

# CRITIC

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\* Lite

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## Editorial

### How To Love Yourself

As a fading fifth year and seasoned older sister, I've decided to write some advice to my first year self. However, I think this advice is applicable to anyone in their initial years of uni.

I think I had a pretty standard Dunedin student experience. I've done the parties, done the friendship breakups, received both good and bad grades. I've done halls, then flatting – first with five, then with three, then with two.

Those changes inspired a lot of self-doubt. I feel that especially with social media, there might be an expectation that life is consistent, picturesque or “easy” – that uni is going to be the “best time of your life”. You might feel an expectation to have a massive friend group, flatmates that you stay with every year, or a great relationship with your parents that means you love going home for break. Not having that, feeling down, or not “thriving” like your peers appear to be might feel like a failure, and it can send you into a spiral. But honestly, that consistency isn't realistic for a lot of young people. You're expected to grow, and that can be hard.

With the transience of uni life, the advice I would give would be to recognise yourself as the only real constant in your life. Every year, I felt that I was restarting once more – new friends, new flat, sometimes even a new degree. I sometimes felt empowered by that, or very lost. I know others feel the same. But either way, you remain in your life, despite the change. After everything, you have yourself.

Maybe the feeling of being with yourself stirs up some feelings. Maybe you feel that you do not like or trust yourself, or feel like a failure. But I would encourage you to sit with that feeling, and treat yourself with empathy during your time at university. Think of somebody that you love: your mother, boyfriend, partner, grandfather, cousin, or best friend. If they were occasionally unreliable, went through a messy breakup, had bad days or made mistakes, would you love them any less? Or would you love them despite it all, trusting that we all try our best, especially when things are changing?

Trusting that you are truly doing your best opens something new. If you know you have tried your best, you cannot fail. This holds true even during a time of immense change and growth, like university. If I could talk to who I was in my early years of university, I would tell her to be more trusting and honest with herself, and be confident with the choices she made based on that trust and honesty. The love that you should have for yourself means that you'll stand by the shots you call. And when that is appreciated, the self-doubt begins to slip away. You'll be a better friend to yourself and others for it.

Keep showing up for yourself – not that you really have the choice. But if you would value a loved one that is with you through your best and worst days, **then maybe you should value the connection you have with yourself just a little bit more.** That friend is within you.

Hanna Varrs ✨

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# The News

ISSUE 8

KAWEPŪRONGO

20/04/2026

## Q&A WITH Q AND DAVE

The Opportunity Party talks policy

By Stella Weston  
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz



Juliae 'Q' Wong believes that the "role of government is to look at the horizon and stand for that." She's sick of the divisive, "pendulum politics" that we see in New Zealand today, with governments undoing policy changes with every switch in power. Founded in 2016, The Opportunity Party is ready to step in.

Following her time working in London and helping businesses operate in a more sustainable way, Q was left thinking about how to improve the "whole system", but kept bumping up against the need for the government to "step in". It was against this realisation that when The Opportunity Party put out their leadership call late last year, Q reckoned she'd "give it a crack." And now, four months later – here she is.

Dave Bainbridge-Zafar, the Dunedin Electorate MP, first met Q when he asked her a question and she gave him the best answer he's ever had from a politician: "I don't know". According to Dave, Q didn't try to spin it, or answer a different question that she did know the answer to. "I thought that was really refreshing." While neither Q or Dave never saw themselves becoming an MP, they both think that Aotearoa can do better – and think they can help make this happen.

As a smaller party, Critic Te Ārohi was keen to have a yarn with Q and Dave to figure out what's what for The Opportunity Party. First on the agenda was figuring out where they sit on the political spectrum. According to Q, the Party rejects the binary labels of left and right wing. However, she still hears a lot about a misconception that they're right wing. "Anyone [that] actually looked at our policies [would] see that wasn't us". Q also noted that the concept of left and right wing is an "archaic framework" and "an unhelpful construct" that doesn't explain modern issues, or focus on what's actually going to work for New Zealand. In fact, it originated from seating arrangements during the French Revolution – it might be time to move on!

The issue with the political ideological binary is that it creates division. That divisive narrative seems to be extra prevalent across the globe right now, and Q puts it down to a "large majority" of people in the middle who just "tune out" of politics and don't engage. That leaves noisy people on the fringes "dominating the political conversation." This division is a key aspect of the system The Opportunity Party hopes to change by refusing that political binary. "Taking that centrist stance and not picking a side is difficult. But it means we can hold each side to account in different ways."

Q understands the disengagement young people might currently feel from politics, even just from turning on the news. However, she felt that The Opportunity Party was the "only party focusing on the long term" and tackling big issues which are going to shape the next 50 years – especially for young people. She hopes to make New Zealand a country that students want to stay in, live in, and work in. While she had "an amazing time overseas", she's always wanted New Zealand to be "a nation with a strong pull."

In the 2023 general election, The Opportunity Party came in at just 2.2% of votes. Critic asked why they reckon that is. Q admits that the number one criticism their party faces is that voting for them is a "waste". However, she reckons that for every person she met during the general election that voted for the Party, she met a further three or four people who wanted to vote for us but didn't. "If all of those people had voted we'd be in Parliament by now." According to Q, in terms of the concept of "wasting" a vote, those that didn't end up voting for The Opportunity Party ended up "really disappointed" with the current Government. They "felt like they had wasted a vote anyway."

