

# C R A C C U M

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STUDENT MAGAZINE

ISSUE 20, 2020



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AND **REFERENDUMS**

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# It's Pride Week, y'all

## Cam says:

This week is the Pride edition of *Craccum* and I'm truly thrilled to bring this edition to our digital newsstand, both as a member of the LGBT community and also one of the Co-Editors of *Craccum*. It's a real privilege to be able to work on this edition and to share in celebrating queer culture at the University of Auckland - for all the triumphs, challenges, and experiences we have in Tāmaki Makaurau.

I know that it's not a conventional time to have a pride edition. Pride month in New Zealand is in February, where *Craccum* doesn't produce editions, and Pride in the Northern Hemisphere is in June - where *Craccum* goes on break for the mid year exams. With all the disruption from COVID, we felt that it would be best to include this edition later in the year. Ultimately, whenever we celebrate our pride edition, we're still devoting a week to speak about our LGBTQIA+ community and bring them to the forefront. But celebrating our community goes beyond just one week of the year. Pride weeks are a time to bring queer people to the forefront, and then to continue that in all spaces all year.

If I have any message in this editorial, it's simply to be Proud. It sounds basic but it's genuinely true. Be proud of who you are and stand with those in our community. There's nothing more powerful than being who you are and embracing all that comes with that.

This week Dan's editorial speaks of being a good ally - and to supporting our community. It's a sentiment that I want to echo from within. Be an ally not just for those like you, but an ally for all of those around you.

Stay Proud,  
Cam



## Dan says:

I'm a straight, cisgendered male.

I've never felt excluded because of my sexuality. I've never been marginalised because of my gender identity. I've never been paid less, or received worse medical treatment, or lost friends and family because of my identity. For those reasons, I won't try to talk about what it means to be a part of the LGBTIQ+ community. I don't have that perspective.

What I can talk about is what straight, cisgendered people can do to be better allies. It's something I'm working on all the time; if you're straight and cisgendered, I hope it's something you're working on too. It's important.

**Acknowledge your privilege:** Straight, cisgendered people have many hidden advantages over those in more marginalised communities. We need to acknowledge and accept that. Accepting it isn't saying that you can never feel down or low. It's simply acknowledging that those in the LGBTIQ+ community face more barriers in society.

**Speak up when something is wrong:** Call out slurs or misinformation when you hear it. It can lead to some awkward conversations (I went to an all-boys Catholic school; I've had my fair few) but it's always worth it. Silence is complicity.

**Keep going:** The LGBTIQ+ community exists outside of Pride week. Don't stop caring just because it's out of the media.

**Take a backseat:** Above all else, recognise that you can't speak for a group you're not a part of. You can help, but don't crowd out the authentic voices of those in LGBTIQ+ community.

Everyone should feel empowered to embrace who they are.

All of us have a duty to make that possible.

Sincerely,  
Dan

Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika

# Proud to support our Rainbow communities

The University supports a safe, inclusive and equitable environment through:

- Our LGBTQITakatāpui+ Student and Staff Network
- Faculty Rainbow Groups
- Legal name change support for transgender students
- Unisex toilets for gender diverse students and staff

Find out more  
[www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/rainbow](http://www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/rainbow)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

# Racism at Universities: Not Exclusive to Waikato

MIKA GALE

**A thirteen page open letter addressed to the University of Waikato Council released earlier this month calls for the support of Māori who have experienced systemic and casual racism at the university. The letter has gained over seven thousand signatories by academics both from New Zealand and overseas.**

The open letter calls for the university to “reject and eliminate structural and casual racism at the University of Waikato and immediately set in place procedures that protect Māori academic endeavour”. It also states “most Māori academics in New Zealand Universities personally experience or have witnessed structural or everyday racism in their work environments.”

Sociology lecturer at the University of Auckland Dr. Sereana Naepi, who was one of the organisers of the open letter, says that “research shows us that this is a sector wide issue, this time the University of Waikato has been highlighted but recent and long term data shows us it could have easily been any other university in this country.”

According to University of Auckland’s Equity Profile 2019, Māori made up 6.6% of staff at the University of Auckland. Only two of the eight categories either met or exceeded the University’s 2019 targets for Māori staff proportions. Māori staff in senior academic positions and senior professional staff exceeded targets made by the university.

A staff member at the University of Auckland says that she has had pressure to discourage students from writing assignments in Te Reo, has been confronted with the idea that ensuring that there is enough seating in class is unnecessary as “Māori and Pacific students will drop out anyways”, and has experienced casual racism expressed by colleagues. “I have colleagues who have told me stories that are much worse though, so it does

seem like my whiteness has protected me from a lot of it.”

The University of Waikato has since announced that an independent review will be taken. Nonetheless, Dr. Naepi says that important questions should be asked about the review, as research done on university dealings with complaints suggests that choices in reviewers and limitations placed on who can share their experiences can be restrictive.

A staff member stated that “for the Waikato review this seems to be a top-down led initiative. I am ultimately not hopeful that getting outside experts will lead to any systemic change, when many of Waikato’s experts on racism have already said there is an issue”.

So what course of action should be taken? The open letter called for the university to “demonstrate its commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi, ti Matauranga Māori and Te Reo Māori in every aspect of the management and operation of the University.” Dr. Naepi hopes that the “University of Auckland leads the way in incorporating Te Tiriti into [the] institution, i.e moving beyond just acknowledgement and instead having the principles drive our strategic plan and institutional culture.” The writing process for a strategic plan is underway which seeks to see Te Tiriti front and centre.

According to one staff member, “In [their] experience, even most of the right wing ones - are wanting there to be genuine partnership and engagement with Māori and for universities and institutions to do their bit as a treaty partner. Racism at universities has impacts on students and staff and ultimately impacts on research, teaching, the future workforce and many of the other engagements academics have with the media, government and so on.”

# New Website Launched to Help Kiwis Find a Helpline

ELLA MORGAN

**This mental health awareness week, a new service was launched by *Live For Tomorrow* to help those in need of support find a helpline appropriate to their situation.**

*Find a Helpline* is simple - you select the country you are located in, choose from a list of topics related to challenges you might be dealing with, and click search. The website then produces a range of immediate support options for you.

The benefit of the tool is that it can make specific recommendations based on your situation. 23 different topics are included in the search tool.

The website may also be useful for those who face an unsafe home situation or are dealing with intimate

partner violence. If you need to leave the site quickly, you can click on a button at the top of the screen that closes the site and opens the weather. *Live For Tomorrow* are also encouraging organisations to embed a *Find a Helpline* widget on their website, so those in need of support can easily access the resource.

*Live For Tomorrow* is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to use technology to support mental health. While the increasing use of devices and social media provides new ways for mental health practitioners to connect with those in need, widespread research has demonstrated the negative effects these can have on a person's mental health.

Head to <https://findahelpline.com/> to use the tool.

# Shadows Burgled During Level 3 But Remains Operational

JUSTIN WONG

**Some equipment was stolen from student bar Shadows after it was burgled during Auckland's Alert Level 3 lockdown.**

Thieves broke into the premises at the end of August by removing the doors to the outdoor area, and made their way with some sound equipment. A police investigation has already been launched.

Manager Matt Marquet said despite the break-in Shadows is still operational and more security measures have already been put in place.

"They (the thieves) haven't hurt us too bad, it's more of an annoyance than anything else."

"It's a hard year - hospitality has taken a big hit and we're still suffering at this current Level 2."

"It's just disappointing that somebody has taken an opportunity to kick us more when we were already down."

Under Level 2, Shadows only opens three nights a week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Marquet also said the bar has already got events planned if on-campus teaching resumes under Alert Level 1, but they would carry on organizing online events and operate on site if online learning continues.

"We want to try to cram as much as we can for what we have left in the year for students."

"But we're looking forward to getting DJs and party nights back on, and everyone can have a good time."



# Let's Talk About Academic Integrity

JESSICA HOPKINS

**It's time to have that chat about academic integrity. You might remember doing the Academic Integrity Module when you first started studying, but the University of Auckland has made some important policy changes you should be aware of.**

The university recently renewed their Student Academic Conduct statute. The purpose of the new statute is to ensure the University is transparent, fair and appropriately applying their processes for addressing breaches of academic integrity.

The Auckland University Students Association (AUSA) has encouraged students to read and familiarise themselves with the statute. It is essential for students to be aware of the university's expectations. Minor or major breaches of the statute can result in significant consequences, such as a grade reduction or a zero grade, a fine of up to \$1000, suspension or even expulsion depending on the severity of the breach.

*Craccum* talked to the Acting AUSA President Emma Rogers about the changes that have been made and what students need to be aware of when it comes to academic conduct.

Rogers and other AUSA executives formed the Academic Integrity Working Group to review the university's current processes to detect and prevent issues of academic misconduct.

The Student Academic Conduct statute was renewed in July 2020 for the first time since 2012, and Rogers says it was well overdue for a renewal.

"We wanted to make sure the statute is as up to date as possible and that these processes are clearly communicated to students."

So what is a breach of academic conduct? Rogers says this can be anything from submitting work that is not your own, copying or directly paraphrasing from sources you haven't referenced, or contract cheating.

The statute is important for students because it outlines what is expected of you when handing in coursework or taking tests and exams.

"It basically outlines exactly what to do and what not to do when it comes to academic integrity,"

Rogers says the statute is also important to understand if students are caught in a situation where they have

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breached academic integrity, so they know what the process is for dealing with misconduct.

Most notably, a new classification has been introduced called poor academic practice. Undergraduate or postgraduate students in their first two semesters of studying will not have an official breach recorded on their transcript if they reference incorrectly or do not reference, if it was not a deliberate attempt of plagiarism. Instead, this might result in a mark deduction or request for resubmission.

This is the lowest level of academic misconduct and applies only to coursework, not tests or exams.

Rogers says AUSA was pleased to see this classification introduced.

“AUSA executives sitting on disciplinary committees saw a lot of cases where students had not referenced properly whether they knew that or not.”

The AUSA looked into what needed to be put in the updated statute and gave feedback to the university.

“They were really responsive to what would be helpful for students going forward, but there could be more work done to emphasise the values of academic integrity and making it known why we are proud to be UOA students,” said Rogers.

