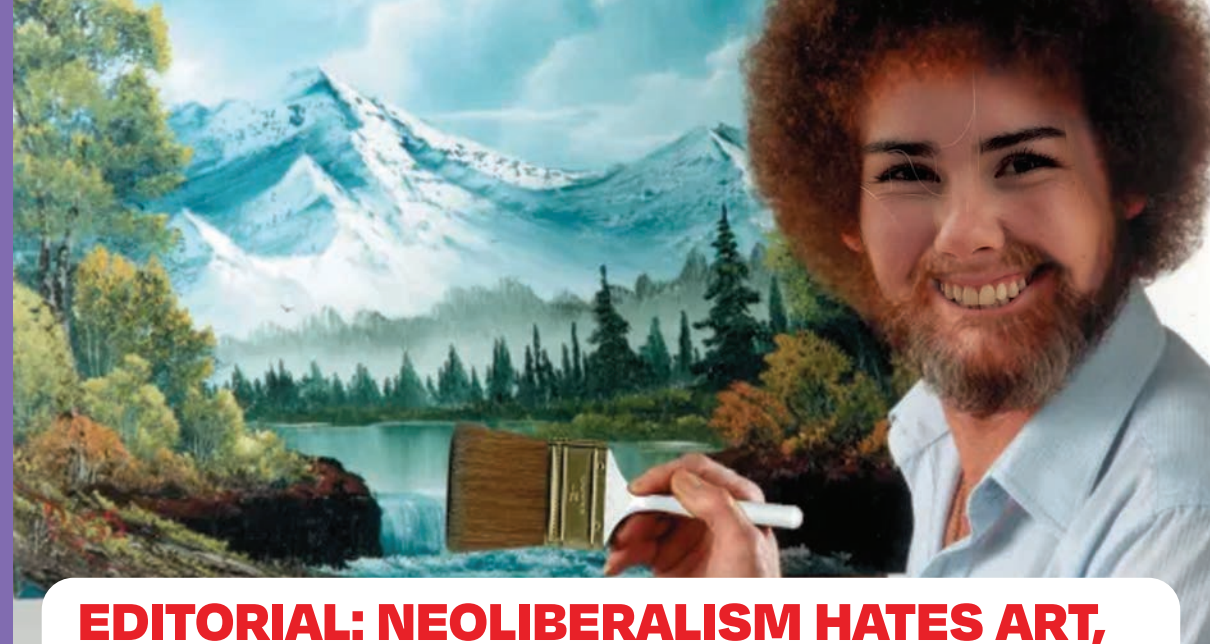




tearohi



EDITORIAL: NEOLIBERALISM HATES ART, AND I HATE NEOLIBERALISM

Neoliberalism is the root of all evil, and the arts have borne the brunt of it. You take any issue in the world and neoliberalism will always be sitting at the end. It's like following a trail of wrappers to find a smug, chubby lil kid with chocolate smeared on its face. It's why we ended up with a neoliberalism themed issue of Critic last year; all roads lead back to it. That and the patriarchy.

Neoliberalism is a stupidly complex term to wrap your head around, especially if you haven't encountered it before. Even two of my second-year Geography lecturers, who taught an entire paper dedicated to the nasty thing, said they still struggled since it is so multifaceted – but it's entirely possible they were just saying this upon seeing our dumbstruck faces to try to make us feel better. Put simply, neoliberalism is the capitalist system that froths the market, means public services are privatised, and the disadvantaged are told to pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

Much like your mate's denial that they caught the Re-Ōri mid-winter flu, neoliberalism also manifests as a mindset – one on a massive scale. It permeates fucking everything. Neoliberalism prioritises endless productivity above all else. Living in a neoliberal world, it's likely you've internalised it to the point that it's the voice in your head making you feel guilty for any moment you are not being useful. And useful isn't learning a song on the guitar or admiring the sunset with your loved ones. No, it's the grindset; 5-9 before your 9-5!

For me, the voice of neoliberalism has gotten me so good that I'm annoyed if I'm not exercising MAX EFFICIENCY at all times. If I'm not multitasking, it's simply not good enough. An example of this is my morning routine, which often sees me brushing my teeth on the toilet, or simultaneously drinking coffee and doing my makeup with one eye trained on The Spinoff's daily newsletter. You'll often find me frozen in one spot, overwhelmed with strategizing how to most efficiently complete the tasks I need to – ironically wasting time in the process.

Where was I going with this? Oh – yes. Fuck neoliberalism, because it dictates how we're spending our time, and what we place value on as a society – not only down to my bathroom habits, but what institutions like our esteemed Otago University pours its resources into as well (arguably

more important). Tertiary education began as a public good, valuing all knowledge. But since its privatisation during the Rogernomics fuckery of the '80s, Unis have had to become increasingly tight-pocketed – forced to function like a business, and not a public good.

I sat in a Uni Council meeting last Tuesday listening to Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Sciences Richard Barker list with pride the efficient way he'd "aggressively consolidated" science degrees, knowing that part of that was cutting the Science Communication program I went through. I still remember the devastation on my film teacher's face, who likely made the Division of Sciences' 'Our People, Our Place' video that Tony was oh so proud of for its "marketability".

Look at what was the first to be sacrificed on the chopping block when savings needed to be made: languages and cultural studies papers. Other degrees are valued more. Why? Because they'll get you a high paying job. A *useful* job. Arts are side hustles, allowed less and less time and resources as we become busier with those productive jobs.

Safe to say, the environment for arts at the moment is pretty depressing. The fact that Act's spokesperson for the arts took 20 minutes to think of a single New Zealand author in an April interview is just one example of how little our current Government values the sector. Which is why it's so important to show up for events like the New Zealand Young Writers Festival that's going to be held in Dunedin in September. We're pretty isolated down here in ol' Duds, so the fact that nationally acclaimed writers are travelling down for this is no small thing.

I don't know about you, but I'd hate to imagine a world without music, or colourful murals like the one gracing the side of Thirsty, or – hell – even Critic could be considered an art and what would you do without your weekly shitposters? There is no way we'd be able to put together the magazine without being paid. Continue to show up for the arts and place value in them, even while our leaders disregard it. And finally: fuck neoliberalism.

NINA BROWN



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LETTERS



UNIVERSITY
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For all booklovers, everywhere.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dear Critic,

I can't believe an article has been written on Te Rangihīroa without mentioning the current scabies outbreak occurring on fourth floor?? Combined with the unpleasant odour emanating from Forth Street, I think they need to borrow some of Hayward's new dryers and hot water and have a wash...

Sincerely,

A fresher who could do without skin bugs

Editor's response: *Oh, god. Good luck*

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

dear critic,

i don't want to lick the boots of the evil landlords, and yeah, they're raising rent everywhere next year, but lowkey i want to shout out Cutler's real estate. my flatmates and i have just had a cutlers-to-cutlers switch for our flat next year, and we've been pleasantly surprised at how genuine and helpful all their property managers have been throughout the process. if you flat with them they actually try hard to get you into another of their (good) flats the following year (i guess as long as you're not shit tenants) and our landlord brought us chocolate on TWO occasions to celebrate that we are staying with them next year. our window got broken last sem (not by us) and our landlord was there within 5 minutes to call someone to fix it (to be fair it didnt get fixed for like 4 days but that's bc it was the weekend, and we got a beautiful plastic and cardboard temporary window that probably kept the heat in better than glass anyway)

i've had friends flating with Edinburgh and they seem to be so bad with communicating, someone has had 6 propeerty managers in 3 months and apparently they don't even sign the lease with you in person???? with Cutler's you get to go to their nice office and sit down and ask any questions and they are super nice about it.

Cutler's are cool and i recommend them. yes they are robbing me blind in rent every single week for my shit cold flat but at least, in my experience, they are friendly and genuinely (seem to) want to help you out with finding a flat each year. Thank you AJ thank you Matt thank you Tabitha

a cutler's loyalist

Kia Ora Critic

I have beef with the question 35D in the crossword in issue 18. It says genus of native plants and the answer has to be Hebe but these have actually been reclassified into a section of the Veronica genus of "Shrubby Veronicas"

Thanks

- botany student

Kia ora Critic

I have been an enjoyer of this esteemed magazine ever since Year 13. Te Ārohi and the Capping Show motivated me to move to Ōtepoti and study here.

But recently, I cannot even enjoy the treasures within each page as I can't even read the title. I don't know who is cooking up these illegible article titles but they need to take a step back and try read them! Do I need to become an expert in hieroglyphics to comprehend whatever I'm supposed to be reading? Please see "If you love them make them a playlist" from the Music Issue. I nearly had an aneurysm trying to translate whatever eyesore this title was.

I've noticed this last year that the art designs have been really inaccessible. There are some really talented artists working for Critic, so I feel it is necessary to point out this blatant issue.

To round off this compliment sandwich (which I nearly inverted from the anger caused by your titles), I love all your mahi in general. Keep up the good fight against the corporate media machine.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jack Evans

Editor's response: *Always appreciate the feedback!*

Dear Critic,

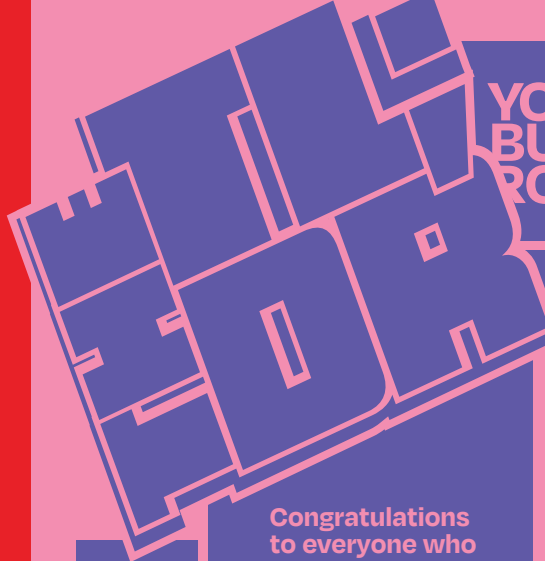
I am writing to you to inform you of Uni Flats' very confusing messaging regarding rubbish bin days. Every Tuesday night they send an email reminding residents to put out their bins for collection the following morning. The only issue is a lot of people have their bins go out on different days of the week e.g. Monday or Tuesday.

Having recently moved to New Zealand, starting uni here, and being assigned trash duty it was very frustrating when our flat missed rubbish collection for 3 weeks in a row! I have since learned from Kivis I've met along the way to read the side of the bins which says your collection day.

I went to inform the Uni Flats office of their confusing messaging, yet they have continued to do it. I have seen many red rubbish bins on my street out for morning collection on the wrong day because of this email. (Also, for those of you telling me to use the DCC collection app, it doesn't even recognise my address as having bins.) This is very frustrating and may seem like a small problem in the grand scheme of things, but Jesus Christ did our rubbish stink.

Sincerely,

The smelly bin saver



YOUR WEEKLY BULLSHIT ROUNDUP

It's Te Whare Tāwharau Community Awareness Week this week in the Link, 10am-2pm. There will be drop-in activities, with a different student group each day, and daily chances to win a New World voucher, learn more about the centre's work and how you can get involved!

