

CRACCUM

ISSUE 08, 2019



Craccum toes the line of satire and defamation

Brian Tamaki suing us would honestly be a personal achievement

"GET THE HELL OFF ME!!!!"

Lachlan Mitchell takes one for the team and gets re-traumatised by NZ's worst PSA's

Revisiting our childhood Nintendogs

Entirely so we could justify art that was the Sistine Chapel but with dogs

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Making an ass of myself, it's what I do baby

BY BAILLEY VERRY



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

When writing for *Craccum*, my general rule of thumb is 'does this make me laugh?'. I can't always make others laugh, but if I'm having a laugh I'm doing ok. Most of the time this works for me. If I can get readers to do that little series of short-inhales-through-the-nose internet kind of laugh well then that's just swell. However, this strategy is not foolproof and I often make an ass of myself. Ask my friends and they will probably tell you that I am a complete knob all the time. I'm ok with this, and at the end of the day I am laughing at me as well.

But this week, I have made a REAL big ass of myself. Go check out our *Craccum* Facebook page and you will see exactly what I mean. I have been trying to improve it from non-existent to clinging to life support, with middling success. But what I truly admire is Otago University's *Critic* magazine's social media. Bants. For. Days. I am always entertained by it, and it is really some good shit.

But what really got me was the resurrection of a dead meme and a laugh about AUT's *Debate* magazine. Our *Craccum* group chat found it hilarious, and evidently other magazines did too. In the end *Critic* and *Debate*

made up, but in doing so, completely ignored our beloved *Craccum*. I was not willing to take this disrespect. I thought it would be funny to mirror the joke on the *Craccum* page, like a fun little parallel or continuation. Let it be said, the section editors were not really on board, but also didn't have the heart to tell me to, you know, not.

So off I went making the post in my own little world thinking I'm hilarious. And I got FUCKING SLAUGHTERED. What I didn't anticipate was that I was in way over my head, and not as good at social media as I thought. The callout post by *Critic* was brutal. The pity likes continue to come in. I could have taken it down in shame after that absolute fatality, but my reasoning is that is even more pathetic. If I am going to look like an ass, I am going to own it. Plus, credit where credit is due, the clapbacks were pretty funny.

So although I really only made myself laugh, I inadvertently made a lot of people laugh, even if it was at me rather than with me.

TLDR; I got absolutely wrecked by Otago University's student magazine *Critic* and it was pretty embarrassing.

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University of Auckland Has Highest Concentration of 'World Class' Academics in Country, Research Claims

DANIEL MEECH

A study performed by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) shows the University of Auckland has the most 'world class' academics of any New Zealand tertiary institution.

The study was performed ahead of the release of the TEC's Performance Based Research Fund. The fund, paid for by the government, is dished out to tertiary education providers each year "to ensure excellent research in the tertiary education sector is encouraged and rewarded". It currently holds around \$1 billion dollars, parts of which will be released later in the year. The fund - which is intended to be used to pay for academic research papers and studies - is divided between tertiary institutions, with each institution receiving a proportion of the fund equal to its share of high-performing academics - hence the study.

TEC's study found UoA had 391 'world class' level academics (researchers which were given an A-grade by the study). In addition, the university was said to have a further 1353 'high quality' (B-grade) or 'new and emerging' (C-grade) academics who were expected to continue to grow the university's reputation. All told, the university

was said to have 1744 high-performing academics - more than Victoria University (or whatever the hell it wants to be called), which was said to have 865 high-performers, 173 of which were 'world class', and the University of Otago, which was said to have 1358, with 229 being 'world class'.

An analysis of the study released by the TEC also shows a number of interesting features revealed by the study. For starters, it appears the number of quality staff nationwide is increasing: according to the TEC study, there are 7408 high-performing academics currently, which is more than 1000 more than the last time the study was run (in 2012). The subjects which appear to have the highest number of emerging academics (based on the increases in funding between 2012 and 2019) were nursing and biomedical, while the subjects which were said to have the highest number of 'world class' researchers were engineering and technology (103), psychology (70), and biomedical (64) - suggesting, perhaps, that most cutting-edge study was being performed in the medical field.

As a result of the study, the university has been allocated 28% of the funds.

NZ and France Join Forces to Fight Extremism on Social Media

DANIEL MEECH

New Zealand and France will join together to battle the dissemination of objectionable content through social media, the government says.

In a press release sent last week, Ardern says the two countries plan to bring tech companies and government agencies together in a meeting to "bring to an end the ability to use social media to organise and promote terrorism and violent extremism".

The meeting - which will take place in Paris on the 15th of May, alongside the Tech for Humanity G7 meeting - will be chaired by Ardern and French President Emmanuel Macron. According to the press release, the ultimate goal of the meeting will be to encourage social media companies to sign on to the 'Christchurch Call' - a yet-to-be-defined charter which would impose certain duties on those who agree to be bound by it. According to a press release, the call will "eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online" - but what will be considered terrorist or violent content, how the call will be enforced, and what duties it will impose on those who agree to it remains up in the air.

Ardern's announcement has been praised by some, but ridi-

culed by others. ACT party's David Seymour says the vagueness of the meeting and Christchurch Call is "concerning". "Jacinda Ardern will fly off to a global meeting without consulting New Zealanders or appearing to know what her Government's position is," he says, "Will every video that is uploaded to social media need to be vetted? Or will platforms need to change their algorithms and, in the process, remove legal content? The PM doesn't appear to know and isn't concerned if her demands are impractical".

The government's 'global' initiative has also been criticised for excluding Asian countries. While Western countries and companies have been invited to the summit, many Asian and South American countries and companies have not. China-based WeChat (which has more than a billion users) made headlines for failing to remove videos of the Christchurch shooting from its website. Despite this, WeChat will not be attending the conference. Neither will Weibo, which took days to respond to requests to remove the video.

news.

Brian Tamaki's Man Up Programme Shut-Down By Government

DANIEL MEECH

Brian Tamaki - the controversial head of Destiny Church - has had his hopes dashed after Corrections Minister Kelvin Davis publicly announced he would not be funding his Man Up programme.

The programme, which runs for 15 weeks, is aimed at helping past offenders integrate back into society, and is funded and run entirely by Destiny Church. According to Tamaki, it has a success rate of 72%. Last year, Tamaki accused the government of illegally attempting to block him and programme volunteers from entering corrections facilities. Tamaki said the government, rather than backing his programme with funding, was actively opposing it - a decision which was harming the inmates the Man Up programme was supposed to help. His protests culminated in a petition presented to Parliament late last year, which called on the government to stop its 'illegal' ban on Man Up, and to give the programme funding. Tamaki tweeted that if the government didn't support his programme, he would be forced to visit prisons with a message which would cause "inmate revolts in prison".

That petition has finally been answered - and it's a firm no.

Corrections Minister Kelvin Davis says he will not be funding the programme, and will not be allowing Destiny Church/Man Up

volunteers to visit corrections centers. He says Tamaki never filed for a government grant, nor did he follow the correct application process to speak to inmates. Moreover, Davis says there is no independently verified research to support Tamaki's claims, which is worrying, given his fondness for living an extravagant lifestyle funded by tithings collected in Church. "If they're going to lie about small stuff, and about being banned from prison and preaching war, why would we open ourselves up for them to go into a prison," he told *The Herald*, "I don't trust [that] any contract that they had - if they were to work in prisons - wouldn't go into funding an extravagant lifestyle, overseas holidays, cars, jewellery, and Harley Davidsons. I don't believe the money would go where they say it would go".

Tamaki responded to Davis with his typical maturity and calm, calling the comments "political gang rape", and accusing him of being "The Liar".

Members of Tamaki's Destiny Church made headlines earlier this month when they demonstrated outside one of the mosques affected by the Christchurch shootings. Demonstrators - who said they found Muslim calls to prayer in the wake of the shootings "disrespectful" - told reporters they were 'reclaiming' the country for Christians, by reminding people that "Jesus Christ is the true god".

Drug Testing Saves Lives for Otago Uni Students

DANIEL MEECH

Drug testing conducted on Dunedin's Hyde Street uncovered a dangerous chemical in a students' pill.

The chemical was detected after a student brought it into a specialist drug-testing tent provided for by Otago University Student Union (OUSA), KnowYourStuffNZ and the New Zealand Drug Foundation. Testing quickly revealed the drug contained dangerous amounts of an unknown cathinone (more commonly known as bath salts). Testers guessed the cathinone in the pill was likely to have made its way into all pills made with the same batch, and so put out a warning on Facebook informing students that there was a batch of MDMA on the loose which had an increased chance of causing harm.

OUSA claims the notification is likely to have saved other students from harm, and has used it to vindicate their novel decision (made early this year) to provide testing for students. OUSA President James Heath says the event is "a perfect example" of why the union feels it should provide drug testing services for students. Samuel Andrews, a spokesperson for the New Zealand Drug Foundation who volunteered in the testing tent, agrees. "We think every university at O-Week should have a drug-checking service, as well as festivals and

big night-life events, that's what we want to be seeing," he told *Stuff*, "Some people will choose to use drugs and it is really important we can provide them with information and advice so they can be safer, and we don't have people having bad nights, or a potentially fatal night".

The testing marks the second time OUSA has provided students with the ability to test their drugs. The first time occurred in O-Week this year, when students were encouraged to test their pills before taking them. 61 students took OUSA up on their offer - of those, OUSA claim a significant number decided not to take the drug after having it tested for dangerous substances.

OUSA say they will be trying to bring drug testing to more events in future.

What is Advocacy?



WE ARE A FREE INDEPENDENT DISPUTES RESOLUTION SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

We are 100% independent from the University, which means the advice we provide will always be in their best interest. We are a team of professional AUSA staff and Law student volunteers. We help students to raise an issue with staff or make a complaint.

We can assist you by:

- Clarifying your options, rights and responsibilities in relation to any academic issue;
- Help to resolve academic or personal issues;
- Advise about any appeals processes;
- Prepare you for meetings, and attend them;
- Advocate on your behalf;
- Refer you to the best services to get help;
- Provide information and referral to other appropriate services.