At the time of writing, the Party has a record high number of 26 electoral candidates running. The Opportunity Party have their sights squarely set on the 5% threshold party vote as their golden ticket into Parliament. With a "really clear idea of who our voter base is", their key strategy now is straightforward: "[Have] thousands of these face to face conversations." Way to make a student mag feel special. However, Q did add that if the party starts "getting desperate" and not polling high enough, that she'll "consider changing my name to Chris."

Dave brought up "rage fatigue" as another point for the party, recognising that there are so many things in the world to be angry about and "grab a sign and protest against" right now. But with that anger comes a sense of tiredness. "That's what I like about Opportunity, [we're] much more pragmatic." And what does that pragmatism look like, both for Duffers and broader Aotearoa?

Dave's big priorities for Ōtepoti are to implement free public transport, and improve the quality and standard of housing. "No way the people who built some of these houses around Dunedin thought they'd still be standing a hundred odd years later," he explains. Q talked a bit about wanting citizens assemblies implemented nationally. Citizens' assemblies are deliberative, democratic processes that bring together a randomly selected, demographically representative group of citizens. This uplifts the voices of everyday people in complex policy decision making, which Q believes results in a "much more holistic conversation" regarding national policy issues.

When asked about opinions on artificial intelligence, Q linked rising AI use resulting in job changes as a need for a citizen's income. With the current job market and erasure of entry level roles, this policy would provide nationwide security to individuals, ensuring every Kiwi can afford the basics to live well and contribute to society. Under this model, most adults would receive a regular payment roughly in line with the current Jobseeker benefit. Q also noted that while it's important for students to be upskilling where they can in the face of technological advancement as well as practicing critical thinking and creativity, there have been worries about tech taking over before. "It's never fully eventuated in the ways that people feared [...] To some degree, I think that'll be the case with AI."

The Opportunity Party also hopes to implement a land value tax. Essentially, with only land being taxed (not buildings) this would hopefully incentivise productive land use, and prevent land banking. Productive use means more efficient housing per section of land, and increasing housing supply to meet demand. Q believes that the housing crisis in general is "not being taken seriously enough at a national policy level", and it's "these kinds of things always hurt the more vulnerable first, such as students."

When asked why students should vote for The Opportunity Party, Q had a straightforward answer. If you're keen on "building the kind of New Zealand that [students] would actually want to live in," you should lend them your vote. From Dave, he believes they're about creating opportunities. "It's the name of the party, right?" If you're keen to learn more, the Party has a fantastic website where you can engage in policy discussion, join local clusters, and help organise events. It's like The Opportunity Party's own little social media.

Other than voting for The Opportunity Party, the easiest thing for tauri to do is to spread the word. "Have conversations with your friends, and help dispel some of those impressions that people have about the Party." ★



## THE BOWLING CLUB NEEDS STUDENTS

And students need a nutritious dinner for once!

By Molly Smith-Soppet  
Culture Editor // culture@critic.co.nz



Whether you don't know what to cook in the flat tonight, are struggling with midterm stress, or your body is beginning to deteriorate due not seeing a vegetable in a week, Critic Te Ārohi has a solution for you. The Bowling Club delivers straight to OUSA Clubs and Socs, which is a perfect way to get some easy eats when getting takeout seems like the only feasible form of self care. If you didn't know this existed, it's your golden ticket to quick, cheap, and nutritious kai.

If you haven't heard of the Bowling Club before, then you're seriously missing out. The Bowling Club runs on a kaupapa of bringing the Ōtepoti community together to eat fulfilling meals that don't empty out your wallet. Students can order Bowling Club meals online, pick a day, and grab their food straight from the OUSA Clubs and Socs building in the afternoon. The food is delivered around 4:20pm (a lucky number for this issue of Critic), and they recommend picking it up before 6pm to ensure freshness. It's easy, and cheap as chips.

If you're wondering how cheap, you'll be paying anywhere from \$5-8 for a meal, and an extra \$3 if you'd like dessert with that. And the food is good – like actually good. Wraps, mac and cheese, curries, meatloaf, apple pie, carrot cake... The menu goes on! Meals cycle throughout the weeks, so you'll never get bored, and are essentially guaranteed to get that famous 5+ a day. Every meal is built around what produce is in season or available in bulk.

Given all of this, it's no surprise that the Bowling Club has built its reputation on affordable, nutritious meals – but that's only half their story. In reality, the Bowling Club team sustains a large-scale food support system, distributing hundreds of frozen and hot meals every week to people who can't make it out to the Caversham-based eatery. That support system is a critical buffer to folks who are experiencing food insecurity, offering discount codes for those who need them, and free meal vouchers if you're able to pay them a visit in person.

Critic spoke to Jackie, who is half the brains behind the Bowling Club, alongside Liam. "At this point in time, we're just a business," she told Critic. "We need the business to stay afloat so that the service can stay afloat." She emphasised that support is what will keep the kaupapa moving forward. The Bowling Club doesn't ask for much, but they have heaps to give. According to Jackie, support "can literally just be getting a cheap dinner from us."