An anonymous source has confirmed to Critic that the flood water in Catacombs was, in fact, shit water from sewers. Ew

Paris 2024 Olympics emissions are less than half of London's 2012, achieved through temporary and low-carbon construction materials and the encouragement of sustainable travel

New sanctions are on their way for beneficiaries who do not meet their obligations, as the Government introduced a "traffic light" warning system last week

Congratulations to everyone who graduated last weekend!

Electric Avenue, Aotearoa's biggest one day festival, is set to become a two-day event to mark the event's ten-year anniversary

Three people had to seek medical attention in Auckland last week after meth disguised as Rinda Brand pineapple lollies were accidentally distributed in food parcels which had been donated to the Auckland City Mission

Radio One is currently running Friday Flat Feed, presented by the Bowling Club! To enter the draw to win a free feed for your flat, register through www.r1.co.nz/fff. Winners are drawn every Friday on the Drive Show at 4:30pm (91FM)

POLSA are hosting a charity Bog quiz night to raise funds for FIANZ's humanitarian efforts in Gaza on August 28th. You can find the link to sign-up through their Instagram bio

Te Rōpū Māori are hosting their annual ball on August 23rd! Find the event on Facebook under 'Hōkai 2024 - Garden Grooves' for more info and to purchase tickets

The Olympics wrapped up last week, with New Zealand placing 11th overall with ten gold medals – our highest tally yet. That didn't stop them from leaving the country off the map in the closing ceremony, though

Bowling Club in Caversham will be closed for a month from August 23rd. To cover the expenses of their "much-needed break", owners Liam and Jackie are asking the community to go for a \$4 dinner as much as possible until then! They're open Mondays to Thursdays 3:30pm - 8pm

A Palestine support fundraiser gig 'THE RESISTANCE' will be held at the Crown on Saturday, August 31 with music from bands such as Vagina Dry and Ivy. All door sales go to UNRWA. "Fuck Genocide, Free Palestine"

Culture Cravings, a student-run Māori and Pasifika food start-up, warmly invites students on August 22nd for a feast at 60 Harbour Terrace. They'll be serving up loaded fries, creamy pāua and deep-fried burgers, starting from the price of \$10

Brown University in the States is running on treadmill power, having recently installed a handful of cardio machines that convert human energy into electricity. Kinetic energy from exercise machines are fed into the building's power system, keeping lights running and heating the pool

The WHO last week declared monkeypox to be a global health emergency, with outbreaks in Congo and other African countries – and a death toll of over 500





New Venue 'Dropkicks' Announced

Predecessor Dive Bar and Captain Cook would be proud

By Hugh Askerud

News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

Captain Cook and Dive Bar's grave is soon to welcome new occupants. The building, which has been up for lease since 2022, will soon be occupied by a venue called 'Dropkicks', set to be open this September. Musos and students rejoice, something fucking great just happened.

The venue's website reports that the project was formed due to an "overwhelming need for an affordable live music & entertainment venue in North Dunedin." Best thing about it? The venue promises "to offer our venue FREE of charge for any live music event."

Dropkicks will be open for events only in 2024, yet will have regular opening hours in 2025. The venue has its opening night on the 14th of September, and an international guest (who is soon to be announced) will be appearing on Saturday, August 5th. They say on their website: "The Dunedin city culture is something that has suffered over the past few years and we are here to do our part, to bring our city back to its former glory!"

For the uncultured among you who don't know where we're talking about, the venue will be at 354 Great King St in the building above Sal's pizza. According to Dropkicks's Instagram page, the venue is "brought to you by the good people who run other venues you love <3 @erricksvenue and @ombrellos." Erricks opened last year with the same kaupapa of reviving Dunedin's music scene, most recently hosting the Uni band comp Dig the Gig.

A public notice issued by the DCC has been posted on the door of the venue, asking the public to have their say on the issuing of the venue's alcohol licencing. The notice says that the "applicant seeks the licence on the following hours: Monday to Sunday 11:00am to 3:00am on the following day." Objections to the issuing of the licence close on Wednesday, August 21st.

Speaking to the announcement of the venue, diehard Dunedin Sound fan Jordan told Critic Te Ārohi that, "I think it's really good that there's another safe space for students to be involved in the music scene."

Others on the scene were not so stoked however, with a spokesperson for band Audio Visual Drop Kicks saying, "There's only room for one set of Dropkicks in this town." They then had a think on this for a moment, adding: "Honestly, we are super excited to have a music venue reopening in such a good location for student bands."

Speaking to the bar's creation, one student, Efe said, "It's a good idea, especially after they got rid of Starters." Another student, Rebekah, had similar thoughts: "I think people would probably go [...] it sounds great." Queried on how affordable the drink prices would likely be, she said, "\$4 would be good but it's likely going to be \$6 or \$7," to which Efe replied, "\$6 for a beer, that's still pretty affordable."

The venue's first gig on the 14th has been fully booked online, though other tickets will be available for purchase at the door.



POLSA Students Beat Lecturers in Debate

"We're not piss-sinking idiots anymore"

By Hanna Varrs

Contributor // news@critic.co.nz

In the first iteration of a students versus lecturers POLSA debate, last Monday August 12th a team of "white male law students" (their words) pipped their professors at the post. A keen crowd of peers gathered in the Richardson Building Moot Court to witness the battle over whether or not the Government should remove the tax on alcohol in Dunedin "for the purpose of reviving student culture" or if the status quo should remain.

The debate was judged by Politics Professor Janine Hayward (whose list of published books is as long as your arm), POLSA Vice President Seluvaia Ratoul, and the Debating Society's Liam Gould. On the pro-tax removal team was David Jenkins, Leon Goldsmith and Rachel Billington – all esteemed Politics Department lecturers. Anti-taxers included students Flynn Struckmann, David Koshy and Jack Evans.

The lecturer's team had Jenkins argue that "booze [was] important in any cultural renaissance." He put forward the idea that students should be required to submit a haiku to acquire alcohol, then proposing the appointment of a regional poet to vet this process. Their third speaker, Billington, provided the "humble" perspective of the landlord, noting that a "tipsy tenant is a happy tenant [...] or at least a less vocal one [...]" Who can focus on the quality of their digs when instead you're focused on a good night out?" Critic Te Ārohi hopes the sarcasm comes through in print.

Arguing against the removal of tax on alcohol, the student team referred to students as "enlightened, studious and more than

Castle Street [...] We're not piss-sinking idiots anymore." Instead, the student team proposed that students had moved away from drinking to other activities – leaving it up to the audience's imaginations what these might be. We're guessing crack.

With the express permission of the Proctor, the debate was lubricated with alcohol – although we're pretty sure none of the lecturers indulged. Both the student team and spectators could be spotted proudly guzzling back their fave drinks (mostly Speight's). The permission form to allow Speight's in the building was apparently easy enough, according to POLSA Academic Rep Monica Holopainen: "You fill it out and get the Head of Department to sign."

But given the debate took place on a Monday (the only day that fit with lecturers' busy schedules), Monica didn't want to advertise it as a piss-up. "If [POLSA] do it next year on a Wednesday or Friday [they can make that part] bigger," Monica said.

When asked as to how she felt the event went, Monica said that she felt the event went "really well [...] I always get nervous [about these events], but nobody got cancelled. I also really love organising these sorts of things. There was a really good turn out." The event continues a proud POLSA tradition of socialising with their lecturers. Seriously guys, get some real mates.



Photo Credit: Brendon Williamson

Young Writers Fest Coming to Town

This one's for the homies who read

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

Back for its 10th year, Ōtepoti will be hosting the New Zealand Young Writers Festival on September 13-15th, a three-day festival produced by Dunedin Fringe. This year's program, which dropped last Wednesday, is packed with a diverse range of panel discussions, workshops and performances – including appearances from your local journo at Radio One and Critic Te Ārohi (shameless self-promo).

Critic Te Ārohi spoke to Lil della Porta, the marketing manager for the festival and ex-journo herself. "It's celebrating the brightest young minds in New Zealand, and is by young writers, for young writers," Lil said of the festival. "A lot of the people who work on it – including me – are also young people in the creative industry, so we're creating the thing for young people and we're also doing it inside the organisation which is a big part of why I love working on it. It's really the heart, you know?"

Contrary to what you might think, attending the festival won't mean doing a whole bunch of reading – you've got enough of that in your degree. Lil said that they take a "broad view" of writing in the festival. "There's a whole range of content, it's really vast [...] we often have musical content." The festival is open to anyone from 15 to 35 who can take part either as a presenter or an artist

in the program that has been guest curated by Ruby Macomber, freelance poet, essayist and researcher.

One of the biggest events this year, according to Lil, will be New Zealand playwright Nathan Joe's 'Dirty Passports' that has been performed across the motu. Nathan calls the show "minorities behaving badly." Lil said of the show, "It will be a really awesome, high calibre panel of writers just really having a good time talking about their experiences as minorities in New Zealand. And it's very tongue and cheek." As such a highly reviewed piece, Lil said that they're "stoked" to have 'Dirty Passports' on the program, anticipating that it'll be a draw card for students.

An important aspect of the festival's kaupapa is accessibility. "We are really committed to championing BIPOC, Māori and Pasifika voices, and we make a big effort to include [and] make it accessible to everybody," said Lil. Part of this is the price – or lack thereof. This year, they're introducing a "pay what you want" policy.

Of the payment policy, Lil said, "From my perspective, I'm like boomers, come through [...] Like, if you're coming and you're supporting young people and you wanna see this continue, then please pay some money. You'll probably own like three houses and



Photo Credit: Blake Armstrong

you can afford it. And then like the homies who can't like [...] if you're like a student and you don't have the money, then don't do it. But it's there for the people that can and want to, which is cool 'cos we rely on our sponsors and our donations really to continue the festival."

"This is an open space where people are going to be talking about that, you know? We are all young people who are in the creative community who are first hand witnessing the difficulties of trying to get ahead or continue to do the things that we're doing – even this festival. It all relied on support for the arts and cultural communities in New Zealand. And so, this is a really awesome space to be able to have those kinds of conversations and to encourage each other, 'cos we have to keep going. If we stop doing it, if we stop meeting, if we stop turning up to events like this, then they won't happen. And then we have a big loss."

One event was submitted by Jamiema, current Radio One News Producer and a former Critic writer, who has now been involved with the festival for three years running. Jamiema, alongside Critic Editor Nina and Pantograph Punch Kaiwāwhi Sherry Zhang, will be in a panel discussion on 'Journalism as an Act of Community Building', a topic inspired by her time working for Critic: "We were always writing such wacky stories or writing about really niche communities [...] it's kind of just encouraging people to pursue those [stories] and thinking about what communities [you're] connected to."

A stand-out piece from last year's festival for Jamiema was a panel called 'I Shouldn't Have Read That' of five writers talking about stumbling upon "writing that was a bit too saucy" in their early teens – one for everyone who's innocence was lost in the Wattpad era (you know who you are). "It was just funny to hear from all these people on a formal space talk about reading fanfiction at like the age of 14," laughed Jamiema.

Another of Jamiema's favourites was a panel called 'I'm Not An Imposter' put together by another former Critic writer, alongside three other women of colour talking about imposter syndrome entering the writing world, an historically white male-dominated space, and how they coped with that. "So I think [those] two very contrasting important events kind of show the diversity of the content that will be on offer," said Jamiema.