WHEN SHOULD YOU MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?

Anytime you encounter a problem or issue that is unresolved, or when they feel you are being unfairly treated.

HOW CAN YOU CONTACT US?

Go to the AUSA website and click on services. You can also drop by our offices to meet an Advocate in Old Choral Hall at 3 Alfred Street or phone Denise, the Advocacy Manager, at 87294 or email advocacy@ausa.org.nz

Shadows Bar to Shut Down, Move by Beginning of Next Year

DANIEL MEECH

Everyone's favourite student bar is set to be evicted from its current location by the end of the year. Dan finds out more.

No, this is not a drill - Shadows Bar really is set to move locations sometime in the near future. Where to? Why? No one knows. Not even AUSA President Anand Rama or Shadows Bar manager Matt Marquet can say.

"It's not a decision of ours," laughs Rama, when I speak to him over a stain-smeared table in Shadows. Marquet, who sits across from us, nods. The university has indicated they want the bar moved by 2020, he says, but he doesn't know where it will be moved to. "We're not being cagey," Marquet jokes, when he declines to tell me where the new bar will be located. "It's just we don't know. [The university] holds all the cards, they tell us what they wanna tell us, and we go forward from there."

Rama and Marquet say they were informed of the decision late last year. "It has to do with - I guess - the university's future plans for their buildings and their structures and their areas. It's a little bit out of our hands," says Marquet, when I ask him why the bar is being moved now. "But it's not a bad thing," he continues - the bar has been in the same place for almost 36 years now, and it's well overdue a make-over. "It's about time we freshened things up and modernised ourselves for modern students," says Marquet. Running my hand over a table so sticky it would probably scare off most cockroaches, I'm inclined to agree.

In the meantime, Marquet and Rama are adamant that students can expect to enjoy Shadows Bar as they normally would. "Nothing changes until next year," Marquet says. "I can't stress enough it's not gonna in any way impact students and what they want and what they love. What they're being offered currently they'll continue to be offered", he assures me.

But what about next year? What happens with the new location? Marquet says we can expect to find a fully revamped Shadows, one which has been designed with students' needs in mind. "Again, this is down the line," he says, but he and Rama have begun looking at what AUSA and Shads can do together to ensure it retains its place at the heart of student culture. As part of this, Marquet says he will be asking students what they would like to see from the new bar - what aspects of the current bar they want to keep, and what they want changed. "Again, this is down the line," he says, "but once we get approval, we'll start looking at what AUSA and Shads can do together. What kind of things do students want more of, you know? We want to make sure we have a venue set catered to what students want."

Rama says the pair want to look at the new venue as "just a space". They don't want to assume the layout or look of it until they've decided what it should function as. "Maybe it will be more a study space during the day, and a bar at night," says Rama, thinking out loud. Maybe it will remain a fully-fledged bar - Rama doesn't know.

"These are just questions at this stage that we're just starting to look at", he admits. But there is one element of the new space they have decided on - charging ports. "The thing we've been told the last few weeks is charging ports ... [and] why not? Why not have a 50 port charging area where students can come charge their phone. If the university's not gonna give those facilities, why don't we?" says Marquet.

But, of course, some things won't be changing. "There's certain things we know we have to have to function," says Marquet, "Obviously, \$8 jugs will always be there. And, of course, two dollar toasties". Marquet and Rama say, as much as they want to redesign look and feel of Shadows, they don't intend to change the "core pillars" - cheap drinks, cheap food, and a welcoming atmosphere. "I know from things in the past you're all very passionate about student lager, and if I changed anything in that way, I'd probably have a mutiny on my hands," laughs Marquet, "So definitely, those elements, they're never gonna change."

Eventually, I ask the obvious question. Shadows Bar knows it will be evicted at the end of the year. Shadows Bar has been promised a new location somewhere on campus. Shadows Bar has not actually been given this location yet. So what happens if the bar is evicted before a new location has been found or agreed upon? Marquet and Rama can't answer the question. Neither can Chair of the Board of the Kennedy's Ltd (a company owned by The Bar Trust, which operates Shadows Bar) Hamish Stevens, who, when I asked him over email, simply replied with the ominous, all-bolded sentence: **we need an alternative location for Shadows to continue.**

But Rama and Marquet say they're not too worried about this happening. "We will continue, we don't know much more, but we know we're gonna continue," says Marquet. Rama and Marquet are confident the university will respect the value Shadows brings to the campus. "End of the day, Shadows - I would call it a rite of passage," says Marquet, "Every student must, you know, come in and enjoy the goodness of Shads lager. It goes hand in hand with getting your piece of paper for your degree ... we're a big institution on this campus, the university knows that. They know you guys want us."

Ultimately, Rama and Marquet say they just want students to see the change as an exciting new beginning, rather than the end of an era. "I know there's been the beginning of grumblings around the place saying 'Shads, is this gonna be your last year?' - it's not," says Marquet. "This place should be out-living all of us. If myself and Anand get out way, it's definitely gonna outlive us. And that's the point."

Note: Craccum approached the university for comment, but was unable to find a suitable contact in time.

Opinion: Why the Capital Gains Tax Needs to Stay on the Political Agenda

LEIGH FLETCHER

James' "Bitter Pill" and Jacinda's Flimsy Will.

When I heard that the proposed Capital Gains Tax had collapsed, my first thought was that Jordan Williams would be popping the cork on some champagne.

That is exactly what he did.

But it's important to think about what this means. Who are the ones celebrating? The Real Estate Institute of New Zealand. Federated Farmers. Simon Bridges. That's fair – this is a political win for all of them. This kind of coalition disagreement – especially given New Zealand First's power to decide government in the last election – is the kind of thing that Labour will not want to dwell on. New Zealand's voters, however, absolutely *should* dwell on it.

So, what is a CGT? A capital gains tax is a tax on the income gained from capital – so properties, for example. It's effectively an income tax. The CGT proposed by Labour was aimed at people with multiple properties, and would not affect the 'family home'. Multiple property ownership is a pretty rare thing in New Zealand, but the few people who do own multiple properties are making significant income. Income should be taxed. It's a relatively straightforward notion. People earning wages are getting taxed for doing the hard yards – taxing capital gains sounds like fairness, because it is.

It's fairly straightforward why the CGT plan failed. The constraints Labour placed upon itself, through its Budget Responsibility rules, refusal to bring in any new taxes in its first term, and through the approach to the CGT itself were the downfall of the tax. If the consultation is one-sided, and the power – and here, as always, money is power – is one-sided, then there isn't a debate to be had. Labour's proposition was about as holey as the Swiss cheese the Government idly snacks on in the Beehive lobby during book launches. This allowed opponents to criticise the execution and form of the tax, rather than thinking about the principle of reducing the wealth gap. National didn't have to oppose fairness to oppose Labour's CGT – it had to oppose a messy, unclear approach.

The consultation process was also flawed. Crucially, the dominant voices consulted by the Government weren't representative of the poor. But the entire point is that these are tax dollars that can build both state housing and genuinely affordable homes for first-time buyers. Funds in tandem with the policing of landlords and property managers. Funds that mean tenancy isn't a 1-to-10 scale between nightmare-ish and "character-building".

It's also important to hold the Green Party accountable. It's all too easy to see the Greens as limp spinach in the salad of government, but they are still part of the majority, and their support for a CGT is central to their economic policy. If the Government were to get a second term, the Greens should stand their ground on economic issues in any confidence-and-supply or coalition agreement.

By the time we hit the ballot boxes in 2020, the Government will have plenty of positive rhetoric ready. The news cycle may well pick up the CGT again, but there will also be plenty more to grill politicians about. Even so, remember that Labour promised fairness, and that NZF told us that the failures of capitalism needed to be addressed. If Labour are going to stay in power, they need to be put under pressure to deliver on this rhetoric. Labour can win these sorts of fights with clear policy and a political backbone.

Let's keep economic fairness on the political agenda for the 2020 Election.

“

The CGT proposed by Labour was aimed at people with multiple properties, and would not affect the 'family home'.

”

New Zealand Sign Language Week

This week is New Zealand Sign Language Week, a week to celebrate New Zealand Sign Language and raise awareness of Aotearoa's Deaf community and proudly promote their language and culture. Craccum encourages everyone to get amongst learning New Zealand sign language – even if it is just the basics.

On the page across, we have attached the NZSL Fingerspelling Alphabet – an easy way to get started with learning to sign your name. Deaf Aotearoa have a great range of resources available on their website and also on the New Zealand Sign Language Week page – with booklets for family, medical and work situations alongside Māori concepts too.

Learn NZSL is a free learning portal that can be accessed at learnnzsl.nz This site offers modules that guide you through some of the language and how to sign it. The NZSL Online Dictionary is a key tool that can be used to view and understand sign language.

Deaf Aotearoa have several tips for communicating with Deaf people.

- Talk face to face
- Tap on the individual's shoulder to get their attention
- Otherwise, wave your hand in front of the person
- Use a pen and paper
- Do not shout
- Try to not cover your mouth and to not look down

Hearsay! News without the facts: God personally threatens Brian Tamaki

LACHLAN MITCHELL

Numerous nervous residents of Central Auckland reported the shaking of the earth Wednesday morning – but while 36 year old property flipper Sharon Wellsley was initially worried the tremor would prematurely end her scheduled meeting with a prospective renter for her \$500 p/w one bed no bathroom no fridge residence in her garage, it was quickly made clear to Mrs Wellsley that the rumblings of the planet were not meant for her. "It was wild as – my plates started shaking and trembling, but then out of nowhere, a boomin' voice seemed to part the fuckin' clouds and speak directly to Brian Tamaki himself, and he sounded piiiissseedd."

