

CRACCUM

ISSUE 02, 2019



Jacinda Ardern Writes to Craccum

It was probably her press secretary but hey we'll take it

O-Week Swag Review

Craccum signs up to all the mailing lists to find out who was the the best free shit

Auckland Transport Struggles with Demand

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What to do when you have already peaked



Each week Craccum's esteemed Editor-in-Chief writes their editorial 10 minutes before deadline and this is the product of that.

As I looked at my first editorial (see last week's Craccum) I felt like a proud mother looking at her firstborn. I was however promptly struck with an unpleasant thought. This is as good as it's going to get. I was so proud of writing my first editorial that I had never stopped to think that I would have to follow it up next week. I had made the fatal mistake of peaking too early. There is nothing like a steep downhill slide to really keep the readers coming. So now in true fashion, I am writing my editorial well after the deadline, trying to scramble together some coherent sentence to fill my word limit. This is what I would consider a complete opposite of peaking (troughing if you will). Luckily for me, I am not the only writer at Craccum, so apart from this page, I would say this issue is well worth a read.

So the question is: What do you do when you have already peaked?. Short answer, it depends. For some things, it can be quite simple, like my friend who peaked in between acts at the concert we went to. She doubled down, got some MD from her bra and danced the night away. For other things, perhaps like peaking in high school, it can be a bit more complicated. Chances are since you are at university reading this you probably didn't peak in high school. Well done. Maybe you have your friend you can pass this along to? I digress, here is my short guide to post-peak.

1. Reflection: Why do you consider this a peak? Perhaps you need to Marie Kondo your life and find what sparked joy? Was it boozing it every night of the week? Was it having a group of mates to piss around with? Was it sports? May one of these is the key to your next upswing.

2. Action: So you've figured out what made it a peak, how are you going to get that back? Reconnecting with people so you have a social support group is probably a good way to do it. Or if your last friends suck go make some new ones through a hobby or something. I don't know, you do you.

3. Instagram: The key to true happiness is having everyone think you are happy, even if you are completely miserable. It's what all the experts say. Because what good is a peak if no one is around to see you being #blessed? Even if you are not, most people won't know the difference, and call into question their own mundane lives because of your fabulous one. Everybody wins!

4. Assess Word Count: At the end of the process check the word count of your editorial. Does it fit your designated gap in Craccum? Has it been proofread? Does it need to be edited? These are the questions to ask yourself when you have already peaked.

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Auckland Uni Saves Lives ...

DANIEL MEECH

Researchers from the University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences have developed a tool which could potentially save lives.

The tool - developed with help from Middlemore Hospital staff - allows doctors to identify whether patients taking aspirin are likely to suffer from its side-effects.

Thousands of people take aspirin every year to relieve pain and to reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. However, the drug's side-effects include blood-thinning, an action which can cause internal bleeding in patients who use it regularly. This bleeding is potentially fatal to those suffering from some kind of heart disease: in a 2002 to 2015 study conducted by the Ministry of Health, roughly 7% of all participants (who were aged between 30 and 79, and who all suffered from cardiovascular diseases) were killed by aspirin-induced internal bleeding.

Not everyone is at risk of internal bleeding though. The risk varies from patient to patient, making aspirin an adequate remedy for some, but a potentially deadly pill for others. Until now, doctors had no way of accurately assessing an individual patient's risk. The tool developed by the university's researchers fixes this problem by providing doctors with bleeding-risk models that they can apply to

specific patients. The models take into account the patient's individual characteristics (which might include their age, smoking habits, diabetes history, ethnicity and more) to determine whether or not aspirin is likely to cause internal bleeding.

The research was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* earlier this year. Lead author Dr Vanessa Selak says there tends to be "a lot of confusion about who should take [aspirin]". "For people who have already had a heart attack or stroke, the benefit of aspirin in reducing cardiovascular disease generally outweighs its harms in increasing bleeding," she says, but "guidelines are unclear in people who are at high risk of having their first heart attack or stroke ... so it is likely that some people are receiving aspirin when they shouldn't be and others are not receiving it when they could potentially benefit from it". She says she is hopeful these models will relieve some of the confusion surrounding aspirin prescription.

Dr Selak says the team's next step will be to "develop a calculator that integrates the benefits and harms of aspirin for prevention of [cardiovascular disease] to make it easier for clinicians to work out, for a specific patient, whether the benefits of aspirin are likely to outweigh its harms". It is believed this benefit-harm calculator would be a world-first if created.

... And So Does AUT!

DANIEL MEECH

A study lead by Dong-Xu Liu, an Associate Professor at AUT University, has found a cancer-related protein can be used to predict whether a breast cancer patient will benefit from hormone therapy or chemotherapy.

The research is believed to have the potential to save lives. In New Zealand alone, around 3000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. Those diagnosed are often encouraged to participate in chemo- or hormone therapy, two of the most common forms of cancer treatment. Unfortunately, treatment success rates depend on the individual patient. Where hormone therapy might work better for some, chemotherapy has been proven to work better for others. Liu's research makes it easier for doctors to work out which method will have the best results for the patient. In addition, Liu's research will also allow doctors to assess whether the side-effects of the therapies may outweigh any benefit gained from them, in which case the patient may be given a completely different treatment regime.

"Breast cancer affects one in nine New Zealand women in their

lifetime and accounts for almost half of the cancers in NZ women," he told *NZ Herald*, "Our findings would allow breast cancer patients to receive treatments that are the most appropriate to their characteristics, therefore improving treatment response and saving lives". Breast Cancer Cure trustee Fay Sowerby called the findings "thrilling". "Clinicians, for a number of years, have been saying to us, 'tell us who's at risk, who we need to treat and who's going to get the most benefit from it'. This does all three," she said.

The study was performed in collaboration with contributors from the United Kingdom, Singapore and China, and relied on data collected by the Nottingham University Hospitals between 1986 and 1999. The study focused on the protein secreted hominoid specific oncogene (SHON), and found that it was an accurate predictor of a cancer-victim's chance of survival when treated with hormone therapy drug tamoxifen or anthracycline-based combination chemotherapy. The findings were published in the *British Journal of Cancer* on the 28th of February.

Crowding on AT buses leaves passengers reeling kneeling

BRIAN GU

Auckland Transport's (AT) bus fleet is struggling to keep up with extra demand brought about by March fever.

Traditionally the busiest month of the year for public transport providers, this year's March has been particularly taxing for AT, as passengers report overcrowding and longer wait times. An ongoing driver shortage, returning tertiary students, and less workers taking holidays are all contributing to AT's resource shortage - despite a December board report in 2018 which urged the organization to prepare for these very issues.

Rosmini College, like many other Auckland secondary schools, has its after school bus network catered by Auckland Transport. Unfortunately for students and staff, resource shortages have left the school with a fleet incapable of accommodating the high demand from students. Students at Rosmini College reported they had been left kneeling, sharing seats, and standing in dangerous areas in order to fit onto their buses.

The school's bus warden expressed disappointment with AT's oversights. "There is not a lot I can do," he told *NZ Herald*. "I can only ring the bus company and ask for a second bus but if they say no then that is their call". He also said students who AT were unable to accommodate had been forced to ring their parents at the office to organize transport instead.

Students aren't the only ones voicing their frustrations - many parents have also expressed disappointment with AT's service. Parent Libby Haskell, whose daughter rides the bus every day, says she regularly reports overcrowding issues through the AT feedback form. However, she says has not found a response since her first report on February 13. "From my experience, this is a bit of an ongoing issue," she told *NZ Herald*. "It has been worse this year than last year."

It is believed AT's issues have arisen in part due to disinterest among workers. Auckland NZ Bus driver Nathan Whare told *RNZ* the industry was experiencing a drought of experienced drivers, as many considered the job unattractive. "There's not much time left for people to bond with their families and you want to couple that with what we get paid - it's really low and you could go Monday to Friday doing whatever job and get similar pay."

Auckland isn't the only city experiencing driver shortages. In Wellington, the number of bus drivers in training has fallen significantly. "It went from 10 or 12 candidates [in training] a week and it actually took a dive to zero," NZ Bus executive Zane Fulljames told *RNZ*. "Currently we have two people".

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Feud with Old School Escalates to Deportation Threats

BRIAN GU

An international student involved in a row with his old school Macleans College over second-hand uniform sales has been faced with the threat of having his international visa revoked.

Jayson Fong, a second-year Engineering student at UoA, created 'SchoolShop' two years ago, an app platform to buy and sell school uniforms commission-free. Having spent six months and over \$1000 developing the platform, Fong received a call from the school shortly after it was launched. Fong claims he was threatened with deportation during the call. "[They told me] if I don't stop [they] will contact Immigration and get me deported," he told *NZ Herald*.

Jayson chose to market his venture several times through the school's mailing list - which he obtained without the staff's knowledge - and sent emails through accounts linked back to him and several accomplices also enrolled at Macleans, all of whom received punishment.

Macleans College board of trustees chairman Richard Wilkie told *NZ Herald* "any student could sell second-hand uniforms through social media or other avenues, they were not limited to buying from the uniform shop". However, he admitted the seriousness of the

threats levelled against the former student, and said the board would seek to investigate them. "What really concerns me is that he has been contacted that he would be deported. We should see if that actually happened," he said.

The issue has recently resurfaced following Fong's attempts to relaunch the platform, which he took down soon after the initial phone call, in fears of his student visa being revoked. What followed was a second phone call, this time from principal Steven Hargreaves; one that Fong secretly recorded in fear of similar threats being levelled against him. *NZ Herald* was able to obtain this recording, and reports what transpired between the two parties.