Audiences of all ages are invited to book tickets. If you're feeling shy, Lil said all the writers involved are "really lovely people and are here because they care about this kaupapa, and they really care about this community. There's nobody that, in my view, can turn up and not feel part of it."

You can book tickets through their website (www.youngwritersfest.nz). Lil encouraged getting in early for these: "They do sell out and there's things that are quite limited!"

Queer Rep Quietly Removed From Exec

Doubts over "due process" underpin the move

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

There is no longer a Queer Rep on the OUSA Student Executive. The position was added to the 2024 Exec as an ex-officio member from UniQ after a Student General Meeting (SGM) in September last year voted it in. However, following contention over whether this followed "due process", the role was removed at the end of last semester.

The September SGM had been the result of a push from UniQ co-leaders Samantha and Jay. For them, the push for a Queer Rep was born out of frustration with a lack of formal support for the queer community at Otago, with UniQ bearing the brunt of advocacy work.

"The UniQ Executive has a history of high turnover due to burnout, because they're expected to act as advocates, support people, event coordinators, and a general consultant monolith for the whole queer student population, all for free and around study/life commitments," said Jay. "It was tiring and unfair dealing with the issues we kept getting presented with on an informal basis, and even more unfair for the people coming to us because there was nowhere better for them to go for support."

"The Queer Rep role was a chance for all queer students to have an avenue for their voice to be heard on the OUSA Exec, and it's disappointing that this opportunity has been lost," added Samantha.

The last time there was a Queer Rep was in 2012, alongside a Women's Rep; however these were consolidated under the Welfare And Equity Rep's portfolio who liaises with different equity and welfare groups.

Doubts over whether the establishment of the Queer Rep followed due process were raised because there had been a referendum earlier in the year where support for the role was a bit murky. Of the 1,781 students who voted on whether there should be a Queer Rep, 46.7% said yes, 18.1% abstained, and 35.3% said no. "And so it was a bit contentious between the two [whether] it should or should not happen," said OUSA President Keegan.

One comment left on the referendum referenced this, saying, "I am LGBT and I think our issues are already adequately covered by OUSA. It should just be something like having being red headed, we don't need someone to be designated to represent our interests in a setting where we already have an Equity Rep and OUSA Queer support."

UniQ President Becca pointed out that the split support for the Queer Rep in the referendum was why the SGM was called, and that being told that it wasn't valid was "surprising to hear, as this hadn't been brought up at all to me or Jay (previous UniQ Prez) before mid to late April 2024 and the sgm [sic] was in Sept 2023."

The second concern resulting in the position being dissolved was because UniQ is a club, rather than an association. Keegan told

Critic there was "a bit of back and forth" between the wider Exec and UniQ, "basically saying that if they were to have a similar position to that of Te Rōpū Māori or UOPISA, who currently sit as ex-officio representatives on the board, that they should be an association."

Keegan explained that the reason for this is because "a club is a lot more of an opt-in – it's social. It's not serving a purpose outside of the social environment and sharing the likes of the same things." In comparison, an association is a larger, opt-out entity that represents a group and "does a lot more for your rights and long-term wellbeing."

Becca said, "This was disappointing to hear, especially when we have grown so much over the recent years, and the consideration that if you're not a part of or seeking support from a community, your awareness of a community's mahi/events likely decreases."

At an Exec meeting held at the end of last semester where the wider Exec broke the news to Becca, they proposed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) between the Exec and UniQ to help support the club. "A memorandum of understanding is basically like a contract that's not legally binding, it's [one] of good will [...] a good faith agreement," said Keegan.

The MOU would acknowledge that the SGM showed the Exec that "there is still a better need and desire for support [for the queer] community, and hopefully this would do that." Keegan continued, stating, "Obviously it can be quite hard and no one wants to hear that [...] you aren't getting a position that you thought you would have. Like, that is hard, and we obviously don't want to make anybody's lives harder, but I think after some talks our MOU is a good way to progress."

Becca said UniQ is currently writing an MOU, which has "always been the plan" since the SGM. "It's been admittedly slow going, but it's in the works. With this MOU we hope to continue to strengthen the relationship between the Exec (especially the [Welfare & Equity] Rep) and UniQ, and continue to strengthen UniQ Otago with the Exec's support, with the hope to have a Queer Rep on the OUSA Exec in the not too distant future."

In a statement to Critic, Becca wrote: "UniQ is admittedly disappointed that the Queer Rep position has been culled by the Exec, and that concerns were broached so long after the SGM's unanimous vote. We feel that UniQ worked hard to bring the motion of a Queer Rep to the 2023 OUSA Exec and felt well supported by them in doing so. It's definitely been a whiplash effect with the position being withdrawn. We hope to work with OUSA in the future to secure this position again, with all the transphobia/queerphobia going on in the world, representation is sorely needed."

The Queer Rep will not be a position up for election in the upcoming 2025 OUSA Exec elections.



Student Presidents Unite at National Conference

Finally, some stability in student politics

By **Hugh Askerud**
News Editor // news@critic.co.nz

In the wake of a crumbling New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA), student association presidents have united to create a national president's council. The decision was made at a national conference between the student leaders on the weekend of July 26th, held at Lincoln Uni. The council will give them the power to advocate on a national level – something the pretty much defunct NZUSA had meant to do.

The context for this movement was the introduction of the Voluntary Student Membership (VSM) Bill by the ACT Party way back in 2011. It basically meant that, rather than students directly funding their student associations, we switched to Service Level Agreements (SLAs) where universities charge the same fee that students' associations had previously, and then use that fee to hire the associations to provide roughly the same services.

Since then, universities have controlled the funding for their student associations and can cut it at their discretion. Currently, OUSA is in the process of going through their budget and preparing to ask the Uni for next year's lot of money – cap in hand, asking for a hand-out. In many cases since VSM, it's meant major cuts to essential services such as counselling and advocacy. At the time of VSM's introduction, NZUSA – the national platform for students to lobby against the government – was strong in the fight against this change. The 2012 OUSA President Logan Edgar famously locked himself in a cage on Union Lawn to protest VSM. Critic Te Ārohi reported in 2018 that OUSA Vice Prez Cam Meads had begun "background" work for a national campaign to repeal VSM in conjunction with NZUSA.

But as the student associations faltered, so did NZUSA. Members over time have dropped out due to funding worries of their own, stripping the body of its ability to represent students across

the motu in the process. This year, Victoria University Students Association (VUWSA) dropped out on August 1st – what could well be the nail in the coffin for the now-defunct institution.

OUSA President Keegan Wells told Critic Te Ārohi, "NZUSA is around – [but] it's not very alive or very well. I would say it's not formally disbanded, but as soon as the background issues get sorted out it will become dormant – existing only in name."

Now, NZUSA's replacement in the form of a council between student presidents of associations across the motu has arrived. They hope to restore some of the national power to student executives to represent their respective student bodies' interests. At the conference where the presidents voted to establish the council, Keegan said, "We all came together and talked about the future of student advocacy across the motu."

Meetings for the new council will begin next year, set to be held monthly, and the chair of the council will rotate every year. Yet despite the hope that the change brings, Keegan admitted, "I think it'll be a pretty slow start [...] Hopefully there's going to be a lot of sharing of information." She mused that election processes and ways of engaging the student body would likely be the first items on agenda.

"I think it's going to be very good. The problem with NZUSA was you didn't have it representing all students since associations dropped out [...] There's universal buy-in for the president's committee which makes it so cool," said Keegan. And so, out of the ashes of NZUSA, a new champion of the student body promises to arise – hopefully with a funky acronym to match.



Women's Ice Hockey on the Rise

Heckle JAJA-opponents at their home game this weekend

By Adam Stitely

Contributor // news@critic.co.nz



The Dunedin Thunder Women's Hockey team is taking to the ice in a home game at the Dunedin Ice Stadium against the Auckland Steel this weekend, August 24th and 25th. The team, including five Otago students and coached by SPEX lecturer Michael Sam, currently sit at third on the table. Critic Te Ārohi spoke to players Kate Vernal and Neve Spooner about the sport's growing popularity.

The Women's Thunder placed third in the league last year, the first time that they'd placed since coming into the league in 2020. Kate told Critic that they have built a "strong team environment and culture," which has helped the team have success on the ice.

Neve emphasised how the Women's Thunder's success has come about amidst a rapidly changing environment in the sport. The growth has been "immense" according to Neve, and it has become "harder and harder" to make the top women's team as its popularity has skyrocketed.

This growth has got the team buzzing, and has encouraged supporters to show up to watch the team in larger numbers than ever before. "It's being promoted a lot more [...] we have fans coming to watch the games [...] and way more younger girls are starting to become involved in learn-to-play and starting to play hockey at an early age," said Neve.

"The league is expanding each year, and we hope that with increased exposure we can bring more fans to the games and

create more interest in women's hockey, by either watching the sport or inspiring women to begin play," said Neve. Kate also encouraged more people to give the sport a go – this year, the league includes players who started as young as four to as old as forty.

Nationally, the uptake in women entering the sport has been spearheaded by the Ice Fernz, the New Zealand Women's National Team. They'll be playing in the Ice Hockey Federation World Championships, set to be hosted mid-April next year right here in Dunedin. The tournament will feature peak ice hockey nations such as Belgium, Australia, Hong Kong, Turkey, and Ukraine.

"Dunedin's got the best ice, that's all there is to it," confirmed ice hockey die-hard Fox, who chose to study in Dunedin as an international student purely for the stadium. "The stadium's awesome. You can go and pay like ten bucks and basically stand up against the glass and watch it all happen – can't really do that anywhere else. If you've never been to [a game] give it a shot [...] It's better than probably whatever else you'll be doing on the night."

You can show your support for the legends on the ice by attending their game this weekend. Tickets are only \$10 and are available online via the Dunedin Ice Stadium website or at the door.



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OUT WATCH

We can sympathise, too, for the vast majority who hoped or expected to do well and didn't. For some, the competition was too much. Others were held back by injury, or it just didn't come together on the day.

post red card host speech

"We also did a lesson where we used goggles to simulate how bad it is to concentrate on anything when drunk.

skill issue?

Students' 'spark of curiosity' on display

nudey runs on the rise as weather warms

Programme successful in getting new drivers behind the wheel

sibling can drive now, never Ubering from town again

A match made in Caversham

fish n' chips and a loose handy

Some other reading matter to consider

the text beyond the deadline

This document gave me cause for a wry smile, and offered the opportunity for a bit of witticism at the expense of the sender, which indeed I grasped.

roasting the guy in your DMs

Among the rules were no swearing or bad language

we get that a lot, actually

Aaarrgh! Now an email, collected!