She also confirmed there is work being done behind the scenes to make sure the Academic Integrity module is up to date and completed by students.

“We hope to see Academic Integrity values incorporated into the classroom, maybe giving points for doing the module in your first week of classes.”

When it comes to online learning and assessment, the AUSA is hoping to see an increased focus on academic integrity whether we remain online or return to in person learning and assessment.

Rogers calls for students to take it upon themselves to learn about what academic integrity means and to complete the module as soon as possible.

“There is an opportunity for students to display the values associated with academic integrity, and to brush up on referencing, especially as this has become more necessary for online assessment.”

She says the AUSA's main goal for academic integrity is to make sure there is active prevention and addression of academic integrity and that there are good systems in place to follow up on this.

“I think it's really important to make sure that the university is taking an active stance with the academic integrity and the online learning environment and that the honesty declaration students agree to before submitting online tests and exams is upheld.”

So if you haven't done the Academic Integrity Module, seriously get onto that! It's best to know the rules now before it's too late. And don't be that person who does it in their last semester before graduating, you know who you are!

You can read the full statute here: [https://cdn.auckland.ac.nz/assets/policyhub/Student%20Academic%20Conduct%20Statute%20\(2020\)%20.pdf](https://cdn.auckland.ac.nz/assets/policyhub/Student%20Academic%20Conduct%20Statute%20(2020)%20.pdf)

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# Advance Voting not Available on City Campus This Election

JUSTIN WONG

**Students will not be able to vote in the General Election and the two referendums in the City campus this year.**

Out of the list of voting places announced by the Electoral Commission last week, there will be no advance voting places set up in the City Campus.

However, there will be a voting place set up in Room B118 in the Epsom Campus.

Those who live near the university and wish to vote ahead of the election would need to go to Level 3 of the Atrium on Elliot Street, the ASB Waterfront Theatre, the Limelight Rooms at Aotea Centre, or the Pioneer Women's Hall at the Ellen Melville Centre.

All of these advance voting places (except the Waterfront Theatre) would also open for Election Day voting.

Another Election Day voting place close to the City Campus will be located at the Auckland High Court on Waterloo Quadrant.

*Craccum* understands that the decision to not set up voting places in the City Campus are related to COVID-19 restrictions, despite they were available last election and enjoyed great popularity.

A university spokesperson said there were plans to set up voting booths, until Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's decision in August to push back the election date from September 19th to October 17th, amid the second wave

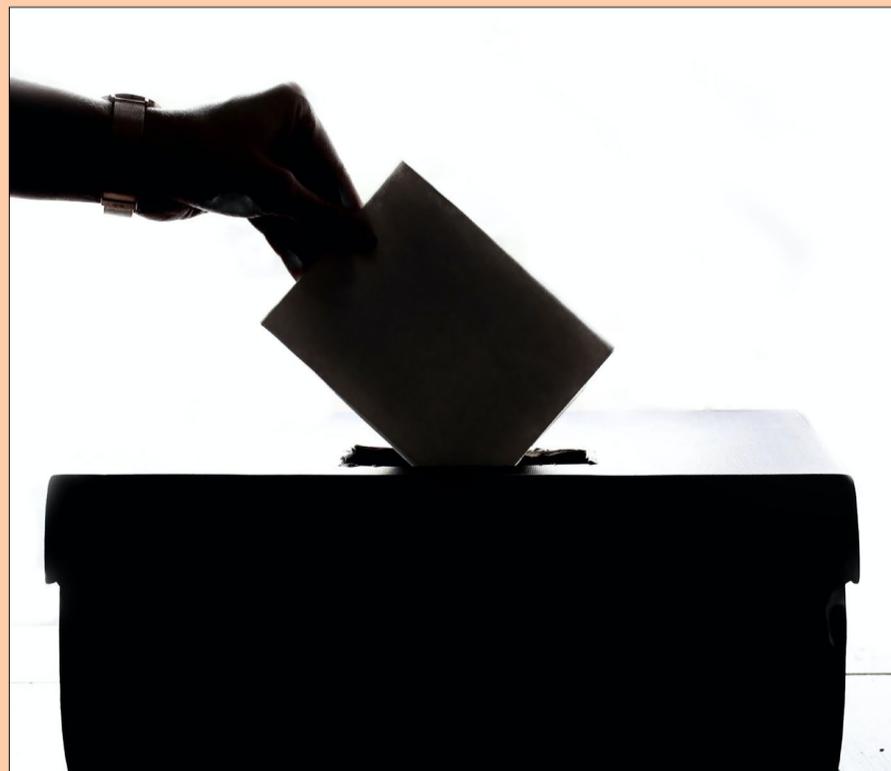
of COVID-19 outbreak.

The Electoral Commission then required larger venues to support social distancing during voting and dropped plans on setting up voting booths on campus.

Under current Alert Level 2 restrictions, there could be no more than 100 people at social gatherings. The government is due to review current restrictions on October 5th, and in principle has agreed to move Auckland down to Alert Level 1 on October 7th.

Advance Voting begins on October 3rd and will run for 2 weeks, while voters can vote on Election Day from 9am to 7pm.

Preliminary results for the General Election would be announced from 7pm on election night, but preliminary results for the referendums would not be available until October 30th.



# Out of the Closet, Into the Cabinet!

JOSH MCCORMACK

It is about time that LGBTQITakatāpui+ issues were brought to the forefront of our political conversations! In an effort to make this easier for you, AUMSA and Craccum have worked together to showcase what each political party has put on the table for Rainbow communities this election cycle. If you want to get even more informed about these policies, please feel free to check out [www.rainbowelection2020.org.nz](http://www.rainbowelection2020.org.nz)!

Political parties have been **ordered by the number of policies** they have for Rainbow communities.

## **Green Party**

Create an Office for Rainbow Communities, tasked with developing and implementing a plan to improve LGBTQIA+ rights, championing rainbow issues, and providing a point of government contact for rainbow communities.

Ban conversion therapy.

Take an active role internationally to promote human rights issues in relation to Rainbow communities throughout the world.

Support initiatives to educate institutions, including Local and Central Government, about Rainbow issues

Amend the Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

Pass the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill so the process of changing gender markers on birth certificates is based on self-identification.

Address the healthcare needs of rainbow people by prioritising the needs of intersex, transgender, and non-binary people, giving them the respect they deserve.

Ensure schools are inclusive and safe, and workplaces are free from discrimination.

## **New Conservative Party**

Remove gender identity issues from being taught in schools.

Mandate that students use bathrooms, changing rooms and participate in sport based on their biological gender [sic].

Replace funding for gender reassignment surgery with funding for counselling.

Repeal marriage equality laws, so that marriage is between one [cisgender] man and one [cisgender] woman only.

Establish publicly funded pre-marriage or relationship training for [cisgender] men and [cisgender] women to undergo together prior to entering into their marriage.

Criminalise the buying of sex.

## **ACT Party**

Abolish the Human Rights Commission.

Repeal all hate speech laws, so that the only limitations on speech would be defamation, criminal nuisance and incitement to commit a crime.

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## **National Party**

*No policies provided, nor advertised online. National did not reply to my email or follow-up phone call.*

*“[Homosexuals] are now saying they want to be treated the same as other people. In my view, the sad fact is - although some will find this hard to take - they are not the same.” Current National Party Deputy Leader Gerry Brownlee, in his speech against marriage equality.*

*“It is not something I am particularly focussed on, ensuring that we find someone who may or may not represent the LGBTI community [sic]” Former National Party Leader Todd Muller.*

The National Party refuses to speak about conversion therapy, which is still legal in New Zealand.

54.2% of National MPs voted against marriage equality.

## **New Zealand First**

*No policies provided, nor advertised online. NZ First did not reply to my email or follow-up phone call.*

New Zealand First refuses to speak about conversion therapy, which is still legal in New Zealand.

100% of New Zealand First MPs voted against marriage equality.

## **Labour Party**

*Policies were not released by the deadline of this article, but MP Tamati Coffey provided an email reply assuring that the Labour Party will release policies for Rainbow communities prior to the election.*

Please refer to [www.rainbowelection2020.org.nz](http://www.rainbowelection2020.org.nz) for a more updated list.

*“Know us by our deeds. Over decades now, the rainbow community [sic] knows our record, and, on that record, I stand very proudly.” Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern*

## **What have we done to make sure this article is neutral?**

Every effort was made to ensure this article was as neutral and unbiased as possible. Each political party was sent an email with exactly the same wording and given the same deadline to reply. Political parties who did not respond to that email received a follow-up phone call. If political parties (1) had nothing clearly listed on their website for Rainbow communities, (2) did not reply to the email by the deadline and (3) still did not provide policy after a follow-up phone call, notable quotes and voting track-records have been used to showcase the stances these parties and their members tend to take around issues relating to Rainbow communities.

Rainbow Law Presents: Rainbow Election Policy Tool

If you want to get even more informed about the most pressing issues and policies affecting Rainbow communities this election cycle, please feel free to check out [www.rainbowelection2020.org.nz](http://www.rainbowelection2020.org.nz)! This website has been pulled together by our very talented friends over at Rainbow Law. It includes a complete, updated list of policies affecting our communities, including a breakdown of the politico-legal components with academic references cited!

## **About the Author**

In late July, the Auckland University Medical Students' Association (AUMSA) voted with a 92.2% majority out of 205 votes to establish a Rainbow Communities Representative on their executive council! Currently, the acting representative is Josh McCormack (He/him) and it is his job to represent and advocate for the views and interests of LGBTQITakatāpui+ communities both inside and outside our medical school. If you need to get in touch with Josh, he can be contacted at [rainbowrep@aumsa.org.nz](mailto:rainbowrep@aumsa.org.nz)!

# Campus Feminist Collective Election 2020 Special: Which Party is Best for Women?

CAMPUS FEMINIST COLLECTIVE

*The 52<sup>th</sup> Parliament was an important one for women. There were highs (abortion law reform passed) and lows (sexual harassment scandals). But what will the 53<sup>rd</sup> Parliament do for women? We asked eight leading parties about their plans, and set a tight 50 word limit for each question so they would have to be creative. While we can't publish the full answers here, we were thoroughly impressed by the depth and breadth of the responses.*

## **Sexual Harassment**

In the last few months that Parliament was sitting, a culture of (particularly sexual) harassment was revealed. When asked about what their party would do about this, all parties apart from New Conservatives mentioned to varying degrees a Code of Conduct. Beyond that, the most notable party responses all took a different approach.