Jackie explained to Critic that there is a weird myth floating around that ordering from the Bowling Club somehow takes food away from people who need it more. However, this is far from the truth: the model only works if enough people are buying meals. Sustaining this model is a challenge, as it relies on all parts of the community to help one another. According to Jackie, it has been tricky to keep enough people coming through their doors: "something has to change, or we'll eventually have to fizzle out."

If you're wondering how you can support such valuable mahi as a student, the OUSA delivery system is one of the easiest ways to help, and feel free to give anyone from the team feedback. "We want students to tell us what works for them," Jackie urges. So whether that's introducing flat meal packs, subscriptions or any other ideas to make it easier to get kai into the bellies of students, the team is willing to listen.

Save what little is left in your bank account, skip the UberEats tonight and order from the Bowling Club. Support a kaupapa that supports the community, as well as your body as we all head into winter. Health is wealth! ★



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## OUSA Q1 EXEC REPORTS: THESE GUYS WANT TO GET PAID

What has the student executive been up to so far this year?

By **Gryffin Blockley**

Deputy Editor // [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz)



After riding the high of their election wins last year, the OUSA Executive have had to put their heads down and start the mahi for 2026.

The Exec gets paid through something called 'honorariums'. In order to receive their honorarium, the Exec members must hand in a quarterly report showing what they've been up to. It must be approved by the rest of the executive for the member to get their full honorarium. Sucks for them – imagine if StudyLink didn't come into your bank account until you had caught up on all your lectures.

Luckily, Critic Te Ārohi has your back. We've summarised what's the go and what's been happening with your elected representatives, to save you from reading nearly 10k words across 12 reports. Thank fuck these reports are only quarterly.

### REPORT NOTES:

#### President: Daniel Leamy

**Required: 40 hours weekly / Averaged: 42.42 hours weekly**

As the big boss, Daniel is the spokesperson of OUSA. This involves a lot of meetings for University related matters, engaging with the wider community. Daniel has also reinstated monthly meetings with the OUSA board (since he clearly didn't have enough), as well as prioritising getting the rest of the exec up to speed as he is the only returning member, and building good working relationships.

Daniel's goals for the next quarters include lobbying the University to (finally) fund a dedicated student bar to provide a safe drinking alternative, advocate for stronger Healthy Homes compliance by implementing an independent certification service for student flats, and negotiate bulk student deals for essentials like power and Wi-Fi to alleviate cost-of-living pressures for taura in North D.

#### Administrative Vice-President: Kamesha Jones

**Required: 20 hours weekly / Averaged: 19.29 hours weekly**

As the Administrative Vice-President, Kamesha manages internal executive functions, supports the President, focuses on student engagement, and runs their pretty cool Instagram page (@ousaexec). She organised executive training, maintained a weekly check-in schedule to oversee each exec member's progress, and ensured they adhere to the OUSA Constitution. Another big part of Kamesha's mahi is around policies – making sure all the corporate documents are up to scratch so everything else can keep ticking along.

In future quarters, Kamesha plans to maintain the momentum of social media engagement and support Flynn (Political Representative) with the upcoming general and by-elections. She is specifically focusing on initiating discourse regarding women's safety and campus culture.

#### Finance and Strategy Officer: Troy Gibbons

**Required: 20 hours weekly / Averaged: 34.63 hours weekly**

The Finance and Strategy Office is the brains behind OUSA's finances and strategic planning. Troy chairs the Finance, Expenditure and Strategy Committee (FESC), where he has reviewed draft audited accounts and monitored executive spending (sorry Exec members – no spending sprees). He also attended his first University Union Limited (UUL) board meeting to understand OUSA's investment holdings. He also provided critical support to both the Residential and Political Reps.

In the coming quarters, Troy plans to lead campaigns for the repeal of Voluntary Student Membership (VSM) and advocate for Fees Free, paid placements, and the establishment of a student bar. He also wants to increase organisational transparency for OUSA through improving the relationships with Critic (is this play about us?), noting that "[The] big struggle is balancing transparency without pissing people off".

#### Academic Representative: Hansini Wijekoon

**Required: 20 hours weekly / Averaged: 22.75 hours weekly**

Life as the Academic Representative is dominated by academic committee work and advocacy for student interests in University policy. Hansini participated in the University Senate, various divisional

academic boards and the Committee for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching. She collaborated with OUSA's Student Voice programme to ensure diverse student representation on divisional boards, monitored the efficacy of the class rep system, and provided a student perspective on the University's AI policy.

The next quarter will see the launch of a university-wide survey to gather data on student AI use and access. Hansini also plans to advance her long-term project on "Paid Placements" by mapping out existing placement structures across departments to identify where financial support is most needed.

#### Welfare and Equity Representative: Rihana Warsame

**Required: 20 hours weekly / Averaged: 16 hours weekly**

As the Welfare and Equity Rep, it's all about making sure all taura are getting the University experience they deserve to the highest possible quality. Rihana's been consulting with marginalised student groups to understand the unique academic challenges they face, and has been working to improve campus accessibility and the overall uni experience for these groups. She also sat on several university committees, developed a proposal for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workshops for first-year students in residential halls, and began the foundational work to establish a Disabled Students Association and a formal Disability Representative position within the OUSA Executive.