Nina is tired of letters about the crossword

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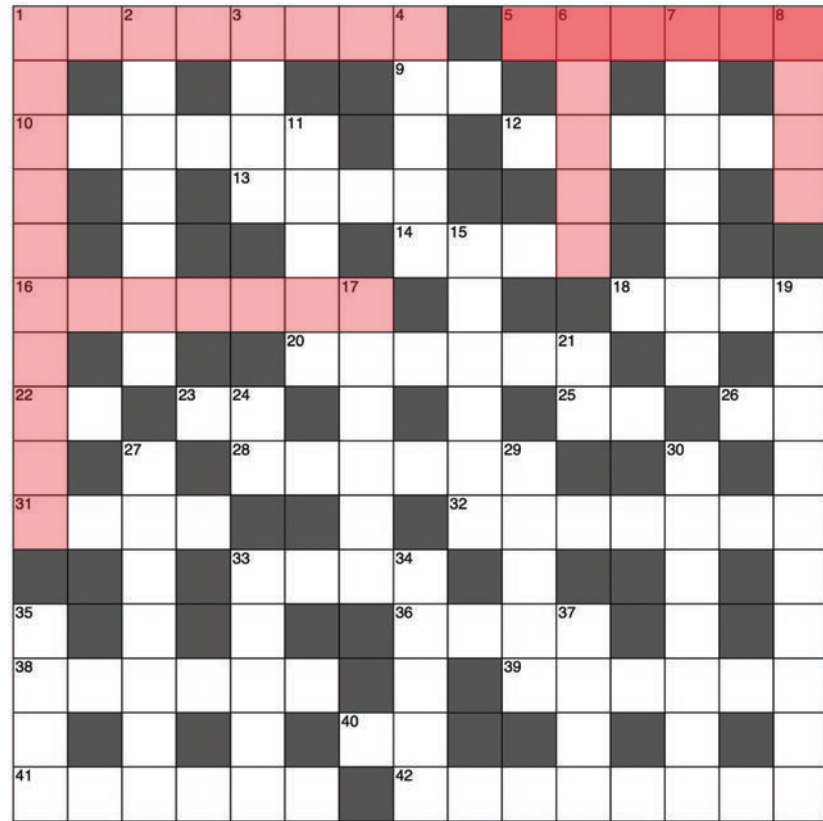
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Bermuda
- 5 Connecting clue
- 9 "Sweet ___"
- 10 "Green," in product names
- 12 Wairarapa chasm
- 13 Like the condoms at Clubs and Socs
- 14 Plunder
- 16 Local sports ground (2)
- 18 Gym and actioned song (acr.)
- 20 Pairs with thread
- 22 Not stop
- 23 Set in the living room (abbr.)
- 25 Index for tanning (acr.)
- 26 Original (acr.)
- 28 Fuel
- 31 Furniture store by the Chinese Gardens
- 32 Club security
- 33 Tulip-to-be
- 36 Solemn vow
- 38 Paul Rudd's Marvel role
- 39 Big brass sound
- 40 Kung ___
- 41 Scandalous to reveal in the Victorian era
- 42 Old OUSA bar

DOWN

- 1 Dunedin's centre (2)
- 2 Guest
- 3 Gun brand for kids
- 4 Canvas holder
- 6 The Grinch's started small
- 7 South Island precious stone
- 8 The sun is one
- 11 6D is one
- 15 A kind of work here and there (2)
- 17 Wednesday \$4 curry legume
- 19 FYPs, for instance
- 21 Brexit left it (acr.)
- 24 Kamala Harris' current role (acr.)
- 27 FYP for readers
- 29 Culture editor
- 30 Lunar or solar event
- 33 Smoke weed
- 34 Something a lil extra
- 35 Ceremonial Māori dance
- 37 60 minutes



ISSUE 18 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 4. EBB 7. MUSHROOM 8. OYSTER 11. LO 12. ATOM 13. TACO BELL 14. EMO 15. CD 16. SN 17. BRA 18. MEDS 20. TUTE 21. TMO 22. IDOL 23. HOON 24. LAD 26. NEON 27. DETOX 29. BI 30. IS 31. RE 32. NYE 33. HEDGEHOG 36. BASS 37. EH 39. BUTTON 40. BRUNETTE 41. EVE

DOWN: 1. MUTTON 2. SHAMEFUL 3. PORTOBELLO 4. EMACIATED 5. BOOB 6. EEL 9. SALAD 10. ROAD CONES 16. SPIDERWEB 18. MOANINGFUL 19. SOON 20. TOLD 23. HOMEBREW 25. AXLE 28. ERECT 30. IN SITU 34. GENE 35. HEBE 38. HUG

SUDOKU

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EASY

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1		3	4	7			5	2
	3	1	7			5	2	
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	5	6			9	3	4	
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WORDFIND

B O F H I G W M X S K N T V V V F P T C A G P N C K D L F Y
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 A H Q K F E I L Y S S T W X Q I F W B C Z N D W A X N Z C L

- DROPKICKS
- TAXATION
- RENAISSANCE
- COMMUNITY
- FESTIVAL
- ACOTAR
- BOOKTOK
- QUEER
- HOCKEY
- SAUVIGNON BLANC
- POTTERY
- CONFECTIONARY
- FRESHER
- THE DAZE
- KATSU
- SUBMISSION
- COLOURING
- SPEIGHTS
- DEBATABLE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Illustrated by Connor Moffat

There are 10 differences between the two images



GUIDE

By Molly Smith-Soppet
& Angus Rees
Illustrated by Lucia Brown

Are you sick of your weekends and evenings being filled with despair and boredom? A new hobby or fun flat activity is a good way to build connections with others and yourself. Take this quiz and find out which Critic-approved activities you and your friends should get amongst. Turns out getting your craft on can cost a pretty penny, so we've helpfully included a budget-friendly option for each!



1. YOU GO TO AN ANYTHING-BUT-A-CUP PARTY. WHAT IS YOUR VESSEL OF CHOICE?

- A) A pot
- B) A spray bottle
- C) Water gun
- D) Watering can
- E) Petrol can (unused)
- F) A shoe

2. WHERE IS YOUR HOMETOWN?

- A) Somewhere cool... so, overseas
- B) Auckland
- C) Wellington
- D) Christchurch
- E) Dunedin
- F) The middle of buttfuck nowhere

3. WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF THE DAY TO WAKE UP?

- A) 7:15 am. You've got to get to the library early for the aesthetic sunrise study timelapse
- B) Noon. Nothing worth being awake for happens before then
- C) Whenever the sun comes up. You enjoy being awoken by warm sun rays
- D) 9:00 am. A very normal time for a very normal person
- E) 2:12 pm. Everyone knows you should let your body wake up only when it is rested enough
- F) Sleep? You'll sleep when you are dead

4. WHAT UPCOMING DUNEDIN EVENT ARE YOU THE MOST EXCITED FOR?

- A) Southern Sounds
- B) Law Ball
- C) Mid-semester break. You just want to leave Dunedin
- D) Shrek Rave
- E) Dunedin Marathon
- F) Student poker game

5. IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE A NEW DEGREE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- A) Classics. Percy Jackson made me do it
- B) Marketing. You have seen the aesthetic marketing life on TikTok and want it
- C) Finance. Wolf of Wall Street is on repeat in your flat
- D) Marine Biology. You feel the need to go to St Kilda at least once a week
- E) Sports and Exercise Science. You signed up for the half marathon and it's your new personality
- F) Forensic Analytical Science. True crime podcasts are your bread and butter

6. WHAT 2010S SONG BEST DESCRIBES YOUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT?

- A) 'Rolling in the Deep' by Adele
- B) 'Party Rock Anthem' by LMFAO
- C) 'Wake Me Up' by Avicii
- D) 'Stressed Out' by Twenty One Pilots
- E) 'Young, Dumb and Broke' by Khalid
- F) 'Sucker' by the Jonas Brothers

7. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO QUICKLY GET TO THE FRONT OF THE CATACOMBS' LINE?

- A) Just cutting to the front and inevitably being sent to the back by the bouncer
- B) "Trust bro, I know the DJ"
- C) Saying, "Sorry, my friend's in a K-hole inside"
- D) Chatting up the seccy
- E) Slipping through the crowd whispering "sorry, sorry, sorry"
- F) Catacombs? Nah, Pequeño is your jam – and you wait in line, like an adult

8. WHAT HALL DID YOU LIVE IN?

- A) Unicol, with your fellow basic bitches and breathas
- B) Carrington
- C) One of the irrelevant ones. You had fun, but have to defend your choice in every conversation (Salmond probs)
- D) Hayward
- E) Selwyn
- F) Arana

9. WHAT IS THE BEST SAUCE TO PUT ON THE MEALS THAT YOUR ONLY-CHILD ATMATE COOKS?

- A) Wattie's tomato sauce
- B) Nando's Peri Peri sauce
- C) DIY Raising Canes
- D) Kewpie mayo
- E) BBQ sauce
- F) You feed it to the metaphorical dog (the rubbish bin) and eat seven slices of toast instead

10. WHAT IS THE BEST ROOM DECOR?

- A) Bonges as vases
- B) Used condoms (yummy)
- C) Road cones
- D) Critic centrefold posters
- E) A falling-apart Temu rug
- F) Road sign with your last name

Price: Minimum \$7.75 if you shop at PAK'nSAVE

Description: Whether you're painting a bowl of fruit or mildly deformed portraits of your friends, this is sure to end with some sick new flat decor. With your lounge kitted out in art that would make Warhol gasp, your landlord is sure to overlook the burn marks on the carpet and the weird musty smell.

Good idea to be drunk? "The drunker, the better," as the artists say

MOSTLY G'S - PRINTMAKING

BOUJEE: PRINTMAKING CLASS

Price: \$240

Where & When: Wednesday morning or evening, 16th September – 8th November, Dunedin School of Art

Description: If posters from This N That aren't cutting it, it's time to upgrade by making your own. Whether you are just looking to re-decorate or to even upskill yourself, you can't go wrong with a little creative time.

Good idea to be drunk? If you're drunk on a Wednesday morning, you have a problem

BUDGET: GRABBING YOUR MATE'S DIRTY WHITE SHIRT AND FINGER PAINTING ON IT

Price: Free

Where & When: Living room of the flat while they are away

Description: When your flatmates leave their washing out for days on end, put their clothes to good use! Possession is nine-twelfths of the law, after all. Either finger painting or potato stamps are a great way to get your vision down onto the material.

Good idea to be drunk? It'll give you an excuse if it causes a problem – drunk mistakes and all that

MOSTLY D'S - JEWELLERY-MAKING

BOUJEE: OTAGO POLYTECHNIC JEWELLERY CLASSES

Price: \$240 (short course)

Where & When: Term 4 intakes start September 16th, Wednesday morning class for beginners at 10 am – 12 pm

Description: Spend your morning/evenings making jewellery for

your SO <3 It's a nice, personal touch, and if you ever break up it will give you something to remember your varsity romance by.

Good idea to be drunk? Uh not really, the side-eyes wouldn't be worth it

BUDGET: MAKE IT REAL JEWELLERY KIT

Price: \$14

Where & When: The Warehouse, hungover and feeling crafty

Description: Post-flat meeting, sit your flatties down for some DIY Swiftie friendship bracelet-making. This may make or break the flat, depending on how rough the meeting was (do your dishes, godammit), but just shake it off!

Good idea to be drunk? With alcohol, it would make a mess. Without, it could be super wholesome. Pick your player, ig

MOSTLY E'S - PHOTOGRAPHY

BOUJEE: OTAGO WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

Price: \$3,995

Where & When: Four-day photography masterclass, October 19 - 22nd

Description: Spend four days with experienced photographers around the Otago Peninsula taking photos of Dunedin wildlife (animals, not students) including penguins, albatross and seals. This is a career path kind of situation, and decisions that big should not be based on the answers of a silly little quiz in Critic.