"Look if you are a professional that marketed your business legally and professionally then I would talk to you. But at the moment you just seem like some person who wants to muckrake and cause trouble," Hargreaves tells Fong in the recording. He later admitted to the *Herald* that he had no idea the conversation was recorded.

Since this, Jayson Fong has settled into marketing his buy-and-sell uniform scheme amongst a smaller, out-of-school community, and both parties have decided that no further legal action is required.

India Pakistan Tensions

DANIEL MEECH

Tensions flared between India and Pakistan last week after a suicide bombing lead to tit-for-tat reprisals between the two countries.

The hostilities began on February the 14th, when a suicide bomber in Kashmir (a province north-west of India which both countries claim to own) rammed a car packed with explosives into an Indian military convoy, killing more than 40 troops. India accused Pakistan of aiding the suicide bomber. Shortly afterwards, a dozen warplanes were sent into Pakistan to drop bombs on what the Indian government said was a terrorist training camp. India called the operation a success, but Pakistani witnesses in the area refuted India's claim, saying the bombs had fallen mostly in an empty forest, and had injured only one man (an elderly villager).

A day later Pakistan retaliated, sending their own warplanes to patrol Indian airspace. Sometime during this excursion, an Indian jet was shot down, causing its pilot - Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman - to abandon his craft. After parachuting into Pakistani-controlled territory he was reported to have been surrounded and beaten by a mob. He was then rescued by Pakistani soldiers, who interrogated him for several days. Videos of the interrogations were released on social media, eliciting outrage from some and stoking

fears of further reprisals down the line. Both the United States and China waded into the conflict, asking both sides to deescalate the crisis, and calling on Pakistan to return the captured pilot.

Varthaman was released on the 1st of March, roughly 3 days after had been captured. In a speech which welcomed the fighter pilot back to his home country, Indian prime minister Narendra Modi called him "brave", and said "India ... will return the damage done by terrorists with interest".

Indo-Pakistani relations have been rocky for decades. The two countries (which were initially brought together under British rule) are not only divided along geographic lines, but religious ones as well - Pakistan is mostly Muslim, while India is predominantly Hindu. Unsurprisingly, religious violence has flared along their shared border for as long as both nations have existed. In addition to the religious dispute, the two countries have a long standing feud over the Kashmir region. The region - a neutral Muslim-majority state - was invaded by both sides shortly after Britain left the area. The state's ruling prince signed an agreement to hand the Kashmir region to India, but the legitimacy of the hand-over has been challenged by both Pakistan and the United Nations. While the territory's status is disputed, it has been divided into two large areas controlled primarily by India and Pakistan.



Students to Protest Climate Change 15th of March

DANIEL MEECH

Thousands of New Zealand students are set to go 'on strike' this Friday to protest government inaction on climate change.

The 'strike' - held as part of a global 'day of action' which is expected to involve thousands around the world - will see students skip classes to attend protests. The national coordinator for School Strike 4 Climate Change NZ, Sophie Handford, says rallies are being organised in more than 20 towns across New Zealand. Handford says she is hopeful more than 5000 students will attend the rallies. The group's website is unclear on what its demands are, but *NZ Herald* has reported their demands as including an immediate ban on exploration and extraction of fossil fuels. *NZ Herald* also reported the group wished to see the government take action to ratify the Zero Carbon Act (a bill created by the group Generation Zero, which would commit New Zealand to a legally binding agreement to be 'zero carbon' by 2050), and to regulate carbon emissions in the agricultural sector.

Ministry of Education deputy secretary Ellen MacGregor-Reid has endorsed the strikes, saying "the NZ curriculum ... encourages students to participate and take action [on environmental issues] as critical, informed and responsible citizens". However, support is not unanimous. NZ Secondary Principals Council chairman James Morris says he does not believe it is appropriate for school principals to condone the rallies. "Most principals ... support students expressing support for climate change", he says, but this does not make it okay for students to "[take] time away from their classes to do so". "It would be a real sign of the students' commitment to the cause if they chose to give up after school jobs or weekend activities to 'strike' rather than school time", he says.

At time of writing, the Auckland School Strike 4 Climate page had more than 500 people registered as 'going', with another 1,600 listed as 'interested'. The page description begins: "we demand that the New Zealand Government do more now to hold warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius". According to the page, the protest will be held March 15th at midday in Aotea Square, and will feature "speakers, performers and music".

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Gambling in Video Games: All in Good Fun, or Something More Cynical?

DANIEL MEECH

In April of 2018, Belgium's Minister of Justice, Koen Geens, announced that three popular video games - Overwatch, Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, and FIFA 18 - were in violation of Belgium's gambling legislation. The announcement, made as a result of an investigation conducted by Belgium's Gaming Commission, has added a new dimension to a series of questions New Zealand officials have just begun to ask themselves: 1) Do the mechanics of modern video games constitute gambling? 2) Does that make these video games illegal? And 3) If so, what should be our response?

To understand the reasoning behind Koen Geens announcement, we have to look at the historical market trends of the video game industry. Traditionally, games were bought and sold on a 'pay-upfront' model. That is: you couldn't play the game until you'd paid a set price, but once you'd paid, the entire game was yours for life. This worked well in the early 2000s, when home consoles were the dominant method by which people gamed. Console gamers wanted to play one game for a long period of a time, and were therefore happy to make large, one-off time and money investments.

But then things changed. The mid-2000s saw smart devices make their way into the hands of more and more people, which created a whole new video game market: mobile gamers. This new market didn't play games the usual way: whereas console gamers played games to be immersed in them for hours on end, mobile gamers tended to game to fill short periods of time in between activities - on the train to work, while waiting in a queue, or while eating lunch. As a result, the games they favoured were shorter, shallower experiences which could be played in 1 to 5 minute bursts. Because mobile gamers played these games sparingly, they were unwilling to make the large monetary investments in them that their console counterparts tended to do. Game publishers were forced to reassess the way in which they approached marketing, and began to look outside the traditional 'pay-upfront' model to find new ways to monetise their games.

From this emerged the 'pay-to-win' model. Developers discovered they could make their game free to download and play, but then charge people to overcome obstacles inside the game. The thinking was, if a player had invested enough time and effort into completing the game, they'd be happy to fork out a few bucks here and there to keep their good times going. Games like *Farmville* let players play

free and unhindered for the first few hours. Then, once the player was hooked, the game introduced a 'wait time', which effectively paused the game until an arbitrary timer ran out. *Farmville* offered waiting players a choice: keep waiting, or pay a few dollars to make the timer disappear. Other games, like Chair Entertainment's *Infinity Blade*, encouraged players to buy better weapons and armour (which made the game easier as a result) with real-world currency. Cynical as these practices were, they worked well enough to sustain a whole new batch of mobile games. But then developers had an idea: what if you didn't pay-to-win, but paid for the *chance* to win? And thus, loot boxes were born.

Loot boxes are a game mechanic which sees a player pay money (in-game or real life) to receive a randomly selected virtual reward. Sometimes these rewards can be sold for real-life money, other times they can only be used inside the game. So, for example, you might pay \$5 for a box which contains three potential rewards: a blue gem, a green gem, and a red gem. You open the box, and an algorithm randomly gives you one of the three gems.

The loot box now dominates the modern video game industry - and not without good reason. Loot boxes are, categorically, the most effective way of monetising in-game obstacles. This is because the random chance element means there's no guarantee you'll get exactly what you want when you pay for the loot box. This in turn means developers are able to wring even more money out of the consumer than they would otherwise be able to. Whereas games like *Farmville* let you pay upfront to make the obstacle disappear, the random chance element of loot boxes mean that, more often than not, if you want the new level, sword, armour, or other item that is holding you back from achieving success, you'll probably have to cough up more than once to get it.

The success of this monetisation method has led to more and more game developers, both console and mobile, including it in their games. Today, practically every new major video game contains a loot box mechanic, regardless of whether it's free to play or not. But the inclusion of these into larger, more 'traditional' games, has begun to highlight just how predatory they really are. In particular, concern has been expressed over the similarities that exist between loot boxes and pokie machines.

In *Counter-Strike: Global Offensive*, loot boxes appear disguised as 'weapon crates'. Weapon crates, which are bought with real money, give players a randomly selected 'skin' (a cosmetic change which can be applied to a player's guns). These skins can be traded with other players for in-game items, or real-world money. Unfortunately, not all skins are made equal; some are much rarer than others, meaning loot boxes might give a player a skin worth little, or a skin worth a lot. Thereby, you can see it wouldn't be much of a leap to identify this as gambling. Players are essentially spinning a virtual wheel for the chance to win something worth a lot (or a little) of real world money. It's a not-so-subtle attempt to prey on the player's psychological desire to seek the thrill of being rewarded from gambling. Want the new, super-cool tiger skin? You can spend \$200 buying it off another player, or you can buy a weapon crate for around \$5 and try your luck.

But does the game have to be giving out items of real monetary value to be considered gambling? What if they give out items that aren't worth anything, but might still be desirable? In *FIFA*, players are encouraged to build the best football team possible by collecting footballers. Players can collect these footballers in two ways: by buying the best ones from the shelf for a high price, or by receiving them through the relatively cheap 'player packs'. Player packs, once bought, give players a randomly selected football player - one of value or little worth. Again, like *CS:GO*, the player packs operate as a sort of fruit machine, preying on players' desire to keep up with their opponents. But unlike *CS:GO*, *FIFA* doesn't let players cash their footballers out for real money. So is this gambling? Belgium's Justice Minister certainly thinks so. And it makes sense when you think about it; while the ultimate packs aren't offering players monetary advantages, they do offer another kind of advantage - being better than your friends.