Craccum obtained a recording of the declaration, which has been confirmed to be a message directly from God himself:

"Listen, you hyena clitoris looking son of a bitch – do you know how sick and tired I am of your shit? You don't know the kind of nonsense I have to deal with when you're acting up like this, Brian. Yeah, look up at the fucking sky, Brian Tamaki. Yeah, I'm back on your ass. You better get your fuckin' act together, mate. What's this about being gang raped by the fucking PM? What are you using your tithings for – angel dust? Oh, man, those

goddamn – and I can say that – tithings. We've been over this, you daft cunt. Did you think I'd just forget your swindling? Did you not get the message last time? How obvious does the omniscient voice of the fucking universe have to be to drive it through your thick skull? I didn't even intend to give you first degree burns when I set you on fire the first time – the oil on your neck did that for me! You think those flames were just on accident? Mate, you don't know what you're doing to me. Pack this shit up, or I'm packing you up in a fucking body bag. Dump you in

an acid barrel. Sending you straight to Hell. You think you've had enough heat now? Wait until all the coins you've stolen in the name of faith are smelted and poured right up your bleached asshole. Look – fine, I'll stop – Jesus is telling me I'm waking up Luke Perry. I like him, man. Goddamnit. Get your act together, or I'm sticking your dick in molten mercury. Yahweh away."

Brian Tamaki could not be reached for comment. (And even if he could, who the fuck wants to talk to Brian Tamaki.)



NZSL ALPHABET

Have fun with your whānau, family and friends.
Learn your name and teach others theirs!

NOTE: NZSL grammar structure is different to English. Just sign 'my name what?', then fingerspell your name.





Abandoned Dogs Found Alive After Decade of Neglect

By THE CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

As anyone born in the mid-nineties to early 00s will remember, Nintendo's DS was considered the epitome of cool. The best game on the market - definitely Nintendogs. Whilst many DS's are now lost, broken or hidden away, Bailey and I were incredibly lucky to remember where we placed our relics and so decided that after seven (ish) long years of neglect, it was time to pull out the old gem and see how our nintendogs were doing.

Nintendogs was the shit. It came in three versions: Dachshund & Friends, Labrador & Friends and Chihuahua & Friends (and then later the version Dalmatian & Friends was added). Your little virtual pet enjoys walking, bathing and eating and you can enter it in competition to do tricks. When you wanted another, you added a pal until you had three and had to place one in the dog hotel.

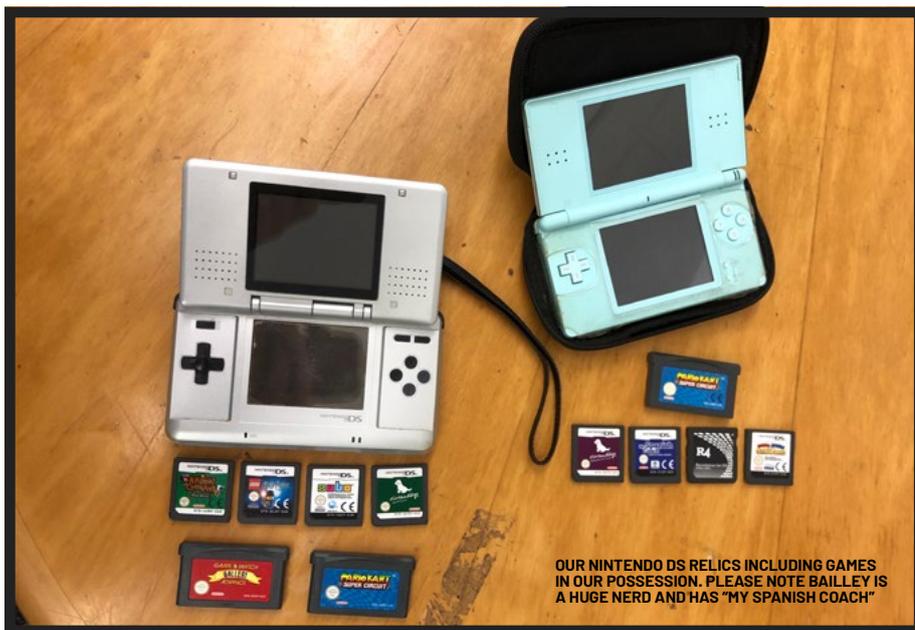
Cameron: First thought - my dogs are called Sheila, Dylan, and Anika! (Exclamation point included). They seem healthy and excited to see me, not sure why they're not dead. You know when you leave them for 3 days they get hungry, but you leave them for a year and they're fine.

Bailey: Nintendogs must not have a built-in starvation mechanism I guess

Cameron: I'm patting the dog's head and it goes all cuddly. Oh, it wants me to rub its butt. Looking in my inventory, I found many items including a bubble-blower, a pair of business glasses and a keyboard that the dogs yap along to. You can give them toys to take away from them, which is very much the Sim pool-ladder situation

Bailey: I've blown the DS more than any man in my life trying to get this cartridge to work. If you blow it enough you get the results you want. I want to see my precious doggos!!

feature.



Cameron: So, I have Labrador and Friends and so I have these breeds: Labrador, Golden Retriever, Pug, Miniature Pinscher, Toy Poodle, Mini Schnauzer, Boxer, Corgi, German Shepherd, Shiba Inu, Dalmatian

Bailley: I have - Chihuahua, Daschund, Sausage Dog, Pug, Yorkshire Terrier, Miniature Pinscher, Shitzu, Charles Spaniel, Toy Poodle, Beagle, Sheep Dog, Mini Schnauzer, Golden Retriever, Boxer, Corgi, Siberian Hus-

ky, German Shepherd, Shiba Inu, Dalmatian.

Cameron: Okay, you win

Bailley: Is that because you had no friends to get breeds from?

Cameron: I have three friends according to my profile actually

Cameron: Apparently my username is ☺CamRox☺. I think that name proves I was a homo from early on - it's those smiley faces.

Bailley: Does it alternate capitals? That's the difference between knowing you're gay and not knowing.

Cameron: No alternate capitals no. Me and this dog have spent only twelve minutes together apparently.

Bailley: That's so sad - twelve minutes in so many years. Madeleine McCann's parents spent more time with her.

Cameron: Dylan has only eaten dog biscuits and we've spent 28 mins together. Me and Sheila spent 48 minutes together. She keeps asking for attention.

Bailley: Same.

Lachlan: You realise what you did is give consciousness to these dogs about a decade ago and then immediately abandon them



A VERY GOOD BOY WEARING A VIKING HAT

Cameron: Yes, I'm a terrible person definitely. Apparently I can't take Dylan for a walk because he needs to rest.

Bailley: My dog's wearing a little Viking Hat! I should note that I love that I'm roasting you for your dogs and I'm over here with 7 minutes.

Cameron: I would like to point out my biography reads 'Bark Bark'. I apparently live in the very chic 'Urban Living' theme - how Boujee.

Bailley: Wanna see how much of an edgelord I was? My bio reads 'every book has a fra-



SHEILA SHAKING HER BOOTY TO THE SCREEN



EAT YOUR HEART OUT, KIM KARDASHIAN



THIS DOG ENCOURAGES YOU TO TRY MUSHROOMS

grance'. I was a Tumblr kid before my time.

Cameron: I have \$1,336.00 which is more than I have in my savings

Bailey: This is so worth not going to class. No I don't want a singular biscuit

Cameron (Feeding the dog a biscuit): Eat. Eat it bitch.

Bailey: Why did I name my dog Blight?. I've also got North – so clearly I was ahead of Kim K

Cameron: Oh shit I forgot about the dog hotel, I've got two dogs there, Gordon and Sarah. Sorry I mean ★Sarah☆

Bailey: Look at this little BITCH dog. I want a fucking beagle.

Cameron: Is there something fucked up about putting a dog in a hotel for months?

Bailey: Still giving better care than us

Cameron: Far less fucked up than leaving them for 7 years really

Bailey: I've spent more than an hour with North. I've spent 8 minutes with my other dog. Clearly North is my favourite. Think I just wanted that one, and the rest of them we're just like 'oh look a dog'.

Cameron: Can nintendogs die?

Lachlan: I don't think Nintendo programmed malnutrition into their kids game

At this point, we decided to use the wireless to make our dogs meet.

Cameron: Did you name the dog se-s-sec-oora?

Bailey: Sakura. I was really into Cardcaptors ok.

Cameron: Aw, when I pat the dog it sparkles, so cute.

Bailey: Me when I get attention

Cameron: Over while my dogs seem happy. They were quenched. Think I'm gonna leave them like that. Happy and Quenched

Bailey: And ready to be ignored for another seven years. Well I'm excited we can now use pictochat to shit-talk everyone else in the office.

Cameron: Like we can't already do that on messenger?

Bailey: But now we can also draw dicks.

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Craccum Yarns: Richard Hills

by CAMERON LEAKEY

Craccum sat down with councilman Richard Hills to talk council politics, youth and who he thinks could win the latest season of RuPaul's Drag Race.

*Ko Taratara te maunga
Ko Whangaroa te moana
No Kaipatiki ahau
No Glenfield ahau
Ko Ngāpuhi toku iwi
Ko Richard Hills toku ingoa.
He Kaikaunihera ahau mo te Kaunihera o
Tāmaki Makaurau*

I'm standing outside *Chuffed* on High Street waiting to meet Richard Hills. I've arranged to meet him at 11am and I've made an unusual significant effort to make sure I'm not just on time, but early (I left a tutorial halfway, only went for the participation mark). I spot a Lime 100m to my right zooming down the footpath, and there appears Councillor Richard Hills. Richard is one of the two current councillors for the North Shore, serving alongside Chris Darby. He has very kindly given me an hour of his time to speak with me. He is also the first person I've interviewed who has appeared on a Lime. He tells me that he was running late and that despite

the recent ban (and then reversal of the ban), he's pleased that the braking issue is fixed so he can use a Lime.