Good idea to be drunk? Lowkey is a waste of money if you do. Also being drunk for four days straight is reserved for Flo, Ori, Re-Ori and when the Stags finally beat Otago

BUDGET: DISPOSABLE FILM CAMERA FROM PHOTO WAREHOUSE

Price: About \$40.90

Where & When: Go to the Botans or the Octagon on a Saturday night and take pics of the native flora and fauna

Description: Grab the cheapest disposable film camera and bring it on a night on the town prow. Your mate is puking on the seesaws on George St? Snap a pic – maybe even a follow-up the next day during a hungover feed. Bonus points if you remember the photos!

Good idea to be drunk? It will make your photos more artsy and whimsical (blurry and unhinged)

MOSTLY F'S - SEWING

BOUJEE: STITCH KITCHEN BEGINNERS WARDROBE BASIC CLASS

Price: \$120

Where & When: Stitch Kitchen, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, August 28th – September 11th

Description: Do you want to own a pair of pants which you can tell everyone that you made yourself? Of course you do. Stitch Kitchen has lots of sewing classes, this term's project being PJ pants (that can probably be worn to the library).

Good idea to be drunk? Nah, but a wine to unwind would be fitting

BUDGET: TE ORAKA SIP & SEW

Price: \$5

Where & When: Throughout the semester at Te Oraka. Keep an eye on their socials!

Description: Are your clothes getting lots of wear and tear? Close those tabs with \$600 carts on them, head to Te Oraka, and repair the clothes you already have! Then you can buy more alcohol #girlmath.

Good idea to be drunk? If you want your clothes to have more holes than you came with: yes! (The sip means coffee, pisshead)





Portrait of a Cow by Tasia Alexander



Depths by Chloe Bowman
OUSA Art Comp Illustration Winner



Beneath the Surface by Mahina Barrit
OUSA Art Comp Painting Winner









Pure Shrex Appeal
by Sian Boase

I wrote a diss poem about **DRUNK** freshers

By Matilda Rumball-Smith
Illustrated by Connor Moffat

to the fresher in subs,
i've forgotten your name.

there's a certain predictability to thursday night
bottom shelf wine sprays the room pink
crushed cans bloom metallica
fresher frenzy emerges clockwork with each drink

the savagery of subs
makes horrible animals to fear
teeth spit glass shards red and white
cigarette ash nests in our hair.

our skin burns of ethanol
the volume reaches its limits
hair twines like smoke around our hips
and our blood tastes of spirits.

to the fresher in subs,
it's not the unironic way you called me a snack
but your dance moves
that earn you a diss track.

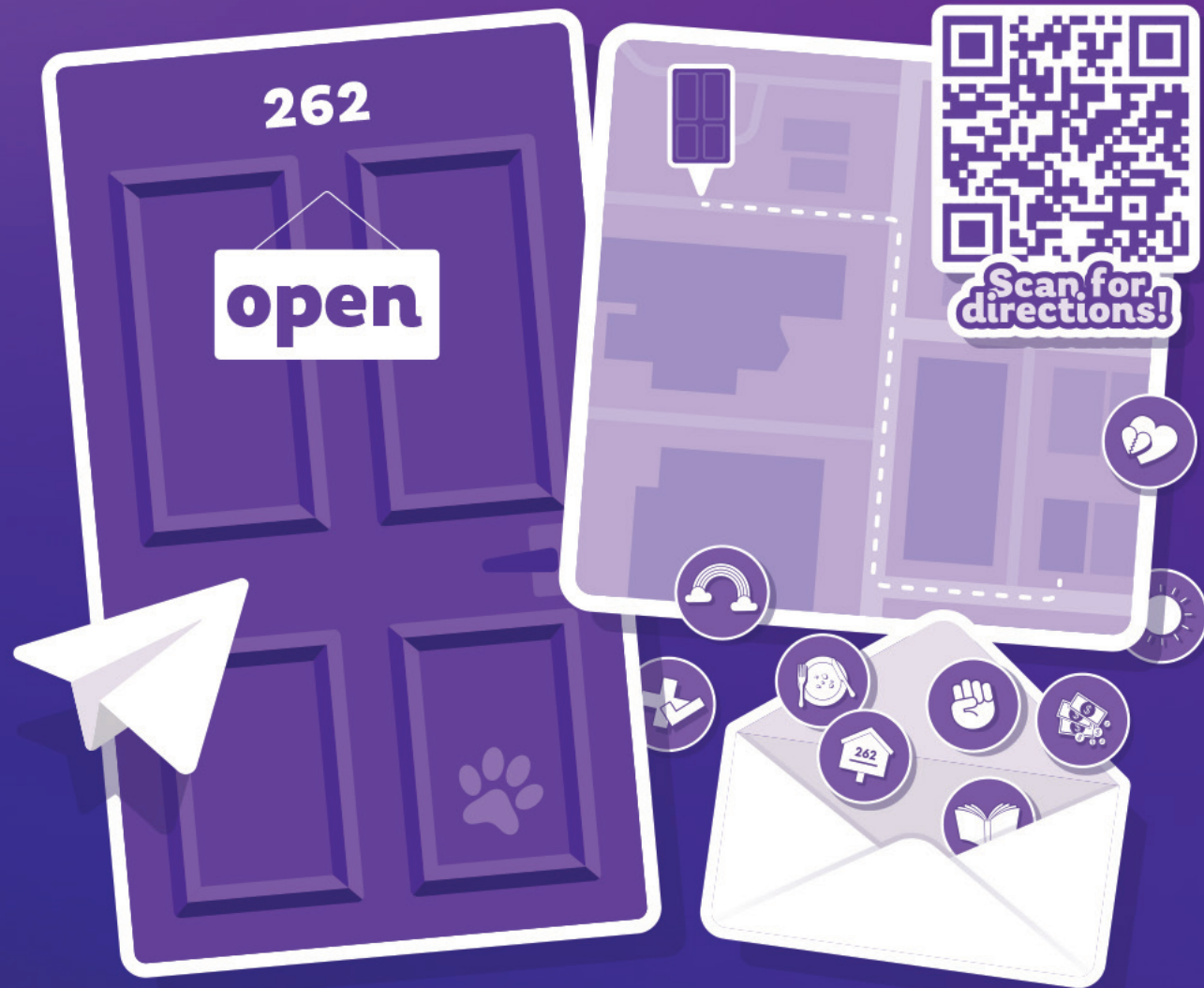
i'll never drink tequila again
between us two slices of lemon drips
your hall or mine?
you lick the salt off my lips.

your graffiti face warps crayon and fur under the neon
a condom crackles under my thigh, innocuous
eyes like watery beer
you look at the bartender's boobs and lose focus

silver-coin night swirls to sunrise
incandescent red and gold cockleshell
he spins me under the arches of maccas
i remember his name with a triumphant yell!

We've Moved!

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at 262 Leith Walk



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As an English major, I am entirely qualified to be the type of person who shits on other people for what they choose to read; to be the type of person who sees BookTok as encouraging 'the wrong kind of reading'. But I don't. My decision to major in English stemmed from a love of reading, not from a love of competition – and definitely not from the superiority complex I gave myself after reading all 1,462 pages of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* at age 14 (please just let me flex this). Far from a kind of graveyard where 'good literature' goes to die, BookTok is the best thing to happen to the internet in a long time.

Throughout history, something is always 'ruining reading' (reminder: *Fifty Shades of Grey* existed long before BookTok was even a thing). There's this elitist mindset that only certain books are worth the time, with everything else dismissed as frivolous. This perspective isn't just snobby – it completely misses the point of what reading is supposed to be about. As long as people have been speaking, there has been storytelling – and while your ancestors probably weren't sitting round the fire sharing 'fake dating' or 'only one bed' stories, they were still fostering a sense of community. And that's what BookTok is: the internet's campfire. It's a place of creativity, joy, and enthusiasm for stories. It's like the world's biggest book club.

BookTok can be seen as an echo-chamber where only one type of book is recommended. You can probably picture all those deceptively innocent-looking cartoon covers. But trends come and go and, really, there's no such thing as a BookTok book. You may have walked into the University Bookshop and seen the 'As Seen on BookTok' sign. On closer inspection, however, the books piled up under this heading have very little in common. I think you'd struggle to find similarities between 'The Secret History' (a dark academia murder story) and 'A Court Of Thorns and Roses' (an action-filled fantasy and romance series).

Contrary to what people seem to think, BookTok isn't synonymous with trashy; it's synonymous with popular. It's a marketing strategy. The BookTok section of a shop is for the books that are getting a lot of traction, and are therefore displayed more visibly so people buy them in a place where – get this – people go to buy books. It's no different to the Classics section where, really, the only thing making it a "classic" is that it's old. The tropes on BookTok aren't new, either. Jane Austen was the OG enemies to lovers writer, she just wasn't writing at a time when books were classified by their hashtags.

BookTok is predominantly a female space, readers and writers both. There have been worries about these female authors quickly churning out books that tick the boxes of what is trending, with apparently little literary quality. But where's the same criticism for James Patterson, who has written 25 books this year already, all with the same formulaic plot and cover art? There seems to be an underlying misogyny to the dismissal of the books most enjoyed by women. It's similar to anyone wearing a band t-shirt being asked to "name three songs"; or hating on Taylor Swift, who deserves to be critiqued for a number of reasons, but not for the fact that she's a successful woman. Can't a t-shirt just be a

t-shirt, and a book just be a book? And can't we listen to the 10th version of *The Tortured Poet's Department* (acoustic, extended and remastered) in wistful peace?

Other critiques rest on the idea of performative reading – the so-called 'hot girl books' that are more an accessory than an intellectual pursuit. But why is it only performative when it's a female celebrity and not when Jacob Elordi gets papped casually browsing for books in the airport? Sports fans aren't dismissed in the same way. A guy wearing a football top isn't called out for wearing it as an accessory, and while the posters of Alan Shearer on his bedroom wall might be an ick, they wouldn't be called performative. Maybe you don't hate BookTok. Maybe you just hate women enjoying things.

The increased visibility and revival in reading that BookTok has encouraged is a positive thing. In this era of misinformation and brainrot, developing critical thinking and the ability to dedicate time to something other than our phones is crucial (check out last week's issue to see just how bad our phone addiction is). It's made books culturally relevant again. There are so many people I know who are getting back into reading after not having read a book since high school, and it's the best thing ever. The fear that books will die out in the digital age is being squashed by BookTok. Your grandma can breathe a sigh of relief.

Not every book needs to be revolutionary. At the end of the day, reading is a hobby and there's no right or wrong way to engage with it. All art is subjective. What's mediocre to you might be a masterpiece to someone else (kind of like who your flattie chooses to bring home from town). I know that what I like to read doesn't apply to everyone, but that doesn't mean they're wrong. It just means we're different people with different tastes.

Once you start reading, it's often a gateway into more reading. Sure, it might begin with hockey romances or One Direction fan-fic, but it's a step towards discovering your own tastes. And if those are still exclusively hockey romances, that's fine too! You're allowed to enjoy something simply because you enjoy it. Conversely, you also don't have to read something if you don't want to (but this doesn't apply to your assigned readings, sorry babe). If you loved a book, no one has the right to invalidate that.