Of course, gambling in itself isn't a worry. It's entirely legal for consenting adults to gamble in New Zealand. But it's important to remember many of these games are targeted towards children. *FIFA 18* carries a G rating in New Zealand, and both *Overwatch* and *CS:GO* support massive player-bases of adolescents. All of these games are inundated with loot boxes, and have been singled out by Belgium for their exploitation of children's naivety in regards to gambling.

Maria Bellringer, associate director of AUT's Gambling and Addictions Research Centre, has spent a lifetime researching the interplay between youth and gambling. In an interview given to *Craccum* last year, she believed developers deliberately targeted children in their advertising, as they were more likely to fall for gambling elements within the game, which was worrying. "If gambling behaviour is normalised, then kids are more likely to be trying it out [later on in life]", she believes. Bellringer also identifies the blend of skill and chance as making these games particularly dangerous;

the skill element allows developers to avoid marketing their games under gambling laws, while also tricking players into believing their skill can overcome random chance. "When you're playing a video game, you think you're playing a game of skill", Bellringer says. "When gambling-type elements are embedded in a video game, that... brings in something totally different. That element of skill is gone, and suddenly you've got these random chance events ... in something that is nothing to do with gambling, supposedly". She further adds that "kids don't necessarily know that".

Bellringer's concerns are shared by Andree Froude, of Problem Gambling Foundation New Zealand, who says her own experience has proven that exposure to gambling at a young age can lead to normalisation of gambling as an adult. "The 'gamblification' of games is a real concern", she told *Craccum*. "Some of the mechanics of loot boxes are really, really similar to those of pokie machines, and they've been designed ... for that very reason". While Froude indicated more research needed to be done to establish exactly how gambling in games might be affecting children, she admits "I think we need to look really, really hard at whether our gambling act, and whether our regulations around this, are going to protect young people".

But what can be done about it? A few things, actually. Currently, video games entering New Zealand are classified (given a rating between G and R18+) by the Office of Film and Literature Classification. They're judged on the same five criteria that films, media and books are: the extent to which it deals with sex, horror, crime, cruelty and violence (as laid out by section 3 of the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993). Perhaps we should consider adding 'gambling' to the list of factors on which games are classified. Alternatively, we could follow in the footsteps of Belgium and the Netherlands, where lawmakers are actively working with game developers to ensure their games meet the regulations around gambling games.

Or, perhaps, we should consider paying more for our games. Because, as with many things in life, it appears the loot box issue is a problem of our own making. In 2017, American game designer Raph Koster ran a study which compared the development cycles of large modern games with games made a decade earlier. While the study was far from perfect, Koster found that on average, games cost ten times as much to produce now as they had a decade earlier. Interestingly though, the average price of a large-budget video game had hardly risen, from around US\$50 in the mid-2000s to US\$60 in 2017. Games companies had tried to increase the price, but American consumers had been unwilling to shell out more than a few extra dollars.

Koster contends that 'gamblification' of games is a natural result of our unwillingness to accept their increasing cost. Games were getting more expensive, therefore they required more and more revenue to remain profitable. With consumers unwilling to pay more to own games, developers were forced to look elsewhere to make money, and their eyes fell on techniques within the gambling industry.

While it's unclear whether the 'gamblification' of video games is actually impacting the development of children, one thing is clear; modern monetisation practices run dangerously close to traditional definitions of gambling, and more needs to be done to regulate them.



My Hour With Marama

By BAILLEY VERRY

When Clubs Expo kicks off, we see all the youth factions of our political parties come out of the woodwork. With them comes the party representatives helping their recruitment efforts for those who will hopefully be lifelong voters for their causes. Luckily for Craccum, this situation also provides an opportunity to interview some actual politicians. This time around I had the pleasure to interview one Marama Davidson, co-leader of the Green Party. Due to a minor scheduling mishap, my interview with Marama was moved from the Greens on Campus club stall to the dining room of her South Auckland home. Over tea and peanut butter toast, I spoke with Marama on the most pressing questions of the day.

You only get one chance to make an impression on a prominent politician, so I started off strong and hard hitting.

What's it like to now be the only Marama that is a leader of a New Zealand political party?

"My gosh you would have thought that we were used to more than one politician having the same name!" She exclaims, "It's like some people couldn't get their heads around there being two 'Marama' in Parliament... considering the number of Davids, and everyone can seem to remember which one is which". She is, of course, referring to the short list of Davids in recent New Zealand political history: David Seymour, David Cunliffe, David Shearer, David Parker, just to name a few. "What it going to take for people to see two Maori women with the same name as two different people (laughs)." A lot, Marama. Apparently a lot. "I've been credited with a couple of rumours that weren't my claim to fame, which is always funny".

I decide to change tack with my next question. We both know why she is here.

Will you being doing a DJ set later to show you are down with the kids?

Marama laughs before I even finish the question. She knows where I am going with this. "I wish," she says amongst the laughter, "I am so uncool my children stop me from dancing in public." I restrain myself from saying 'what a mood' to an actual sitting politician. I suggest that she could approach the

features.

AUSA for a guest spot on the O-Week's *Party in the Park* lineup, "I would love to actually!" she replied enthusiastically. Unfortunately at time of writing I cannot confirm if this actually happened - but I like to remain optimistic.

My next question is a delicate one, so naturally I barrel through and hope I don't get kicked out of the house that has given me some delicious toast.

Have you previously given Studylink false information about your situation?

I ask this with my breath held. "Oh my gosh Studylink? Are we going to go right back a million years?" Marama groans, but to my relief she continues, "Friggin' heck I hope not, otherwise I will get *dragged* through the mud if I have". Surely not Marama, it's not like that's ever happened before. "But you know what, I wouldn't be surprised if people have or do, because things are getting real tough... What I want to see is a system where people don't feel like they have to lie".

I've had my fun asking the warm up questions, but now it is time to talk policy.

Do you own multiple properties that will be affected by a capital gains tax?

I may or may not already know the answer to this. "No I don't, we rent this place," she gestures to her where we are sitting, "and we are very very grateful for it."

"So you're not just trying to piss off Amy Adams?" If I'm honest, this is really what I wanted to know. Marama laughs.

"That's potentially a bonus." There it is. "Really, I just want to support 'New Zealand values' - which are very much centered on everyone having what they need". Good save.

I move on next to weed. Many a uni student's favourite pastime.

The Green Party is famously pushing for drug reform by way of marijuana legalisation, and a referendum will be held during next year's election. "I totally support [legalisation]... a criminal approach has not worked anywhere around the world, ever, but what a criminal approach as done, but what it has done is created systemic racist and classist impacts for those communities so we've got to change it". Marama is hopeful that the upcoming referendum will finally spur on some drug reform. But when I follow up on what specific policies they would introduce to aid in this reform, her answers become more vague.

"It goes back to what we want to do is not continue the same social injustices." Discussions and debates are mentioned, as is stopping 'big cannabis' companies having a monopoly, but no hard and fast plans they want to introduce. As I start my next question she quickly adds that she wants to see improved addiction services, particularly for Maori and Pacific specific programmes. I point out that the healthcare system already struggles to do this, but Marama is firm in her resolve, "And that's why the Greens will say really clear that the mainstream health system has to share the resources in a way that is going to address Maori and Pacific communities directly".

But as a Green Party, their main focus are not just social issues but environmental challenges.

Has the Green Party done enough in its time in Government for the environment?

Marama concedes that there is more progress to be made on environmental policy, but also notes that important stride have been made due to their sustained campaigning involvement in Government. "Things like banning offshore drilling new permits are [advances] I never thought I would even see, but that's been one of the herald achievements of having Green Party influence over several parliamentary terms and now in Government." Waste reduction is now a major point of prominence for the Green Party, as policies such as the ban of single-use plastic bags come into effect.

If this is all down to the Green Party's influence, would a Blue-Green coalition be a potential future option?

And to this question I got one of the most definitive answers of the entire interview. "If a Blue-Green party means planting some trees, banning some plastics, but continuing with the same economic model that continues to give power to polluting industries - then they are not Green. So there is no such thing for me as Blue-Green".

What policies upcoming policies do you have for students?

"I really want the green card" she says through a mouthful of toast, "for student off-peak travel for free, for students I think that would make a massive difference". It would. Please AT, take one for the team. "Rentals and rent prices are going to be a key area for the Greens. I know it's just been a thing that, you know, students just live in shit flats," (can confirm, my flat is in fact shit) "but actually we just let the landlord class get away with it and make mint off it and that's just not acceptable... We want to make sure people are charged a fair price for the condition of their housing". But my heart was pleased when she mentioned the importance of youth mental health reform, "Oh and of course mental health support for up to 25. All of these areas are going to make a real difference to young people".

And now for the low balls:

Why should we vote for the Green Party?

"We are the party that wants to protect our planet for future generations but also make the connection that people have enough to live good lives.... You people are wanting action of climate change, on inequalities, those are our priorities. We understand that the system has not worked, it's the Greens who want to make that system change".

Finally, Is University of Auckland the best university?

"Well I went there!" once again Marama laughs, "That's really a shitty question to try and staunch it off against all the other institutions!" Worth a shot. "Despite what I have seen as an assault on students and progressive agendas, it's actually the movements that have come out of [UoA] that are some long standing New Zealand iconic movements that I want to play tribute to". Good avoidance Marama, A+.