In the next quarters, Rihana will hold the first meeting of the Welfare and Equity Committee to collaborate on solutions for student welfare issues.

#### Postgraduate Representative: Fergus Parks

**Required: 10 hours weekly / Averaged: 10.56 hours weekly**

Looking after all things Postgrad for OUSA, Fergus has had a busy first quarter. The Society for Postgraduate Students (SPS) was disbanded following a SGM in March (that saw almost no student attendance, RIP). Fergus concluded that student interest in the club had vanished and that it had failed in its core functions of advocacy and social organisation.

In the coming quarters, Fergus plans to fill the void left by the SPS by deepening cooperation with the Graduate Research School to host more effective postgraduate events. He intends to launch regular "soap box chats" to gather student feedback. Fergus is currently reinforcing a beer crate to use as a platform. Additionally, he is developing a new system to maintain consistent communication with students at satellite campuses, ensuring that those outside of the main Dunedin campus have their voices heard.

#### International Representative: Irfaan Ariffin

**Required: 10 hours weekly / Averaged: 13.67 hours weekly**

Irfaan prioritised cultural celebration and integration throughout Dunedin's student community during his first quarter. The International Food Festival he organised was a resounding success with most clubs selling out within two hours. He also facilitated O-Week activities and welcome events, and has established regular meetings for the Otago International Students' Association (OISA) exec to coordinate upcoming events. Irfaan has also been working to introduce international students to Māori culture through collaboration with university staff.

Plans for the next quarters include launching a Multicultural Ball and collaborating with the Clubs and Societies Representative. He also intends to restart the International Student Podcast to share skills and increase awareness of student issues.

#### Clubs and Societies Representative: Ella Mary Sangster

**Required: 10 hours weekly / Averaged: 13.63 hours weekly**

Ella's role is all about increasing the visibility and engagement of campus clubs through promotion and outreach. She attended Clubs Day to meet student leaders and used the OUSA Instagram to highlight club opportunities and workshops. She hosted the Affiliated Clubs Council, which saw 36 clubs RSVP to discuss collaboration and OUSA resources. She also provided administrative support to the other exec members.

For the upcoming quarters, Ella is developing fundraising and event planning guides to help clubs become more financially self-sufficient. Additionally, she wants to create resources for club conflict resolution (for when the exec beef needs an intervention), and launch an informal club calendar.

#### Political Representative: Flynn Nisbett

**Required: 10 hours weekly / Averaged: 18.55 hours weekly**

Flynn's Q1 has been focused on election planning and advocacy. He met with nearly every local councillor and MP to discuss student issues, co-ordinated voter enrolment plans for the upcoming by-elections and general elections, and assisted other exec members with campaigns. He also gathered extensive student data for a submission against the Dunedin City Council's Clyde Street parking cost proposals.

In the next quarters, Flynn will focus on co-ordinating Politics Week and election campaigns for both local and national elections. He plans to chair the Political Action Committee, and to develop questions for DCC candidate forums and for general election debates later in the year.

#### Residential Representative: Zoe Eckhoff

**Required: 10 hours weekly / Averaged: 11.43 hours weekly**

Zoe has spent Q1 locked in on student housing education and renter advocacy. She created 3,000 flattening pamphlets providing guidance on tenancy rights and mould prevention. She helped revive the Residential Committee, which has merged with the Subwarden Committee to streamline housing-related mahi. Zoe engaged with organisations like Renters United and Community Law Otago to ensure her advocacy is well-informed and collaborative, and volunteered heavily at Tent City to engage with students directly about their flattening concerns.

For the future, Zoe plans to introduce a 'green-sticker-system' to identify student-approved properties for potential renters, and continue to advocate for a rental WOF. She also aims to undertake Healthy Homes inspection training, and collaborate with the DCC on informative videos for property care.

#### Tumuaki Takirua o Te Rōpū Māori: Sami Harrison Dunn & Jarna Flintoff

**Required: 15 hours weekly (each) / Averaged: 29 hours weekly (each)**

Sami Harrison and Jarna Flintoff, the Co-Presidents of Te Rōpū Māori (TRM), focused on operational stability and cultural engagement. They successfully managed O-Week (Wiki O) events and a collaborative BBQ with UOPISA. Internally, they oversaw a major review of TRM policies and the association's constitution to ensure compliance with the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act. They also maintained weekly meetings with the DVC-Māori and built stronger relationships with other student execs across campus. Additionally, they've initiated "Project Pūtea", which is a strategic planning process for the association's reserve funds.

#### University of Otago Pacific Island Students' Association (UOPISA)

**President: Adeleine Dunn**

**Not required to report hours to the Executive**

It's been a busy year from the get go for Adeleine. So far, she has participated in the University Senate, worked closely with the Pacific Islands Centre to establish support systems for student associations, and maintained a strong connection with Te Rōpū Māori: co-hosting a collaborative O-Week BBQ. She also hosted the annual UOPISA Leadership Weekend, providing student leaders with leadership training and networking opportunities.