BookTok is encouraging a whole new generation to discover the joys of reading. It's diverse and really does offer something for everyone. In one scroll, recommendations can range from Colleen Hoover to Dostoevsky. If what you're seeing isn't for you, do something about it. Don't just dismiss BookTok for one of its many parts – change the algorithm and make an effort to find what really resonates. It's called a For You Page for a reason.



Critic BACHELOR

By Hanna Varrs

GROUP DATE ICE SKATING

Delivereasy BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR MATES AT

DUNEDIN ICE STADIUM



This week on the Critic Bachelor, the next batch of singles in the second round have been sentenced to another freezing group date. But will romance warm their cold little hearts? Read on to find out!

It's 12pm on a Wednesday when Micah, Charlotte, Brad, and latecomer Amelia shuffle into Dunedin Ice Stadium to go skating. Joel, in his element, is the first to venture out onto the ice. Micah is next – wearing only a linen shirt. "He's from Colorado, it's fine," Charlotte says as she hits the ice with all the grace of a baby deer.

We all hold on to our respective polar bear skating aids, named Sonya, Pooh, Lil Jon, Nelson, Hiccup and Pickles. Joel takes off, pushing Brad around the rink. "It's like we're Jack and Rose," Brad yells, collecting a somewhat concerning amount of momentum. Amelia crashes into Joel (on purpose?) allowing him to steady her with his gorgeous, rugged arms. "I feel like I'm gonna dislocate my knees," he says worriedly.

Despite the wobbly beginnings, the group quickly commit themselves to a race across the ice pushing each other on the skating aids. Joel is quick to begin pushing Milly, who seems smiley but fearful. The pair easily win the first race, and Joel calls for a rerun. This time, the lucky single to be paired up with the man of the hour is Micah. The rink is filled with screams as the group hurtle across the ice, nearly seriously maiming other members of the public.

Meanwhile, Charlotte takes a tumble. Struggling up and skating over, she tells me that she "really needs to quit vaping". Micah makes his way over. "Oh, you know, this is the most fun I've had in a while," he admits. We chat a little about what his parents back home in the US think about him being such a well-loved contestant. "They'd face palm at the fact I'm doing this," he laughs. "They'd

think it's a stupid waste of time, like, 'Why are you doing this?'" He tells me that the experience thus far has inspired him to try out for Love Island.

INDIVIDUAL DATES

Milly is the first single that Joel pulls away for a little chat. They've only really properly met today, with her being too ill to attend the first date. "We've broken the ice," Joel jokes. "I'm becoming very acquainted with Lil Jon," Milly says. "I think the ice is very much not broken. I expected [for us] to have more chemistry," she jokes (I think). Over her shoulder, Micah and Charlotte can be seen skating hand in hand, with Micah trying to pitch to the casting team that "this the real Bachelor".

Meanwhile, Joel and Milly talk a little bit about how the Rob Roy bikkie batter is the best hangover cure, but the vibes seem off. Milly's already mentioned several times that she doubts that she'll get through to the next date – is this a self-fulfilling prophecy? Joel pushes Milly away on Lil Jon, perhaps seeking someone with better chemistry.

You do have to have sympathy for Milly. After being unable to make the first date – therefore skipping the rose ceremony – she got a bit of heat from people criticising her for making it through to the second date. "I signed up for this thinking it would be a loving community – clearly that's not the audience of Critic. [My excuse is that] I had the Re-O week influenza [...] I'm only just recovering now." She snuffles forlornly. Shame on you, reader.

Charlotte wobbles over for the next chat, explaining that she'd fallen on a scabbed gash on the back of her leg. Joel seems concerned, asking about the origin of the

injury and if she was okay. She explains that she hadn't been able to walk for the past week because of it, instead "hobbling everywhere like a freak". They get on to the topic of injuries more generally, and Charlotte reveals that she used to fake injuries for attention in school. "I loved the drama, loved the attention. I've outgrown it now," she smiles graciously. Joel seems perplexed. "That was absolutely delightful," Charlotte says as she skates away again.

Micah is next – someone who we've got a bone to pick with. The casting crew has been tipped off that Micah has been seeing Joel outside of the dates at OUSA \$4 lunch. When confronted, Micah smiles cheekily. "Oh, you know, it may have been multiple times. We talked about our weekends, how life is going and the world's affairs," he says loftily. "We talked about how there's a group of international students who are placing bets on who is going to win." Shoutout to you guys! The pair have a natural chemistry; Micah's easygoing and humorous demeanour brings out the best in Joel. Despite this, Micah does comment afterwards on Joel's seeming aversion to sweet treats, calling it a "red flag". Will this put their chemistry on ice? Haha.

Finally, Brad is pulled aside. They talk about his recent lab-work, with Brad commenting that he feels as if he is giving Joel a "research pitch". Joel expresses his appreciation for Brad's outfit, approving of his more "appropriately warm clothes". They don't talk for long before Joel comments that he wishes to get back out on the ice, dragging Brad with him. "It's been lovely," they say as they ditch me, Lil Jon, Sonya and Pickles to be alone with my laptop in the middle of an ice rink.

ROSE CEREMONY

Standing in a wobbly semi-circle, Joel turns to face the singles. "Okay, um, I just wanna say this has been really fun with everyone. It sucks that I can only pick two of you for the next date. So my first rose, if you'll accept it, is for Brad." Brad shuffles over, grinning from ear to ear.

There is an awkward silence before Joel looks up once again. "And Micah – will you accept this rose?" Micah nods and takes his rose, seemingly pleased. Milly and Charlotte hold hands and assert that they will be going on a date now: "We found each other on the ice [...] At least I got to go ice skating," Charlotte says. "I think we're better off as friends anyway," Milly says, unfussed.

When asked why Joel chose Brad and Micah for the next date, Joel told us that he simply felt there was better chemistry with the boys. We suspect there might also be something to be said about keeping a good gender ratio. And that's that for this instalment. Have an ice day!

Next week in the column, the four remaining singles Lily, Jessica, Micah and Brad will battle it out with karaoke and mechanical bull-riding in their quest to win Joel's heart. Tune in to the Monday Drive Show on Radio One 91FM at 4:30pm for Critic Bachelor behind the scenes tea.

RAD TIMES

GIG GUIDE

**WEDNESDAY
21 AUGUST**

COZY COMEDY OPEN MIC
INCH BAR
Tickets from eventfinda.co.nz.
7.30pm.

**TURSDAY
22 AUGUST**

HOT POTATO BAND
ERRICK'S
Tickets from undertheradar.co.nz.
7pm.

J R WILLIAMS & THE CIGARETTES
THE CROWN HOTEL
w/ Leigham & Hyram and Bunchy's
Big Score. 7.30pm. \$15.

WHAT! VOLUME 3
CAROUSEL LOUNGE BAR
Featuring SOLID GROOVEZ, BLACKTOP, WALKSONWATER,
NIX-SPIN, RISK, AK, BLAHO, WOOSH, and COOP. Tickest
from humanitix.com. 9pm.

**FRIDAY
23 AUGUST**

K M T P (SOLO)
MAGGIES
w/ Pearly*. Tickets from
undertheradar.co.nz. 7.30pm.

**SATURDAY
24 AUGUST**

POST OFFICE
PEARL DIVER
w/ The Amber Temple and and The
Entire Alphabet. 8pm. Free entry.

**LIBBIANSKI - 'USELESS SPLENDOUR' ALBUM
RELEASE TOUR**
THE CROWN HOTEL
w/ Pearly* and The Beatniks. Tickets from
undertheradar.co.nz. 8pm.

The Daze have been making music for over two years and are continuing to make noise in Dunedin's music scene. Formed in their hall in first-year, the band's made up of Sam (he/him) on guitar and vocals, Ollie (he/him) on drums, Vere (he/him) on bass and vocals, and Alex (he/him) on guitar. The band started off with a different lineup initially with Alex later joining the group. Critic Te Arohi sat down with the band to chat about their start, upcoming singles, and wanting a couch on stage.

All the members shared similar music interests and started to jam together in halls (Ollie was a subwarden). "He wasn't allowed to drink when we were on stage which was funny," remarks Vere, with Sam adding, "He was trying to relive his glory days."

The band played their first gig at Next in Line, which quickly put together after a previous member signed them up for the competition. "It was rough," says Sam, "We figured it out quickly enough." Ollie adds, "The first time we played the set the whole way through was that night." Vere was approached to play bass for the band, despite not touching his bass for four months. Alex joined the band this year, with an audition ultimatum that if he took his shirt off he was in the band. As evident by this article, he is now in the band.

Sam is the main songwriter and orchestrator of the band. "I spend hours a day sitting behind a guitar seeing what

comes out, and if I like it I'll develop it [...] it happens every now and then [that] I get a cool musical idea and throw it out to the band and they help out with it." There are various other processes like jamming, as well as Sam hunkering down and churning out a complete song to give to the band. Vere's songwriting process differs. "Usually I'll write down something stupid that would make for a great song name or concept and go from there," he says.

The band cites Lou Reed and The Velvet Underground as influences. They also mention Oasis and how their 'wall of sound' approach to making music has impacted the band sonically. The Daze, whose music doesn't adhere to any one genre, usually markets themselves as "hard hitting alternative rock".

The band has spent a lot of time recording in bedrooms, the Uni studios, and Southlink Productions. The Daze plans to release an EP by October that is mainly produced by Sam. "It will close in more on what our sound will be," says Vere. The band plan to line up some shows for the release of the EP and are quite keen to have a couch on stage. "All of us lounging on it playing our tunes would be sweet," says Ollie.

You can follow The Daze on Instagram @the.daze.band to see any upcoming gigs and releases.



\$4 LUNCH
PROVIDED BY TANDOOREE GARDEN
Monday - Friday 12 - 2pm • OUSA Clubs & Socs
Full menu available at bit.ly/ousa4lunch

#comeplayousa

Clubs & Socs
ousa

TOP 11 14 AUG 91 FM

- 1 IVY (Dn)** - Real Love
No. 1 last week | 3 weeks in chart
- 2 Wet Denim (NZ)** - Again And Again
No. 4 last week | 2 weeks in chart
- 3 DONK DOBBO (NZ)** - OPHOP DONK (FT. DJ BAX)
No. 2 last week | 2 weeks in chart
- 4 The Mentalist Collective (Dn)** - Baby Girl ft. Lara Rose
No. 9 last week | 3 weeks in chart
- 5 Fanfickk (NZ)** - Boring
1 week in chart
- 6 Powder Chutes (NZ)** - Merchants
1 week in chart
- 7 Keira Wallace (Dn)** - Leap/Landing
No. 5 last week | 6 weeks in chart
- 8 T. G. Shand (NZ)** - Scenes
No. 8 last week | 5 weeks in chart
- 9 Night Lunch (Dn)** - 1 MILLION PINES
No. 3 last week | 5 weeks in chart
- 10 Haszari (Dn)** - Gumdrop
No. 7 last week | 3 weeks in chart
- 11 Monk Seals (NZ)** - Black Widow Woman
1 week in chart

Mazagran Hit Picks

- Georgia Gets By (NZ)** - Split Lip
- Not Exact (NZ)** - 9 Months



Students receive 2-for-1 entry into the Tūhura Tropical Forest



TŪHURA
Otago Museum

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/otagomuseum) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/otagomuseum) [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@otagomuseum)

@otagomuseum

DO IT YOUR
FUCKING SELF

ELECTRICITY 101

TOP TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND YOUR FLAT FROM BURNING DOWN

BY SAM SOPPET

Electricity is cool as fuck. But alongside all the awesome shit it does, it can also act as a source of a whole lotta hurt – be it your hairdryer shocking you in the bathroom, your whole flat going up in flames (there's a reason they check that shit is up to par in first-year halls), or to your wallet. Using multiboards and extension cords correctly is a good way to ensure your power bill isn't too high, affecting your bill in surprising ways. Read on for Critic's five tips to both save money and your flat!