We sit in *Chuffed* and order our coffees. Richard, at 30 something, is the youngest of the Auckland councillors by ten years. He is a graduate of AUT University with a Bachelor of Communications. He initially was interested in Radio or Journalism but maintained a strong interest in Politics. I asked if he actually attended lectures: "I was generally good at attending unless it was a 4pm or 5pm lecture, or if there was a massive gap between them". Following his time at University, Richard was approached to stand for the Kaipātiki Local Board. At this time, the Supercity had just been formed and the local board was a new institution. Richard didn't have the money to run a campaign, however the previous mayor of North Shore City and Labour MP between 1999 and 2008, Ann Hartley, offered to help fund his campaign, promising that if he won, he would pay her back. "I enjoyed

interview.

the communications side of the campaign. I was 23 and I ran a hard campaign for the board. My platforms were public transport, water quality, cycling, parks and youth connection". Richard was elected and completed two terms on the board.

One of the projects Richard was involved with was the establishment of the first youth centre on the North Shore. The project took five years – the plan: to transform an old moldy hall for hire into a youth space. The Marlborough Park Youth Hub (Te Aranga) was opened two years ago with spaces for counselling and medical services, an art space, boardroom and space for a Jobs-For-Youth programme. The focus for this hub is to be for youth.

Richard had planned to stand for the local board again, however, a last minute call that the North Shore Councillor was not seeking reelection meant that Richard found himself being asked to stand for Auckland Council. "I had my billboards up and application in for the local board and then I was asked to stand for his seat. I didn't have any money left! I had already spent it on the campaign. So I had to fundraise". Richard door knocked with friends and family and on social media, raising whatever money he was able to. The North Shore Ward also encompassed not only the Kaipātiki area, but also the Devonport Takapuna Local Board area. "I had only really fifty days to campaign. I felt it was unlikely to be elected with such a short campaign. My billboards were up last". Richard won by a margin of 128 votes. Richard has since been on the council for two and a half years. He is seeking reelection this year on October 12th.

Richard is passionate about young people being involved in voting. "Often policies and ideas are targeted for older people – so then older people are more likely to vote – and are more likely to stand – it's a cycle. There's nothing wrong

with older voters or candidates but we need a mix". Richard indicates that a lot of the council work is envisioning plans for ten, twenty and thirty years in the future – and so this presents the challenge of representing a range of ages and views when consulting. "I believe that younger people voting makes us more accountable to long-term planning and not just to the next election. We have to ask – and be able to answer – where are the houses, parks and community services? What youth want will be different to what older people want".

Richard indicates that projects the council are currently involved with impacting university students include the City Rail Link and Downtown Redevelopment. The City Rail Link affects students in the fact there is constant change in the city. If there are issues getting somewhere, or there's a cancellation, or travel plans are affected, then it can affect access to university. "These projects can be three to five-year projects, which can be your whole university life. This could be a person's only time in the City and it needs to be a positive experience: Clean, safe and well-lit for people after lectures – to support students with lower incomes and with more stress and the need to travel to both work and university". Richard also indicates that Downtown is an important place for youth – in particular, the need for open spaces for relaxation, especially when youth both live and study in the city.

Out of the central city, town centre developments are occurring in Northcote and Takapuna – both of which are designed to open space. "It makes sense to have walking opportunities between the shops, beach and transport. It isn't anti-car, it's improving people's lives, helping prevent climate change. It's nice to live in a neighbourhood you can walk in". This idea also supports local business – Fort Street experienced a 400% increase in economic activity following when it was pedestrianized. Richard also

speaks of a City Health Alliance: specifically around Mental Health. "We do a lot on physical health: walking, cycling and park spaces and not necessarily mental health". Richard speaks of the shift to focus not just on infrastructure, but making sure everything can go back to improving wellbeing.

Richard Hills' significance as the youngest councillor on the council by ten years also stands alongside his status at the first openly gay councillor on the new SuperCity council – although he is quick to tell me there were two previously openly gay councillors on the previous Waitakere and Auckland City Councils. "I didn't really think much about it until I was elected and suddenly it was a headline. Working with youth and in high schools when I was a youth worker however means I know how important it is to be visible for young people figuring things out. I want to brush it off like no big deal but I know that for queer youth getting shit from school, family and church, to see someone like me being a politician and doing things and I assume being accepted, it shows that you can be elected by people in the community while being your true self". Richard specifies that there are two facets: the responsibility to be open about his sexuality – not that he admits it was ever hidden – as well as the notion that it doesn't define his decision making; "there are no gay footpaths and straight libraries".

Richard is also from Ngāpuhi heritage. "I've been slowly learning more about my dad's side. I have been slack previously in identifying with my Māori side. I'm improving. I try to incorporate Te Reo into most of my speeches and my Pepeha and Mihi" (Richard's Pepeha is featured at the beginning of this article). Richard has started learning Te Reo. The renewal of the Auckland Plan also presented opportunities to recognize the focus needed on Māori identity in Auckland: the need for Kaitiakitanga. "it's more

than just putting a koru in our art: we're the only international Māori city".

I ask Richard if he has any advice for young people wanting to stand for political office:

"Ask people for advice! Like me or other friendly elected members, we always appreciate getting questions about our work or advice, our emails are normally problem related.

Stand for either local board or Auckland Council: Local board is less public and gave me a lot of experience in politics. But there should also not be a limitation on running for Auckland Council. No one has experience until they're in a role.

Campaigns are awesome: This is the time you can be a weirdo on the street and talk to people.

It's hard to do, but ask people for money: Saving money is hard if you're not confi-

dent your campaign will be successful. You'll be surprised how many people – family and friends – want to support good people to stand for office who share their ideas. People also have a vested interest in your campaign if they donate and want to help.

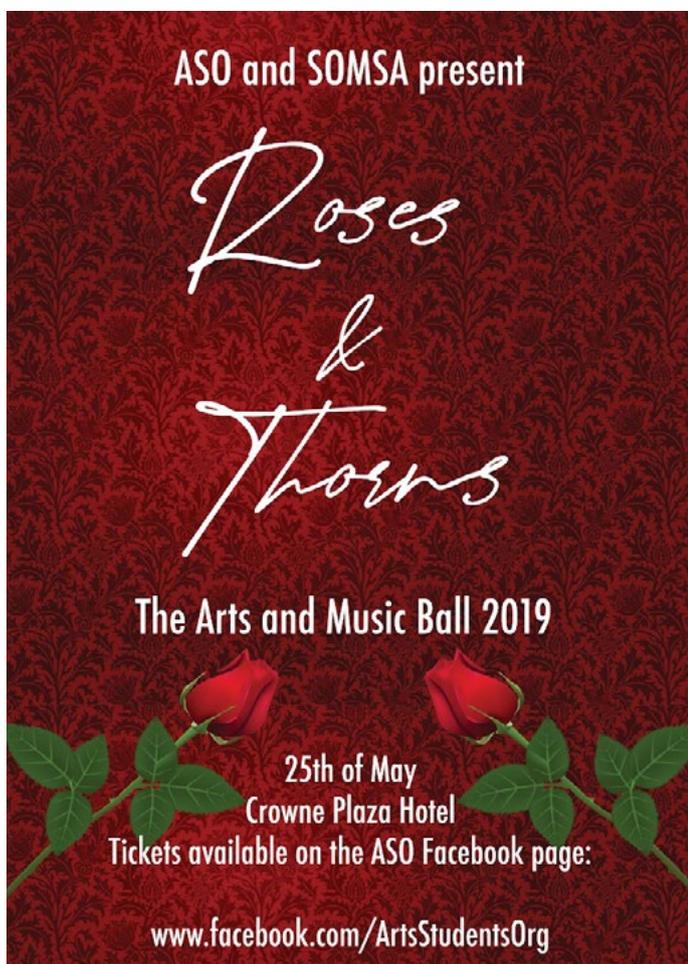
Social Media and Poster Campaigns are good: Speak to people - you don't have to spend tons. The 150 word biography that gets published in the election brochure is an important way to spread your message: people who want to read those .

Ultimately, be confident that some people will like your views: Richard knows that with his campaign he had nothing to lose, telling me he ultimately went in to be positive. "People want to think that cutting costs is good but we're running an international city and buying into negative campaigning like that isn't the way to engage young people. politics can be

so negative and people switch off. You can have a whole campaign of "I love the parks".

Lastly, Richard, an avid twitter user – @RichardHills777 – has used a RuPaul's Drag Race meme so I had to ask if he's a fan, "Yes, I watch it! I want Vanjie to win but I know that won't happen so I'm going with Brooke Lynn Hytes". As for his favourite flavor of shapes: Barbecue. "They have the most flavouring! The chicken ones are ass and I ate too many cheese and bacon ones as a kid with my granddad

And then the interview ends, he pays for my coffee (incredibly kindly) and grabs the same Lime from the beginning of this article and zooms back to council – I assume to eat a packet of Barbecue Shapes. If you see billboards out there soon with 'Richard Hills: I love the parks!' just know that Craccum heard it first.



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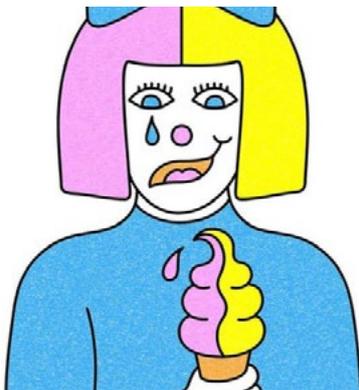
ENDGAME | DARIO DAVIDSON

9.5/10: *It's not Antman going up Thanos's ass, but it's close*

Last year we were treated to the unbelievably massive *Infinity War*. It seemed like topping it would be virtually impossible. But the team at Marvel Studios have given us the sequel that we all wanted, even if it wasn't the sequel we were expecting. My extremely obvious disclaimer here is yes, you need to have seen *Infinity War* if you want to enjoy *Endgame*.

It picks up directly after the apocalypse of *Infinity*; our heroes beaten and our entire planet in total disarray. What really sold this film as fantastic for me was how the pace was so different to its predecessor. *Infinity* was fast and furious, it starts with a literal clash of titans and continuously ups the ante right up until the last ninety seconds. *Endgame* was completely different. It was stark, and drawn out at times. It was a slow build that paid its dues to each and every character that makes this universe so goddam enjoyable. When the final act's climax was playing out, it peaked flawlessly because of the less intense, first two acts. It was wonderfully unpredictable. The *Endgame* script writers really broke the mould with this film. It just kept you guessing the whole way through. It made every moment of the journey more enjoyable.