The National Party was at the centre of one of the most memorable incidents, with their MP (at the time) for Rangitata Andrew Falloon in the news for sending explicit text messages to at least five young women. National's Barbara Kuriger came out with the strongest rebuke: she condemned the "unacceptable" behaviour that had been exposed, and pointed out that their members involved in such scandals were no longer part of the National Party caucus. She also looked forward to the next term, and said that work needs to be done around safe zones so that survivors can report such behaviour in a place that respects their privacy.

Both ACT and TOP spoke to the alleged internal culture within their party that dissuaded such behaviour. David Seymour said on behalf of ACT that ultimately voters were the best judge of behaviour, and that ACT's record

of defending civil liberties reflected that they were the party that believed most in the "inherent dignity of every individual". Shai Navot from TOP noted their party culture rewards "work, integrity and professionalism", rather than Parliament ego-culture that led to inappropriate conduct. Jenny Marcroft from New Zealand First took a more holistic view. Marcroft said the current laws meant there was enough power to prevent this from happening, and the bar was not inadequate legislation but rather the culture across Parliament.

## **Family Violence**

New Zealand's shocking rate of family and intimate partner violence has long been a stain on our country. One in three women will experience a form of violence in their lifetime, and 76% of those violent events go unreported. When asked about their approach to combating these statistics, most parties that are currently in Parliament pointed to a previous legislative achievement. Standout Green MP Jan Logie was touted by both Marama Davidson from the Green Party and Debbie Ngarewa-Packer from the Māori Party.

Davidson highlighted Logie's private members Bill that passed in 2018 which allows for 10 days of paid leave for

family violence survivors. Ngarewa-Packer from the Māori Party also commended Logie's work, noting that it was a shame New Zealand First blocked her recent Sexual Violence Legislation Bill. Ngarewa-Packer also stressed the importance of eliminating racism within mainstream institutions so wāhine Māori can get the support they need. ACT focused on their legislative achievement (albeit from 2010), claiming that the Three Strikes Law helped ensure victim safety. Marcroft from New Zealand First highlighted Minister for Children Hon. Tracey Martin's introduction of compulsory Healthy Relationship courses for year 9 and 10, and how that was a useful starting point for tackling how access to pornography distorts healthy sexual relationships.

TOP and New Conservatives (as two parties not currently in Parliament) presented more future-focused plans. Navot from TOP said that TOP's plan to give New Zealanders a Universal Basic Income will provide women with financial support that may remove one of the hurdles that might prevent women from leaving an abusive partner. Deborah Burnside from New Conservatives pointed us to their website, and highlighted their policies that included 'relationship training' and the importance of having two loving parents in a committed relationship.

### **Māori women**

Finally, we asked each party to identify an under-discussed issue facing Māori women and what they would do to advocate for change. As we had contacted individual MPs rather than party reps, we got an interesting look at some smaller areas of the law that particular MPs were passionate about.

Kuriger from National and Burnside from New Conservatives looked at healthcare. Kuriger pointed us to National's policy to fund a more effective and less invasive screening test for cervical cancer, as screening is as low as 44% and predominantly kills Māori women. Burnside explained that her own history as an endometriosis survivor made her frustrated that

the Ministry of Health had not yet implemented newly accepted health protocols addressing the disease (she did not explain which protocols these were).

Marcroft from New Zealand First said financial independence has long been overlooked as the key to self-determination for Māori women, but it is becoming more pressing in a post-Covid economy that will be largely male dominated. Marcroft said financial independence allows women to "leave a relationship when she wants, move house...provide for her children, [and] access healthcare, transport, [and] education".

Davidson from the Green Party said we need "more discussion around the intergenerational trauma caused by colonisation and the dismantling of traditional Māori caregiving structures". However, the most detailed and passionate response to this question was from Ngarewa-Packer from the Māori Party. Ngarewa-Packer said more focus needed to be paid to supporting traditional whanau structures so Māori women could mother their tamariki. She also called for the resignation of Children's Minister Tracey Martin and CEO of Oranga Tamariki Grainne Moss, and for Oranga Tamariki to be disestablished.

### **Conclusion**

Apart from the Labour Party, who did not respond, we had lots of unique responses. Obviously, 150 words is not enough for each party to fully lay out their policies, and they were going to use it to put their best foot forward. Likewise, a short article is not nearly long enough to do a deep-dive into which policies are actually going to be best for women. However, you can read the full responses on our Facebook page and decide for yourself! In the meantime, we have the following awards:

**Most detailed responses** – New Zealand First

**Most prompt at replying** – TOP

**Nicest letter back/best stationery** – Maori Party

**Best at keeping to the word limit** – National

# Please Welcome the AUSA Executive for 2021



*KA PAI to everyone who ran this year! What a record turnout! I would like to congratulate you all personally, but there were like 100 people, so nvm.*

# Earn good money

on a summerfruit orchard this summer.



## work

You could be outside picking delicious apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, or plums surrounded by stunning views of Hawke's Bay, Marlborough or Central Otago. Or you could be inside sorting and packing fruit for sale.

## play

When you're not working there's lots of things to do whether you're after adrenalin and adventure or want to explore local wineries, culture and sights.

## stay

Get your friends together and have fun earning good money and staying in on-orchard accommodation, hostels or campsites in one of New Zealand's beautiful regions.



For more information check out the Work the Seasons website. [www.worktheseasons.co.nz/horticulture](http://www.worktheseasons.co.nz/horticulture)



Opportunity grows here





ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ZHU

@juliaaazhu

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feature.

# Shaping a Safe Space

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

*A kōrero with Shannon Novak, founder and director of the Safe Space Alliance (and University of Auckland Elam alumni), who discusses the importance of safe physical and online/digital spaces for the LGBTQI+\* community and the global growth of the Aotearoa-born initiative.*

**The Safe Space Alliance**, which began as an artwork at The Suter Art Gallery in Nelson, is a LGBTQI+ led non-profit organisation that aims to help people in the identification, navigation and creation of safe spaces for the LGBTQI+ community. The Alliance website lists an extensive directory of safe spaces, allowing users to search for a service or business they may want to access and enter with a further sense of security. Director Shannon Novak explains the process of creating and identifying these safe spaces for the project.

## **Starting with the basics, how does the Safe Space Alliance classify and define a safe space?**

A safe space is a space where the LGBTQI+ community can freely express themselves without fear. It is a space that does not tolerate violence, bullying, or hate speech towards the LGBTQI+ community. It's common sense and basic human rights, but sometimes we forget or drop the ball. I get a lot of queries where people/businesses consider themselves to be a safe space already, as they live by that definition, which is fantastic. This initiative adds a visual element to that which is often missed. For example, if I walk into a store on Queen Street with my partner, and I want to hold his hand but I don't know the tolerance/acceptance levels of the space, having something visual that indicates

the space is a safe space takes uncertainty out of the equation. This might be a sticker, poster, and/or online statement. I may still have reservations about being myself in that space but at least I know if something were to happen, someone onsite would have my back.

## **Do you feel as if that definition has shifted or changed at all throughout the last few years?**

Yes and this has often been in parallel with the ever evolving LGBTQI+ community and ever changing landscape in regards to LGBTQI+ rights worldwide. What we consider a safe space today, is different to what we consider a safe space five years ago. There are also regional differences where what is considered a safe space in one country, is different to what is considered a safe space in another.

## **What did the beginning of this initiative look like and how did it begin to spread globally?**

I found that a lot of people I knew in the LGBTQI+ community were experiencing and struggling with anxiety, depression, and unfortunately, suicide. I thought, "what can I do to make a positive difference here?" I thought a good start would be to strengthen support and acceptance for the LGBTQI+ community by identifying and creating safe spaces. This idea was supported by local research as found in the

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*feature.*

Youth2000 survey series (The University of Auckland), the Human Rights Commission PRISM report, and Counting Ourselves, which highlighted and supported the growing need for safe spaces for the LGBTQI+ community in New Zealand.

Personally, I'm an artist and activist, so it started as a community driven artwork, which was picked up by the local council in Nelson. It spread to other businesses in the area, then other parts of the country, then to Australia and beyond. The growth has been quite organic, with many people wanting to support the project which is wonderful. I see the project as an artwork, a growing artwork that drives positive social change for the LGBTQI+ community worldwide. In some respect, this project is a continuation of the work I did at ELAM, and is now part of museums and galleries worldwide like the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

**In New Zealand, there seems to be a perception that issues of discrimination against LGBTQI+ communities are a thing of the past. What would you say to people who don't see the need for safe spaces?**

It's a huge misconception that issues surrounding discrimination and the LGBTQI+ community are resolved. In the context of New Zealand, having rights does not necessarily equate to acceptance. Acceptance is something that will take time. The LGBTQI+ community can have all the rights others have, but whether that's accepted by those outside the LGBTQI+ community is another question. We've seen there are still people in New Zealand opposed to LGBTQI+ marriage, despite it being legal. The change we want to see in terms of acceptance may take several more generations, so until that point we need

to look at how to grow acceptance and creating safe spaces for the LGBTQI+ community is one way to do that.

There's also a fear of what I call 'legislative flux,' where rights can be taken away like we have seen in the United States. The backpedalling of LGBTQI+ rights is always a threat on the horizon and strengthens the need for clearly identifiable safe spaces.

I don't think we should be complacent as New Zealanders and think 'everything is okay.' Conversion therapy is still legal in New Zealand, which is unacceptable. There is also a lot of work to do in regards to human rights and gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics which has been identified by the Human Rights Commission.

**The Safe Space Alliance also highlights many digital safe spaces, can you talk about the necessity of that? Did the restrictions of COVID encourage this at all?**

COVID spurred us on in part to include online/digital spaces as safe spaces, but it's primarily been because we work internationally. We started in Nelson, spread around the country, then across to Australia and beyond. The conversation around digital spaces triggered where we encountered challenges around listing physical safe spaces in countries where being part of the LGBTQI+ community is still illegal. In these cases, digital space may be the only safe spaces available. We also looked at social media channels and safety concerns there. Social media space can be a difficult space to make safe, but it's possible. I always say you can never guarantee the safety of a space 100% whether physical or digital, but you can be clear about what you do/do not tolerate in a given space so that if

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feature.

something were to happen you could have processes in place to work through it. Ultimately it's good to know someone has your back.