Shadows Bar & Eatery, now saving Rhinos



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About St. Patrick's Day

BY CAMERON LEAKEY

Ah St. Patrick's Day. The one day of the year where you can acceptably dress up offensively green, don your best fake Irish accent and start telling everyone about your 'Irish heritage'. St Patrick's Day in Auckland is exactly what you'd expect – more exciting than it is in Manawatu but far less so than in Dublin. Regardless, Craccum have ~~done a quick Google search~~ scoured deep to bring you some things you could consider doing to celebrate the day of leprechauns, pots of gold and all things Irish. Alternatively, you could not celebrate St Patrick's Day at all, up to you.

1: go Drinking at an Irish Pub

O'Hagan's and Danny Doolans are both in the Viaduct and are both packed full on St Patrick's Day. If you can handle waiting in line for a long time you should be able to enjoy your Guinness alongside everyone else in Auckland.

Side Note: Danny Doolans is R22 so I would just try O'Hagan's.

2: watch The Graham Norton Show

He's Irish! And he's funny! Just watch some episodes. It's filmed in England but that's beside the point. He's Irish and on St Patrick's Day, that's all that matters.

3: Irish up your coffee

An Irish Coffee according to Wikipedia is a cocktail made with hot coffee, Irish whiskey

and sugar, stirred and topped with cream. All of these ingredients should be found in your home or workplace minus maybe the whiskey. I also recommend drinking an Irish coffee any day of the week. It's a great way to smooth out your morning and make uni feel a little less harsh. Irish up anything at this point! Just add Whiskey and put it in a mug and you're good to go.

4: the Federal St Patrick's Day street party

This event hosted by SKYCITY™ occurs on March 16th, which is not in fact St Patrick's Day. I'm not sure why they couldn't have held this event the day afterwards on the actual day but anyway, there's a street fair.

5: listen to B*witched

Say you will, say you won't, but seriously listen

features.

to C'est La Vie; it's a true banger. It's also got that banger of a line "people say I look like my dad" which is fucked coming from an Irish teen girl but anyway. I wouldn't bother with the rest of their repertoire; just listen to this one on repeat and you will be fine.

6: drink whiskey

Whiskey is a drink that is pretty harsh no matter how you take it so I would strongly recommend just drinking it. No one at University can afford the good stuff so anything you have should taste pretty rank. You could also have your whiskey at Shadows™ so that's something too.

7: watch a Liam Neeson Movie

It's not Christmas so probably don't watch Love Actually but Taken could be very festive for St Patrick's Day? I had a look on his Wikipedia and it appears he hasn't starred in anything that was very Irish themed. I would be so keen to see a Love-Actually style movie about St Patrick's Day though starring him.

8: the St Patrick's Day parade

According to their website, the Auckland St. Patrick's Day parade is the first in the world and the only in the southern hemisphere, which makes me think that St Patrick's day parades are not really a thing and that we simply made them up. The parade goes down Queen St on March 17th 12pm-1pm and following that, the Irish Music and Dance Festival is happening near Aotea Square. So if you like Irish music and dance, there you are.

9: listen to U2

U2 are like Irish gods and I know you have that terrible album they made because it automatically downloaded to your iTunes library like an invasive little pest. So have a listen.

10: eat a potato

Once upon a time, some Irish people couldn't eat potatoes, and it was an awful time. Please remember them by eating potatoes. Preferably not raw though.

11: eat some lucky charms

"They're after my lucky charms" cried the lephrauchan, but really he was talking about the marshmallow pieces that everyone wanted in the packet of cereal. Who put Marshmallows in Cereal? I mean genius but terrible for you. I know they're American but they've got that delightful Irish mascot so just pretend we're okay with it and eat it anyway.

12: binge drink

Just like the Irish do! This is just as engrained in Kiwi culture as it is in Irish, so I encourage you to join together the love of our nations and get going.

13: the Hurstmere Hooley on Hurstmere Road, Takapuna

If you can manage to make it over the harbour bridge and onto the North Shore then firstly congratulations, that's a mission on public transport. Florrie McGreal's in Takapuna are having a Hooley! This event is in collaboration with their neighboring bars and there'll be live music and a lot of green.

14: drink a Baileys

Baileys is delicious no matter what you put it with. There is no wrong way to drink it.

15: go to the Bar 101 St Patrick's Day parties

No, I am not promoting them. I have put this at the bottom of the list because it should be at the bottom of your list. Bar 101 is open on a Sunday for this, but I am not sure I'd like to be in Bar 101 on a Monday morning at 2am.

14TH MARCH SHADOWS BAR

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SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY



A Comprehensive Review of All the Free Shit We Got from the Clubs Expo

BY THE CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

Cameron: "Clubs Expo is a magical place if you want a whole bunch of free things to stick in your drawer and forget about. Shoutout to Student Life for giving me two right foot jandals. Really appreciated that. However, I did fill out their survey and put my favourite place as 'Family Bar' so idk, fair enough."

ACT Club

Dave Dollars, these being dollar bills with David Seymour's face on them. I'm planning to keep this in my wallet along with pictures of my loved ones.

Lachlan: "I'll be using them for trading currency with the raider civilisations that come after the apocalypse."

Thursdays in Black ("TIB")

A very nice, very well-decorated cookie and a cute badge. Keep up the good work, TIB.

UOA Volunteers and Conservation Club

A Starbucks voucher. Top marks for knowing your

audience.

Princes St Young Labour Party

An apple. I think I get it? They're red, and... good for the environment?

Alfred St Young National Party

Is it meant to say something that Princes St is like 5 times the length of Alfred St? Their goodie bags were the bomb, I am very excited for my blue jellybeans. The Young Nats bottle opener is in my opinion some of the best swag you can get. If Young Nats know anything it is how to drink. A great bottle opener and I highly recommend getting one for yourself in Re-O Week. Further investigation is needed to see if the AUSA bottle opener can give it a run for its money.

Chaisma

Cameron: "Truly, you care about the people. Sick sunnies, a clear pencil case, and a pen. A clear pencil case is so ideal for exams, I appreciate a freebie I can use."

features.

Pro Life Club

Claudia: "Not exactly a freebie, but they did let us touch a selection of model fetuses. They were super squishy, like marshmallows. I don't think this was their intention but now I'm even less keen to have one of those things growing inside of me."

Lachlan: "I'm glad the Star Child from 2001 is still getting work."

Sustainability Network

Free vegan chocolate-flavoured halva. These desserts are AMAZING. If you haven't already tried their \$5 lunches on the grass by the General Library every Tuesday and Thursday, you should absolutely do so. \$5 will get you rice, curry, a halva dessert and a scoop of custard - all vegan.

Auckland University Chinese Students' Society

Two Free Fridge Calendars! Craccum fridge is now nicely decorated.

Taiwanese and New Zealand Students' Society

The Taiwanese and New Zealand Students' Society offered the chance to win prizes from Lush, Gong Cha, Hokkaido Cheese Tarts, Gateau House, and more. How TANSA managed to score freebies from some of the most delicious food retailers in Auckland, I'll never know.

Student Life

Jandals.

Bailey: "Luckily for me I received the right and left jandal (unlike Cameron). I love these jandals. I still have my first ones from four years ago. These are a legit summer essential that you can't go past (worth the taking the survey)."

Hong Kong Students' Society

Milk tea. Glad to see milk tea getting the publicity it deserves.

Meat Club

Meat. No surprises there.

Auckland University Students' Association

Claudia: "A whole box of condoms, an apple juice, and a maxigesic. Have safe sex, stay hydrated, and relieve the aches and pains that may result?"

Bailey: "I managed to get one of AUSA's sweet sweet tote bags before they ran out on the second day of O-week. The red bull was a welcome addition to my caffeine regime, but I thought it was weird that they gave us a second drink of apple juice. You can't help who sponsors you I guess. If you missed out I wouldn't worry. Last year's was far superior with the winning combination of sweet chilli sauce, chicken stock and mi goreng; with all the leftovers hanging out in the new Craccum office in a room we didn't have access to for the rest of the year."

Literally every other stall

So many fucking starbursts. You want starbursts? They got you fam. Genuinely wondering if the Starburst company looks at their March sales and just wonder why they are so popular in a month with no discernable holiday. Mystery solved guys, it's UOA.

Ultimate Verdict

Cameron: "I am on a million mailing lists and all I got was an apple, some jelly beans, 3 bottle openers, two right foot jandals, a foam keyring, a fruit burst, a clear pencil case, sunglasses and two pens. Winning!"

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EXES | CAMERON LEAKEY

8.5/10: *Ex-static!*

"We're not going to make the show all about how we're exes"

Brynley Stent and Eli Matthewson's return season of *Exes* returned to the Basement Theatre last week for a more polished second round.

Brynley and Eli, once lovers and now real life exes, begin the show with some polite and very faux conversation; they're exes, it's all cool! Look how normal they are! This darting around the subject gives way to the story of their relationship, beginning at high school when they both appeared in a Christ-church Shakespeare production.

The relationship, already marred with awkward young love made more awkward with the knowledge that Eli has come out of the closet since their break up, something that Brynley as an "al-ee" is cool with. *Exes* culminates with some 'unmet tension' and we're transported via 2008 Windows Media Player graphics to alternate universes – Brynley and Eli married but sexually unsatisfied, divorced with Brynley performing slam poetry, fuckbuddies? This continues till we see that Brynley and Eli are in fact enriched by the fact they're exes. *Exes* is well polished in its second round and truly worth seeing, it's funny and an original concept that hasn't been done in Auckland theatre before. The depth of their relationship is easy to see, both in the way they expose each other through memories but also through the hilarious photos of each other pre-2008. *Exes* is a hilarious look into a past relationship but it works not on premise, but on the skill of Brynley and Eli.