To describe *Endgame* as epic barely does it justice. It has ambitions of dizzying proportions and for 99% of them, it absolutely delivers. Luckily for us, they are not stopping anytime soon.



LABRINTH, SIA & DIPLO PRESENT... LSD | K K SLIDER

4/10: *Microdose of bullshit outweighs macro ambitions*

LSD are a project group composed of Labrinth, Sia and Diplo (crazy how you can make LSD acronym with their names. Get it? LSD? Like a name of the drug that cool kids use to par-tay??) and - gotta be honest - I couldn't care less about how this group is formed in the first place. Just like their group name "LSD" suggests, I can see they have attempted to convey the surreal and colourful aesthetic. But the issue is, the music videos remind me of the Oompa-Loompa dancing sequence from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the songs are just.... Um... y'know.... Eh.

While individual performances were decent in most parts, each song in their finished state feels tacky. Tracks like "Angel in Your Eyes" and "Audio" just sounded like free sample songs that C-rated *Minecraft* streamers would use as their intro. This album finished with a very questionable remix of the first single they released last year ("Genius"), featuring the one and only Lil Wayne. I think it says a lot about this album when Lil Wayne's last verse of this track is just him spelling the word drug and LSD in a tune of the alphabet song: "a-b-c-D-R-U-G-h-i-j-k-L-S-D". The instrumentation sounded like Imagine Dragons, Sia dropped a line about xanax and Lil Wayne was Lil Wayne. It was a bad trip overall :/



SNARKY PUPPY @ THE POWERSTATION | NATHANIEL PEACOCK & EDA TANG

10/10: *Do you like jazz?*

Touring their latest studio album, *Immigrance*, Snarky Puppy took the audience on a journey that relished in the intersection of jazz, funk and R&B instrumental music. The nine eclectic members delivered a unique repertoire which demonstrated the mastery of their art. Without a sheet of music in sight, their ability to improvise and navigate their lineup was remarkably professional. Lead by composer and bassist Michael League, the group sustained energy through extensive pieces filled with ravishing solos - including one for the percussionist.

Although having a diverse audience ranging from young families to middle-aged hipsters, Snarky Puppy's raw passion and integrity to the music spoke to everybody. It was refreshing to see musicians so immersed and passionate about their craft, while detached from pretense and the need for popular appeal. Admirably, there were no flashy costumes or uniforms, which added to the authenticity of the concert experience. To keep the audience on their toes, each song had a distinct feel. *Bad Kids to the Back* featured off-beat rhythms and bright brassy harmonies playing in call-and-response. Contrasting their usual upbeat style, the band paid homage to New Zealand's strength in the face of the Christchurch tragedy with a mellowed piece called *Even Us*. Through its indo-jazz influence and heavy lingering notes, a pensive atmosphere was created to explore movement and notions of 'home'. Finally, the crowd favourite, *Lingus* played as the encore. Just as well that the sticky Powerstation floor kept the audience from transcending through the roof.



STAFF PLAYLIST REVIEWS #2 – DAPHNE

7/10: “fien art”

Twelve songs. Seven editors. Only one playlist can come out on top in our new series. Daphne presents a lowkey pop-jazz/classical infusion (that classification made no sense but just go with it) that exudes personality and charm worthy of the title *fien art*.

As stated many times before in our office, Janelle Monáe is a godsend, and for the inclusion of hit song ‘Pynk’ from her acclaimed album *Dirty Computer*, Daphne wins her playlist easy points from us. Indie artists Japanese Breakfast also shine through in the playlist, because indie rock deserves a space on every playlist. This playlist switches genres like the measles epidemic switches victims, so the best I can really do is label this as ‘rock’. Really earning my money on this one.

If Janelle Monáe and Frank Ocean aren’t enough to scream seductive, then country singer Angel Olsen (insert false recognition) singing heart-warming ballad “For you” would be enough to make any cold heart melt. It’s sweet Daphne. Here’s a well-earned seven for you. Listen to Daphne’s full playlist by following ‘Craccum Mag’ on Spotify.

In order of appearance; Thinking/Not Thinking – Martin Creed; Class of 2013 – Mitski; Pynk – Janelle Monáe; Cranes in the Sky – Solange; Ivy – Frank Ocean; For You – Angel Olsen; Pills – St. Vincent; Lights On – FKA twigs; Everybody Wants to Love You – Japanese Breakfast; Kids Only – Leah Dou; Tepid Soul – Poppy Ajudha; You’re Not Good Enough – Blood Orange



8 REASONABLE DEMANDS | CAMERON LEAKEY

9/10: *So much for the tolerant left*

What happens when six young queer flatmates kidnap Jacinda Ardern? An insane plotline, but pulled off well by the young cast of *Eight Reasonable Demands*, one of three plays featured in Auckland Theatre Company’s return annual Here and Now Festival. The play follows our ~~terrorist~~ heroes – a group of flatmates bound together by the prime minister tied up in the bathroom.

The group are diverse – differing races, political affiliations, sexualities and gender identities. I must commend playwright Joni Nelson for writing a range of queer characters who are diverse in their queerness – Nelson herself noted in an interview recently that the character’s sexualities acted as part of their performance, not their storylines. The Jacinda plot – whilst incredibly far fetched – is employed only in essence to create heightened tension amongst the group, which builds into the chaos and dysfunction played out on stage.

The eight demands – as named in the title – create an interesting commentary on each individual used to highlight the significant issues facing youth in New Zealand. In particular, the lack of mental health support for transgender individuals and the current need for a surgeon who can perform gender reassignment surgery in New Zealand. Performances by Daedae Tekoronga-Waka and Sherry Zhang are ensemble standouts, however all the cast are excellent in their own right. Ultimately, the group of leftie, liberal queer individuals are all just looking to try make the world a better place – even if they can’t quite agree on how.

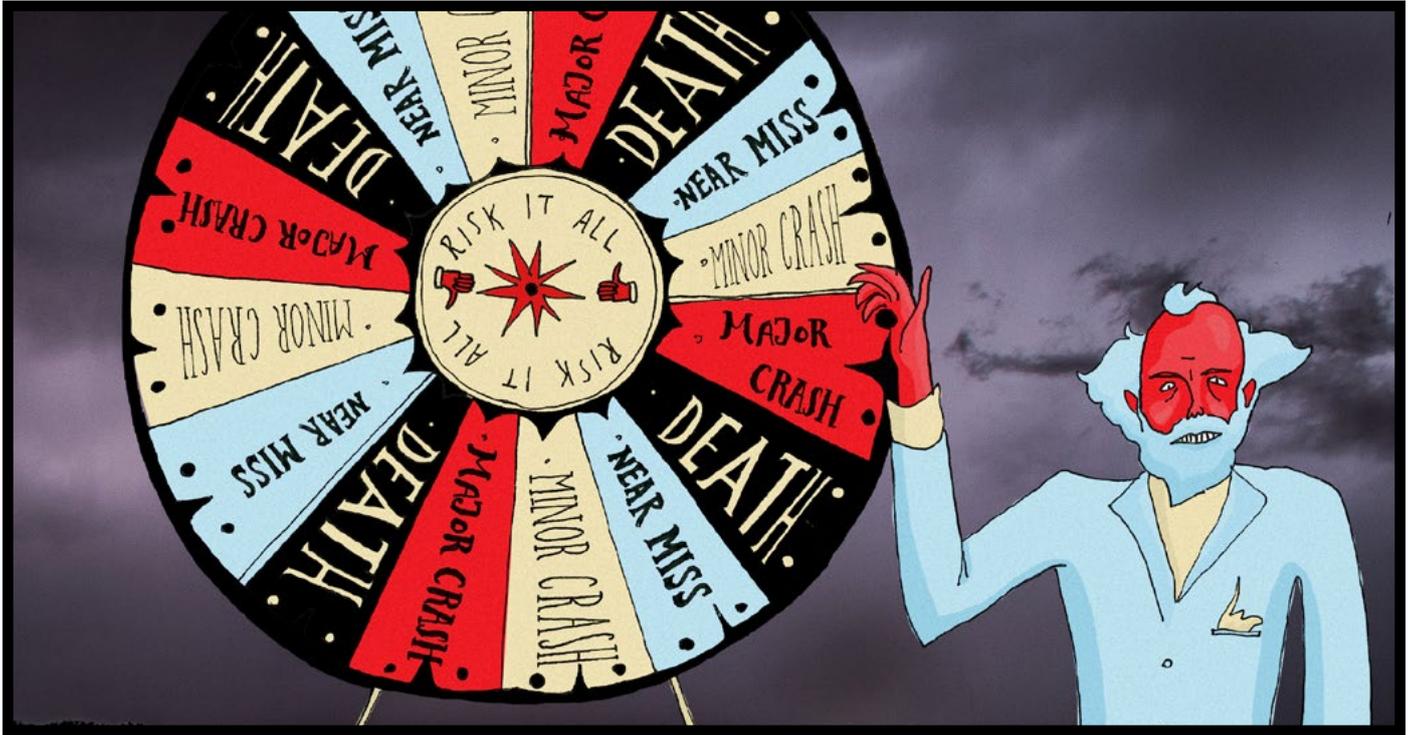


TAYLOR SWIFT - ME! | CAMERON LEAKEY

3/10: *Taylor Swift goes full ‘live, laugh, love’*

Taylor Swift is almost thirty years old and yet despite this – she’s returned to a pop song that is so young and naïve – it sounds like it should be on the soundtrack for a new animated kids movie. *Me!* Featuring Brendon Urie was released on April 26th and has already broken the Vevo record for the most views on youtube for a lead female video alongside being the third most viewed video in 24 hours ever. That being said, the song is pretty shit. For an artist to succeed they must show constant progression in their work. For an artist who has so often been called ‘fake’ and ‘bitchy’ to come out with album like ‘Reputation’ – one that completely owned the persona that was being projected onto her – was not commercially but critically well received. So to follow that era with a song like ‘Me!’ just makes it feel like someone in the boardroom wanted something a bit more radio friendly and Taylor Swift obliged. I like Taylor Swift, don’t get me wrong, this song just doesn’t have any substance to it.