Moving forward, Adeleine's top priority is to re-sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the University to secure equity funding for 2026. She also plans to advocate for a permanent UOPISA office space, as their current location (in the student development building) is temporary, and she intends to increase outreach to Pacific students who are not yet active in existing student associations. ★



Second year breatha, Shooda Sckipt, was sat in his Tuesday morning lecture last week. Talking to Critical Tribune reporters, Shooda recounted that he had "surprisingly mustered up the courage" to make it to a lecture for a class that had an upcoming midterm assignment – no small feat. After an impressive shift's worth of scrolling IG reels on his laptop and watching the blonde in the next row online shop, the clock was ticking towards the quarter past mark. Shooda told Critical Tribune that he had skipped breakfast, and couldn't wait to make it back home to "eat a bowl of protein powder and smoke a chop."

However, things would not go so smoothly for Shooda. All of a sudden, his lecturer posed a question. "Surely, she must have been speaking rhetorically," he told Critical Tribune, still clearly shocked by what happened next. There was silence. She asked once again, "anyone?" Shooda recalled thinking 'shit, does she mean us?'

Quickly, Shooda scanned the lecture slide. And then he scanned the lecture slide again (reading is hard).

One of the first row freaks and an American had already answered questions earlier on, so the professor was looking for some fresh meat. Shooda thought long and hard. He told Critical Tribune that he remembered thinking, "hm, I remember seeing a YouTube Short about this."

The silence was reaching an unbearable length when the lecturer promised to dismiss the class once there was a volunteer. Suddenly, Shooda found his hand slowly being raised, with the professor signaling to him with clear relief. Other lecture attendees told Critical Tribune that he "basically just explained the trolley problem." Shooda added that "huzz were more than impressed" by his academic performance. Despite this, other lecture attendees confirmed to Critical Tribune that they "were not."

Once Shooda had finished justifying poverty and mass wealth inequality as a necessary evil for the prosperity of capitalism, the professor sighed and replied "sure", to which the entire class started packing up their things and headed for the door.



AM

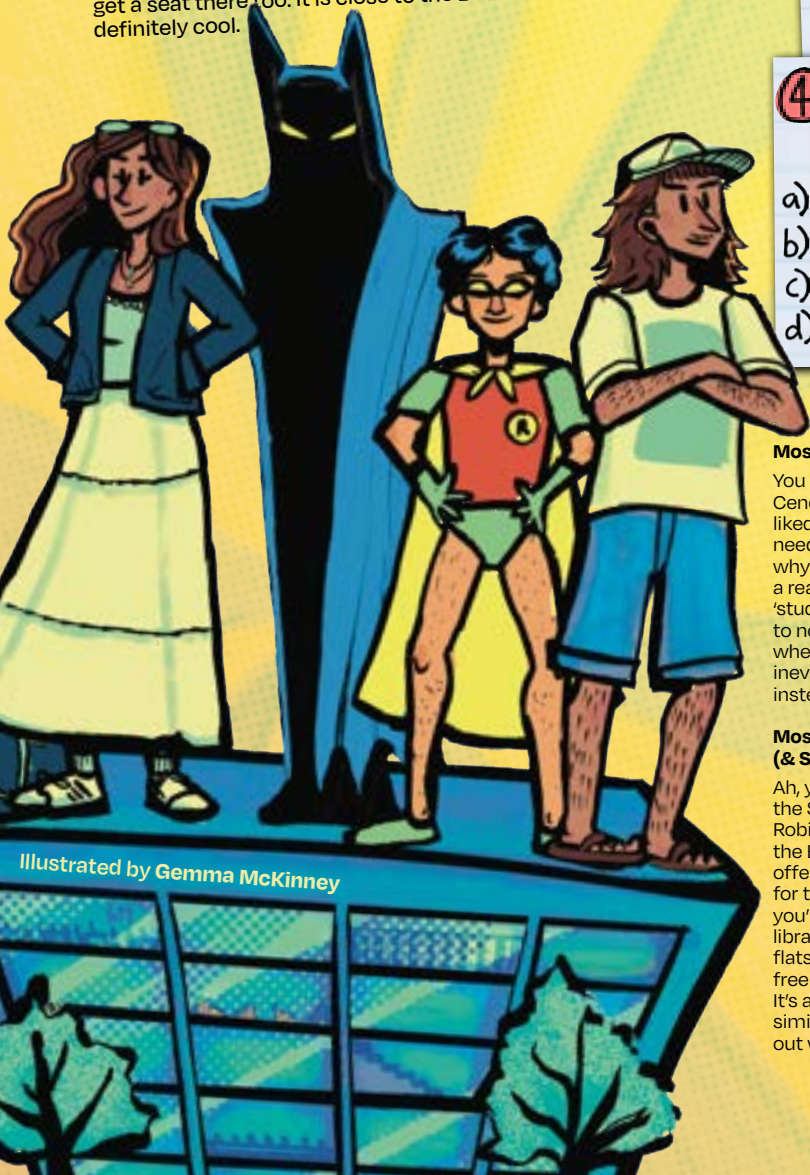
# WHICH OTAGO UNI LIBRARY ARE YOU?

By Jesse Valpy

Because who wouldn't want to know which study spot you'd be reincarnated as in your next life? Here is a quick and effective procrastination tool which will leave you reflecting on your life's journey, and all the choices that led up to this point.