IMMENSELY I BY A.U.R.A | CRAVIN SYMBONE

8/10: *NZ still pumping out good shit*

Now, I totally admit to having somewhat of a limited music taste and generally would not have heard of A.U.R.A if I did not seek them out for some local material to review, because I'm completely unashamed about living in the world of '90s dance music. But upon listening to their latest release *Immensely I*, released at the beginning of February, I became genuinely interested in their other work.

The third single from their upcoming album *Secret Intelligent Light*, the well-crafted harmonies and commanding of their studio space are of a quality that you would not expect from most New Zealand artists. Their goal is to evoke 'An elegy for rebirth', according to lead singer/songwriter Albert Nikolaj. Now, I'm too lyrically dense and sonically challenged to understand that, but I *feel* like *others* could. The tambourine could work like that! *Immensely I* possesses a sound that has me thinking I kinda get where they're coming from on that regard. I can't help but think of the first time I listened to *Viðrar vel til loftárása* by Sigur Rós, one of the few bands of their ilk that I'm actually familiar with. The feelings of completeness, of peace, yet combined with a frenetic energy are aspects that links both songs together – not necessarily in terms of similar audio structure, but in terms of overarching goal.

It's not enough to transfer my worship of Kylie Minogue, but I want to listen to more.



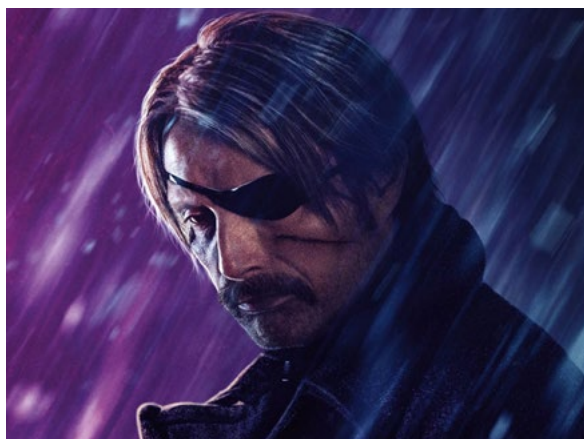
KATH & KIM | GLORIA HOLE

9/10: *It's noice, it's different, it's unusual*

I thought that we could have a little review of old media, Something we all might know about, but may not have necessarily watched in the last few years or even the last decade. In this case, I think the perfect topic is *Kath and Kim*.

I've recently been rewatching the show in small increments after Netflix graciously added it to its New Zealand archives and honestly? It still holds up. The complaining about John Howard may confuse newer viewers who may not have an idea of who he is, but this existed in an era where Australian government had the veneer of stability. A lifetime ago for most of us. Otherwise, the delicious '00s nature of the show doesn't age upon viewing it with our 2019 glasses, and it's still as delightfully quotable as ever. Now that Magda Szubanski has been out of the closet for the best part of a decade, there's a fun element to Sharon's sycophancy to Kim that wasn't there on the original viewings, and it only serves to make the show more endearing.

While I write about this as an unashamed gay male, the show was a pop culture phenomenon for a reason: the inherent selfishness and obliviousness in all the characters speaks to all of us, whether we like it or not, and we all want a little laugh at bogans. As a born Westie, I know the feeling. The show is never mean-spirited, it's just poking fun at a cultural reality.



POLAR | DARIO DAVIDSON

6/10: *Not as creepy as The Polar Express*

If any of you enjoyed Smokin' Aces, or the cheesier parts of Sin City (I did #Sorrynotsorry), POLAR will be your jam. No doubt about it. Its characters are so one-dimensional, they disappear if they turn side-on. The plot "twist" is about as surprising as a NASCAR race-track. However, does it stick to every cliché catchphrase to near-perfection, while delivering a violently good time? Fucking aye it does.

POLAR is based on a graphic novel that has NO dialogue. This gives it some leeway in terms of how basic the characters are. Pretty hard to develop complex characters using only a series of grim facial expressions. What we get on-screen is a generic story about an assassin on the verge of retirement, with a no-nonsense, hyper masculine voice.

"One last goddamned job. I only hope nothing goes wrong". This is where everything goes wrong. After that, unmentionable numbers of faceless henchmen are systematically eradicated in increasingly creative ways to a grim and grunge-laden soundtrack. Our protagonist is essentially a John Wick/Liam Neeson hybrid with a generic Scandinavian accent. POLAR tried to do what John Wick defined. Beautifully choreographed fight-scenes climaxing in brutal executions. It does this. Mostly.

The highlights are the gorgeous cinematography and the post-production editing. The costuming, and the shoot-out in the cabin also deserve honourable mentions. Lowlights include Vanessa Hudgens' damsel-in-distress archetype, and the overall predictability of the story. Overall, this is better than the average action film. I would file it under "movies for the neck-down".



NEW HOUSE BY REX ORANGE COUNTY | MAX LIM

5/10: *Shrek Orange County dropped the ball*

Rex Orange County dropped a much unexpected new single "New House" on Valentine's Day. It was definitely a surprise for his fans given that the artist did not promote his upcoming single other than the fact that he just tweeted "...ok....umm.....so" the day before the release.

Putting it bluntly, this single is yet another song about a relationship that is readily available just about everywhere on the internet. The premise of the song is about talking about the possibility of moving into a new house with his significant other in the near future while briefly touching on his general struggles with his lack of inspiration.

Just like his previous works, the instrumentation of the single is very melodic and nostalgic but somewhat predictable even. Although 3 seconds segment of autotune in the bridge of the song did catch me off guard - props to Rex for trying new things, but not too sure whether he landed that attempt with everyone else. At times, he sounded like a low-budget Fall Out Boy, who are already rather shit! But other than that, the production on this track was very clean and quite pleasing to listen to.

I do appreciate his style of music, since I went to Laneway just to see him! He knows what type of sound works well with his voice. Sometimes that doesn't mean it's all that great.

Let's just say it left me with "eh sure I'll take it".



RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE: SEASON 11 | JUULI PODD

6/10: *ATTITUDE CHECK!*

Barely two weeks after the... chilled reception to All Stars 4's finale, RuPaul is back at it again with a new cast of queens, ready to show that there's no such word as fatigue when it comes to the titular product. Unlike Seasons 9 & 10, the introductory episode does not seem to be catered to brand new audiences - it assumes that we already know the higher production values and expect increased focus on inter-cast dramatics (dramatiques!) that came with the move to VH1 a few years back, and just flies right into the swing of things, wigs and screams aplenty.

The lack of cautious mystique somewhat hurts the show - usually it takes at least two episodes to work out who are obvious filler queens (unless you read the spoilers) and who is likely to make it to the top 4, but there were no such illusions this episode. Even a casual watcher or a complete non-fan would be able to notice who will sashaying back home in the episodes to come. The lazy editing in return for a focus on getting the queens to talk shit on camera is something that has been noticed for a while, but if it is this obvious from the first episode, it is a worry for the rest of the season.

However, Miley Cyrus makes a believably endearing appearance and there are some queens certainly worth paying attention to. Just not one by the name of Silky Ganache.



Heavy Metal and Rejected: A Timeline of Azealia Banks

LACHLAN MITCHELL

I vividly remember two afternoons from my formative Tumblr years. Well, no, three. The day I logged on to find that one of the most popular users of the time had nonchalantly admitted to having a slave 'maid' was a pretty big day. But in the context of this piece, there are two days I remember most strongly. One in late January 2012 where Lana Del Rey first exploded onto the dashboard with *Born to Die*, an artist that forever changed the lives of ketamine users and club gays alike. The second afternoon of permanent residence in my memory was a few days later, where we all collectively became aware of the soon-monster smash "212" by Azealia Banks. It was brilliant – still one of the strongest debut singles this side of the millennium. We all adored "212": for a bunch of young people only just starting to explore the realm past pop, and who were almost universally clinging to our precious virginity, we took to the confrontative pussy-eating anthem like bees to the most succulent sunflower. It was a day that could have formed the beginnings of a new world order. But like all fever dreams, our cold sweat woke us to a much different reality.

People tend to forget that Azealia Banks was once seen as a legitimate prodigy with the lyrical talent and fashion sense of Lil' Kim, with production skills on par with Pharrell and Max Martin. There was a time where 'beef' was just something that she ate, not something that overshadowed and similarly crushed her career. Aside from Nicki Minaj, there had not been another female rapper so similarly hyped

at the time – and even then, Azealia's musical heyday garnered better reviews than Nicki's. It was also an era where there was a distinct lack of big-name female rappers hanging around. By 2011, none of the old greats were contributing to the scene. Trina had disappeared to the Phantom Zone for all we knew, Foxy Brown had gone deaf years prior, and Missy Elliott had been privately suffering from Graves' disease since 2008 – severely limiting her ability to contribute to the industry. Remy Ma had been in prison since 2008, because the girl had decided that a smart career move was to shoot a potential thief in the gut and let her bleed out. Classy, right? By the time Azealia arrived on the scene, there was plenty of room for someone as young and talented and she was.

And initially, she hit the stratosphere with ease. By 2012, she was performing at New York Fashion Week and even sitting in the audience with Anna Wintour – not in the same direct vicinity as Nicki's famous encounter with Wintour (I'm really sittin' with Anna!), but an undeniable mark of success nonetheless. For a queer girl who was raised in a poor and abusive household in Harlem, these surroundings were almost alien.

But now we get to the career attribute that she is most known for nowadays – almost exclusively, depending on who you talk to. *Fightin' Round the World* with Azealia Banks.