**With social media being so accessible and open to so many, how do you navigate the obstacles of creating safe spaces online?**

It helps to have a public statement and/or policy, which goes for physical spaces as well. The large majority of spaces that have said to us they are safe already don't have any supporting statement around it. It could be a simple sentence or paragraph that sets expectations of the space upfront. This makes it easier when something comes up, as you can refer back to the terms of the space. If it's an open community or group online, like a Facebook group, safety can be difficult to manage. You can delete and censor, but that process is often admin-heavy and time-consuming. At this stage it seems most effective to close groups and chats. Unfortunately, that can send the message that the space is exclusive but it's important to realise groups often close, not because they want to, but because they need to in order to maintain the safety of the space.

**As we start to reopen our physical spaces in Auckland, what do you think students at UoA could do to encourage and foster safe spaces?**

Whether you're inside or outside the LGBTQI+ community, you can always help to identify and create safe spaces. You could leave a suggestion at your local café or tag the Safe Space Alliance (@safe\_space\_alliance) to an organisation or business directly. Anyone with a genuine interest in creating safe spaces for the LGBTQI+ community is welcome to join

us at no charge. It can be almost any type of space. It could be a physical space like a café, office, non-profit organisation, or library. It could be an online/digital space like an app, website, or software. The ideal, at the end of the day, is for them not to exist and not be needed. But until that point I'll be hanging around and pushing us towards that.

*If you're interested in finding out more about the Safe Space Alliance, want to list a safe space or want to find your local safe spaces head to <https://safespacealliance.com/>*

*\*Note: This is the term that the Safe Space Alliance uses, with a view to being as inclusive as possible, but acknowledge this may not work for everyone. There are other terms for the community including rainbow, queer, and variations on the acronym like LGBT and LGBTQIA2, all of which have a place and may be used.*





ILLUSTRATION BY GABBIE DE BARON

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feature.

# Dating Disney Princesses

ZOË LARSEN CUMMING

*Hear ye, hear ye. The year is 2002. A tiny, bisexual Zoë stares up at Ariel's cleavage on a grainy VCR.*

Somewhere in the background, her Nana makes a banana milkshake. Bob the Builder toys scatter the floor. The stage is set for romance. Soon her crushes would mature to the likes of School of Rock's Katie (cellooo, you gotta bass), Doctor Who's Rose Tyler and the women on the cover of her parents' Ali G DVD (a horrendous thought, I know). But for now, this scantily clad, hideously malnourished fish cartoon would be the apple of her impressionable eye.

In honour of looking back to what were, in hindsight, my first crushes, I've compiled a list of which Disney princesses I would take out to some royal banquet and hastily elope with (painfully wait while no one made a move because we couldn't work out if the other was queer or like, just being *really* nice). I also distinguish those who I would slowly back away from maintaining eye contact before legging it down some palace corridor.

## **Princesses I would cherish until the end of time**

**Tiana:** Tiana works hard, has a healthy relationship with her mum, and can make a mean gumbo. In this parallel universe I'd be a Real HouseWife of New Orleans while she impressed everyone at her restaurant. When she was home we'd listen to the music her crocodile (alligator??) plays and dance into the night on the side of the Bayou. She is, in my opinion, the most underrated Disney princess and also, dare I say it, the best. Also, Naveen is the only attractive Disney prince. Sue me.

**Jasmine:** Jasmine takes no shit, is rich af, owns a TIGER, is definitely an Aries, and absolutely slaughters a two piece. My affair with Jasmine would be passionate, fleeting, and end in heartbreak - just as it should. She could punch me in the face and I would say thank you. Aladdin didn't deserve her.

**Belle:** I feel like Belle would be perfect for me when

we're 70 and just want to wear track pants, a 1996 Baz Lurhman's Romeo and Juliet floral shirt and read books in absolute silence without ever touching each other. I can't wait for the day where I live with the love of my life, but sleep in my own bed in my own wing of an enormous palace. However, her long fingernails frightened me as a child. Hindsight's 2020, baby.

**Ariel:** I love Ariel, but I do think I would get bored of her. She's more on this list out of obligation for my past self. She *is* very pretty and sings well. I just don't want someone to love me unconditionally. Also, she really is a fish, and I don't think I can look past something like that.

## **Honourable mentions:**

Merida, because she's a badass and I want to learn archery.

Rapunzel, for her classic bi bob.

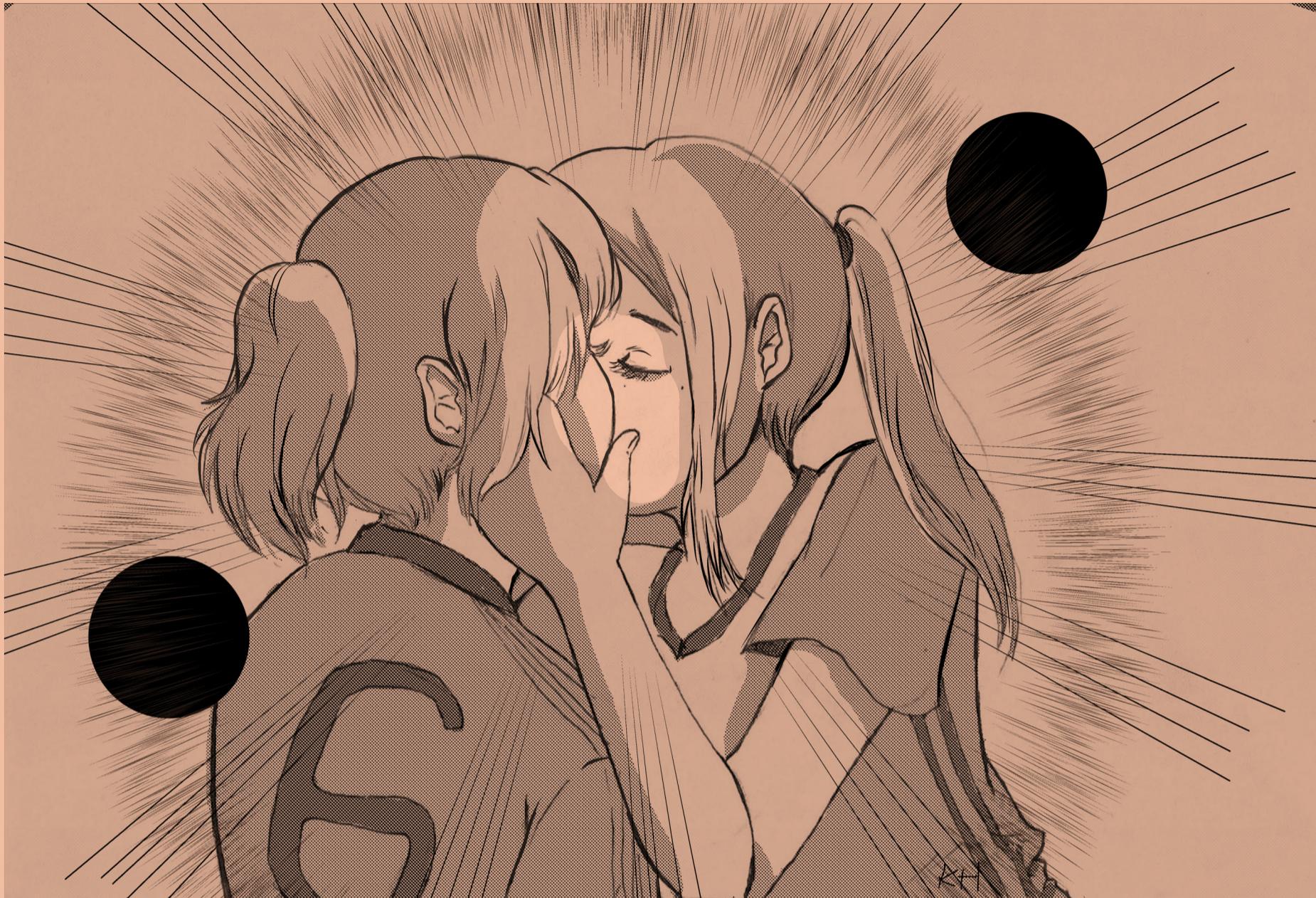
Elsa, a queer icon for sure, but personally too angsty for me.

## **Princesses I would avoid like the plague:**

**Snow White:** Snow White always weirded me out. Even as a kid I hated her weird, fluffy bob. I *hated* it. Also her *voice*. Quit the crying bitch and take responsibility for your life. I get, the Queen tried to kill you. Move on. The monarchy is crumbling. Eat the rich. Also, I feel like there was an intense polyamory arrangement happening with the dwarves, and I'm just not prepared to immerse myself into that situation.

**Cinderella:** I once peed outside in the rain to avoid the rats that plagued a house I was staying at. Due to the fact Cinderella's friends are exclusively mice, it's just not worth it. (The real queer icon in this movie is Lucifer, the cat).

**Sleeping Beauty:** Lazy bish.



# Whatever Team You Play For

HELENA WISEMAN

One of my favourite photos is of Swedish footballer Magdalena Eriksson, kissing her girlfriend, Danish footballer Pernille Harder, at the World Cup. A few days later, Megan Rapinoe would win the tournament and tell the world that you need gays to win things. "It's science". Rapinoe, like Harder and Eriksson, is openly not straight. Many other world-class players are also open about their identities. Women's football is known

as a supportive environment for the LGBTQ community.

Why then, I often wonder, was my first experience of homophobia on the football fields I grew up playing on?

"Aren't you worried," a parent asked "that people will think you're not straight?" I was 11. "Little lesbians," another spectator would joke. I was 13. "The whole girls' First XI wants to date each other," a PE teacher said to

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*feature.*

the boys in our class. They laughed. We were 14.

