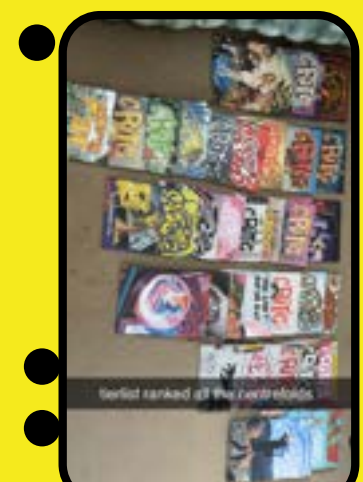
Your Future AI Overlord: ChatGPT

SNAP OF THE WEEK



WINNER!











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

CONTACT CRITIC ON INSTAGRAM TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

The Sauna

Relax in 84°

Located on the upper floor of the OUSA Clubs & Societies Centre, 84 Albany Street

Pricing from \$15, student discounts available
ousa.org.nz/clubsandsocs/sauna

Clubs & Socs ousa

Proposed changes to the Dunedin Local Alcohol Policy (LAP)

Tell us what you think by:

- Reading the proposed changes.
- Making a submission.
- Sharing your thoughts directly with the Hearings Committee.

25 Aug – 25 Sept 2026

VISIT dunedin.govt.nz/consultation



TLD.R

We're hearing whispers about the ISA Annual Show happening September 11–12. Keep an eye on @isaotago for more info coming soon!

The Student Innovators Collective are on the lookout for a Marketing Executive! It's a genuinely great opportunity for any student looking to build out their CV, the successful applicant will get real, hands-on experience running marketing and promotion for a growing club with partnerships across Dunedin. Email studentinnovatorscollective@gmail.com to register your interest.

The 12th Annual Geology Ball is taking place on September 18th, starting at 7PM at Dunedin Railway Station's Moa Room. Tickets include food and a free drink, \$30 for members and \$40 for non members. Check out @otago_rocks on Instagram for more info.

The Biomedical Otago Pacific Students' Association and the Anatomy and Physiology Students Association are holding a Meet a Supervisor Research Vaka on Thursday the 27th of August! Taking place from 6–8PM in the Hunter Centre Atrium, come along and meet potential supervisors if you're considering biomed or science.

The first Otago Performing Arts Club ball is coming up Sept 11th, all welcome! Jazz players, theatre nerds, interpretive dancers, CD collectors alike, you don't have to be a member to come! Tickets in our instagram bio @opac_otago.


Student Innovators Collective
We're missing a peice of the puzzle
Marketing Executive Opportunity

Calling all swimmers! The Otago Uni Swim Club runs weekly training sessions on Mondays 7:30–8:30pm at Moana Pool. We recommend being able to swim 1 length of freestyle to join. Lifts from campus are available. Search Otago University Swim Club on Facebook and @otagouniswimclub on Insta for more.

Prime Minister Chris Luxon survived an attempted leadership coup of the National Party, led by (now former) Minister Chris Penk. Luxon subsequently stripped Penk of his cabinet portfolios and Penk has decided not to stand for Parliament again.

RnA lineup just dropped! *Dimension*, *Fat Freddy's Drop*, *MPH* and *Shapeshifter* will all be headlining, with *Wax Mustang* being advertised as doing his "final NZ festival". Something we said?

Count Binface won 26.9% of the vote in the UK Clacton by-election on 13 August, making him the most successful joke candidate in the English speaking world.



ANGELA TIATIA . JOHN VEA . KALISOLAITE 'UHILA . ŌTEPOTI PASIFIKA ARTS COLLECTIVE

STAYING POWER

DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY

SHOWING NOW
FREE: OPEN 10AM–5PM DAILY
30 THE OCTAGON DUNEDIN
WWW.DUNEDIN.ART.MUSEUM
DEPT. OF DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL

ANGELA TIATIA *Holding* on 2015. Still, single-channel HD video. Collection of Dunedin Public Art Gallery. Courtesy of the artist and Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney.

What does love look like in 2026?

SHOW US AND GET PAID

If you're into creating content, a photographer with a fresh eye, a quick-witted writer, or all of these, this is your chance to share how love looks, feels, and works in your world. For every piece of approved content you create and we use, we pay you:

\$200 per photo

\$500 per article

\$1,500 per creator content.



Scan the QR code to see the briefs and get the deets.

Love Better

OUSa SGM



HAVE
YOUR SAY!

Student
General
Meeting

Wednesday
9th September

12pm | Main Common Room



Scan for more information