It was pretty realistic at first – fun but brutal verbal assaults

at Kreyashawn, who blew up around the same time as Azealia and immediately attracted criticisms of cultural appropriation. Not that this was pertinent to the beef, as Azealia just called Kreyashawn a 'talentless slut' for retweeting a link to "212". I miss Kreyashawn, honestly. Pumped out a kid and became a delightful little Twitter personality. She once liked a tweet I made about her working at Chuck E. Cheese after her label stole all her money. She's a good sport! But reminiscence over. The discussion of race and rap come to the forefront when Azealia mercilessly called out Iggy Azalea and T.I in 2012 for Iggy's 'runaway slavemaster' line. This was pre-career ruin for Iggy, and so there was plenty of controversy involved – but it did start the train of criticism that forced Iggy's career to slow down to a halt. As an artist whose ethnic and social identity was at the front of her public persona, Azealia won a lot of respect for how she initially made then-uncommon viewpoints about how race was treated in the industry, even by other black artists. I supported her fighting prowess. Her momentum showed no signs of slowing down. Life was still fun and fiery for Azealia at the time.

However, when the output of music post-"Heavy Metal and Reflective" seemed to dry up, and the feuds started to become more commonplace and volatile, the shift of opinion from Azealia Banks as a 'firecracker', to quote MTV, to her current perception as dependent on morally questionable arguments for coin was undeniable. She started firing at Lil' Kim and Nicki Minaj for the collapse of their respective collaborations. She became to be increasingly associated with homophobia and transphobic attitudes, going back on forth on whether she was really sorry for throwing around the T-slur repeatedly. The clue she wasn't sorry? She kept on doing it anyway! Her feuds with male rap artists varied in intensity and the ability to be defended for her comments dwindled, on account for transforming what were once legitimate points into... well, you'd see such discussions on *Stormfront*. By early 2014, she had been burned by nearly every potential collaboration, dropped by her label and had resorted to Twitter trolling to pay the bills. She managed to release her massively delayed album *Broke with Expensive Taste* in 2014, but the time had taken its toll: while positively reviewed, it did not sell well, and the seeming public rejection of her career's work caused a spiral that is yet to correct itself.

After an infamously racist verbal attack on Zayn Malik in early 2016, social media sites decided to terminate Azealia's accounts with extreme prejudice – on the grounds of, well, extreme prejudice. Instagram, Facebook and others soon followed. For an artist reliant on social media presence to support even the vestigial remains of her career, this was tantamount to a mob-style execution. She returned under the branding of CheapyXO, but this was not to last. Accusing artists of faking their sexual assault will do that to you. Banned from literally every social media platform under the sun, she was an entity without a host, Sauron without the ring to sustain his form. Interestingly, this did not stop her from putting in motion a series of incidents that caused Elon Musk to be charged with securities fraud. And people were *not* mad at her for that! However, in late 2018, she made her own social media platform cheapyxo.com, the only way she could still put herself out there without the Valkyries of other platforms

rending her account asunder.

She now sells soap. One label is named 'Bussy Boy', if you wanted to get an idea. It's not too bad, apparently. Still, it's a shame. Time will tell if she manages to return to prominence, but for now, she must make do with the transformation of being on one of rap's most gilded soapboxes to selling boxes of soap on what is tantamount to the digital sidewalk.

“
...social media sites
decided to terminate
Azealia's accounts
with extreme
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grounds of, well,
extreme prejudice.

”

GUEST COLUMN



JOSEPH FAITASI

Drake was corny in 2009, In 2019 he's got the best ear.

This is a review of Drake's decade old So Far Gone which was recently released on streaming platforms to celebrate its anniversary.

Not every rapper gets to celebrate their anniversary. If they did, then we'd be listening to "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" in 2017 instead of "Shape of You" by Ed Sheeran (love you Ed). Instead, we get to listen to Drake's 2009 mixtape *So Far Gone* in 2019 because he decided to release on streaming platforms and in the process, the sly mother-fucker tied *Future* for the most #1s on the R&B/Hip Hop Albums Chart in this decade... because of course that 10-year-old mixtape would hit the top. Of course it would. I mean, he's Drake. He could sell blank CDs and still break records. Why though? How has Drake managed to match this record without even releasing new music? Do people love Drake that much to just stream an 10 year old mixtape to the top? There are older artists with arguably better mixtapes/ older projects and I guarantee we would not see their shit hit #1 if they tweeted "Hey go listen to my old stuff, you fake fans". I think the answer lies in him already mega-successful (sorry, conscious/lyrical rapper fans!) so he can do what he wants. To me, that's what makes the mixtape a sweet-listening victory to many in 2019.

"I'm tryna do it all tonight, I got plans." - "Lust for Life"

Drake and his fans probably feel super fulfilled listening back to lyrics like this. He says he got plans and unless you are 12, we've seen it all play out over the years. It's especially funny when you remember lyrics like this that he used to spit back when everyone hated him. "Last name: Greatest, first name: Ever" was the dumbest shit you could ever hear from Drake on that *Forever* song. Especially when he was on a track with Kanye, Eminem and Lil Wayne. All artists with G.O.A.T status and albums to prove it and yet, at the time he spit that line, he hadn't even released one. These days you could argue that Drake has G.O.A.T status. Right now, he is beefing with Kanye; did some weird favour for Eminem to be in his good books (according to Eminem at least) and on par with Lil Wayne. Put those pitchforks DOWN lyrical rapper fans, they are at least as big as each other. Those lines now though have a profound effect, like this one he spit on "Lust for Life":

"The game got these old handprints on it

But I'ma be the one to pour cement on it
Uh, and start over."

According to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, he was 2018's best selling singer. Corny singing and rapping takes you far!

"Let's Call It Off" is a real song. Listen to the entire *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* mixtape album then come back and listen to "Let's Call It Off".

It's funny because as corny as it sounds like, it's the same sound he used to develop songs like "Shot For Me", "Marvin's Room", "Teenage Fever" and more. All songs that have the same feeling, but the visions are (thankfully) better executed so he doesn't sound like a typical 2000's indie pop rock singer. Which isn't great if you are trying to be a rapper. These days though.... "Lucid Dreams" by Juice WRLD exists so I don't even know what is going on with rap. Blame Drake, Kanye and "808's and Heartbreak".

Finally, I recommend listening to these songs if you are a Drake fan:

"Say What's Real"

"Best I Ever Had" (don't be around me if this song ever plays in public)

"Unstoppable"

"Uptown"

"The Calm"

"Congratulations" (pre Posty with a funny sample and all the autotune)

With these songs, you get a good summary of the best of his early work. But before I go, I'll leave you with this quote from *The Calm* to sum up this article.

"Leader of the new school, it's proven and it's known."

GUEST COLUMN



KEEARA OFREN

Lessons from Bollywood: It's more woke than The Academy

"If it's not a happy ending, it means that your story is not over yet". Though an underrated Bollywood flick, the arc words of Om Shanti Om represent the optimism and dynamic nature of the characters and dreams in one of the most iconic film industries in the world.

Enter 1970s India. Think disco, think sequins, think bell bottoms. A turning point for both protest culture and cinema, the film marries both in a colourful melodramatic picture with Omi as our unlikely hero.

Om Shanti Om follows Omi, nicknamed 'Omi', as aspiring Bollywood superstar...but is not quite there yet. A shameless scene stealer as a film extra or mook in big budget films, Omi is a carefree guy with a heart of gold. Omi is the son of two retired small time actors, his mother in particular believes he has a great destiny ahead of him, hence the everlasting nature of his namesake. She gives him a red corded bracelet akin to the belief of the red string of fate. It is this bracelet that gets tangled in the sari of Bollywood Golden Girl, Shantipriya. Chance encounters and a Dulcinea-effect style crush culminate into Omi scratching the surface of a powerplay of a Bollywood producer and Shantipriya as the unwitting target.

The unearthing of this dark secret results in Omi's demise. But because this is Bollywood and because my reviews are spoiler free, this is only the beginning as Omi is reborn to face redemption in the 2000s film scene.

Audience engagement: Like any good time shift film a la *Donnie Darko*, there is definitely a re-watch bonus which helps the viewer appreciate the attention to detail in dialogue, right down to costume choice. Note that this film is jam packed and over 3 hours long! It may not be for everyone. But rest assured, the foreshadowing allows for viewers to be engaged with the story through the two arcs of Omi's life than just having the film as bland action.

Visual Style: *Om Shanti Om* is colourful and upfront. This may not be for everyone. In my view, it is both in the true spirit of Bollywood while keeping up the 70s kitsch. Period films are almost completely dominated with productions and settings of Europe or the United States. It's refreshing to see what 70s India may have been like with adopting disco beats to a local vibrato vocal, reinterpreting martial arts flicks to suit a South Asian style showdown and even the fashion history. The director even sneaks in homage to Phantom of the Opera, Carrie and various real-life Bollywood actors. *Om Shanti Om* is in many ways a hidden historical and visual treat.

Acting: No film is about a scene-stealer is complete without scene-stealers of its own. Kirron Kher and Shreyas Talpade are endearing and funny in their portrayals of Omi's mother and best friend

respectively. So much so that I think they carry their own scenes well enough to be memorable without the main character. The one who takes the cake however, is Deepika Padukone as Shantipriya, carrying herself with the reserved grace of an ingenue. What really made an impression for me was that through the politeness, the elegance, Deepika carried her character with an undercurrent of sadness. I was reminded of Princess Anne in *Roman Holiday*. Behind the smile, the eyes always seemed to well with tears as though to sing that line in *Super Trouper*, 'facing twenty thousand of your friends, how can anyone feel so lonely?'. Every character's scene is worthwhile.