Before everyone starts whining, Critic would like to give an honourable mention to the Health Sciences Library. Unsure if it even exists, but whatever – prove us wrong. Sounds like a scary place, anyway. Pretty sure you get kicked out for whispering.

We'd also like to give a dishonourable mention to the Marsh Study Centre. We all know you don't actually study there, and it was far better off when it was The Gardies. It's impossible to get a seat there too. It is close to the Botans though, so that's definitely cool.



- 1 **It's a typical Dunners morning (probs overcast). Which Fit are you rocking to campus?**
- a) Jorts, button-up and a surfy cap (don't forget the Birks)
  - b) Cute new Depop sweater and thrifted jeans
  - c) The North Face puffer and clogs
  - d) Retro footy shirt (fuck yeah, hard)

- 2 **It's your cooking night for the flat, what's on the menu?**
- a) Nachos
  - b) Chicken & Tomato Pasta Bake
  - c) Thai Green Curry
  - d) Domino's

- 3 **You're deep in the study grind, and one of your mates suggests a study-break. Where to?**
- a) Miga Hako (rice balls in Link)
  - b) Back to the flat (walk break)
  - c) I'm staying put – I've got heaps of shit on, mate
  - d) UniPol to get a quick pump in

- 4 **It's 2036, you're graduated and Famous. You have agreed to a biography written about you. What's a key event that has shaped you as a person?**
- a) Buying a steak from Pak'n'Save
  - b) Witnessing Daniel Leamy become OUSA President (wtf)
  - c) Your first heartbreak
  - d) \$9 pints at Pint Night

## Answers:

### Mostly A's: Central Library

You really can't go wrong with CenCh. You're dependable, well-liked and always there when needed most. If it's not broken, why fix it? It's the place to be for a reason – the heart of scarfie 'study', if you will. Just be careful to not get a glare from a third year when you start gossiping after inevitably running into your mate instead of locking in.

### Mostly B's: Science Library (& St Dave's)

Ah, yes. If Central was Batman, the Science Library might be Robin. But don't underestimate the Boy Wonder, he has plenty to offer – just like you. Bonus points for the view from St Dave's. But you're not just a pretty face. This library is nice and close to many flats, plus usually has a few more free seats around exam season. It's an easy place to hang out in, similar to how you're easy to hang out with.

### Mostly C's: Law Library (Richardson Building)

Wow, you know how to get into the Law Library? Sick. Despite having the best views on campus, maybe try chilling out a little. Then you could look good and feel good. It's ok though, law is clearly the most intensive degree, and anyone who doesn't get that frankly isn't worth listening to anyway. Props to you braving the haunted elevator there (or having insane glutes from the stairs).

### Mostly D's: Robertson Library

Often slept on, the Robertson can be a legendary spot. The laid-back chill vibes can be conducive to a solid study sesh, and it's quite a cool building with lots of nice sunlight. You likely recognise the need for balance, with an easygoing demeanor. What's the point of going into crippling student debt if you're not having fun along the way? Grab your matcha from Fluid and remember studying is less punishing if you look aesthetic. ★

# THE ULTIMATE 4/20 ITINERARY

Illustrated by Carina Page

**4/20.** For an atheist stoner like myself, this could be my favorite holiday of the year (aside from Thanksgiving). It even hits close to home – the term “420” was coined by a group of high schoolers about 10 minutes from where I grew up in California. They'd meet up after school to smoke at 4:20pm, right between their school's final bell and their parents arriving home. The phrase stuck, spread, and is now associated with cannabis worldwide.

Much like five o'clock for margaritas and Jimmy Buffet, 4:20 was deemed the socially acceptable time to spark up. But that's for any other day. It's the 20th of April and midterm season has mostly passed, you've got no excuse to not smoke weed all day. Lectures? Irrelevant.

With there only being one day a year where it is (kinda) socially acceptable to smoke up all day, we have no time to waste. So I thought why not try to come up with an itinerary to help everyone squeeze the most fun out of the celebration. Ferb, I know what we're gonna do today.

**10AM:** Rise and shine. You can't smoke all day if you don't wake and bake. Assemble your best groutfit, gather your flatmates and start your morning off right with a couple rips off the bong. If you don't have one, improvise! You can make a gravity bong, craft a bowl out of a trusty old beer can or carve out an apple – basically just relive the glory days of high school when you didn't know how to get your hands on the proper gear. Although tobacco can come at quite the cost in Aotearoa, I personally recommend throwing in a little chop to make your wake-me-up feel ever so elevated.