Before I even knew who I was, I had learned to hate it. I learned that deep, internalised hatred while doing the thing I most loved. From sidelines, I gleaned that if I were gay, I would disappoint my parents. I learned to feel anxious about it, as though homosexuality were some kind of dormant threat. I learned to be cautious about my identity as an athlete, how I dressed, how I spoke, always wanting to disprove the stereotypes that attached themselves to my talent.

The stereotypes about the women's game, and the fact the community is so accepting of LGBTQ people, are somewhat chicken-and-egg. Perhaps we have more out footballers because they actually feel accepted, not because all women's footballers are gay. But our community is continually becoming more accepting as more people talk about who they are, who they love, and their experiences. These are good things. But, that does not make the stereotypes benign.

Football was a sanctuary for me. When everything else in my life was very loud, football was peaceful. And, I am good at it. I have trained hard and gotten strong, and all the while tried to balance incredibly complicated questions of femininity and sexuality, because the adults around me tried to fit me into boxes. I did not do what a little girl should - so in some way, those parents reasoned, I must be wrong. These toxic ideas of gender proliferated throughout my entire career as a young athlete, and they got through. No child has skin thick enough to resist - that takes time. I gave up many sports that were too masculine, "too gay." And when I did begin to realise that I was not straight, I struggled with it. I struggled with asking whether I was actually feeling these feelings, or if the stereotypes had misled

my own mind. I struggled with whether I could have the life I wanted, be the person my parents wanted me to be. I struggled with the idea that all those people on the sidelines were *right*.

"Women's footballers are all lesbians" is reductive and wrong, and yet it is not often treated as problematic, because of a tendency to conflate the stereotype with the accepting culture of women's football. But, LGBTQ people have worked hard to *build* that culture, and the stereotype robs us of that work. It also makes it harder for young women to reconcile their identities with their own talents, to be strong and find out who they are in their own time.

I wish I'd had that chance. I hope the young women I coach will have more of an opportunity than I did to know who they are and accept it from the start, and then go do what they love on the pitch.

***"I have trained hard and gotten strong, and all the while tried to balance incredibly complicated questions of femininity and sexuality, because the adults around me tried to fit me into boxes."***

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ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ZHU

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feature.

# Disclosure

CAMERON LEAKEY

***This week, Cameron Leakey delves into disclosing your sexuality and takes stock of how far things have come, and where they have to go.***

There's a quote from Kip Chapman, New Zealand Actor and Director, on his own coming out that appeared in Auckland's *Paperboy* Magazine in 2017. "You're always coming out, every day. You're always choosing". Chapman is referring to the choice that we as queer people make on a daily basis whether to disclose our sexuality. Sometimes it's a doctor's office, where disclosing your sexual behaviour is crucial to receiving the appropriate medical care. Sometimes it's at university, when someone makes an assumption they shouldn't have. Sometimes it's whether to hold your partner's hand in the street. We make decisions daily on whether to disclose our sexual orientation.

The article is truly terrific and one that my mother still has at home in a basket filled with sentimental things. Around the time that I came out, while my parents were and still are incredibly supportive and accepting, it provided them with some context to what I was to embark on in terms of disclosing my sexuality.

My coming out story is a good one. It's one of real love and acceptance. Of telling friends and family who were supportive, who were kind, and who shared with me as I embraced a time where I was as honest with them as I was honest with myself. It was the conversation I had when visiting the Halls of Residence in Wellington where I pulled aside an old family friend, who grinned ear to ear telling me how proud she was. It was the mate at Shadows who stood outside with me as I told

him what everyone else at the table already knew. Who told of defending me at High School where others had made comments. I look back on these moments fondly. I am not the only one, but I am also, unfortunately, one of the luckier ones whose disclosure results in mostly just acceptance and understanding. For some, coming out is a hard and challenging time, confronting those in your life who are not tolerant or accepting or who may reject you at a time where you are openly being yourself.

The coming out process is not just disclosing your sexuality to your friends and family. Firstly, there's an inner coming out. The internal recognition that you have attraction that is not just heterosexual. It's gradual. It begins with models on underwear boxes at Farmers, characters in TV series who you're truly drawn to or that thought of 'did I just think they're hot'. This internal process can sometimes not be easy. To recognise that your sexuality strays from what is considered the norm takes some internal courage to recognise and accept. Some face internalised homophobia or deeply ingrained biases that result in a challenge accepting who they are. It's figuring out who you are, before anyone else may know.

From here, we have disclosure. Coming out of the closet. Who do you tell and when? How do you tell them? What if they found out already?

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But what about the notion of never being in the closet to start with? In 2019, Green Party MP, Chloe Swarbrick told the media that she did not have a 'coming out' story. Following the lead of British MP, Mhairi Black, she told the media that she didn't 'come out of the closet' because she was 'never in the closet'. It's an interesting notion - the idea that you don't necessarily have a 'coming out' moment as neither confirming nor denying your sexuality means it has never been a hidden fact. However, coming out is still recognised as something that those in the queer community have to do. While some may never choose to be in the closet, addressing your sexual orientation or confirming your sexuality is not a process that every queer person can exclude themselves from. What Swarbrick does recognise, is the notion that being openly queer is no longer this large statement it must be. A lot of people are queer, a lot of people in our politics, our sport, our media, and movies are LGBTQ+ and as we see these narratives become more diverse and see queer characters represented in media beyond traditional tropes, we no longer have to view coming out as this huge thing it once was.

For others, to come out is to drastically change things at home. It is often perceived that gaining gay marriage was this huge milestone to completely achieving equality for queer folk. This is not true. Our community still face disapproval, issues with acceptance and unfortunately, Gay Conversion Therapy is still not banned in New Zealand. You can hope that acceptance is growing, but there's still further to go.

So, how do we take stock of coming out in New Zealand. The Youth00, Youth12 and Youth19 series

of studies at the University research young people's experiences of coming out. The latest study, Youth19, will release its data in the near future. But otherwise, it's not really that easy to measure. It relies on a cultural barometer for understanding how coming out experiences are for each other. It's a personal process and it can also be a continuously evolving process. No one person can ever speak for the experiences of a whole community.

I guess, when we consider where to from here, it's the recognition that coming out is this lifelong process. Disclosing your sexuality happens in many ways and with many differing significances. That isn't always a bad thing, or a good thing, or even a big thing. It's one part of being queer among many others.

***“While some may never choose to be in the closet, addressing your sexual orientation or confirming your sexuality is not a process that every queer person can exclude themselves from.”***

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**from New Zealand**



## CIRCUS OF BOOKS, DIR. RACHEL MASON

CHANTAL DALEBROUX

**9/10:** *Tbh, my only complaint is that it isn't longer. All round brilliant.*

When *Circus of Books* was released, it was undeniable that I would end up streaming the documentary eventually, and I have no regrets about doing so, as it was one of the best features I've seen in 2020.

It chronicles resident Californians **Rachel and Barry Mason's** 33 years running a store which predominantly catered to the LGBT+ community, selling a range of gay pornography items - a venture the couple's family knew nothing about until recent years. Their daughter Rachel, directs, making the narrative not only a celebration of how the store became central to the Los Angeles gay community, but how they struggled with keeping their jobs secret from those around them.

It is full of warmth and emotion, and features first hand interviews from those who found home in the Circus, making it even more moving. as it recounts key periods in recent LGBT history that had widespread implications, such as the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s.

While this is a narrative which some may find discomfoting in parts, it comes across as a story of acceptance, familial reconciliation and the ongoing importance of queer safe spaces.

Having been described by reviewers as 'poignant,' 'generous' and possessing 'enormous humour and tenderness,' this story is worth spending time exploring. It will evoke tears, joy and amazement, and cement why this is such a worthwhile topic of discussion that deserves continuous exploration.



## HEAVEN & HELL AVA MAX

CAMERON LEAKEY

**7/10:** *Stock Standard Pop but good god, it's good.*

**Ava Max** is music for the gays. It's true. I can say it. A blonde pop star with all the makings of a manufactured star, Max released her debut album this month following a long wait since the release of her first single, "Sweet But Psycho". You could be forgiven for dismissing her on this song alone, a girly anthem about a girl who is well... sweet but a psycho. But Max has more potential beyond this, which shows through on *Heaven & Hell*.

The whole album is stock standard basic pop, but isn't there something so infectious about that. *Heaven & Hell* feels like a pop album we'd have seen around 2010 - when **Katy Perry's** *Teenage Dream* and **Lady Gaga's** *The Fame* dominated the airwaves. There isn't anything overly experimental about this album, but it's catchy and light and that's what we need in this COVID-19 hellscape.

Standout tracks include "Tattoo", "Who's Laughing Now", and "Salt" which are tracks where the tone is elevated, there are some tracks lacking shine, but every album has these moments. It's a solid debut - nothing particularly heavenly or hellish about it. But worth a listen nonetheless.



## THE FINAL PIECES EP NAVY

CHANTAL DALEBROUX

**8.5/10:** Gotta love narrative arcs in music - Taylor Swift who?

Auckland pop singer **Navy** recently rounded off her trio of albums with the *Final Pieces EP*, which is full of her universally relatable lyrics and upbeat instrumentals.

The trilogy, beginning in 2019 with the release of *The Breakup EP*, followed by *No Hard Feelings* in early 2020, chronicles her personal journey and allows listeners to gain a glimpse into her recent years, as she explores the complexity of conflicting emotions. Unlike her other releases, it bounces between themes, instead of presenting a single cohesive narrative throughout.

"I Learnt to Lose a Friend so Young" hits home for anyone who has suffered grief, capturing how loss feels like being cast adrift in an unfamiliar landscape. With the addition of Thomston for "Running In My Sleep" and "Somebody Else" the tracks transition seamlessly from discussing mental exhaustion to reminding that you can't be there for everyone. The EP rounds off with titular "Pieces," a euphoric moment of rejoicing in moving on. It provides a fitting end to this chapter, and is the ideal track to dance with friends to.

As for what Navy wants listeners to take away from *The Final Pieces*? In a recent interview she explained she just wants those who experience her work to feel 'whatever they feel.' The EP certainly does just that, as with her raw honest vocals, it is hard to stay unemotional throughout, but by the end, you're as content as Navy herself has become.