Arc themes and Social Commentary: With a title like *Om Shanti Om*, how can it not have a deeper symbolic meaning? The symbol Om in Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism represents the soul, signifying consciousness, spirituality and truth. The film does not shy away from questions such as "does one need to relinquish their Indian identity and cultural values to become successful?". Not only is *Om Shanti Om* entertaining, key messages of persistence, preserving one's culture and speaking out and protecting others with truth and integrity are sung and intertwined in an unapologetically Indian way, with love and enthusiasm in film.

Predating the #MeToo era, *Om Shanti Om* was the precursor, one of the first blocks removed from the Jenga fort of the dark secrets of the film industry. The villain, appearing in a cloud of cigarette smoke and dressed like a Don Corleone wannabe, is initially defended as one with great creative vision and as star maker for many a young actress. Yes, *Om Shanti Om* may be shamelessly 'troperiffic' but does this not remind you of conversations about many a disgraced director or producer? Noting that the movie is mainly directed and produced by women is an important part of providing context to the plot and its villain. How do we challenge this rhetoric in media? With the truth. Omi's quest is one of truth and one of protecting those in future that will be affected by abuse of power and manipulation.

Ultimately, Bollywood is far from just colours and song, like many an art form, it's an active protest, a way to communicate issues to the movie loving culture that India...and possibly UoA too.

For fans of: Avatar the Last Airbender, Phantom of the Opera, La La Land, Shanghai Noon, Queen, 3 Idiots, Cinema Paradiso

GUEST COLUMN



PRIME MINISTER
JACINDA ARDERN

Prime Minister's Address

Welcome back! If you're returning for another year, I hope summer, summer work, or summer school was kind to you. And for those of you starting uni for the first time, I hope you literally have the time of your life.

Whatever point you are at in your university career, please take a moment at the start of the academic year to reflect on what it means to be here, and to feel proud. You may be far away from home, and looking for a place to live. You may be coming back to study later in life. You may be struggling to find textbooks, or sign up to tutorials. Regardless, your decision to invest in yourself is incredibly important.

I remember many years ago angsty over the seemingly simple decision to study. I worried about whether I was good enough for tertiary education. I wasn't sure where to study, or what to study.

In the end, I made the 25km journey from Morrinsville to Waikato University. At the time, that 25kms felt like a big distance. But taking that decision ultimately put me on a pathway I've never looked back on.

I know many of you care as much as I do about those same issues. So here's a quick update on what we have planned this year – and how those plans will help you during your study and beyond.

I've said that climate change is my generation's nuclear free moment. I'm always inspired to see students making their voices heard on this all-important challenge.

We've been doing a lot of work on environmental issues since coming into office. I'm proud that we've ended new offshore oil and gas exploration permits, banned microbeads, phased out single use plastic bags, and started the Green Investment Fund. There's more to do, and we're working hard towards having a net-zero carbon emissions economy by 2050.

We know it can be a struggle to cover your living costs while studying. That's why we've boosted student allowance and student loan living cost support by \$50 a week. We're also lifting the minimum wage to \$17.70 from 1 April, to help you make your part-time jobs pay. Many of you will also be having your first year fees free, and I'm really happy we're helping to make your student debt a little more manageable.

Housing is another area that really affects students. Student flats have long had a reputation for being cold and damp. That low

quality housing has a huge, negative impact on students' health and wellbeing. That isn't good enough.

We fundamentally believe that everyone has a right to a warm, dry home.

That's why we've made changes to require landlords to ensure all rentals are warm and dry. We've also banned unfair letting fees, and we're updating outdated tenancy laws to make sure renters are getting a fair deal. I hope you see the benefit of these changes in the homes you rent this year.

Another important issue that students care about is mental wellbeing. This year's government budget has made the mental health of under 25s a priority and reflects our determination to improve the mental wellbeing of all our young people by providing better access to services and support.

I hope you use these opportunities to advance the issues that you care about most.

Studying can be stressful, so remember to look after yourself and be kind to each other. I'd love to hear your thoughts and suggestions about our plans for this year. You can email me at jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz, or drop me a message on Facebook or Instagram.

Till then good luck for 2019!

Shadows Bar & Eatery, now saving Elephants



10% of profits goes towards saving endangered wildlife





Women's Clubs at UOA

CLAUDIA RUSSELL

In celebration of International Women's Day last Friday the 8th, we've put together a handy guide to some of the feminist-friendly clubs on campus. Fight the powers that be and make some like-minded friends by attending one of the events listed below.

Campus Feminist Collective

The Campus Feminist Collective is an intersectional group of feminists that provide a platform for which to take a stand on issues involving gender. We work to raise awareness of feminism through educational programmes, and to help eliminate sexism on campus.

Past events have included poetry evenings, talks with experts on thorny feminist issues, and fundraisers for feminist causes. In 2019, CFC is looking at becoming more visible across the University and becoming a vocal advocate for feminist causes around New Zealand.

It's a great group of diverse people, each with their own passions and interests. As part of CFC, you get to make new friends, challenge your views, learn about new concepts, and make a difference across campus.

Contact: To join, email feministsuoa@gmail.com with your name, student ID number and email address, and make sure to keep up to date with our Facebook page for cool events.

Thursdays in Black (TIB)

"On Thursdays we wear black."

Thursdays in Black is a student-led group that wears black on Thursdays to stand in solidarity with survivors of violence. Our organisation exists in the hope for a future without rape and sexual violence. With like-minded peers, we provide a safe space for discussion, debate and activism to work towards a violence-free world. Every second Thursday, we hold a stall in the Quad to raise awareness with baking and badges (let us know if you'd like to get involved!). We also run social and activist events throughout the year - from creative craft afternoons to political panels, to quizzes and movie nights.

We are incredibly keen for some new members on the executive this year! It doesn't matter if you don't have any club experience -

we just need people with enthusiasm and passion. Sign-up is free and all of our events are koha which is passed on to Shakti and Women's Refuge. Wear black, come to our events, and help us make sure the #MeToo movement creates change!

Email: thursdaysinblackuoa@gmail.com

Women in Law

In 2016, Professor Julia Tolmie and Dr Anna Hood published The Gender Report on gender relations at the University of Auckland Law School. The Gender Report highlighted the need for a women's group at the Law School. In 2017, a group of female students formed the University of Auckland Women in Law group to support women studying law and advocate for gender equality within the law school, and the wider profession.

In 2018, Women in Law was granted the "New Club of the Year" Award by Auckland University as a testament to our growth and success. We have held 17 events since 2017, ranging from annual social occasions to advocacy workshops. We are planning to kick off 2019 with our inaugural Girls' Night In and the launch of our mentoring programme on the 13th of March. Female-identifying law students from all year groups are welcome; please find us and our events on Facebook (both our page and group are named 'Women in Law').

Contact: 9 Eden Crescent | 027 7462 400 | www.facebook.com/uoa-womeninlaw/

Women in Engineering

The Women in Engineering Network (WEN) is a network that builds connections between women in engineering of all levels. The network fosters relationships between female students and professional engineers. We coordinate social events, professional development opportunities, mentoring programmes, and academic support. We

also have our Instagram page called wen_uoa. We advertise all our events through our social media pages. All female students who enrol in engineering at UOA are also automatically enrolled in WEN, who hold a female students orientation prior to the UOA first year engineering orientation as well.

Upcoming events: Our first event of the year is sponsor night (already advertised on the WEN page) – an opportunity for students to meet our sponsor companies of the year and network with them. We also have our mentoring programme that's kicking off soon: one with professional engineers already in the industry, and one pairing Part II students with Part III-IV students in their specialisation.

Sponsor Night is filled with food, drinks, dessert and networking. Students can chat with representatives from the companies that sponsor WEN and provide the funding for all our great events throughout the year. Learn about each company from their short 'elevator pitch' presentations, and from browsing their display booths.

Some of WEN's sponsor companies have just opened up graduate job applications (including AECOM, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, and Tonkin & Taylor), so get a head start on internships and graduate job hunting, or network to build up relationships for the future.

WEN warmly invites all engineering students who self-identify

as women to attend.

University of Auckland's Women in Business

The Women's Mentoring Programme at the Business School matches female business students with women working in business. Women make up almost half of the Business School's student population, and regularly top their classes. Despite this, women continue to be the minority in senior and executive positions, and on boards and committees. As a result, the perspectives of women are under-represented in public policy and decision-making processes.

The programme is open to female undergraduate business or business conjoint (BCom/BProp conjoint) students who will have completed at least one year of business programmes and will be going into at least second-year by March 2020.

The WMP is designed for students who need assistance with their career path and want to improve skills and broaden their networks. Be prepared to attend an event each month, usually held after 6pm.

Unfortunately, applications for 2019 mentees have already closed. Applications will open in December for the 2020 programme.

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How to use meal deal apps to eat like a king on a student budget

SHEUK-YEENG TAN

Now I'm no big foodie but I know where to find a great meal deal. When I realised how expensive eating out can be, I tried my best to find the best deals, through Grabone, Groupon to First Table and now Zomato Gold. I shall now expose my little secret of meal deals.

Grabone and Groupon

Going on Grabone and Groupon is always great, but there's usually a catch as to why these restaurants need to resort to Grabone and Groupon to get customers. However there are great places that I have tried out that have used Grabone and to my surprise, they were delicious - not to mention the slashed prices!

123 Palms Bar (Highland Park) - now the name of this place may not be particularly exciting, but the décor and the food was really eye-opening. The restaurant and bar was very retro, with a casino, old-school jukebox and a pool table. They served hot stone grill meals, which was interesting if you have never tried them before. The food was served promptly along with two sides to choose from and a drink of soda or juice. The service was good and showed us they were more than just waiters.