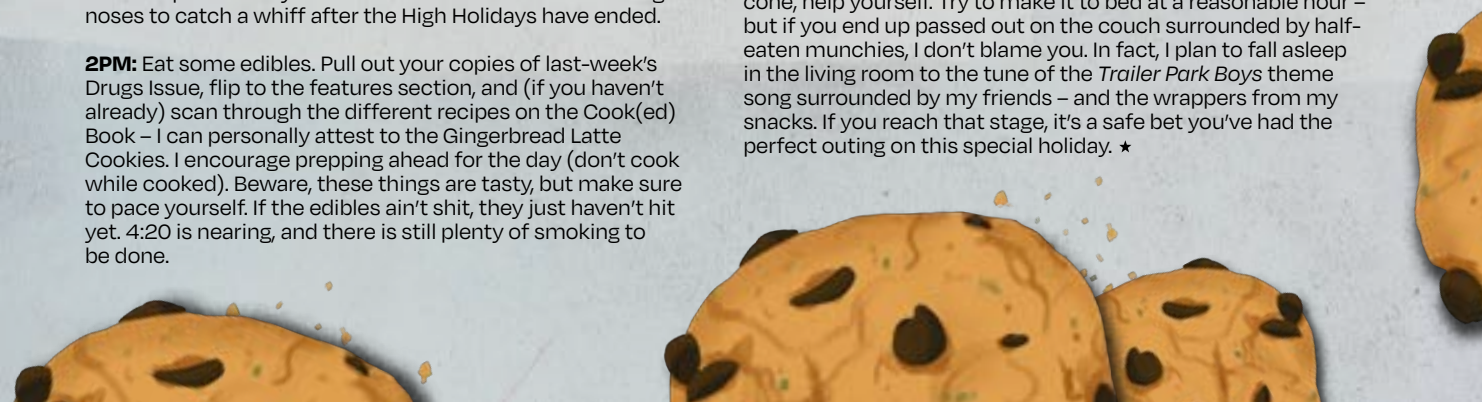
**12PM:** Hot box something. In researching this article, I have been using my neighbor's twenty dollar Kmart tent. Make sure you light your joint outside of the chosen space – lighting it without proper air flow can lead to build up of carbon monoxide (a big no-no). Puff, puff, pass to your heart's content, or until it becomes a little too difficult to see through the smog. Finally, bear witness to the fruits of your efforts: open the door to whatever space you've decided to occupy and watch all the smoke go gone with the wind. Make sure to air out the space once you're done – wouldn't want the wrong noses to catch a whiff after the High Holidays have ended.

**2PM:** Eat some edibles. Pull out your copies of last-week's Drugs Issue, flip to the features section, and (if you haven't already) scan through the different recipes on the Cook(ed) Book – I can personally attest to the Gingerbread Latte Cookies. I encourage prepping ahead for the day (don't cook while cooked). Beware, these things are tasty, but make sure to pace yourself. If the edibles ain't shit, they just haven't hit yet. 4:20 is nearing, and there is still plenty of smoking to be done.

**4:20PM:** Amass your friends. 420 is the perfect opportunity to dispel rumors about us stoners being lazy and isolated. Today, we aren't isolated – only lazy. Pack your bowls, light your joints, and do your best New Year's impression, waiting for the clock to strike twenty after. Ensure to pass your weed around – stoners thrive in the power of love and friendship and today is meant for sharing. This is the magic of community.

**6-7PM:** Kai time! North D – specifically Fatty Lane, is home to an abundance of fast food. Order for pickup! It will be good to breathe in something other than weed smoke for once. And when you return to your flat, let the mukbang begin.

**Until your heart's desire:** Kick back, relax, and turn on your favorite stoner show or movie. If you fancy another edible or cone, help yourself. Try to make it to bed at a reasonable hour – but if you end up passed out on the couch surrounded by half-eaten munchies, I don't blame you. In fact, I plan to fall asleep in the living room to the tune of the *Trailer Park Boys* theme song surrounded by my friends – and the wrappers from my snacks. If you reach that stage, it's a safe bet you've had the perfect outing on this special holiday. ★



# CROSS WORDS

## ACROSS

- 1** Ex-prison located in San Francisco
- 5** Daily online puzzle
- 8** Annoyed and/or irritated
- 9** Typical prizes for achievements in sport
- 10** An official rejection of a decision
- 11** Tropical cyclones
- 13** Feeling queasy
- 15** Timothée Chalamet dislikes it
- 16** Only for a while
- 18** You do this to a fish after catching it
- 20** 2025 movie starring Joaquin Phoenix and Pedro Pascal
- 21** Official inspection of a business
- 22** Self-balancing vehicle controlled by leaning

|    |   |    |    |   |   |   |    |   |    |    |   |    |
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|    | ■ |    | ■  |   | ■ |   | ■  |   | ■  |    | ■ |    |
|    |   |    |    |   |   |   | 8  |   |    |    |   |    |
| 9  |   |    |    |   |   |   |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|    |   |    |    |   |   |   |    |   | 10 |    |   |    |
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|    |   |    |    |   |   |   | 22 |   |    |    |   |    |

- DOWN**
- 1** Paramore tune from 2014 (3)
  - 2** Italian greeting or parting remark
  - 3** Electronic music genre
  - 4** Device used to receive and transmit signals
  - 5** Miley Cyrus banger (2)
  - 6** High-intensity sport involving hurling balls
  - 7** Environmental scientist
  - 12** To formally abandon a belief
  - 14** Religious orations
  - 16** Used to mash food
  - 17** Formal and polite address to a woman
  - 18** Excited and silly
  - 19** Popular anime series 'Attack on \_\_\_\_\_'

Puzzle answers on [critic.co.nz](http://critic.co.nz)

# SUDOKU

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

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

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

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# MAZE



SPOT 10

# DIFFERENCES



## EP REVIEW

If you aren't tapped in like that, drone metal at face value might be boring, flat, and slow. But have you ever thought that maybe you're boring, flat, and slow? :) All good things take time, and that's why Sunn O)))'s (pronounced as "sun", actually) self-titled album is a surprisingly good use of your time.