## MOMMIE DEAREST, DIR. FRANK PERRY

LACHLAN MITCHELL

While *Showgirls* & *Valley of the Dolls* can be said to have garnered genuine critical interest over the passage of time, *Mommie Dearest* stands alone in being a masterclass in not just how to destroy a career, but how to accidentally make sure no one ever takes the central claim of the story seriously ever again.

A basic summary: **Joan Crawford** is a legendary actress of Old Hollywood who wants it all, and has it all, except a child to love her. But adopting Christina would prove to be to their mutual regret - unable to mold her daughter into her perfect fan, she abuses her for years to come. Normally, this would be utterly tragic - indeed, the real life autobiography set the standard for Hollywood tell-alls, even with great questioning of the truth behind it all.

But the most famous flaws of the movie are what make it the infamous and widely watched camp classic it is today. **Faye Dunaway** takes Joan into the realm of nightmare in a way that can only be seen, not written about. While the movie is ostensibly about Christina's suffering at Joan Crawford, the Monster, the vividly grotesque Faye Dunaway is so full of life and drive that the comparably sullen, pig-faced and brutally *boring* actresses that play Christina drive you to want Joan to ruin Christina's life just to get her off the screen, whether it is through whacking her with a wire hanger or Joan drunkenly destroying Christina's burgeoning TV career.

I could write about this movie for weeks. Go watch it.



## 自便 (HELP YOURSELF) FAYE WONG

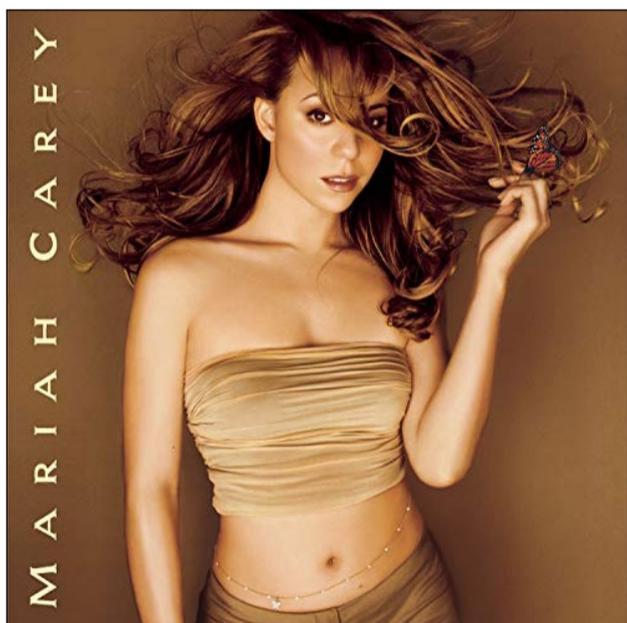
LACHLAN MITCHELL

**Note:** I want the titles to be as easy to search as possible, so *sincere* apologies if I make a mistake!

An icon of a different time and different hemisphere, I've been fascinated by **Faye Wong** for many years, ever since I heard her cover of **The Cranberries'** "Dreams" for the *Chungking Express* soundtrack. Very underappreciated in the West, and this should be rectified! However, one of the best things about Faye Wong is that she comes from **Mariah Carey's** School of Remixes - there are not many artists that have such an innate ear for what makes a good remix, but Faye is one of them.

*Help Yourself* is a short EP of six songs, half of which are remixes, and they all exemplify the best of the late '90s. The Discovery remix of "誓言" ("Shi Yan") is the best of these remixes, and possibly my favourite example of Wong's work ever; the repeating synth hook before each chorus mixes beautifully with her voice, and while the scratching record player is dated, it is not aged. It's a song that makes me think of watching dolphins on a ferry, or playing *Final Fantasy X*, though that last part might be because of her contributions to *Final Fantasy VIII's* soundtrack.

From the original material side, "守護天使" ("Guardian Angel") is a similar masterpiece - her voice is layered in such an ethereal way, almost sounding like Enya for a couple of seconds, with the guitar and harp mixing being top tier. Well worth checking this short EP out.



## BUTTERFLY MARIAH CAREY

KEEARA OFREN

The most iconic transformations in pop culture and pop music are the responsibility of two forces, the LGBTQI+ community and **Mariah Carey**. Mariah's album *Butterfly* is an example of the ultimate transformation of independence and is beloved by the gay community for the album's power in conveying sexuality, happiness and loneliness.

A track representative of the album is "Honey", a silky and cheeky innuendo laden track about delight in intimacy and a new relationship. In the video, Mariah emerging from the water is like a modern day Venus emerging from her shell, except *this* Venus is not painted by a man, it's her representing herself as a happy and fun loving person who takes control of and enjoys her sexuality. And it is this theme of the album which strikes me as being so ahead of its time.

*Butterfly* was written and released around the time of Mariah's separation from record executive **Tommy Mottola**, a marriage Mariah described as emotionally abusive. Some of the best tracks of 'Butterfly' describe this pain by combining gospel, hip hop and R&B with Mariah's vocal ability, masterfully using her musical influences in order to express her sensuality and heartbreak.

In many ways, the songs of *Butterfly* hold themes of freedom, for artistic expression, for loving others, resisting abuse and rejection, for enjoying intimacy. It's these themes which are timeless and especially dear to anyone who has ever wanted to be free of the Tommy Mottola of their lives. *Butterfly's* ultimate message is to embrace the journey of being independent, to find your wings and to dance while you do so.



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# Remembrance: What We Were, and What We Could Be

LACHLAN MITCHELL

*Lachlan Mitchell has searched far and wide for the sauciest erotic fan fiction. Read on to find some of the best (and worst) examples he could find.*

Pride is about much more than what we choose to acknowledge about our community - it is about not forgetting those who walked the paths before us, built the walls that give us shelter from the cold winds. Pride is also about those we choose to forget; who do we try

to bury in the hope of disguising their influence? One of our most neglected figures in the LGBT community is the fanfic writer. Not because they are 'good', or because they are 'fully functional', but because they are who we are, or who we used to be. Try as we might, we

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arts.

cannot forget their impact. Here, I will provide short excerpts of some of the most... *emblematic* fanfiction out there, so that one day we might not forget the people many of us once were. Well, many of you, anyway.

All material is completely unedited!

### **Kingdom Hearts: Shared Hurt, Amended Hearts**

**Author:** WarmDogFur

*Deep down, Riku was more turned on than scared or shocked after that threat/display of trust and assertiveness, but something told him it wasn't the time to admit that openly. Maybe later, preferably somewhere dry and with no items that could be a choking hazard... no, scratch that last part.*

*You know, there was a reason why the mouse was usually the top when it came to more private affairs – of course aside from their size, age and experience difference. In the beginning Mickey was more than a friend to Riku, he was his mentor, and over time the boy developed certain extraordinary respect towards the mouse; not only for the relationship they built, but also due to the whole kingship shit, which no matter how much Mickey disregarded Riku still valued and at times even made him feel unworthy of the affection of the animal.*

**Comments:** Goofy's son turns Disney Castle into a strip club in this one, by the way,

### **Grey's Anatomy: Masters of Fate**

**Author:** skylarenee

*Meredith collected herself, took Cristina's hands in her own, and smiled at her best friend. "I'm going to Iraq. I joined the army, Cristina."*

**Comments:** I actually don't think there needs to be any more of a setup than this single line. Meredith Grey becomes part of America's illegal wars in order to get away from her ex-girlfriend(s)? What else do you need?

### **Golden Girls: Doing the Dishes**

**Author:** eddie\_martha

*Blanche let go of her friend for a moment to enjoy the view. Her own panties were ruined by now. This was so hot.. That she was allowed to see her friend like that, the most private and proud woman she knew. "It would be my honor, Dorothy" she whispered. Then she touched Dorothy's thigh, stroke up, leaving her pussy out, down the other thigh, up again and without further ado pushed two fingers into the hot flesh. Dorothy almost screamed. "Uhhh, more, Blanche, more" Blanche began to move her fingers slowly, oh, so slowly in and out of Dorothy's vagina. She took her time, added another finger, twisted, massaged, spread Dorothy open. When the muscles around her fingers started to clench she sped up her movements, now pumping in and out with force. Dorothy writhed under Blanche's ministrations. It didn't take long for Dorothy's legs to shake and a growl to ascend from deep within her as she came undone. She threw her head back. "Blanche, oh, yes! YES! Blanche!"*

**Comments:** There are at least eleven stories like this on

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arts.

archiveofourown.org - thank you for being a fiend, I guess.

## **Supernatural: Stitches, Snuggles, and Kisses**

**Author:** noellecole

*"I don't think we will make it, my room is closer." Dean finds the door to his room and leads Castiel inside. "You can sleep here tonight." He lowers Cas onto his bed and sits him up against the headboard. Dean turns to his dresser and digs out a faded Led Zeppelin t-shirt. "Put this on," He says and hands the shirt to Cas, and the angel slips off his bloodied, tattered shirt. Dean then kneels down and takes off Castiel's shoes. Cas can't help himself and runs his fingers through Deans' hair.*

*"Your hair is soft like flower petals," A now shirtless Cas says softly, almost to himself. Dean closed his eyes and lingered under Castiel's touch, he could hear his own heart beating loudly in his chest.*

**Comments:** The filter system on this site is amazing - there are, quite literally, 6510 fanfics where Dean Winchester is a bottom.