First Table

First Table was quite a new thing for me. I only started using First Table within the past two years or so as I was introduced by my friend. How it works is that, you go on their website firsttable.co.nz, book an early bird table for \$10 (at around 5 pm - 6 pm depending on the restaurant) and the bill will be 50% off for 2-4 people. Sounds intriguing right? Right. It's a great way to eat a fancy meal out without needing to spend close to \$200. It costs a ridiculous amount of money in Auckland to just dine out with a couple friends. There are many restaurants partnering with First Table along the Viaduct

harbour, and now there are more that are popping up on the website from all around Auckland. First Table is a growing business because, well, when there's demand, there needs to be supply right?

Wu & You (Mt Eden) - Wu & You provides excellent service, addressing you by your name to make your experience more personal. They check up on you at appropriate times where you are not stuffing your face and appear to be genuine when asking how you were. I agree that the service really exceeded my expectations and the food was delicious. They were well-presented and the environment was very cosy and appeared to be a popular location for diners. The food served was Asian-fusion and the restaurant was very modern and aesthetically pleasing with a pink colour theme.

Zomato Gold

Now this is a new hype. It was recently introduced not too long ago, with 10,000 people on the waitlist to get the membership. I bought an early bird 12 months membership when it was first released on the app. It was 50% off the original price and I also got a 20% off with a referral code. They have since closed off early bird prices and are now \$65 for a 6-month membership. How it works is that once you purchase the membership, you are able to get 1+1 off food meaning you buy one meal and get another free OR 2+2 off drinks, by which you buy two drinks and get another two free. There are many conditions that are tied to it as well but that's the main idea. The perk is that you

won't need to book, as you do for First Table. The con is that you will obviously need to buy the membership.

Yakitori (Auckland CBD) - This was the first restaurant I went to for Zomato Gold, however I do not have much to say about this restaurant. The service was mediocre. The waiter came to us for our order but we had not made up our mind so we asked for a few more minutes. They did not come back and we had to wave them down. The food was decent but not for the price we have to pay for it. Portion size was rather small as well. They served mostly small dishes and you would need to get a bowl of rice to go with it. There are set meals but limited options. The environment was very humid as it was underground and there wasn't much airflow therefore the experience wasn't quite enjoyable. However this is only one of the many restaurants listed on Zomato Gold, some of which I have already been before without the membership. So don't be discouraged to try it out!

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The Silver Chef

JESSICA THOMAS



Every week I conduct an interview with a curious creative from around Auckland, learning about their craft. This week, I chatted with the mind behind Bijoux jewellery on Ponsonby Road.

The tiny workshop is as chaotic as French chef's kitchen, though with a few exceptions.

Chips of metal litter the counter, in place of flour and sugar. Instead of whisks and spoons, chisels, hammers and files stick out of rusted tin cans.

Small brown envelopes hold treasures of silver and quartz waiting to be collected, and American Indian feathers glitter beside circles of metal ready to become engagement rings and 21st presents.

I'm in Bijoux, home to bespoke jewellery designer Matt Rawlinson, and I'm in love with the creative chaos of his workshop. He patiently entertains my barrage of questions, all while fixing, polishing and filing various jewellery pieces to perfection while I sketch him from a corner.

Matt has been making jewellery since he was 11, a skill he learned from his dad and his grandad.

'I started making copper bangles and then moved on to rings,' he says, pulling open one of the many drawers in his desk and showing me a handful of beautiful bracelets, tarnished with age.

He now creates stunning turquoise pieces, handcrafts settings for shards of moldavite, and once made a silver spiderweb belt for NZ Fashion Week. He's also sold rings to Bono, and George Clinton's daughter has one of his one-off bracelets in her collection.

'That spider web was probably one of the more interesting things I've ever made,' he says while taking the scruffy edge off a band of silver.

He bustles around mixing a two-part araldite glue that smells like rotten eggs but is stronger than superglue. It's like watching an alchemist in his den, creating magic from apparently innocuous ingredients. I pick up bits and pieces that I probably shouldn't be touching, unable to help myself.

'This cuff,' he says 'I made for a woman in Australia. I took a flat sheet of silver, hammered it round, and then used a punch to make these domes around the edge.' He makes it sound so easy but looking at the piece, I doubt that was the case. 'I just sent her photos and she's so excited.' His face lights up and you can just tell this is his joy; creating things that really mean something to the customer.

It's not just jewellery he's making, its heirlooms; things people will wear on their skin day in and day out, a tattoo with fewer commitments.

'Jewellery-making is like cooking,' he says. 'There are lots of

ways to do it and each jeweller will have their own way of making something.' And just like an experienced chef, he works almost by instinct. He starts with a stone and creates a setting that honours its aesthetic. From there it's experience, time and an innate understanding of how to make a ring or a pendant that people want to wear.

Much like a good meal, his jewellery brings people together, condensing generations down into a single ring that bursts with character and familial flavour.

'A lot of my customers I've known for years. The great grand-daughters of old regulars come in and request for old pieces to be fixed or remade into something new that fits their style.' With torch in hand, Matt fuses memory and metal, creating anything from elaborate settings to simple bands with a few basic materials and plenty of know-how.

His inspiration comes from magazines and the like but recently, he's been letting customers send in children's drawings which he then turns into totally unique jewellery pieces. He's travelled all over the world collecting materials; he spent five months in Phuket picking up buddhas and other icons, and learned from the Native Indians in the U.S. while stockpiling the turquoise that now glows under his glass counter.

Jewellery apprenticeships are hard to come by these days but not impossible to find, and with the right questions and eagerness to learn, people like Matt are open and generous with their knowledge and time, proven by the hour and a half I spent in his shop talking, drawing and spying on his interactions with customers, each one of whom seems to know him like a friend.

It's heartwarming to see that in the age of tiny \$200 Karen Walker rings made in China, people like Matt are not just surviving, but thriving. There's a difference between wearing a ring and wearing a ring made from your gran's engagement band, set with the diamonds from great granny's brooch. There's history and craft in every piece; with filing, gluing and engraving, generations melt together into timeless pieces that are unique and deeply personal to the wearer.

A fixture of Ponsonby Road, Bijoux stands testament to the power of passion crafts that stand the test of time, and remain long after the latest pop up espresso bar has faded away. I can only hope my job, when I finally get one, will have as much meaning to as many people.

HOROSCOPES

with ANTON HUGGARD

ARIES

21 march - 20 april



Your love of conspiracy theories is your defining characteristic. This week, your investigations will uncover a great untruth that the public has swallowed. Auckland Transport's so-called "march madness" is a plot that has been hatched by the ACT party. Question everything, Aries. Believe nothing. You will discover something fantastic.

TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



The stars say you will be a character of great significance this year, Taurus. As you are well aware, you will be doing doctoral computer science research. What you don't know is that you will be put in the artificial intelligence department. Have fun. Nerd.

GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



You can get more than books out at the library. Ask the librarian for the secret options and give her a wink. She'll know what it means. There's some good stuff that they're hiding out the back that only true library fans get to use.

CANCER

22 june - 22 july



Being a mum can be a thankless job. You're always chasing after kids and trying to keep the house in order. And what respect do you get? None! The world owes you, Gemini. The world owes you big time! You give & give & give. It's high time you took something back. This week you will start committing small crimes. Nothing major. Speeding, internet piracy, defacing newspapers. You will enjoy it.

LEO

23 july - 22 august



You will be trying to get some work done on a computer this week when you will have a sudden moment of realisation. Law is boring. Why are you even studying law? You didn't want to be a lawyer anyway. You wanted to be a lumberjack! Leaping from tree to tree as you float down the rivers of British Columbia. The Larch! The Fir! The mighty Scots pine! This is your calling, Leo. Do it!

VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



Don't worry, Virgin. Cough. I mean Virgo. You may not be the fairest of them all, but there must be someone out there (with low standards) for y- Wait. Actually, maybe you are. You're not bad-looking. Maybe your problem is confidence. This week, your curiosity will get the better of you. You will enter a beauty pageant. The stars only show a week at a time, so no guarantee you'll win.

LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



You will start to regret becoming a chef this week, Libra. You thought all the knives, flames and swearing was cool. Little did you know that running a business is hard. There's really nothing else to tell you. You'll get one person walk into your restaurant this week, but it will turn out that they are blind and they were actually looking for the art gallery. No customers. Tough luck, Bucko.

SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



Majoring in chemistry will really pay off this week, Scorp. Some loser you went to school with will approach you this week and convince you that you join him in selling drugs. Turns out it's quite a lucrative field. Who'd have thought? You should have started doing this ages ago! You'd never have had to spend all that time working at McDonald's.

SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



Bad news, Sagi. You'll be late for a lecture and not paying too much attention to what's going on when you cross the street this week. You'll walk out in front of a bus. The bus will knock you down a manhole, into the sewers. The current of the gross sewer water will knock you off your feet and you'll be swept off down the pipes. You'll eventually come out somewhere at the bottom of the ocean. Don't worry, you won't drown. A killer starfish will get you. Write a will.

CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



They don't call you "Capricorn the new-born" behind your back for nothing, Son. Actually, they call you a lot of things behind your back. All the names are justified too. You really do have a lot to be ashamed of. All the paranoid thoughts you have when you're messaging someone aren't paranoid at all. They're all in on it. They're just pretending to be nice.

AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



You should go to a dentist. It's lovely this time of year.

PISCES

20 february - 20 march



Look, pisces, your name is last on the list. There is a lot of horoscoping to do for other people. I'm a busy guy. You're not getting one. You get free will for this week. Go watch TV or read whatever rubbish is on page 6. Go away.

the people to blame.

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