There really is a delicate balance of effects, timing, and coordination between the duo. Despite being an instrumental album, a lack of a songwriting element does not take away the perceived emotion that you feel through the wall of sound that simultaneously intoxicates you while still forcing your attention.

I do wonder, what if you miss your chord by five minutes? What if you play the wrong chord and you have to listen to it play out for the next 90 seconds? What do you do if someone stage dives at your concert?

Sunn O))) does know how to create a truly enveloping atmosphere, and now I know what it feels like to sit on a 10-foot throne. Soundscapes like these feed into a wandering mind, and feel heavy and long as it's hanging in the air. I've come to love the sound Sunn O))) puts out, I can't recommend it enough.

Review by Louis Sidoruk



Sunn O)))  
Sunn O)))

## TOP 11

1. Logan Edwards (NZ) - Worry
2. Office Dog (NZ) - Front Row Seat
3. Bunchy's Big Score (Dn) - Oscar Says
4. Sogg (Dn) - Point That Thing... feat. David Kilgour (The Clean Cover)
5. Loa Loa (Dn) - Give Me A Place
6. Rā Charmian (NZ) - Kia Puawai
7. dORKWIND (NZ) - Humunculous
8. The Shenatics (Dn) - All Hail Me
9. Monkey Do (Dn) - Pistake
10. Big Sima, Boomtown (NZ) - Rent Free
11. Drop Zone (NZ) - Lake Monster (Stef Animal Remix)

**mazagran hit picks**  
 Hamish Waddell (Dn) - Follow U Down  
 coldplushtoy (NZ) - sethelp

# Horoscopes



**PISCES**

With things getting increasingly out of budget, it might be time to turn one of your hobbies into a side hustle for the next R1 Market Day. Wrangle your flatmates into helping, pay in drinks and start a makeshift factory line during free hours of power.

**Your character from The Office:** Kelly Kapoor



**ARIES**

The nostalgia is running high this week. You're going to get a flood of good old pre-university memories, back when you still had pocket money and your parents would take you on a summer holiday to Australia and it felt like you were on the other side of the world.

**Your character from The Office:** Ryan Howard



**VIRGO**

You have had an itch recently which you haven't been able to scratch. This week, it's time to dig up the money your grandma gave you for Christmas, and freak the cashier at Peaches and Cream out with the insane haul you're buying.

**Your character from The Office:** Dwight Schrute



**GEMINI**

Your computer is on its last legs - hope you've got your funeral outfit picked out. It's time to borrow your flatmate's car and make a trip down to JB Hi-Fi before your next assignment, or else you're lowkey fucked.

**Your character from The Office:** Creed Bratton



**AQUARIUS**

Binge watching *Dexter* and *How To Get Away With Murder* again? Your friends are going to start questioning whether they are safe around you anymore. This is an opportunity to find out who are your ride or dies, versus those who will squeal to the cops at the first sign of stress.

**Your character from The Office:** Michael Scott



**SCORPIO**

Your mum swore to you that throwing out food means a kid somewhere else will go hungry. But some of the items in your fridge have started the fermentation process, and unless you're trying to get a doctor's note to get out of your next test, I'd advise not eating any of it.

**Your character from The Office:** Kevin Malone



**TAURUS**

You are a major over-thinker. You're still remembering some slip up you had weeks ago, which haunts your dreams. It's time to pop some chill pills and realise that everyone else is too busy overthinking their own lives to remember your mistakes.

**Your character from The Office:** Pam Beesly



**CAPRICORN**

Respectfully, it's time to clean that biohazard you call a room. It's not okay to be sleeping with half the flat's dishes in your bed! Your flatmates are sick of keeping clear of your door because of the smell. And they want their dishes back.

**Your character from The Office:** Stanley Hudson



**LEO**

You missed an important assignment this week. It's time to beg your professor (on bent knees) for a two day extension on something you had a month to complete. If begging doesn't work, maybe a cup of coffee or an interpretive dance will work as a bribe.

**Your character from The Office:** Phyllis Vance



**CANCER**

You're beginning to think about where you'll flat next year. With this year's "roaring success" you may want to consider somewhere a bit more habitable. With the amount of mould and wind whistling through your window, reconnecting with nature is easy. But it's time you reconnect with your immune system and get double glazing.

**Your character from The Office:** Nellie Bertram



**LIBRA**

You have been far away from your situation recently (not just emotionally this time). Now that you're both back in Dunners, meet up and rekindle your romance. Make their flatmates complain about the noise level the next morning, and put those mattress springs to work!

**Your character from The Office:** Jim Halpert



**SAGITTARIUS**

A sign from the Universe this week will leave you wondering what you are with that situation you've had for the past month. Is it finally time to turn your Facebook status to dating? Soft launch your relationship to your parents? Or are you forever doomed to be friends with benefits...?

**Your character from The Office:** Oscar Martinez



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1-3PM

Outside the University  
Staff Club

(Main Common Room if wet)