Editor’s Note: I didn’t know it was possible to make candyfloss in musical form. We all expected better of all of you.



Trauma while eating Twisties

LACHLAN MITCHELL

Wasn't 2008 great? You'd come home from a long day at school, turn on Sticky TV, watch *Fairly Odd Parents* and be treated to your mother getting a face full of glass because her fucking kids couldn't clean up after themselves. Oh, to be young again, it was a simpler time. ACC had decided on the darkly ironic vision of jumpscaring people into public safety, and they were gonna take every page from *Final Destination's* book to do so, goddamnit. But not only were ACC on the warpath for advertising-slot friendly trauma, we were in a golden age of driving & alcohol safety adverts and didn't even know it. It was a beautiful time. It was a time before *Ghost Chips* softened our hearts. In order to draw out these precious memories of PSAs past, I'm ranking the top eight of NZ's most infamous public safety advertisements, and we're all gonna bask in the sweet trauma of yesteryear.

'Fruity Bars' (ACC)

Audience Trauma: 6/10 - While it's not a heart stopper, this was ACC's first successful attempt to fuck up your ad break. You were lulled in by the innocuous Fruity Bar and its promises of nutrition for your loved ones, and then boom - glass all up in this poor woman's face.

Quotability: 2/10 - It's a visual piece, like *Suspiria* - the horror doesn't rely on dialogue to sell its message.

Artistry: 7/10. It wasn't exactly easy to go back to Sticky TV after Sharon got glassed, hmm? Hell, even the Americans know about this one.

Total: 15 points

'ACC dipshit doesn't know how to walk down the stairs' (ACC)

Audience Trauma: 6/10 - 3 points from the grotesque leg snap, another 3 from him

being able to own a home in his early 30s.

Quotability: 0/10. UhhHUhHHHHHHhhhhh, after fucking his leg up doesn't exactly lend itself to the public lexicon.

Artistry: 2/10. Gonna need more than a broken leg to put fear into my heart, ACC.

Total: 8 points

'Drunk Uncle' (Alcohol Advisory Council)

Audience Trauma: 10/10 – The unquestioned MVP in this regard, find someone who saw that commercial who didn't shit out their spine once they saw the titular inebriated uncle merry-go-round his nephew into the drywall.

Quotability: 4/10 – Drunk Uncle only consists of on-the-piss laughs and a relative yelling GET OUT at the titular drunkard, but extra points for the forcefulness of the rebuke.

Artistry: 8/10 – It stayed with you, right? Fucking stayed with me. I may or may not laugh whenever this comes on air nowadays, but the initial head slam always shuts me up for a second.

Total: 22 points

'Shower Slip' (ACC)

Audience Trauma: 8/10 – The last contribution from ACC on this list, this was their strongest effort to date. It's swift but brutal – John Malemodel, dumb as shit, steps on the wet tiles, slips, and breaks his neck instantly. You feel the thud in your throat. After this, shower mats for LIFE.

Quotability: 1/10 – None to speak of – it's presented as a simple commercial with implied shower sex, there's not much more to it. The thud is what matters.

Artistry: 7/10 – Wes Craven actually complained to Helen Clark and said he pissed himself a little bit.

Total: 16 points

'Trapped' (NZTA)

Audience Trauma: 1/10 – We all laughed at this one. Once the guy realises that Nige is dead, they lost us to the laughs.

Quotability: 8/10 – What! WHAT! WHAT? Stop staring AT ME! GET THE HELL OFF ME! GET OFF ME, NIGE! AAAAAHHHHHH

Artistry: 4/10 – They got the shadows right. And Nige does look dead as fuck!

Total: 13 points

'Could you live with yourself? - Nightmares' (Fire and Emergency NZ)

Audience Trauma: 10/10 – Fire alarm sales went up 200% at the time of release, as the multiple showings of the PTSD-laden father spoke to a primal fear within the audience.

Quotability: 2/10 – The directness of the spoken words isn't memorable, it's the actor's eyes that sell this one.

Artistry: 9/10 – Possibly the most effective community outreach the NZ Fire Service have had in years, if not ever.

Total: 21 points

'Same Day' (LTSA)

Audience Trauma: 0/10 – LMAO NOPE

Quotability: 10/10 – IT WAS THE SAME DAY, DAVID!

Artistry: 5/10 – Don't say sorry to me, say sorry to the guy who has to live with "IT WAS THE SAME DAY, DAVID!" being yelled in his face for the rest of his life!

Total: 15 points, but note that I would give that quote 30 points if I could

'Spin the Wheel' (LTNZ)

Audience Trauma: 6/10 – I never really liked this one, but I know plenty of people that were sufficiently creeped out by this – I thought the guy looked too much like the small hand guy from Scary Movie 2, but I see why it worked for others.

Quotability: 4/10 – No dialogue to speak of, but the off-key circus tune is unsettling enough to work itself a few points on the ladder.

Artistry: 7/10 – The clicking of the wheel as it approaches death? Wooh, child.

Total: 17 points

While writing this, I ended up getting spooked by the various other PSAs New Zealand has seen it its time. Our drink driving ones are fucked up! However – Ghost Chips not only become one of our favourite catchphrases, it was specifically created because oddly enough, shock-and-awe trauma across a 30 second advert doesn't induce societal change. But I thank them for trying! My childhood wouldn't have been the same without the proud efforts of ACC and co. to maim and kill fictional characters into teaching us dire lessons.

With that in mind, congratulations to **Drunk Uncle!** The Blood Relative Beatdown is #1 on this list; as to this day, I cannot see that commercial without averting my eyes the moment he throws the kid into warp speed. **Reminder:** you used to see this commercial at the same time as the Erin Simpson show.

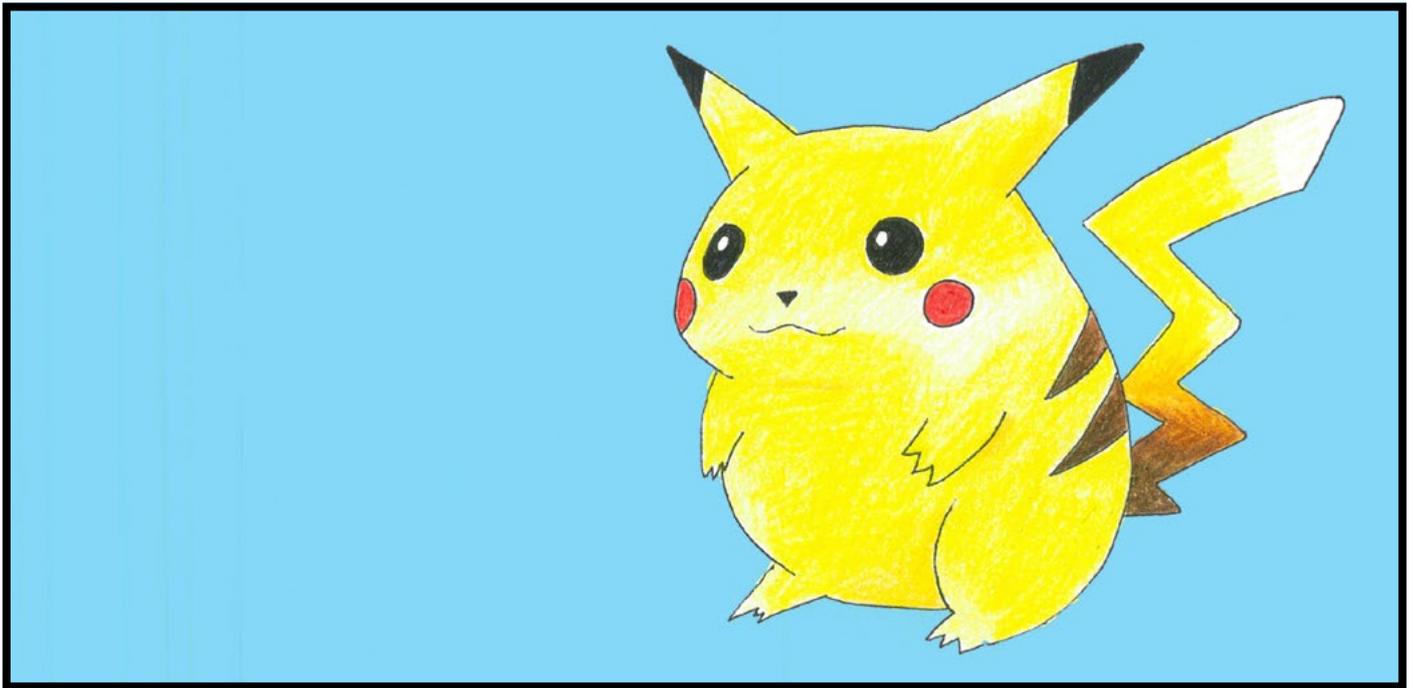
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It's not too late to change the voice of Detective Pikachu to Danny DeVito

LACHLAN MITCHELL

At the time this is published, Detective Pikachu will be one week away from appearing in screens – while this may not be on your radar, it is a rather significant development for the Pokémon franchise and Nintendo as a whole. It's the first live-action adaptation of a Nintendo property (note: Nintendo only own a third of the franchise, but I'm using Nintendo and The Pokémon Company interchangeably here) in nearly three decades.

The disastrous *Super Mario Bros.* movie in 1993 pissed off Nintendo to the point of not allowing any theatrical adaptations of their property ever since – they have accordingly never forgiven Disney for their botched adaptation, choosing to go with Universal for their theme park plans. You're going to be waiting a long time to see a live-action story featuring Steve Buscemi as Waluigi. That is the only possible choice and I stand by it. Waaaah.