## **Seinfeld: Curiosity**

**Author:** ChloeCeres

*"Kramer?" Jerry's breathy, fatigued voice jolted Kramer out of his fantasy. At least, what began as a fantasy. Jerry looked over his shoulder inquisitively at his friend, whose body was pressed up against his back and whose hand rested between his legs. Kramer was frozen. This was absolutely not a dream. His hand truly was touching*

*Jerry, and Jerry's gaze truly was aimed at him. Kramer blushed shamefully and started to take his hand back.*

**Comments:** At least it's not "Seinfeld: Laugh Factory 2006".

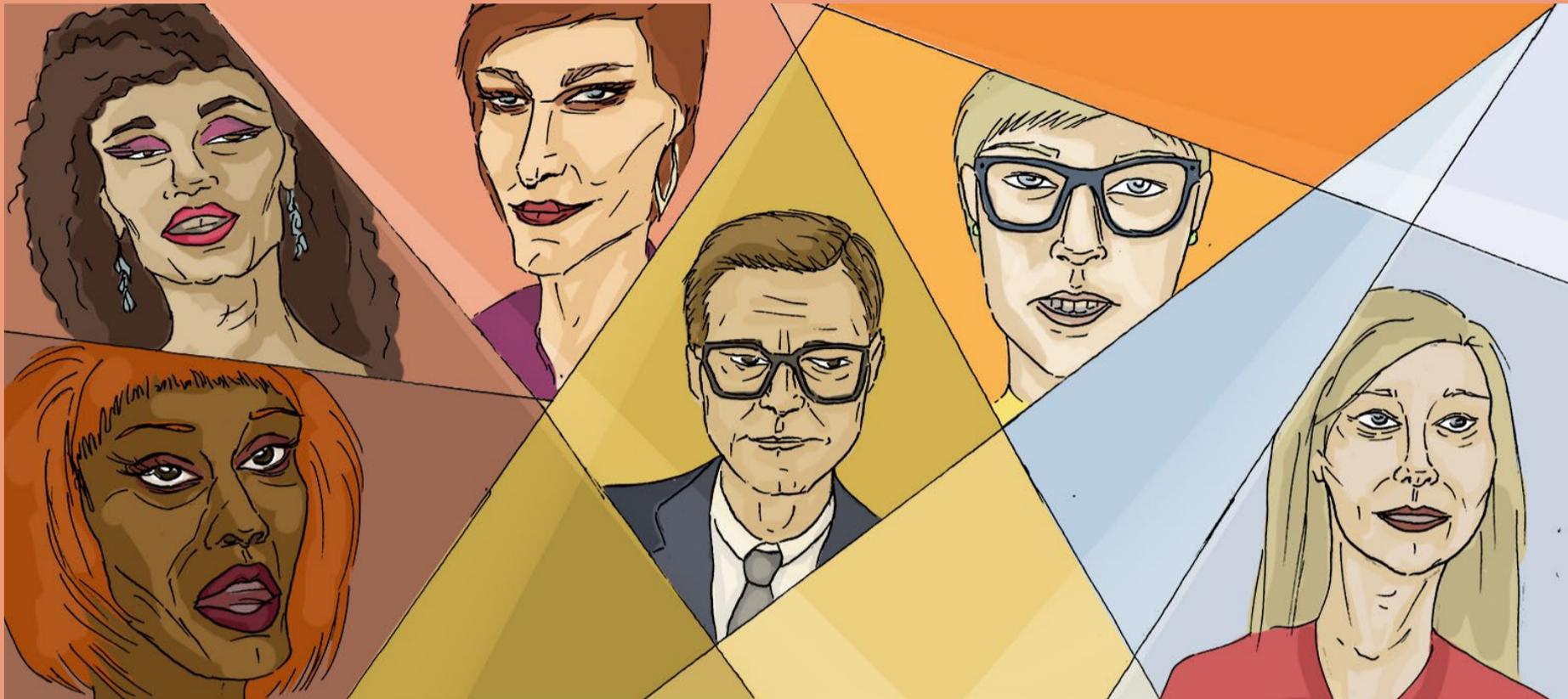
## **The OC: Taking The B Out Of Bromance**

**Author:** SamuelJames

*Ryan waits nervously in their apartment for Seth to return. Talking to Sandy helped in that way it always did. Still Seth had loved Summer for years and even if Seth liked guys he might not like Ryan. He wasn't driven like Summer and he couldn't compare with the way Seth loved Summer since they were kids. He goes over what he wants to say in his head but words are Seth's area of expertise, suffering from an abundance of them. Seth won't hate him but, as Sandy pointed out, Ryan doesn't have enough friends that he can afford to lose one. Seth welcomed him from the start and Ryan has been a little bit in love with him since junior year of college, while Seth was still with Summer. He's planning a speech of sorts when Seth arrives home.*

**Comments:** Sandy Cohen, forever the sagely father, allows his adopted son to ask out his biological son. There's something for everyone out there.

*There's a whole wide world waiting for you out there - hundreds of thousands of fanfics just dripping in warm history. Pride is as much about liberation as it is why we are cursed to damnation.*



## The Best of LGBT Media

*The Craccum team have pulled together some of the best LGBT-focused and/or friendly material from their respective vaults. Next time you're bored, consider one of these. You might as well make good choices in endless media consumption!*

### ***To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar (1995)***

**Lachlan:** This came out in 1995, so you know, it's not gonna be Fully In Sync with evolved discussions over gender identity and what not. RuPaul has a cameo as Rachel Tensions, a lady in a confederate flag dress, so yeah. But it's so good! As expected of a road trip movie, the dialogue is snappy and immediately quotable ("Little Latin boy in drag, why are you crying?") and is very honest, because it's an unashamed exploitation film; a nice throwback to days where The Gays™ didn't have to spend half their media depictions being sanitised angels for the veneer of respectability. Plus, while dated, it is surprisingly thoughtful on what it means to be a woman. Patrick Swayze was meant to be a character actor.

### ***A Single Man (2009)***

**Lachlan:** Might have chosen yet another movie where it's a straight guy putting on the airs of gayness, but it's a less a 'gay movie' as much as it is 'Gay Colin Firth wonders how to live after love, while Hot Mess Julianne Moore is super horny'. Tom Ford's debut movie is beautifully shot, making sure to linger on every passerby as though they are just as important as the resolutely suicidal Colin Firth. It can be interpreted as a 'kill your gays' movie, but really, you'd have to be awfully disinterested in seeing any other point of view if you come to that conclusion. Just a wonderful little film.

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arts.

### ***Scissor Sisters - I Don't Feel Like Dancin' (2006)***

**Brian:** I don't have many LGBT recommendations, but I still wanted to contribute to this one anyways. I mean, I can't even suggest you a full album, but whatever, I'll just do this song. This is peak disco - I guarantee all your friends will say "Ohhhh, that song!" once played to them. With a songwriting credit to Elton John, and clear influences from the Bee Gees, one-hit wonder Scissor Sisters clearly had a hand in making this happen. However the high-octane falsetto performance from frontman Jake Shears, and the animated, flamboyant nature of the group is what sells you the performance. This one's up there with the dance floor greats for me.

### ***Far From Heaven (2002)***

**Maddy:** I picked up this film during my undergrad, so I'm sure a bunch of media students are rolling their eyes (I'm coming at it like a full academic/film snob), but it makes me cry everytime I watch it. It's a really beautiful and contemporary take on melodrama, using all the best tropes of the genre to dive into the politics of gender and sexuality during 1950s America. If you have difficulty connecting with your grandparents or want to open up a conversation that's more productive than the usual dinner table exchanges, this is a pretty great film to do that.

### ***Batman & Robin (1997)***

**Maddy:** Joel Schumacher's adaptation of Batman is often heralded as one of the worst films ever made. Watching it now, after years of semi-serious Marvel films and DC films, the film is a thrill ride of plastic, terrible CGI and nipples. Throughout the history of the comics, there was always a homoerotic connection present between Batman and Robin, and this is the closest we've ever come to have it realised on screen. Uma Thurman plays Poison Ivy as if she's a drag queen, probably being the only actor in the film who understood the tone of the movie. It's big, bombastic and campy. It takes the queerness of the superhero

genre and turns it up as loud as possible (with studio approval). I mean, Alfred's computer password is PEG.

### ***Randa***

**Cameron:** Auckland based Rapper, Randa, - also known as Larz Randa - is on the way up. They're already well known - they've been making music since 2014. You'll know hit track, Rangers, or their feature on the Air New Zealand Safety Video (yes, the rap one that got canned after three months. That's not Randa's fault). Randa's played Big Gay Out, Milk & Honey Festival, and gigs for New Zealand Music Month. Their latest song, *Heatwave* came out in March. With more music on the way, Randa is one to watch for.

### ***Tales of the City (2019)***

**Cameron:** Tales of the City - the Netflix miniseries - is a modern addition to the 'Tales of the City' canon. Based on a series of novels by Armistead Maupin, the series follows a group of San Francisco residents, who reside around - and live in - 28 Barbary Lane - an apartment complex owned by eccentric landlady, Anna Madrigal.

While the original series took place in the late 70s and 80s, depicting true issues of the era including the growing pride movement and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the new series takes these characters into modern times, exploring how LGBTQ+ issues have changed and moved since the original series. I never read the books nor watched the original series, but the Netflix series picks up in a new chapter of the timeline, where we see the return of Mary Ann Singleton to San Francisco - the series does a great job of reintroducing these characters while making you feel like you can pick up from where they left off. It's a great watch, with some truly outstanding representation of queer characters, outside of traditional character stereotypes and tropes. It's refreshing to see these plotlines on camera and although the series at times falls into Soap Opera, the miniseries format keeps the story moving at a good pace. The series won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Limited Series.

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

SEMESTER ONE 2020

Campus: City

MĀORI 111

Queer Māori in New Zealand

Part A

You must answer this Part

## Instructions

Please note that you will be **expected** to have **decided** what categories and boxes you identify and fit in with as society has required this from you since the day you were **born**. Please ensure you submit your essay by the **due date and time**. Penalties apply for not fitting within the boxes.

## Question 1

*"Some people argue that it's easy to identify and fit in as a queer New Zealander in today's contemporary society."*

Critically analyse and discuss this statement.