1 Common sense multiboard use. Top tip: if it heats or cools, it goes into the wall, not a rigged extension. Do not use multiboards as a jury-rigged extension. Not only does it use more power, but multiboards can be dangerous if used wrong – and that's a wrong way of using it. It's also important to make sure that leads to your multiboards aren't coiled up since the cables do put out a small amount of heat and thermal runaway makes for a mighty good fire hazard.

2 Unplug appliances you aren't using. This one may seem obvious, but if you have a heater, charger, or anything of the sort not in use, turn it off at the wall and unplug it. They can still use small amounts of power when not in use, and that all adds up!

3 Charge devices on hard, non-flammable objects. This one seems pretty self-explanatory, but people do get caught out! Some phone cables (definitely not from a company named after a fruit) can fray and expose wires, which can make small shocks and burns far more common than they should be. This is just outright fucking dangerous, so if you have a fucked up cable: replace it. Charging devices on desks, side tables and other raised furniture is a good idea, but never do it on carpet.

4 Make sure furniture doesn't sit on cables. I know, your desk chair might roll over your cables every now and then, but this can severely compromise the structure of your cable! If possible, have cables run as close to walls as possible so they don't interfere with furniture – or you, for that matter. Cables can be quite the trip hazard!

5 Be sensible with your breaker board! Don't prop switches closed. If they keep tripping, they are tripping for a reason. Put your detective cap on and see if you can work it out. A good way to do this is to turn everything off, and as you turn things back on, check the board. A lot of Dunedin's older houses have really strange wiring setups, and even if they are safe, they can still be super confusing. Don't be a dummy!

FOR: LIAM GOULD

AI art can be tacky and cheap but it can also be effective if used correctly. There's a reason why people are concerned about artists losing their jobs to AI-generated art; it works, and on a superficial level it's effective at conveying whatever prompt it's been given. In the hands of a small business owner who is seeking to make their business stand out but can't afford the expense of hiring an artist, it's a great option. In terms of avoiding a poor product there is of course a base level of due diligence required to make sure that the image generated is doing what you want it to. There's always a risk that commissioned art isn't to your liking, but by using AI, you remove the financial hit that this situation would have otherwise brought about.

It's important to make the concession that the use of AI art in place of actual humans is mildly unethical and contributes to the decline of creative industries. However, small businesses are not the driving force behind this trend. We have already seen prominent companies like Coca Cola and Ikea use AI art in advertising and the harm created by companies doing this is going to be hugely outsized compared to the harms created by a small business. Sure, it's not ideal but when the entire industry is moving in a direction towards AI art small businesses can't do much about it. The role of moderating the use and proliferation of AI art shouldn't fall on small business owners who are struggling to get by as is.

Small businesses in New Zealand have limited resources and the tax breaks offered by our new National Government aren't doing much to change that outlook. When faced with the cost of a pricey piece of art or something that can accomplish close to the same purpose for the cost of nothing, it would be wrong to tell these businesses to pick up the slack for the failure of big business and governments to regulate AI.

AGAINST: HANNAH MITCHELL

As we approach the halfway mark of an already significant decade, it's time to reflect on one of the many famed things that was brought to mainstream markets: AI art. AI art has made it clear it's here to stay, but its growing presence in advertising poses threats that are often overlooked for its inexpensive price and ability to be tailored in a swift manner.

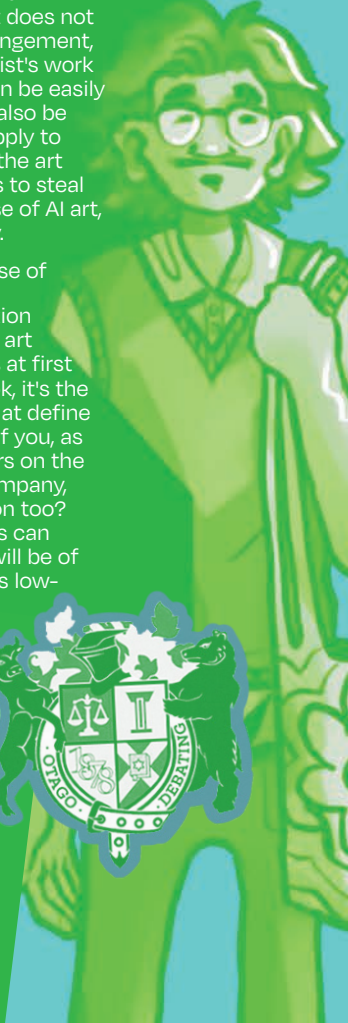
As a small business, cutting costs is beneficial, but providing customers with misinformation is one of the biggest no-nos you can do. AI-generated art may increase interactions with your business at first, but the lack of truthful advertising misleads customers, thus reducing their chance of returning and promoting your business to others. Misinformation further extends into ethical issues when you consider AI's inability to filter out biased data points. The majority of the internet's algorithms are unfortunately based on mediocre white men, resulting in often stereotypical, discriminatory, and/or inaccurate representations in its advertisements. Thus, no matter how smart AI currently is, it lacks the social contexts that most humans have and what small businesses ultimately should strive to be in their advertising: inclusive and accurate.

AI art poses wider legal implications, with copyright issues at the forefront. AI art does not have clear copyright protection or infringement, meaning much of the internet with artist's work is seen as the free market. Thus, art can be easily stolen and replicated. While AI art can also be stolen, copyright laws only currently apply to humans. Therefore, true ownership of the art is confusing, allowing small businesses to steal artwork ideas and not disclose their use of AI art, making advertisements untrustworthy.

Finally, AI art truly represents the demise of creativity, as it cannot replace the storytelling and emotional connection that humans can produce. While AI art can produce almost perfect pieces at first glance, when you take a deeper look, it's the human touch and imperfections that define art and true authentic advertising. If you, as a small business, are cutting corners on the presentation of your product or company, what else are you cutting corners on too? How do you ensure that consumers can trust that your product or service will be of high quality if your advertisement is low-effort and cheap?

SHOULD SMALL BUSINESSES USE AI ART IN ADVERTISING?

Debatable is a column written by the Otago University Debating Society. The Debating Society welcomes new members and meets at the Business School every Tuesday at 6pm.





MI GORENG GRADUATE
By Ruby Hudson

Chicken katsu is such a simple and delicious meal that I guarantee will become a fan favourite. In my house we love any excuse to slather dinner in kewpie mayo, so this really is a winner all round. Taking only as long as the rice and chicken does to cook, you can have dinner on the table for hungry academic weapons in under an hour! To serve, I've provided a recipe for a cheap and healthy slaw. If you are in a pinch for time you can get a bag of coleslaw from the supermarket, BUT I strongly suggest you give this a go and step away from the dry ass salad in a bag. Have a go and make it just once and I promise you will be converted to the homemade stuff forever!

INGREDIENTS:

Approx. 1 kg of crumbed chicken tenders/burger patties etc.
Kewpie mayo
Sweet chilli sauce
Rice to serve

SIMPLE SLAW

½ red cabbage (finely shredded)
1 carrot (grated)
½ red onion (finely sliced)
1 small handful Parsley (optional)
½ lemon
2 Tbsp Oil
Salt
Pepper

anything along these lines would work as long as you've got enough to feed everyone!

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1. Place your chicken on a lined baking tray and put into a 180C oven for approx. 30 mins or until sizzling and crispy.

Step 2. From here put your rice on to cook. If you have a rice cooker, follow the cooking instructions for the correct amount of servings. If you have not got a rice cooker, you can cook your rice on the stovetop using the method in step three.

Step 3. For 5 servings of rice, place 2 cups of white rice into a large pot with 3 cups of water (1.5 cups of water for each cup of rice). On a medium-high heat, bring the pot of rice to a gentle boil (the surface of the water should be bubbling for around 2 mins), give the pot a quick stir so nothing sticks to the bottom. From here, put a tight fitting lid on the pot and turn the heat down to a very low temperature, cook like this for 15 mins. Do not lift the lid! After 15 mins, turn off the heat and leave the rice with the lid on for a further 10 mins. Again, do not lift the lid! After 10 mins is up you may remove the lid and break up the cooked rice gently with a fork.

Step 4. While the chicken and rice is cooking, prepare your slaw. Finely slice your cabbage, red onion and parsley, grate your carrot and place into a large bowl. Squeeze the lemon juice onto the salad and add the oil. Add a pinch of salt and a decent amount of pepper. Toss together until all the vegetables are mixed and coated in the dressing.

Step 5. When the chicken is done, take it out of the oven and cut into bite sized chunks/strips.

Step 6. Plate your katsu with the rice on the bottom, a layer of slaw, then your chicken. Top with sweet chilli and kewpie mayo and enjoy!

Serves: 5
Time: 40 mins (max!)
Price: \$\$\$
Difficulty: 1/5 (so easy yet so delicious!)

take out any thick parts of stem, we only want the tender white/purple bits in the salad

BOOZE REVIEWS

RANGITAKI - COLUMNS - 19

BY CHUNNY BILL SWILLIAMS

KINGFISHER

STRONG

Kingfisher Strong, unlike the kōtare, is an allegedly exotic and foreign beer. Yes, it may be foreign, but this beverage tends to be about as exciting as that one wonderer at a party showing you his Year 12 1st XV highlights on Hudl whilst unironically calling them his 'glory days'.

The slogan of Kingfisher is "King of the Good Times" – and rightfully so, since this beer's 7.2% ABV has just enough alcohol to get the nostalgia flowing through the veins of its main demographic, which can be imagined as middle-aged divorced scaffolders who are constantly posting on Facebook to remind you how loyal (but dangerous) they are. There really is something about Kingfisher Strong that makes you want to listen to Creed, reminisce and fix up a shitty Nissan Skyline that is never actually going to be driveable.

The saying that beer is just liquid bread couldn't be more true when it comes to Kingfisher Strong. The beer is grainy and the flavours aren't going to blow anyone away. It's bitter and fairly easy to drink – refreshing if drunk cold, but kind of like well-hydrated horse piss if drunk warm, or like drinking the condensation from a bread bag after it's been left out in the sun on a 40 degree day. And not Vogel's or Freya's. No, this is Pam's value white bread in a beer.

When drinking this, one minute you're fine, the next you're pissed off your face singing 'Piano Man'

thinking you're Billy Joel. This is probably because of something Chunny Bill Swilliams likes to coin 'beer-math' with the 7.2% ABV leaving you with a ratio of almost two beers per beer with each can coming in at 1.9 standards.

Compared to its counterparts in the 'strong' non-craft beer category, Kingfisher Strong is nothing like Bavaria 8.6 – although it wouldn't be described as a quality beer, it's something that can easily be put back and something that one would consider buying again. The drop is fairly good value for money, coming in at 6 packs of 330ml cans for \$16.99 with the golden ratio sitting at a respectable \$1.49 per standard. Kingfisher Strong also comes in 12 boxes of 550ml cans, which adds up to a whopping 3.1 standard drinks per can. Now that's something to be truly afraid of.