However, the significance of Detec-

tive Pikachu not only stems from Nintendo's apparent forgiveness of the West just this one time, but from the power of the franchise – it's been around since 1995 and has *never* stopped making piles of money. While Mario may be Nintendo's mascot, Pokémon is the jewel in its crown. While Mario has sold more games, Pokémon has zero rivals when it comes to the nostalgic whip-crack power it wields. When Pikachu says jump, you say how high. When Lucario says spread your hole, furries say how wide. It's a big

year for the franchise – not only is it about to release its most ambitious venture in decades, the franchise is gearing up for the release of the eighth generation of consoles games later this year, with the assured promise that it will rake in hundreds of millions for Nintendo's sweet little pussy. Not that it needs to – Pokémon is literally the highest grossing entertainment property of all time, bar none. Tens of billions have been spent in the name of these pixelated gods. Like, there are over 800 of them – you are bound to find one you like. Each new generation of Pokémon breathes new life into the bloated corpse of capitalism, with plushie sales alone rivalling the economies of small countries – much like Atlas holding up the sky, Pikachu is the titan that props up capitalism's rotted left tit. Pikachu could snort freshly delivered coke off every sun-kissed arse in Miami for a decade and the company accounts wouldn't have a clue. It speaks to the nostalgic grip of the franchise that even as we get older, and there are some games in the franchise that are closer to 30 than 20, it only seems to adapt and grow.

Some things have changed, obviously. Pikachu is no longer the cute faced, chubby waisted, thicc thighs, in-shape queen he once was. His rump doesn't shake both ways... he just doesn't have the stats for that nowadays. He succumbed to the pressures of fame like everyone else – he didn't have a choice. It's a tragedy that he and Jonah Hill can bond over. The audience demographic has changed as well; while the franchise remains a family-friendly classic, and that's where the money comes from, the critical attention and the renewed presence in the public sphere comes from millennials who have grown up with the franchise since Pokémon Ruby and Sapphire in the wee years of the '00s. Little Michaehyla and Braxtonnn aren't the content creators on Youtube and Twitter and such, and Nintendo knows that. While Generation 1 may be the touchstone that even our parents recognise, and the cornerstone of any successful 'hey, remember these fucks!?' campaign by Nintendo (as evidenced by the global success of Pokémon Go for two weeks in 2016), the catering goes towards the millennials

that increasingly define the franchise's ventures as time goes by. But at the same time, they want to appeal to a very particular kind of millennial: the 20-something weirdo.

The English Pokédex entries have changed over the years – they're increasingly darker and morose, focusing on the creepier aspects and the logical conclusions of Pokémon existing in their world. The cutesy bear doesn't know its own strength, so it accidentally crushes the spines of its owners. There's a sandcastle that buries the bones of small children beneath itself. The adorable little koala is forever trying to wake up from the coma it has been in since birth. This has been a trend since 2013, when the younger group millennials raised on internet culture largely came of-age and gained their own purchasing power, thereby stimulating the all-powerful Nintendo economy. These entries read like the Livejournal offerings of 2008. But here's the thing – the Japanese entries are entirely different in translation, which says a lot about how the branches of the franchise owners view the two worlds. They think us English speakers crave the creepy over the cutesy, despite Pokémon being the embodiment of childish cuteness. Detective Pikachu is perhaps the most interesting example of this – it hasn't even come out yet, but just from the trailers, we get an idea of what Nintendo thinks about Americans, and by extent, the West. They think our kind are pretty fucking weird. They don't think we want 'our' Pokémon to be cute, but instead that we want them to be off-brand, we want them to be realistically slimy, we want them to have fur that doesn't look like fur. We want these recreations of our childhood to carry the disproportions of our dreams – stretched out, not resembling our conceptions of how the console's pixels should be represented on screen. They're designed with the sense of appearing realistically unreal. They believe we want our Pokémon to look fleshy in the same way David Cronenberg wants his characters to look fleshy. Furthermore, they know that the average player is well into their university years at this stage. The human protagonist is not a child, or even a teenager. He's

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”

21. The audience surrogate has been aged appropriately, a stark contrast to almost every child-friendly franchise that prides itself on accessibility to children. Not that I'm complaining, mind you. It's just funny to note how Nintendo sees the Western audience as 20-somethings inherently craving oddity in their content.

My neighbours taught me how to use an emulator on my PC in 2004, presumably in an attempt to get my horse-looking self to leave them alone (I never got the hint and still banged on their door at 4pm on the dot!), and it's been 15 years of playing the games since then. I genuinely squeal if I run into a shiny, as that hits my serotonin receptors the same way the opening sounds of *Philosopher's Stone* do. Nostalgia powers activate. I truly do love the franchise, and have many positive memories attached to the games and how they got me through varying levels of boredom and loneliness in my younger years – it'd be weird to imagine not jumping back into it every now and then.

I just wish Nintendo would let Pikachu live his best life and put on some weight again. I know he misses those fat rolls.



10 Things they didn't tell you about Waste Free Living

ELOISE YOUNG

Waste free living: a humble way of life, one without the guilt of plastic or toxic chemicals that harm our planet. It's a life with a strong sense and passion for the wellbeing of our planet where we strive to reuse, recycle and compost. It's a tad challenging since we live in a plastic-coated world, but it's a challenge many others and I have been happy to take on. However, there are some inconveniences in the fine print of the handbook.

#1: Period cups are terrifying

'You'll save money, reduce plastic, help the planet'- no one said anything about all the rest. If you thought tampons were bad, now you have to see the internal breakdown of your body suspended in a cup right before your eyes and then watch it slide its way down into the bowl. After that traumatic experience you then have to master the 'C' fold which creates so many noises, from high pitched squeaks to deep suction slurps, and all the sounds of you sighing from the amount of times you fucked up, making everyone around you think a hell of a lot more is going on in that cubical.

#2: Oh fuck, is my glass bottle ok?

Oh course you can't have a plastic bottle, so every time you put your bag down just a liiiittle bit too hard you get the same screwed up face, cold sweats, fear for life

that you get when you drop your phone and its laying face down, just waiting for you to pick it up. Also, forget taking a lil' sip while you're running to your next class, otherwise you're asking to lose a tooth- glass is far from soft plastic. An added bonus/annoyance is that glasses bottles are a lot heavier, so it's an extra workout or more weight to lug around, yay!

#3: Don't mind me, I'm just stealing ya' veggies

Those 100% organic cotton produce bags always sound like such a good idea, but then you get to the supermarket, you're perusing the fruit and veg, feeling good about the fact you don't need to buy another one-use plastic bag. But then, there's an overwhelming feeling of guilt, of villainous activity, and you can't help realizing that you look like a criminal as you slowly slide those potatoes into your produce bag, which could easily

pass off as a regular tote... (Don't get any ideas).

#4: Toothpaste powder is a messy business

First of all, half the time you almost drop that damn jar and spill black dusty shit everywhere, making it look like some plague has taken over your bathroom. Secondly, don't ever spit into the sink like you're a farmer shooting for the spit bucket, otherwise you're going to have a whole lot of wiping up to do. Thirdly, have fun trying to pour the refill packet into your jar. Fourthly, prepare to have your mouth feel like a fucking desert; if you close your eyes you can see the camels.

#5: So squishy, so sad

Mistakes have been made, some more annoying than others. Leaving your shampoo, body and conditioner bars in the shower is a rookie mistake, but one even the well-versed planet lover makes every now and then. Nevertheless your bars are left soggy, cold, half the size they use to be and there's nothing you can do but try not to cry. So next time, don't forget a plate to put your goodies on. I know they look super cute on there and kinda like big round sweeties you can take a bite out of, but try to hold back. But like I said, mistakes have been made.

#6: Crazy, psycho glass jar hoarder

Since plastic is the devil and is leaching super shit estrogenic chemicals into our food and drink (even if it's BPA free), we are now prompted to latch onto every single glass jar that passes our way. Who cares if you don't have anything to put in it today, there's a chance that tomorrow it could be filled with oats that sit at the back of your cupboard for the next two years. Before you know it, there's more empty glass jars on your shelves, then there is food. And say goodbye to your flat mates, they won't put up with this shit for long.

#7: Ew, what's that on my hairbrush?

If you have a hairbrush that you love, give it a month or two off. When your hair is adapting to shampoo bars the chemical layer from traditional bottled shampoo is slowly stripped

away with each wash. This tends to leaves a thick, creamy, peculiar paste-like substance all over the bristles and edge of your hairbrush. So it's probably best to go and treat yourself to a nice new wooden comb.

#8: Everything smells like fucking bees

Beeswax wraps are the biggest rage in the waste-free living world, but no one tells you about all their litter quirks. Like how your sandwich will smell like beeswax, your muesli bar will smell like beeswax, your pencil case will smell like beeswax, your bag, bottle, lip balm, hands and face- literally everything is fucking beeswax. And you know who likes beeswax? Bees. They also don't tell you how to wash them, too cold and nothing happens, too hot and you're left with a floppy piece of fabric. Sometimes I ask myself why I'm doing this.

#9: Everything becomes very brown

You don't really notice to begin with, but since a lot of waste-free products are made from natural materials, nothing is artificially coloured. This means all the man-made colours of the rainbow are left behind in the plastic world. It's like you've jumped back two centuries and all the products you're surrounded by are either a silver/metallic colour or brown. There's still hope though, beeswax wraps come in many patterns and colours

and not to mention a great smell of beeswax, along with your very own bee followers.

#10: I don't hate you; I'm just judging your soul, morals, life choices, friends, family, future...

Waste-free living makes you a plastic-free, eco-friendly, tree-hugging psychopath. Every time you see someone in the supermarket, you just want to interrupt their pleasant Sunday morning and tell them to put back that disgusting, planet killing plastic toothbrush and buy a bamboo one instead. You see children putting chocolate into their trolley, and you want to look them dead in the eyes and tell them it's going to kill all the creatures in the ocean. You never truly realize at the time, but you've become a fully-fledged lunatic.

I know all these things are a bit of a damper on waste free living; they make us seem like we're fucking in the bathroom, like we're stone cold thieves and psychopathic bee whisperers, but in the end, are they really things to be complaining about when they all add up to a healthier, cleaner planet? By choosing to live a waste free life, or even opting out on plastic whenever you can, you are helping to reduce harmful, toxic waste that damages the natural landscape, kills innocent animals and actually circulates back to us. Small decisions go a long way and really do make a difference.