### I My story Introduction

~~This essay will explore the brutal reality of a 25 year old Māori indigenous woman who has struggled to come to grips with her identity. This essay will discuss issues a young gay Māori woman has been through.~~

### II Wait - can I speak about growing up in poverty or my experience of being a gay Māori? My childhood

~~I hated being Māori growing up. My parents were drug addicts, my extended family were also substance abusers and domestic violence was prevalent in every home I went to. There were parties that lasted to the early morning in my house and I saw every type of eccentric person you can imagine, albeit high as a kite on drugs. The police were prevalent in our neighbourhood and community, and none of us kids down my street knew what a "Māori academic" was or actually quite frankly had any positive "Māori role models". I coped with my upbringing by immersing myself in education and by steering clear of anything remotely related to being Māori. How could you really expect anything less though given my experiences of growing up in a family that is the epitome of colonisation? How can others like me have thought anything else, when the system we were raised in was founded to destroy every part of our being? Colonisation tore my family to shreds. My childhood was challenging, but anyone can overcome things if they put their mind to it!~~

### III My extended family damaged me My coming out was so embracing

~~I moved out of home at 16. At 17 I lived with family members who ripped my sexuality out of me. I was made to feel ashamed and told that I was gay because my parents didn't care about me. I was told that they did not love me, because if they did then I wouldn't be like this. I was forced at 17 years old to tell everyone in my family that I was gay. There were hiccups along the way, but my family was so embracing!~~

### IV Conclusion

~~Fuck it, I'm sick of not speaking the truth. For 6 years I've struggled through university trying to fit into boxes because that's what society has made me feel I had to do. At the same time I've had to deal with so many family issues. I felt alone, I felt like I wasn't Māori enough, I felt like I wasn't gay enough, I felt like I didn't belong anywhere. All these hypothetical "boxes" of belonging felt like a club I was never good enough for. But you know what I've learnt? You don't have to tick any fucking boxes. You can be and identify as anything you want. The role of colonisation in my life has tried to pre-determine these many aspects of myself without my consent. That shit stops with me. I'm taking back my tino rangatiratanga.~~

~~My children and their children's children won't have to endure the mamee I have been through. They can be free to express their own tino rangatiratanga in whichever way they see fit. This isn't even half of my story. But, my lesson to you my dear indigenous youngin is to embrace the skin you're in. Don't live in the fear I did for 25 years of feeling like you have to conform to boxes to feel accepted and have a sense of belonging. The very blood that runs through your veins connects you to your whenua which will always keep you grounded.~~

~~Regardless of how you identify, your whakapapa will be your greatest strength to help you see another day. Don't ever forget it.~~

# Dear Blue

TAMA ABRAHAM

Dear Blue. (1999)

A white van patiently sits perched on the kerb, doors open, a foreign anomaly at the entrance of my home. Inside is the grey silhouette of a gaunt creature, tugging me towards them with wisps of smoke wrapping around my throat. I am breathless next to this alien. Who is this Blue? Its eyes look desolate and barren, glaring at me with indifference. We both sit facing the skyline, the sun elapsing behind the roof of my house, a scenic conclusion to my silent encounter with an alien I would never see again.



Dear Blue. (2001)

Something is wrong with me. Every morning I put on a porcelain mask, rubbing dirt into its cracks to hide the mug beneath. Pointed words of animosity beat my face to the gods. They colour my lids with shades of purple and hues of blue. I am not playing my role correctly Blue. Maybe if you were around to help me, I would have the right face.

I'm sure if you were here you would be able to protect me.

Dear Blue. (2004)

Can a daisy ravished by the teeth of a rose still be called a daisy? Breathless by its deep, dense aroma; an intoxication to be pierced by its thorns. Each prick seducing the young flower into a blissful fantasy; a delusion of safety and security. Who desires a rose but someone who has never known its scent? Frail and broken, I fold my bruised petals into the holes left by the roses embrace, silently hiding my shame. My fear. My longing.

Where are you Blue?



Dear Blue. (2006)

I am being shipped away. Like an impulse buy from some cheap clothing store, her eyes look at me bloodshot with remorse. Sirens dash around her, dropping sweet juices of regret into her mouth. The taste reminding her of a past too distant to be reality.

I no longer have a place in her world.

Perhaps there was never a place for me to begin with. While I was learning to conceal the colours on my face in the vast emptiness within, perhaps you saw something you didn't want to see. This is what I will tell myself. At least then I can understand why you freely throw me to the side like trash reeking with the slick gloss of shame.

Dear Blue. (2008)

My feet are swollen, and breath clasped. Beads of sweat swim down the slopes of my cheeks and mingle with the salty crevices carved out by my tears. I have returned to the house where I first met the alien. It was you wasn't it? There is a lingering fragrance of fresh daisies in the air. With it are illusions of a simpler time, dreams lit by the final rays of dusk.

I sit on the fresh tar seal watching the sun elapsing behind the roof of my old house just as we did the first time we met. I close my eyes and dream of a world where I am wanted. A world where I am loved.

The sun is in rest. My wish is running closer. A pair of golden orbs cascading towards me, two angels beckoning me with a promise of happiness.

Their welcome is deafened by the screech of a tortured soul. The faint stench of diesel kissing my lips. The wails of life whipping my ears.

I failed.

Dear Blue. (2013)

It wasn't my fault.

It wasn't because of me.

They taught me that. Their smile was one I had never seen before; Their embrace was one that filled me entirely with warmth and colour. They dragged me from the trenches of my own self-pity and taught me how to depend on myself. Their love is as foreign to me as your silhouette from that distant day.

You know... I used to think it was you who would save me Blue. But when I sat outside my old house on that day, my thoughts of you became impaled with the stark reality you would never come. The only one deluded was me.



Dear Blue. (2017)

Some foreigner has messaged me saying he is your son. The thought of unravelling a chest buried deep within me shakes me to my core but I agree to meet. Anxious and guilty, I unwillingly look into the eyes of this earnest man and reluctantly give him my number knowing you would receive it.

I don't know why I did it.

I'm not ready to talk to you.

But I think I feel comfort knowing the decision lies with me.



Dear Blue. (2020)

LGBTQ+ people choose who our family are. Where blood has choked me faster than water; I have found peace in a collection of individuals who love me and welcome me as I am.

I deserve to live, for no one else but my authentic self.

I won't pick up your calls Blue.

Be mad and blame as you will, but bringing you into my life is my decision and I will do it when I am ready. If I am ever ready.

For now, I will start with learning to love myself.  
Beautiful and broken.





# Don't Leave Me Lonely

A PHOTO COLLECTION BY FLORA XIE @FLORAESCENT





# Horoscopes: Spreading the Love

*Will the stars align and find harmony, or will it just be pure chaos? Inspired by the notion that 'love is love', our resident oracle Miss Fortune felt it only natural to see what romance has in store for you.*

## **Aries (March 21 – April 19)**

You'll be crushing hard this week and it's not like you to just let the moment pass by. The stars tell me you act first and think later... how has that worked out for you? Perhaps it's time to release the Ram by its horns and discover what life is like on the other side. Your lucky number is 0.



## **Taurus (April 20 – May 20)**

Perhaps inspired by the cannabis referendum, this week you're feeling particularly in tune to your surroundings. People will pass you by as your attraction is diverted from people, towards objects. We don't judge here. Your lucky number is 1, as you'll be appreciating the smaller things in life.



## **Gemini (May 21 – June 20)**

The Gemini Twins are out to play. This week you'll be feeling overwhelmed due to attraction to... well, anyone. Like the angel and devil, the twins on your shoulders may wreak havoc, so don't forget to trust your instincts. Your lucky number is 11, one each for Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum.



## **Cancer (June 21 – July 22)**

This week you'll be faced with the opportunity to come out of your shell, but will you do it? Don't be intimidated by your past or future; instead, take trust in the moment and see what happens. If all else fails, at least Jonathan Van Ness will still cheer you on. Hmm, perhaps it is a win-win after all? Your lucky number is 18.



## **Leo (July 23 – August 22)**

Oops! There may be a fall from grace this week, but perhaps take this as a moment to sit down and be humbled. Your sun shines bright but it may be time to direct the spotlight to someone else - they might need it. Your lucky number is 7, the amount of days in the week before you can return to your former glory.



## **Virgo (August 23 – September 22)**

Alongside your fellow earth sign, Taurus, you too will appreciate the smaller things this week. Perhaps fleeting eye contact, or a gentle smile from someone over yonder, will kindle a spark as love is in the air. Be warned; your number is 999 for the number of thoughts that will be running through your head. Sometimes, things just cannot be explained.



### **Libra (September 23 – October 22)**

Governed by air, it's only natural your sense of fluidity is heightened this week.

In celebration, you may reconsider your relationships and realise that there is more of you to go around. Embrace the new you as you meet other people, we won't put any labels on it. Your lucky number is 8.



### **Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)**

This is not the week to lie and wait! Try to act first and think later, as an opportunity for connection will rise and you'll be wise not to miss it. Embody this spirit of Aries while they're on hiatus - I mean, someone has to. In contrary to their lucky number, you'll be going straight from 0 to 100.



### **Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)**

You may find yourself in a sticky situation having said too much... again. This week, as we celebrate pride, you may find yourself restless as you're desperate for connection, so just go for it! But for the love of love, watch your tongue. Your lucky number is 69, because why not.



### **Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)**

You have been living a nightmare! Your goals have been put on pause and you've been feeling frustration. However, it's literally a global pandemic, so just remember that you're not alone. This week, you will make a breakthrough large enough to pash a stranger (but don't do that!). You have lucky number 12. Go get 'em.



### **Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)**

This week, you'll be inspired by the LGBTQ+ community and they need you! Inspired by air, your spirit will break free as your individualism and compassion takes control. Freddy Mercury will be proud, embrace it! To show for your budding passion, you will have a lucky symbol instead; +. A reminder that this is not a passing feeling, but one to retain once the week is over.



### **Pisces (February 19 – March 20)**

This week, you will be overwhelmed with emotion, but do not take that as a bad sign. With the stars aligned, you will be sensitive to those feelings around you, but I urge you not to run. Stay in reality with your lucky number 2, as you will find a new friend who values your sympathy.



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# the people to blame.

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## EDITORS

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### STAFF WRITER

JUSTIN WONG

## CONTRIBUTORS

Josh McCormack, Ella Morgan, Justin Wong, Mika Gale, Jessica Hopkins, Julia Zhu, Helena Wiseman, Cameron Leakey, Zoë Larsen Cumming, Keeara Ofren, Chantal Dalebroux, Lachlan Mitchell, Grace Wang, Sophie Painter, Tama Abraham, Flora Xie, Louise Barnes

## COVER ARTIST

Elliot McKenzie

## ILLUSTRATORS

Flora Xie, Gabbie De Baron (@artbygabbie), Youngi Kim, Jing, Grace Wang, Julia Zhu (@juliaaazhu), Kiki Hall, Sophie Painter, Nazifa Rahman, Sophie Sun, Elliot McKenzie

## EDITORIAL OFFICE

4 Alfred Street,  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland

## ADVERTISING

Aaron Haugh  
marketing@ausa.org.nz

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