PAIRS WELL WITH: Substituting naan with white bread

X FACTOR: A complete overindulgence in gluten

CHUGABILITY: 9/10. Goes down like Cleanskin at a BYO

TASTE RATING: 7/10

R1 NEWS

WEEKDAYS 1-2
ON RADIO ONE 91FM — r1.co.nz

44

**OUSA
EXEC**

WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT?



There's honestly not enough space in this column to talk about this Government's war on the environment. Conservation jobs cuts, Fast Track powers to build American superhighways, and the removal of half-price bus fares just scrape the surface.

Also, surprise! Your fees are probably going up 6% because the Government can't be bothered to fund Universities properly and they've decided to take that money from you.

The Government has left no space for Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Whether it's the ACT Party's Treaty Principles Bill, disrespect for taonga or and attempts to limit Māori political action.

Your landlord can kick you to the curb for any reason they choose with the reintroduction of no-cause evictions. All while rents are rising faster than David Seymour's erection and we're all getting fucked.

The main question I get asked as your fearless Political Rep is, "What is going on and why should I get involved?" I get it man, life is busy.

In between getting pissed and then pissing, there just aren't enough hours in the day to talk about the direction of our nation.

If you don't think that the decisions I've described here reflect you and your values... tell somebody; whether that's a random at a party, your local MP or us on the Exec! In fact, I'm providing you the exact opportunity to let me know through the OUSA's Political Census in the QR code attached to the article.

I know that political burnout is real, and that we'd all rather talk about Brat Kamala and Walz as a Midwest Princess, but here at home we have three more years of a Government that has demonstrated it doesn't care about students, Māori, renters or the environment. If we want to live in an Aotearoa we can be proud of, we have to build it ourselves, one brick at a time.

Bless up, Otago

Liam
Political@OUSA.org.nz



AQUARIUS
The moon is screaming at you to avoid toxic friends. Now is the perfect time of the year to cut your circle down to those you actually want to be around. No point in feeding a plant you think is ugly and smells funny.
Art to make: A new collaged laptop screensaver

PISCES
Summer internship applications are open, but you already knew that. You're so prepared that your most used apps are Canva (to create that stand-out CV) and LinkedIn. Remember to keep it cool in interviews, - no one wants a know-it-all energiser bunny for an intern.
Art to make: A fresh new V bottle bong

ARIES
Bruh, that acid you bought from a dodgy BOOM breatha is gonna take you to a world where unicorns exist and your mum never cooks crockpot meals. But when you return to the real world it will be shit, so make sure to soak in all the goodness you can during the trip.
Art to make: An abstract painting

TAURUS
Taurus, your funds are severely depleted. It's time to start dropshipping. Your best bet is fidget spinners or glass straws. Nothing gets a uni student going like mindless distraction and saving the planet.
Art to make: A haiku

GEMINI
Remember that everyone happens for a reason when you get hit with bad news this week. Don't be surprised when you see your Insta dms. This is what you get for being into the worst species of people... Polytech students... argh.
Art to make: A dripping crayon canvas

CANCER
Make sure you're taking your magnesium before bed, you'll need all the rest and recovery you can get after last week. Don't trust yourself to get up with just one alarm - it's a 6 alarm minimum kind of week.
Art to make: DIY window gel decals

LEO
You feel like you are missing a piece of yourself, and with your schedule getting busier it will become harder to feel normal. Use this week as a 'soul searching period' but make sure you don't fall down the 'mid-life crisis' hole and buy a motorbike.
Art to make: Vape smoke show

VIRGO
This week your skills in the kitchen are good enough to impress Gordon Ramsay. Meal prep as much as you can, but make sure you aren't going to be eating the same dinner for a whole week - that's a one-way ticket to a midweek fruber.
Art to make: A birthday party mood board

LIBRA
Neptune is bringing the brain fog this week, making it hard to focus on what's happening around you. Try to make everything as easy as possible for yourself by wearing the same outfit all week and sleeping on top of your bed so you don't have to waste time making it.
Art to make: Some cute flashcards

SCORPIO
Saturn is fully saving your ass this week and making sure you don't make a dick of yourself in every social situation. Make sure you're aware of what you're saying and to who - not everyone wants to know every tiny detail about your life.
Art to make: Latte art

SAGITTARIUS
Mercury is in retrograde, making you think that things will turn out a lot better for you than they actually will. This week, make sure you are not pushing deadlines further back. Nothing good can come from six hours of couch rotting when you have seven assignments due this month.
Art to make: Tie dye a t-shirt

CAPRICORN
Emotions are high, Capricorn, and the best way to release them is through interpretive dance. Make sure to show everyone your dance moves. There is no inappropriate time to whip or nae nae if you feel like it - especially during lectures.
Art to make: TikTok dances

CRITIC CAPS

\$25 each. Preorders close 25th August

PREORDER NOW

GRANT ROBERTSON APPROVED

SNAP OF THE WEEK



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

SNAP OF THE WEEK

CONTACT CRITIC ON INSTAGRAM TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE



study with a show



Business school getting freaky



duckies on castle st



As a peninsula resident and mushroom fanatic:
THANK YOU CRITIC CROSSWORD!



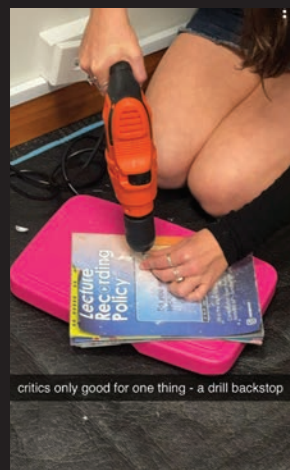
thanks critic you make a great paint pallet



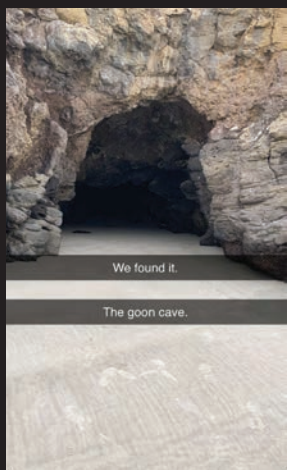
Free kimchi outside Lindo



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtago
NEW ZEALAND



critics only good for one thing - a drill backstop

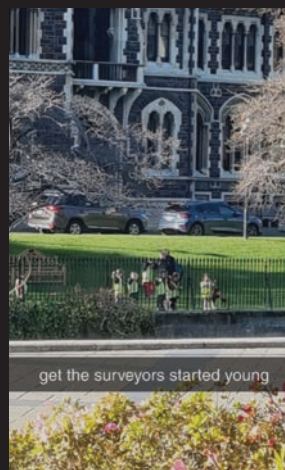


We found it.

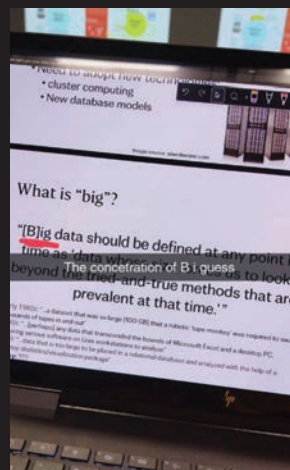
The goon cave.



#peanutsforgainz

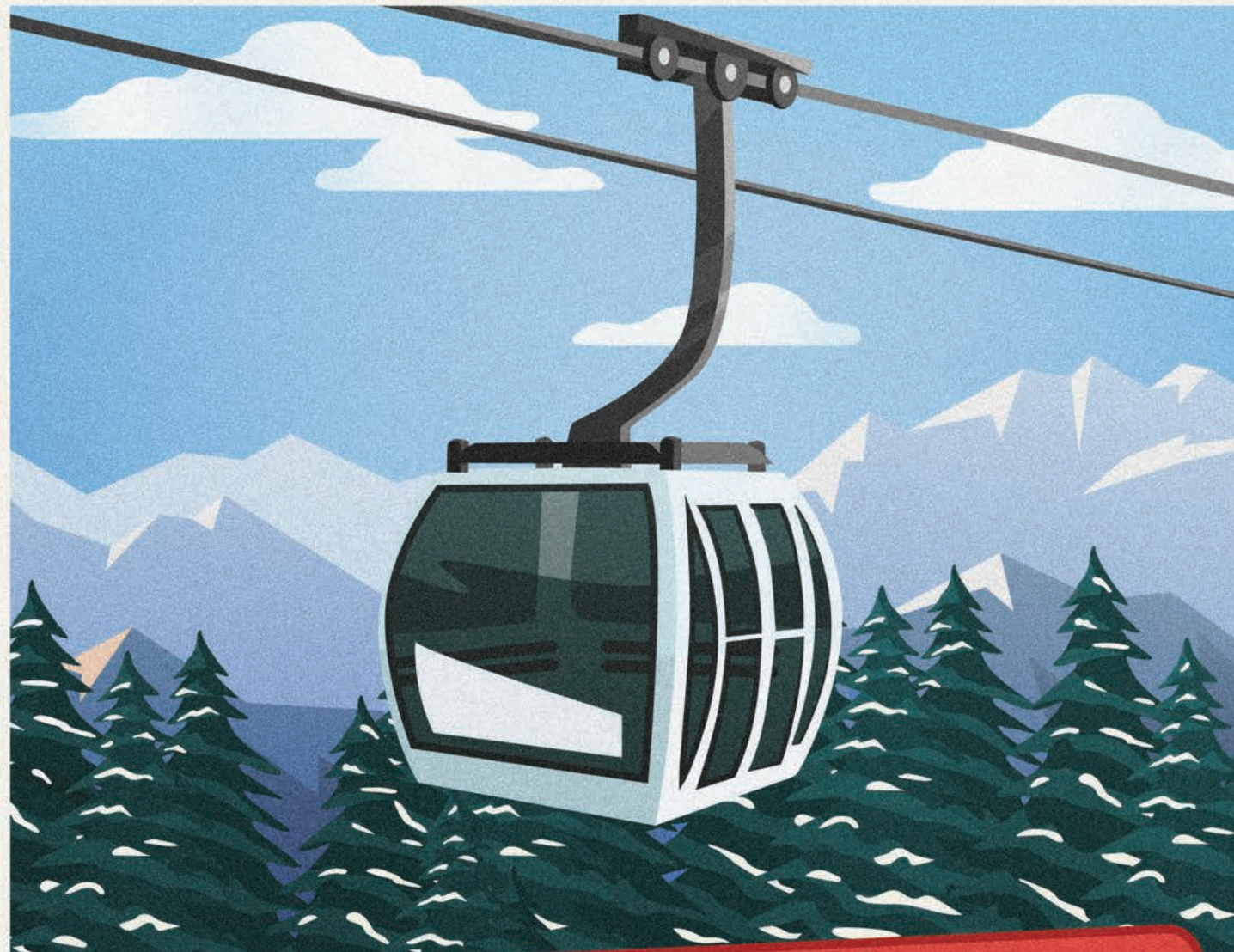


get the surveyors started young



What is "big"?

"[B]ig data should be defined at any point in time as data whose concentration of B I guess beyond the true and true methods that are prevalent at that time."



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