“

Like how your sandwich will smell like beeswax, your muesli bar will smell like beeswax, your pencil case will smell like beeswax, your bag, bottle, lip balm, hands and face- literally everything is fucking beeswax.

”



Do It Your Way Wellness

JESSICA THOMAS

It's all over social media. It's all over the news. It's all over the bookshelves. It's a lie. It's a toxic hashtag. It's #wellness.

But what about those of us who are sick, and who can't be cured by fads touted by the latest memoir or blog-cum-cookbook? I hate those books. They make money off illness. They are the entertainment alternative to pharmacies.

There are so many versions of 'well', it's hard to know what we should be aiming for. Body acceptance? Yogic mastery? Paleo? Vegan? Keto? Some complicated combination of all the above? I say none. I say, do wellness your way, in whatever way suits your body. Because this #wellness trend is only making us sicker.

I'll admit there are some people who really are burnt out and who really do just need a weekend away or a staycation to get their brain resembling something functional, rather than undercooked scrambled egg. And I applaud you for taking the advice, taking the nap, and finding your #wellness.

But the popular cure-all of kale, yoga and meditation establishes a benchmark that not all of us can reach. For those born with or afflicted with a chronic illness that cannot be 'om'd or Marie Kondo'd away, it sets up an expectation that if we can't get

well and Instagram about it, then somehow not only are we doing life wrong, we're doing sickness wrong too.

I don't speak as a squeaky clean social media virgin; I used to be a devotee of wellness channels and would spend hours scrolling through the latest social media solution to what ails me, as well as far too much money on #wellness.

But all that kale/ hemp/ ashtanga/ juicing/ fasting/ meditation/ veganism/ vegetarianism/ egg free/ no microwaving food brought me was a worse depression than I already had because nothing worked. And I knew at the outset it wouldn't.

My sickness isn't curable but still, at the end of the trial period- at the point I had been promised I would be feeling all kinds of amazing- my symptoms were still there, I was still *here* in this sickness, and I didn't have a story that I could turn into the latest inspirational memoir that people would buy at the airport, read on the plane, and arrive home reassured that their life would change if only they did what I did.

(Kill me if I ever write that book. This article is in retaliation to all kitset cures-

they're IKEA for health- they do not work according to instructions.)

But still, I couldn't help thinking, what's wrong with me?

Why am I not better?

#wellness made me crave something that from the outset I had known was unattainable. And I know I'm not alone. For every hyper-flexible yoga coach doing handstand splits on the beach, there's someone in hospital wondering why they can't just eat more kale or do the yoga things and be well and healthy, too.

#StillSick doesn't have the same ring to it as *#RecoveryWarrior* does it?

But for some, there's no 'better'. For some, it's about coping rather than curing. For some, mindfulness and meditations are not enough. But these people are no less strong than that beach-babe squatting in warrior pose.

As a person in this category, I can say with full gusto and confidence, that it sucks.

It sucks seeing people eat themselves healthy while I can't eat without an arsenal of medication.

It sucks watching people flex and wrap themselves into impossible positions while my bones feel like they're splintering every time I try to stand.

And it sucks believing over and over again, *'maybe that's it, that's the thing that will fix this'*, only to find once again that I'm still me, stuck in this body and unable to get out.

And then I re-framed my perspective.

I realised that these people were selling me something that worked for them.

Just them.

That's all.

Am I under any obligation to be them? *No.*

X worked for their PMS/ IBS/ OCD. *Great. Excellent.* But that's not me, and nor does it have to be.

Those books and fad cures do not decide what wellness means for me.

I do.

You do.

We need to realise that this life, our health, our wellness, belongs to us and no one can - or should - determine our right to define what it means, looks like, feels like, and decide how to get there.

If wellness means coping and managing a genuine smile because you're not okay but it's okay, then that's awesome.

You cannot expect yourself to measure up to someone else's definition of health.

Everybody is different and every body is different.

I want to lift up my fellow kale-intolerants who hurt every day and couldn't do yoga if we tried. We are still warriors. We fight every day to carry on despite never reaching the hallowed halls of hash-tag-gable health and wellbeing.

If you need it, I am giving you a free pass to neglect that deadly

wellness hashtag and design your own health.

This can apply to those who feel pressured to - even if you're already in good health - become healthier by cutting out meat, even though they eat a balanced diet and don't have any adverse effects from eating a T-bone steak. Lentils are not mandatory, people!! Free yourselves of hempseed and ketogenic oppression.

Whether you're a fully functioning human being with all cells, bones, organs and limbs in order, or whether you're a mess of pain, meds, moods and replaced bits, you are you and that is perfectly satisfactory.

Don't feel like you're a failure if kale juice doesn't transform you into a tanned yoga teacher and Insta star.

Decide what wellness feels like for you and cling to it with every fibre of your being.

We are ourselves. It's okay. We are allowed to be a bit broken.

Whether we are clinically diagnosed, have physical wounds and scars, want to lose weight, need to put it on, have family problems, are lonely - we are all chipped and cracked in some way or other.

We have to stop making 'recovery' the be-all and end-all.

Take the laser focus off 'recovery' because sometimes it's okay to just be.

Yes, if you can, get up, get out, do whatever you can to cure whatever ails you. If it's broken relationships, extend the hand of peace. If it's loneliness, speak out and gather a tribe of supporters around you who love and cherish you. If it's weight gain, break out those bikkies and nibble your way out, if it's weight loss, break open that new packet of sweat bands and crush it.

But in all cases, let acceptance and love be the emphasis.

Love your scars.

You don't have to love being sick but you can still love you- the person inside who is not sick and who needs to know that they still have value, despite what social media says. We cannot be okay without it and we cannot cope with a lack of okay-ness without it, either.

“
Take the laser focus
off 'recovery' because
sometimes it's okay to
just be.
”

Do YOU Have Measles?

START HERE

NZIS*-approved contributor *Gloria Hole* writes a handy flow chart to help YOU decipher whether or not you've contracted the hot new disease: measles!



Are you a first year business student?

no

yes

Are you not vaccinated according to the NZ immunisation schedule?

You have measles.
You nasty. Stay Away.

You have measles.
Stay the fuck away from me and get immunised.

no

yes

Are you in possession of a \$10 Uber Eats discount?

You have measles.
If someone can pass an Uber Eats voucher to you, then someone else can pass on measles.

yes

no

Are you sinking in a pit of self-hatred, loathing and despair?

You have measles.
Sorry to be the one to break it to you.

yes

no

Are you a member of the Critic editorial team?

You have a student body that ~~actually cares about the content you put out~~ measles.

yes

no

Are you a former or current member of the Shortland Street cast?

You have been stabbed while robbing a pharmacy or strangled by someone who was a close friend. Also during a one hour winter special you contract measles.

yes

no

Are you offended by this quiz?

You have measles.

no
yes



HOROSCOPES

ARIES

21 march - 20 april



This week you're going to just feel great. You won't know why, and your effervescent mood may annoy others. Don't let others make you lose your buzz - you've earned a great week. Your lucky number this week is 88; in Chinese tradition, you're double lucky!

TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



This week is going to suck. But be happy - though it won't feel great, when it's all over you'll look back on it fondly. Cheer up, it's your birthday, even if it might not feel like it. You'll get your chance to celebrate. Your lucky number this week is 7, because in seven days, it'll be behind you with a new challenge to face.

GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



This week you need to take some time for you. It's time to take a step back and stop pretending to be someone you're not. Ask yourself - why do you feel the need to hide? Your lucky number (again) this week is 1. There's only one you - let's see it.

CANCER

22 june - 22 july



Feeling overwhelmed? Maybe going out every Thursday, Friday and Saturday was to blame for your test results - or maybe it was just the lecturer... Regardless, this week you have to put the fun aside and save your semester. Your lucky number this week is 35, which we're guessing is the number of skipped lectures you've got left to watch before that test.

LEO

23 july - 22 august



Don't let love get you down - trysts and turns make life interesting. Be glad at least you aren't spending every day watching Netflix rom-coms in bed, waiting for the love of your life to appear from nowhere. You aren't, are you? ... Your lucky number this week is 6, which we're hoping isn't the number of series you've started and finished since last Wednesday.

VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



You may begin to feel out of place, unsure of what you're doing. Maybe this will pass; after all, you've just come down from the high of your break and life has come back to knock on your door. Your lucky number this week is 147. What? You thought this scale stopped at one-hundred?

LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



After the chaos of last week, you will see a return to a more balanced life. Don't regret your moments of madness last week - but don't watch the videos, they're embarrassing and will not spark joy. Try to relax and focus on the future. Your lucky number this week is 19, which is also the number of drunk texts you sent your ex last Saturday. Be glad they did not reply.

SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



It's time to be more positive. Life is amazing - be the person who embodies it! Negative thoughts and comments will only serve to hurt you, so this week set them aside and be the light in everybody's life. Your lucky number this week is 100, because that's what you are to us.

SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



Maybe this week you should avoid taking buses, just to be safe. Your lucky number this week is 45 - maybe if you'd walk a bit faster, it would only take you half the hour.

CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



Be careful - this week will be full of curveballs. Watch for black cats and don't let them cross your path. Your unlucky number this week is 13.

AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



Your quest for self-improvement will continue, and you will make great strides even if you can't see them. This week 60 is your lucky number, because we all know C's get you your degrees.

PISCES

20 february - 20 march



This week, be a better flatmate. Just do it. Yes, I'm talking to you. You think you're contributing enough but maybe you should consider others more, and not wake everyone up at 3am coming back from your night out. Your lucky number this week is 18, the age you forget you aren't anymore.

the people to blame.

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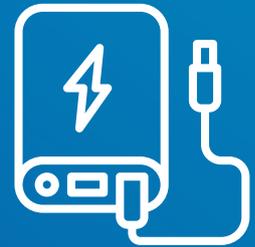
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